

North Sydney Combined Precincts Committee (CPC)
General Meeting
Tuesday 20 October 2020
6.00pm start via Zoom

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Co-convenor presiding: IG (CPC Co-Convenor/Waverton)

Participants¹: BE (Bay); CC (Harrison); GS (Hayberry); BS (Lavender Bay/CPC Co-convenor); JC (Milson); EC (Neutral); JB (Registry); KH (Union); IG (Waverton/CPC Co-Convenor); PM (Willoughby Bay) and JH (Wollstonecraft).

Also present: JG, Manager Integrated Planning & Special Projects (North Sydney Council); GN, Community Engagement Coordinator (North Sydney Council, Minutes)

Guest: Mayor Cr Jilly Gibson (North Sydney Council, Observer)

AGENDA

Co-convenor presiding Ian Grey (Waverton)

IG (Chair/Waverton) noted that the Mayor requested to attend as an observer and was invited to do so, and whilst willing to answer any questions, the meeting should minimise questions directed to the Mayor.

1. Minutes of General Meeting, 18 August 2020

MOTION: *That the minutes of the general meeting held on 18 August 2020 were confirmed as read and correct, subject to the minor amendment - noting the poor audio quality of remote attendees dialling into the face-to-face meeting.*

MOVED BY: JH (Wollstonecraft), **SECONDED BY:** JC (Milson)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Notes of Adhoc Meeting, 22 September 2020

The notes of the adhoc/informal meeting do not require formal acceptance; they were noted with no amendments required.

3. Council's Reply to Previous Minutes (Summary of Actions)

MOTION: *That CPC accepts the Summary of Actions and requests further response to the following actions:*

- a) *Scii Hume Street Park, Stage 2 - the responsible officer's response does not directly respond to the CPC's request that Stage 2 move quickly. The CPC is of the impression Stage 2 is an approved project and seeks clarification whether the project is funded/scheduled to commence.*

¹ As this meeting was held under COVID-19 via telecall a limit of 1 representative per Precinct Committees was applied.

- b) *Sciii Community Housing Project and Funds: New Generation Boarding House - update to include the decision of Council at its meeting of 28 September 2020.*
- c) *Sciii Amend LEP/DCP is amended to include affordable housing in accordance with guidelines from the Greater Sydney Commission - the responsible officer is requested to clarify whether an amendment would not happen or whether it was more complicated than the CPC anticipated.*

MOVED BY: JH (Wollstonecraft), SECONDED BY: JC (Milson)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ACTION: Include Hume Street Park - Stage 2 as a standing item on CPC agenda until an answer is received via the SOA.

4. Co-convenors Report

IG (Chair/Waverton) noted that there was nothing to report from the Co-convenors perspective, other than the proposed Floating Dry Dock remaining of interest to the Waverton/surrounding Precinct areas and the recent passing of the founder and long-standing chair of the Waverton Precinct Committee, Bruce Burns.

5. Community Engagement Coordinator/Council Update

i. Current/upcoming consultations

JG (NSC) provided further detail on agenda items:

- [Traffic and Parking Surveys](#) - locality/site specific see [website](#). Close 27 October 2020. Relevant Precinct Committees have been notified. Items are listed in Precincts E-news.
- [Coal Loader Centre for Sustainability biennial visitor survey](#) - closes 30 October 2020.
- [Start-up Businesses - Ecosystem Mapping](#) - feedback closes 31 October 2020. Council has feedback including a recent Deloitte study indicates there are many start-up businesses in the North Sydney LGA, but Council has had difficulty identify and quantify them. Council has received a small grant during Small Business Month to assist with marketing/promotion of an online mapping exercise. While there have been over 600-page views to date the level of participation is low; please promote almost your networks.
- [Kirribilli Village Centre, Draft Public Domain Upgrade Masterplan](#) - closes 1 November 2020. Information session slides available from website. A high level of submissions have been received to date.
- [Blues Point Road Village Centre, Draft Public Domain Upgrade Masterplan](#) - closes 1 November 2020. Information session slides available from website.
- [Draft North Sydney Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan](#) - feedback closes 3 November 2020.
- [Road Pavement Rectification Works - Miller and Blue Streets](#) - feedback closes 3 November 2020. Council is seeking feedback on construction options regarding these essential yet potentially very noisy roadworks. Online information session to be held 21 October 2020.
- Upcoming - Young Street Plaza trial. Construction will commence on 3 November 2020.

