

MINUTES OF ANZAC PARK PRECINCT MEETING

WEDNESDAY 29 MAY 2024

ROS CRICHTON PAVILION

ATTENDEES 10: SW, AG, MDS, JB, MB, DS, NC, CB, SO'C, PYH
APOLOGIES: 13: PB, MT, SR, LA, ND, BD, IH, VN, NF, TC, JD, DD, MW

GUEST SPEAKER: COUNCIL'S [NSC] MANAGER PARKS & RESERVES (DM)

This function covers Parks, Gardens, Sportsfields & Trees. DM gave a very interesting talk with a very useful informative Powerpoint document. [Screen presentation not possible as system not set up]

The NSC Tree Strategy is being updated. North Sydney is regarded as an Urban Forest.

- **CANOPY COVER** - Every 2 years Council does a survey of the green canopy i.e. Canopy mapping/aerial flyover etc. Last one was carried out in February 2024. There are 2,500 Trees in Nth Sydney. 8.9% Loss of Canopy Cover 2008-2022 in Urban areas & 9.8% loss in suburban areas.
- **STREET TREE AUDIT** - Audit of Street Trees is done every 4-5 years -There are 17,000 street trees in Nth Sydney. 350 trees are planted p.a. on roadsides & Parks. Each street is reviewed every 18 months
- **STREET TREE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM** - replaces all trees in some streets.
- **IMPORTANT TO NOTE THE 5M Height limit for removal - anything over 5 m requires NSC written Approval now- as from 2020.** Camphor laurels are exempt. It was agreed by the meeting that not many locals were aware of this change.

Reasons for loss of canopy

Increase in infrastructure Projects [Metro, Western Harbour Tunnel, Warringah Freeway Upgrade] has had an enormous impact on tree loss in our area. Added to this were things like subdivisions creating smaller back yards; trend for more paved outdoor rooms; removal without replacements; the Fire Service Act removals option; change in height limit w/o approval & trend to plant smaller trees.

INFRASTRUCTURE TREE LOSS:

3,000 trees have been removed by TfNSW. 6,000 trees (eg 2 for 1) agreed to be planted but this will be very hard to achieve within our area.

OPTIONS: It will be a 2 Stage process.

- TfNSW will do a costly Audit of potential locations in NSC LGA.
- Council & TfNSW will work together on this exercise and work out the mechanics.

NEWBORN TREE GIFT SCHEME- costs NSC \$6k p.a. unsure if it will continue

The Lights in St Leonard's Park had not been working following ongoing rain. DM explained that a mass of ants had got into the distribution box and they had now been

killed and the box completely cleaned, however, there remains a problem with the timer - this is due to be corrected.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Precinct requests an **electronic copy of the Parks Gardens, Trees & Sports fields Powerpoint presentation** today as it was informative and very well set out and had good detail for residents.

2. **Pepper Tree on Cnr Lillis & Lytton St** - Residents have raised concerns about this large Pepper that the roots were detrimentally impacting the drains there which are already under enormous pressure with the recent massive flooding in that area. Council's Manager Parks & Reserves undertook to look into this and Precinct awaits his response.

GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of Previous Meeting were ratified. Moved by AG and agreed by SW.

1. LYTTON STREET - SEVERE MINI TSUNAMI FLOODING ISSUES:

There was a sudden massive flood incident in Lytton St which occurred with no warning around 4am on Sat 6 April 2024 that devastated some properties there and they are still uninhabitable from the water damage.

At least 5 properties in Lytton Street suffered from flooding this time- Nos 22, 24, 26, and 28 and No 16 which is an apartment block. Bardsley Gardens also had flooding to properties there. Distressed residents spoke to the meeting of their total shock, the destruction and lack of support & the massive clean-up work pending as they struggled in the weeks since the event.

S O'C spoke of the extensive damage that had occurred in her house. She had contacted NSC but it took one month to receive a response. Resident, at No 22, also expressed her distress, frustration, grave fears and described the flooding as a "tsunami" and she now feels unable to keep her young children safe. Other residents expressed their dismay & surprise at the problem happening again.

