

WAVERTON PRECINCT MEETING

Tuesday 6th August, 2024

MINUTES

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES:

The meeting commenced at 7.35pm

Chair: IG

Minutes: DL

Attendance: 28

Apologies: VY

1. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The confirmation of the previously circulated draft minutes was moved by AR and seconded KA.

“That the July 2024 Minutes be accepted”.

Carried unanimously.

2. EXISTING BUSINESS:

Save Our Sydney Harbour petition now underway - everyone's assistance needed in gathering signatures

The Chair directed attention to the table display for the campaign to clean up the debris, pollution, disused vessels and infrastructure right around Sydney Harbour. He reminded the residents that Mary Curran from the Euroka Precinct attended a Waverton Precinct meeting in May to introduce and foreshadow the petition. It has now officially commenced and will close in December.

Residents were invited to take away materials and information about the petition to sign and to share with friends and family. The Waverton Precinct committee will be organising local in-person drives to bring more attention to the petition in the coming weeks and months.

Although the campaign encompasses various parts of the Harbour, we are especially interested in this campaign. Berrys Bay features collapsing wharves ever since BP left. It is not safe to bring a boat in. There are piers under the water making it especially dangerous. The Coal Loader Wharf is also dangerous, and the re-fit of the 'Cape Don' is also underway it is not fit to tow, and other wrecks are also just sitting there as it is cheaper than dealing with them responsibly.

So even though this campaign is with other residents in other council areas, Waverton has some of the best examples of these derelict wharves, vessels and other debris to be found in Sydney Harbour.

There is a URL code or online link. We need to gather at least 20,000 signatures by December. Share this link with your family, friends and on your social media.

<https://saveoursydneyharbour.com.au/>

Development updates

A resident said that there are moves to re-develop the rear of the shops at Waverton village to create a utility to move food and other items in and out of the shops. All the garages will be taken over for storage. The area is quite small, but there is no detail.

Motions passed

Waiting response from the railway re the northern side of the line shops.

We requested NSC raise common local planning controls across NSW within consistent and clear framework. Response from Council does not reflect does not relate to the points made. Council responses to points raised in July and other matters passed this year, is available to residents at the meeting for their perusal.

Merrits Playground

Upgrade has begun. Park closed for 3 months. Comprehensive upgrade to look forward to, within the perimeters of the existing playground.

Noakes Fire Safety

Of great concern to local residents and the Council. Noakes do not have the adequate fire retardant and equipment. Noakes are not moving very quickly to resolve. Ongoing talks, moving slowly and a lot of dissatisfaction.

Transport Orientated Development.

Densities now determined. Crows Nest/St Leonards station up to Falcon Street - 3,255 new dwellings to be built, around 500 to be concentrated around Royal NS Hospital for affordable housing. Open for submissions. As comparison - in Homebush 16,100 new dwellings, Bankstown 12,500 new dwellings. A lot more high rise in this area is planned.

3. NEW BUSINESS:

Coal Loader Wharf Make Safe and Retrieval

A flyer was placed in letterboxes recently from Transport NSW/Maritime to announce that there will be a “make safe and retrieval” process applied to the Coal Loader Wharf. New process to make it safe and make it a place for locals to engage with the heritage of it. Work will start later in 2024. “Future heritage interpretation”. Feedback from residents that was invited earlier will help them decide on approach but the flyer is not quite clear as to what the re-interpretation will bring about.

Plans to close Balls Head Reserve to New Years Eve revelers?

An article in the media this week announced that Balls Head Reserve will close on New Years Eve. Destruction of the area by crowds, including damage to foliage. The Council received a report making some recommendations to limit access on NYE.

Berrys Bay Park

Landscape masterplan completed. The builders are seeking further community consultation on the final design in late December and publish a report in mid 2025 and commence construction in later in 2025 and have the foreshore open to the public in 2027.

The community felt that this process has been unduly delayed and too much consultation has been entered into. People cannot swim in the location of the Woodleys Shed slipway.

WHT Draft Place Design and Landscape Plan

This is open until 29th August 2024 for comment. Submissions have already been provided, read and not accepted.

NSW Railways owned retailers in Waverton, particularly the site of Bontanica cafe

A resident raised that the situation with NSW Railways management of the Botanica site is still unclear. Waverton Precinct will approach NSW Railways to gain further insights into the plans for that site as it needs to be cleaned up and re-leased.

Waverton Public Lands and Waters Protection Association now dissolved

This organisation represented our interests in the recent Floating Dry Dock campaign and has been dissolved as of July by the members of that Committee. There is now no legal entity to represent our interests on the legal footing. Tactically, it is a good thing to have so that Waverton residents can have representation in court if ever this is required but we no longer have this available as of the end of July 2024.

DAs

49 Balls Head Road

3 storey development, swimming pool with the removal of 9 trees.

4. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Sylvia's cafe at the Coal Loader is now fully operational.
- There is some news coming for Woodley's Shed but we are not sure what that is at the moment.

NEXT MEETING:

The meeting closed at 8.27 pm.

The next meeting is 3rd September, 2024