

North Sydney Combined Precincts Committee (CPC)
General Meeting
6.00pm start
Tuesday 28 April 2020
Skype Telecall

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

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

Participants¹: BE (Bay); CH (Brightmore); JC (Edward); MDS (Harrison); BS (Lavender Bay/CPC Co-convenor); JC (Milson); EC (Neutral); DW (Parks); JB (Registry); JP (Stanton); KH (Union); IG (Waverton/CPC Co-Convenor); PM (Willoughby Bay); and JH (Wollstonecraft)

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

Apologies: JM (Holtermann); LT (Holtermann)

1. Introductions and Apologies

IG (CPC Co-convenor/Waverton) opened the meeting at 6.05pm.

All attendees verbally consented to the meeting being recorded via Council's Skype for Business application for the purposes of Minutes transcription.

2. Minutes of 18 February 2020

MOTION: That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 February 2020 are confirmed as read and correct.

MOVED BY: JC (Milson), SECONDED BY: CH (Brightmore)
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

MOTION: That CPC accepts the Summary of Actions and requests that Council forward its submission on the WHT (endorsed at the Council meeting held 6 April 2020) to the Premier with the Mayor's letter of the 23 April 2020 if such has not already occurred.

MOVED BY: JC (Milson), SECONDED BY: DW (Parks)
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Co-convenors Update

IG (CPC Co-convenor/Waverton) gave background on a request from the CPC Co-convenors made to Council to halt processing of larger development applications during the COVID-19 pandemic. A reply was received from the Mayor was received in response (ATTACHMENT 1). Council is legally required to accept development applications (DAs) and is required to

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

apply the notification period which is usually 14 days. Council will, as per current practice, consider DA submission extensions during the pandemic on request by individual Precinct Committees.

BS (Lavender Bay/CPC Co-convenor) outlined a series of Ministerial orders that relate to development changes during the pandemic e.g. construction hours, ability for Minister to approve any DA without having to have an exhibition and analysis phase.² IC (Waverton) informed the meeting that some Precinct Committees have written to the Planning Minister about the emerging problem/concerns that under the language of being ‘Covid-19 shovel ready’ DAs that have been stuck in the planning system are being ‘rescued’.

JP (Stanton) flagged a Sydney Morning Herald³ article released late on 28 April 2020, which detailed the NSW Government plans to fast track construction projects including three sites in North Sydney LGA - 575-583 Pacific Highway, St Leonards, 100 Christie Street, St Leonards, and 23-35 Atchison Street, St Leonards.⁴

5. Community Engagement Coordinator/Council Update

- Precinct System Review Stage 1- submissions close 9 July 2020

GN (NSC) reminded that Precinct Committees can request additional hard copies of the Stage 1 exhibition documents. JG (NSC) reiterated that the purpose of Stage 1 was to collect feedback on the Discussion Paper recommendations (and amendments to the Code of Conduct), and that all feedback will be used to inform the Stage 2 consultation, that will include active consultation with Precinct Committees. No decisions will be made by Council based on the Stage 1 feedback. Concern were raised regarding the difficulty for individual Precinct Committees to “meet” and discuss the proposed boundary redistribution options, and hence preference to extend the deadline due to the temporary suspension of Precinct Committee meeting due to the pandemic. MDS (Harrison) noted that alternative arrangements during pandemics and the like should be added to the updated Guidelines as part of the Precinct System Review.

MOTION: That the CPC requests that Council extend the exhibition period for the Precinct System Review Stage 1 until at least two months after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted and Precinct Committee meetings resume.

MOVED BY: JB (Registry), SECONDED BY: BE (Bay)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- Call for ideas for Precinct System 50th Anniversary celebration

GN (NSC) reminded attendees of the call for suggestions in how to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the North Sydney Precinct System in 2021. Please forward ideas, any interesting local and historical stories related to the Precinct System to precincts@northsydney.nsw.gov.au. MDS (Harrison) suggested that Precinct-led projects, such as their heritage streetscape photography could feature as an exhibition.

² <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Policy-and-Legislation/COVID19-response>

³ NSW government fast-tracks key projects to boost economy - <https://www.smh.com.au/politics/nsw/nsw-government-fast-tracks-key-projects-to-boost-economy-20200428-p54nx8.html>

⁴ <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/-/media/Files/DPE/Other/fast-tracked-assessments-tranche-one-2020-4.pdf?la=en>

- Pandemic Planning for Precinct System Support:
 - Precinct eNews is being be distributed as a PDF (temporary 3-month basis) [see discussion under item 6ci]
 - Feasibility investigation underway regarding virtual Precinct Committee meetings format

- Current Consultations

GN advised of current consultations including the North Sydney Olympic Pool DA [see discussion under item 6di], Military Road Corridor Planning Study, Luna Park Trust's DA for Lavender Green and the upcoming North Sydney CBD Public Domain Strategy, Stage 2.

