

# **BRIGHTMORE PRECINCT**

## **PART OF NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY PRECINCT SYSTEM**

### **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD:**

**WEDNESDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2020**

**COMMENCING at 7.00 PM**

**ATTENDANCE:** 14 people attended the meeting  
(COVID-19 restrictions of the venue limiting the meeting to 14 people)

**APOLOGIES:** JG/AG/MTJ/GA

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes for the 12<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2020 meeting (previous meeting) were adopted.

CH opened the meeting.

### **BRIGHTMORE PRECINCT WEBSITE? DISCUSSION**

Some advantages would be posting and updating current issues relevant to the Precinct and their status in between monthly meetings. An electronic noticeboard which people can check upon for meeting dates and deadlines for feedback etc.

Costs - once set up – appear to be fairly minimal.

CH suggested that if a website were set up, the flyers could possibly then be sent out every quarter to save on costs.

The flyers, while very useful, are becoming more expensive relative to the budget.

CH stated that the Council is planning to review their own website dynamics but no further detail at this stage. Data from the Precinct review might hopefully feed into this IT review.

It was suggested that a flyer with information about the Precinct could or should be sent out once a year with rate notices. Rate notices could even display which Precinct operates in your area as they are address and land size specific.

Council would prefer a Facebook site (this is free) but the general consensus was against this, given the legal problems Facebook has had. Comments included people both moving off Facebook and also those never having used or willing to use it.

There was a desire to modernize, perhaps audit/evaluate the flyer system and reflect differing community engagement methods.

RM was concerned over some irregularity with actually receiving flyers in Parraween St.

There was some concern over access to the Precinct page on the Council website.

A Precinct motion was proposed in support of a website voted 13 for, 1 against.

CH to investigate further with JG at Council.

### **NSW PLANNING - have greenlit just under 7000 new residences in one section of the LGA. Outline and brief discussion**

CH gave a brief overview of the plans for high-rise developments in Crows Nest and St Leonards, and some information raised by the "OVERdevelopment - we're OVER it" campaign.

It was noted that these areas had access to both train and metro, unlike Neutral Bay Village which is solely serviced by buses.

There was brief discussion over the actual community benefits being offered by the developer vs what has been proposed in Neutral Bay Village via the Military Rd Corridor Planning Study.

GIPA request re Neutral Bay Village development applications pending.

## **CREMORNE PLAZA (opposite Paling Street) - A much used local resource. How could it be improved?**

This will be included in the Military Road Corridor Planning Study Stage 2, so discussion was sought on ways to improve this area and **LANGLEY PLACE** as more user-friendly public spaces.

Both are existing plazas (unlike Young St.) which receive positive land regular local usage. Clarification needed on the ownership of the land at Langley Place and therefore its potential use? Cremorne Plaza is already well patronised with cafes and restaurants with outdoor seating. It was noted that businesses on the upper level generally did not do so well, and that Cremorne Plaza would be attractive to a developer. It would be ideal to retain this hub but also seek ways to improve or rejuvenate it.

Suggestions included:

- a well-received idea was a "living wall" at the south (Military Rd) end of both plazas, as both a sound and pollution barrier against the traffic.
- more seating
- a grass area for children playing (Parraween St)
- better tree/shrub planting
- live music

Better graduation/flow of levels in these plazas (less steps)

## **BRIEF UPDATE FROM METROCORP/SYDNEY WATER - on the Brightmore Reserve outfall sewage tunnel cleaning**

### **15 MINUTE PARKING TRIAL, PARRAWEEN STREET - submissions close 31 August 2021**

Council is seeking feedback re the above.

The general consensus was that 15 minutes was not long enough, especially as the time starts from the minute the vehicle enters the space. 15 minutes is not long enough to get across Military Rd and back again and do shopping. It might help with cinema drop off/pick up and liquor stores although many people walk to these.

The Mayoral election promised 30 minutes of free parking for residents, but it remains unclear how this would operate/isolate ratepayers? Mosman run something similar at their beaches but this is for 1 hour.

The parking meters in Parraween Street were supposed to be temporary when they were installed many years ago, and the revenue was to be used for the DA on the Parraween St Carpark/Early Childhood Health Centre site.

Query with Council as to why the parking meters are still in place when they were introduced as a temporary measure, and that the DA has not now happened?

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **Aged-care facility in Parraween St**

One attendee said that opposite Chambers Cellars in Parraween St, 4 pairs of semis have been sold to a developer to build an aged-care facility. There is one owner who has been holding out and not selling.

One attendee commented that speed is an issue in the street, others did not think that speed was a problem due to the narrowness of the road. Many of the parallel-parked vehicles could not fit within the limits of the designated parking lines and occupied part of the traffic lane, and vehicles passing these cars slowed down.