Information Session - Tree Regulations & Canopy Management in North Sydney LGA, Tuesday 27 October 2020, 2pm - 3pm

As the next event in its recently commenced new online engagement program, Council is hosting an information session detailing the history of urban forest management in the North Sydney area over the past 23 years, the recent decline in tree canopy, and Council's specific canopy targets and actions in the *North Sydney Urban Forest Strategy* to rectify the decline. The session will also explain the new tree protection thresholds in Council's *Development Control Plan* and will be helpful for everyone managing trees on private land in the North Sydney area including residents, arborists, contractors and developers.

IG (Waverton) mentioned that the topic of tree canopy was raised at a recent Waverton Precinct Committee meeting and asked if people want to help, would planting an extra tree to encouraging people plant trees in their garden? There was discussion that the Strategy applies to both public and private tree canopies, and that much of the urban canopy decline is on private land due to development.

ACTION: Council to advise on whether encouraging residents to plant trees on private land would be of assistance to increase tree canopy.

ii. Precinct System Review

JG (NSC) advised that Council had issued a consultant's brief/request for quote for Stage 2 of the Review and received three quotes to high calibre, with the consultants having background/experience engaging with consultative committees, and one has worked with a Precinct System. Stage 2 is expected to commence Nov/Dev 2020 (pending COVID restrictions), taking into consideration the Christmas/New Year break and will recommence in the early New Year. It is intended that Stage 2 be completed by March 2021, noting that timing is subject to the elected Council.

JB (Registry) requested information on the purpose of the Review as issued in the brief. JG (NSC) advised that the objectives of Stage 2 are to use the Stage 1 feedback to expand consultation on the key recommendations within the *Discussion Paper*, these being:

- a) Reaffirmed scope of the Precinct System - its role and function, and naming;
- b) Improved awareness of the Precinct System by Councillors, staff, those involved in Precinct Committees (office bearers and members/participants) as well as general public - in context of acknowledgement that is a discretionary service, complemented by other Council-led engagement programs;
- c) Reallocation/realignment of Precinct area boundaries - with view to present a preferred option for reallocation inclusive of a reduced total number of Precinct areas (this may differ to the three options presented under Stage 1); and
- d) Council's level of support/resource allocation - including recommendations regarding revised service levels and operational funding, increased promotion and awareness of the Precinct System with the aim to increase participation/diversify participation (demographics), officer bearer training needs etc.

JG (NSC) noted the brief was as per the recommendations of the Stage 1 *Discussion Paper*, minus two recommendations, including No. 6 'Other initiatives' as the Council has subsequently resolved to pilot Street Play initiatives.

KH (Union) joined the meeting.

JB (Registry) asked how much Council is intending to spend on an external consultant under Stage 2. JG (NSC) advised that up to \$40,000 has been allocated in the *2020/21 Operational Plan & Budget* inclusive of associated costs including venue hire, advertising postage, etc. The quotes received are within budget.

PM (Willoughby Bay) asked for further information on the Review process as consultation has just been undertaken. JG (NSC) clarified that as advised to all Precinct Committees at the start of the Review, that it is being conducted in two stage. The Stage 1 Discussion Paper was a ‘Green Paper’ allowing for equal dissemination of information to all stakeholders about the Precinct System’s history/background and current status, and sought initial feedback on six recommendations, including proposed amendments to the *Code of Conduct - Precinct Office Bearers and Members*. Informed by the feedback received in Stage 1, the external consultant will facilitate Stage 2 so that all stakeholders can be actively engaged in discussing the proposed recommendations/key issues and agreeing recommendations to be presented to Council for determination, as the Precinct System is an engagement program of Council. JB (Registry) asked if the final recommendations from Stage 2 will be publicly exhibited. JG (NSC) advised that such depends on the decision making of the elected Council, following receipt of the Stage 2 final recommendations.