This is the second flood, the last was in 2018. The heavy torrent of water comes from St Leonards Park, the drains are unable to cope with the massive amount of water at one time and a wall of water builds up between Falcon Street, Bardsley Gardens & the back of Lytton Street homes on that side.

The issue was exacerbated by the construction of a retaining wall [exempt development] behind the Lytton St properties which heightens the torrent size & funnels the torrent on to the back of these homes.

The residents subsequently called Council, Sydney Water, Telstra, and the RMS and the latter promptly cleared the drains on Falcon St at the top of Bardsley Gardens.

Residents located the NSC Flood Management Plan on the Council website which showed that a few years ago Council identified that urgent work was required to build a Bund or Levee at St Leonards Park to impede upstream overland flows. This was not done and residents are furious and deeply upset that this has caused their damage in April.

ACTION ITEM: MOTION:

Precinct asks Council for their urgent assistance and support to provide a solution and resolution to the residents of Lytton Street who are in dire need of help and support. These residents are unable to return to their homes weeks later. They have young children and cannot risk their health and well-being now and in the future.

We were informed by the residents that Council had identified the source of the problem in St Leonards Park years ago, and documented the remedial action required in Council's own Flood Management Plan - but no action was taken.

Homes are now unliveable due to massive water ingress over hours cascading into their gardens and homes. MOVED: JB SECONDED: SW

2. APP SCHOOL - PREVAILING SAFETY ISSUES:

NC reported that Anzac Park P&C met with Tim James at APPS on the 30th April 2024 to do a walkaround of Crossings around the school.

Standing at the Rosalind Street East and Miller Street junction as the students left school they could clearly witness the issues arising by cars and pedestrians trying to navigate the pedestrian island Crossing at the end of the school day.

1. They discussed a "Wombat Crossing" further back down Rosalind Street East. While this is costly APPS would like to see it in the plan and budget for upgrading Crossings. The current Crossing where students have to cross the pedestrian island on Rosalind St between cars is extremely dangerous.
2. There is also the problem of there being a car parking spot very close to the Crossing in Rosalind Street East, which Precinct raised at the meeting with Council's Public Projects Interface Manager (GM) at the meeting on 27 March 2024, as this causes another obstruction and danger. Precinct believes this car space should be removed.
3. The Tim James party also walked around the other Crossings at Miller & Ernest Street and also the Lytton Street pedestrian island. Currently there is no plan to upgrade these Crossings to be fit for purpose once the WFU/WHT project is completed.
4. Anzac Park P&C continue to advocate for safer Crossing points to be installed and are looking to seek advice from an Independent Traffic Consultant.
5. TJ is supportive of these initiatives and has also supported their request for a speed camera on Ernest Street where Ernest Street dips near Lytton and Moodie Streets.
6. A request to extend the school zone eastward along Ernest Street has also been made. With the increased traffic expected on local roads during and after the completion of the WFU/WHT project they are continuing to advocate for improved Crossings and road safety around Anzac Park Public School.

ACTION ITEM:

Precinct is fully supportive of all the above points so that the Anzac Park school children and all pedestrians can walk and cross roads safely in this area in particular:

- A wombat crossing further down on Rosalind Street East

- Removal of first car park space on Rosalind St East/Miller St on freeway side- it poses a serious danger to turning cars
- Upgrade the current Miller & Ernest Street Crossings - overdue since the 1980's and will not cope with heavy post Western Harbour Tunnel traffic

OTHER BUSINESS

Farewell from MA: JB read out a letter from a long-standing member & office holder of our Precinct, Mary Ashton, who has just moved away from the area. Precinct acknowledges and appreciates all her support, participation and community work over 25 years.

Note: Additional items on our Agenda had to be postponed as following from our Speaker (DM) the two main items had to be given priority and time, so the other matters will be carried over to the next meeting.

The Meeting closed at 7.30pm.

Next Anzac Park Precinct meeting will be held at 6.30pm on Wednesday 31 July 2024 at the Ros Crichton Pavilion.