### **Chambers Cellars - Military Rd / Parraween St**

One attendee said that Chambers Cellars wants to lengthen trading hours and lease a 100 sqm retail area at the rear of the property (Parraween Street frontage) which would suit a café or restaurant.

### **Reynolds Street Resurfacing & Fencing on Divided Section of Road**

Council was preparing quotes to submit (hopefully before the end of August) for the resurfacing of the road to submit to Ausgrid following completion of the high voltage cable work.

KF noted that the fence has not been painted for years, and that there is a proposal to put in some new metal posts and wiring.

**Proposed 2021 Ferry Service Changes for the Merger of F2 Taronga Zoo and F6 Mosman Bay Routes**  
LS read out an email from "Transport for NSW and Transdev, proud operator of Sydney Ferries", that after receiving a "significant amount of feedback", TfNSW has decided to not proceed with these changes as proposed for 2021.

*Journey time and frequency*

F6 Mosman Bay commuters viewed proposed journey times and frequency relatively positively.  
F2 Taronga Zoo commuters expressed their concerns about increased journey times.  
Increased weekend frequency was positively received by all.

*Intermodal connections*

Connecting bus services as well as parking options in the area was seen as a critical component of any proposed changes.

*Patronage mix*

Some level of dissatisfaction was expressed over merging the F2 Taronga route to the F6 Mosman Bay commuter service.

**SCEGS Redlands Student Parking**

A large number of attendees said students parking all day in local streets has become an increased problem, especially in Reynolds St and Illiliwa St. This may have been exacerbated by COVID-19 (lack of car sharing options) and as students seek to avoid exposure on public transport?

Waters Rd (next to the church) has also increased as an unofficial drop zone for students.

Noted that the new development at Redlands will have no parking for students, only teachers and staff.

Brightmore Precinct is keen to maintain an open dialogue on this issue as the school increases in size and popularity - also its building footprint and student numbers.

BW, CFO of Redlands, attended the Brightmore Precinct Meeting of 12 February 2020 when this issue was highlighted. BW stated he would take the comments onboard and take up the issues raised with the Principal and report back to the Precinct. This was the last meeting pre-COVID and has not been followed up.

Suggestions included limiting parking to 4 hours or having a time limit of possibly 2 or 4 hours up till a certain time (?10.00 am, ?12 noon) and after that time unrestricted parking. One attendee queried whether Redlands operated their own dedicated buses from different areas of Sydney.

Precinct to contact Redlands to ascertain the student parking policy, and if so, what it is, and how it is enforced. After receiving a response, the issue will be discussed at the following Precinct meeting.

**Anomalies in the Area Covered by Brightmore Precinct**

Noted that the northern side of Parraween Street to Military Road, between Winnie Street and Macpherson Street, is part of Harrison Precinct, whereas it should naturally fit within Brightmore.

One attendee who lives in this area receives the Harrison flyer, but attends Brightmore meetings because Brightmore's issues pertain to where he lives, not Harrison's. Request an audit from Council as to who gets the flyers, and how the boundary was designated this way and whether it could be changed.

**POST MEETING EMAILS WERE RECEIVED WITH ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS**

RM –

The discussion around how we best communicate to residents of the precinct was a challenging one. The current flyer system has several limitations:

- Expensive:
- Not necessarily delivered to the right footprint; and
- Probably not delivered to those with a "No Junk Mail" request, even though I think it is probably a valid exception.

Online options provide an opportunity. A website will assist, but it will require someone to administer it, and interactivity will be difficult. It will also be challenging to attract new residents – how will they know about it?

I suggested a Facebook group for several reasons:

- It provides a high level of interactivity;
- It can be set up as a private group (if deemed necessary);
- It has zero cost;
- It can be publicised efficiently and cost-effectively; and
- It will reach a new audience.

This last point is the most compelling. Our demographic cross-section is narrow, which suggests we are missing essential parts of our community, and it is important that the precinct group is representative of its community.

It's not an "either/or" decision, as communications strategy requires multiple channels to be effective. Therefore, I suggest we:

- Thoroughly audit the flyer process, reduce the frequency and use it to direct recipients to our other channels, as well as locking away the regular monthly meetings in the diary;
- Set up the website and trial it for a period (and to save time, we could lift the structure and back end from the precinct already using one); and
- Set up a Facebook group. It would contain the same information, but be a different channel, and should capture more interested residents. It would also encourage discussion. Proof of residence could be one filter to ensure it doesn't get out of hand.

There may be other channels we need to consider, but this first step takes us from two (flyer + Council website) to potentially four, which should materially improve the precinct's ability to communicate with its residents.

JA -

Very good meeting on Wednesday

I did forget to add another suggestion for Cremorne/Parraween Plaza

A Fountain in the centre for a focal point & comfortable seating surrounding it

Tubs of flowers & even herbs

To be picked also in tubs

One way to help create a community

**NEXT MEETING:**

To be held on 14 October 2020

**EMAIL:**

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