GS (Hayberry) joined the meeting.

The meeting requested clarification on what the consultation is trying to achieve e.g. improve the System, abolish the System. JG (NSC) clarified that Council is not proposing to abolish the Precinct System, instead Council acknowledges the Precinct System was introduced almost 50 years ago and at that time was Council’s primary engagement mechanism. Over time, naturally, there is a shift in the needs of the organisation, a shift in needs and expectations of the community, and a shift in technology. Therefore, the Review looks at how the Precinct System fits within Council’s broader engagement programs. JG (NSC) advised that the Council has been upfront about the objectives including proposing reallocation of Precinct areas through consolidation of the number of Precinct areas via the *Discussion Paper*.

IG (Co-convenor/CPC) noted that Precinct Committees are operating on a platform which predates modern technology and there is chance to look at how the Precinct System relates to local residents and keeping them informed.

JB (Registry) questioned if this is most appropriate use of Council funds at this time; and asked when a copy of the Stage 1 submissions summary would be made publicly available. JG (NSC) indicated that this is being finalised and will be provided to all Precinct Committees soon.

iii. Precinct AGMs

JG (NSC) advised that all Precinct Committees, including the Combined Precincts Committee, are not required to hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) in 2020/21 due to COVID-19 impacting participation at individual Committee meetings and due to the Precinct System Review. Instead all Precinct Committees are to continue with their current office bearers, should they be willing to continue in their roles. Where a current incumbent who wants to step down, the Committee may appoint an interim (temporary) office bearer, who will be inducted by Council staff. Alternatively, an incumbent officer bearer can assume an additional role e.g. Chair and Secretary or Secretary and Treasurer.

All Committees are still required to complete a financial return (Statement of Income and Expenditure). Further advice regarding AGMs will be provided following the conclusion of Stage 2 of the Precinct System Review.

PM (Willoughby Bay) asked if there was the option to proceed with an AGM should an individual Committee wish to do so. In response JG (NSC) advised no, that the decision was is applicable to all Precinct Committees, with no Committee to hold an AGM in 2020/21. The reasoning for this decision was queried and JG (NSC) advised that the reasoning is equity in acknowledgement of the COVID-

19 impacts and Stage 2 of the Precinct System Review soon to commence, this provides continuity. Thus, the induction of new office bearers can be deferred. KH (Union) noted that there is precedence within other voluntary organisation deferring AGMs due to COVID-19 and that this provides consistency amongst Precinct Committees, especially those who may be struggling at this time.

ACTION: Council to ensure the memo to all Precinct Committees includes further information detailing the reasons for the decision that AGMs not be held in 2020/21.

6. General Business

a. VOTING (pre-submitted items with proposed motions)

i) Lavender Green - what next?

This item was discussed at the adhoc CPC meeting held on 22 September 2020 and placed on agenda as insufficient information was provided in relation how Council will go about getting a lease on the land. JH (Wollstonecraft) noted that the DA was withdrawn rather than rejected, meaning it can be resubmitted which adds to urgency of Council exploring the land acquisition.

MOTION: CPC requests that Council provide an update on what steps have been taken to act upon the items 3 and 4 of the Council meeting held 26 April 2020 (Item 9) to:

3) That Council ascertain from the NSW government the terms upon which council could acquire the freehold for Lavender Green

4) That council ascertain from Multiplex Luna Park Sydney Limited the terms upon which council could acquire the remainder of the lease it holds on the land

MOVED BY: JH (Wollstonecraft), SECONDED BY: JC (Milson)

CARRIED

In favour	Opposed	Abstained
Bay x1 Harrison x 1 Hayberry x 1 Lavender Bay x1 Milson x 1 Neutral x 1 Registry x 1 Union x 1 Waverton x 1 Wollstonecraft x 1		Willoughby Bay x 1
Total: 11	Total: 0	Total: 1

b. ACTIONS (pre-submitted items with proposed actions)

i) Building a Village Feel for Neutral Bay (Parks)

Maintaining a village atmosphere was identified as a top priority by the Parks Precinct Committee, based on their VOC held in August 2020. Parks Precinct believes that this should be an important priority for all Precinct Committees and would like the CPC and individual Precinct Committees to consider this goal, and a definition of village atmosphere, prior to further discussion at a future CPC meeting.

ACTION: Item deferred as no representative from Parks Precinct was present.

ACTION: Council to provide update on when the outcomes of public exhibition of the draft Future Directions (Military Road Corridor Planning Study) report will be released/reported to Council.

7. INFORMATION REQUESTS/STATUS UPDATES

i) Western Harbour Tunnel and Warringah Freeway Upgrade

IG (Chair/Waverton) advised that proforma letters were prepared and distributed to all Precinct Committees but there is no way to track whether individuals sent letter to their local member. All signs indicate that this project is likely to go ahead.

BE (Bay) detailed that Bay Precinct Committee are taking a different approach, want it to be positive and from the perspective that the project is likely to proceed. Their letter is concentrated on need of public recreation space and offers expertise of the Bay Precinct Committee chair is a town planner and architect. Want to keep approaching the member for Willoughby (who is also Premier) with compelling logic that will address all the problems across the LGA that tunnel brings; traffic, CBD, pollution.

Bay Precinct Committee sent a letter to the Premier on 19 October 2020 explaining that they can't comprehend how the issues raised by hundreds of North Sydney residents have not been addressed, particularly the loss of green recreation space in Cammeray Park. The requests a meeting with the Premier and promotes the expertise of the chair of Bay Precinct Committee as the reason for the meeting.

IG (Chair/Waverton) raised that land bridges were popular in public meetings and BE (Bay) noted that this would be raised. JC (Milson) noted that it was BE (Bay) who originally presented the concept of a land bridge to the CPC in May 2018.

JC (Milson) questioned whether the Council submission in relation to Berry Street has been ignored. GS (Hayberry) questioned whether making Berry Street four lanes would interfere with the proposed Miller Place. Representatives who had written to MP Wilson noted they had not received a response.

ii) St Leonards/Crows Nest 2036 Plan

JH (Wollstonecraft) referred to number of height increases to buildings in the Final Plan as compared to the Draft Plan as exhibited, specifically along the western side of the Pacific Highway that materially affect East Wollstonecraft residents. Wollstonecraft Precinct will be seeking advice and asking Council to object to the DPIE about the unwarranted increase in heights. The Final Plan also made no provision at all for extra open space in the precinct. In fact, the ratio of open space/1000 population by 2036 will decrease by 18% as compared to the ratio/1000 population in 2016.

8. OTHER ITEMS

JC (Milson) advised that Milson Precinct Committee conducted a walkaround with Council's Project Manager and the consultants for the *Draft Kirribilli Public Domain Upgrade Masterplan* and advised they would be seeking another walk through with traffic specialists; and recommended the same should be undertaken by Precinct Committees in relation to the *Draft Blues Point Road Public Domain Upgrade Masterplan*.

CC (Harrison) noted that a pedestrian was recently hit at the intersection of Military Road and Cabramatta Road. It was also noted that a motorcyclist was recently hit at Spofforth/Holt Streets.

9. NEXT MEETING - 24 November 2020 (venue TBC)

JG (NSC) confirmed that the CPC AGM will not be held on this date (in line with 5iii), instead it will be a general meeting. In absence of the Precincts/Councillor Supper² which has been cancelled due to indoor gathering limits under COVID-19, the Mayor and General Manager will attend make a brief presentation and respond to questions . Although restrictions have eased, the 4sqm rule will still apply.

The meeting agreed that the next CPC meeting will be exclusively face-to-face³ i.e. no remote attendees.

Action: Council to provide update on whether refreshments can be provided at individual Precinct meetings, in particular regarding permissibility of end of year celebrations.

² Cancelled due to COVID-19.

³ Subject to Public Health Orders