MDS (Harrison) questioned how Precinct Committees could get messages to the community if flyers are not being distributed during the temporary suspension as distribution via email groups excludes people within each Precinct area. Some mentioned that they have been communicating electronically via a newsletter or general emails.

GN (NSC) informed the meeting that notification letters have been issued in line with the project's Community Engagement Strategy⁵. JG (NSC) reiterated that Council is working to provide additional 'inform' engagement materials/methods for consultations where face-to-face engagement methods are not available due to COVID-19 restrictions.

JH (Wollstonecraft) left the meeting.

6. General Business

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

i) **CPC meeting frequency (Brightmore/CPC Convenors)**

During the pandemic it is recommended that the CPC consider meeting more frequently, whilst individual Precinct Committees aren't convening e.g. monthly meetings.

The meeting agreed that additional meeting(s) should be informal e.g. without a formal agenda and voting/motions, like the informal meeting held on 2 March 2020 to discuss the Western Harbour Tunnel/Warringah Freeway EIS.

MOTION: That the CPC supports holding an adhoc/special/informal meeting via Zoom at 6pm on Tuesday 19 May 2020, with secretarial support form Council.

MOVED BY: CH (Brightmore), SECONDED BY: JC (Registry)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

⁵ Notifications have been sent to approximately 8,000 residences and 3,500 property owners. An e-News update was sent those that had made submission in previous phases of this project.

ii) Proposal to privatise bus routes (Edward)

In October 2019, the NSW Government announced its intention to privatise bus services in the last three parts of Sydney - including the Northern Beaches, Ryde and Willoughby areas. Edward Precinct is opposed in principle to further privatisation, given the poor performance of previously privatised routes in the Inner West and Newcastle in particular. The petition against the privatisation is at <https://ourtransport.org.au/take-action/> which individual Precincts Committees could circulate to their members.

PM (Willoughby Bay) outlined that Willoughby Bay Precinct has written to the Premier twice and has received a standard reply.

MOTION 1: That the CPC requests NSC to write to the Premier, opposing further privatisation of existing Sydney bus routes.

MOVED BY: JC (Edward), SECONDED BY: MDS (Harrison)

CARRIED

MOTION 2: That a report be prepared by Council's Strategic Planning Department outlining the impact of privatisation of bus routes with relevance to the impact on North Sydney.

MOVED BY: JC (Edward), SECONDED BY: MDS (Harrison)

CARRIED

In favour	Opposed	Abstained
Brightmore x 1 Edward x 1 Harrison x1 Lavender Bay x1 Milson x1 Parks x1 Union x 1 Registry x1 Stanton x 1 Waverton x1 Willoughby Bay x1		Neutral x1
Total: 11	Total: 0	Total: 1

iii) Charging batteries of electric cars without off-road parking (Edward)⁶

⁶ As advised via the agenda: [The North Sydney Smart City Strategy \(adopted 23 September 2019\) includes the following related actions:](#)

Objective	Actions
Increase up-take of low emission transport options	- Prepare an Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy to coordinate Council action (accounting for planning, promotion, infrastructure, services, etc.) - Explore options to install EV charging stations in Council owned car parks and other infrastructure (As of March 2020, 10 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations have been installed across five Council car parks - Alexander Street carpark , Holtermann Street carpark , Hume Street carpark , Nicholson Street carpark , Ridge Street carpark More information: https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Transport_Parking/Car_Parks/EV_Charging_in_Car_Parks

Houses with off-street parking and in some cases blocks of flats can charge their electric cars without much difficulty. However, residents who can only park their car on the street have more difficulty, since the charging line needs to cross the pavement - assuming parking adjacent to the house is allowed. If this is not feasible, they are required to charge at external power points, as for example those that are planned for North Sydney Council's car parks. Alternatives do exist, for example setting up urban street or power pole charging systems.

There was discussion on whether this is a priority to put to Council, but the meeting agreed that Council could provide statistics on electric vehicles.

MOTION: The CPC recommends to NSC that options for electric vehicle charging in public spaces are reviewed, and adequate charging systems designed.

MOVED BY: JC (Edward), SECONDED BY: JC (Milson)

CARRIED

ACTION: CPC requests that Council provide statistics, if available, on the usage of charging stations in Council's carparks and number of electric vehicles registered in the LGA.

In favour	Opposed	Abstained
Brightmore x 1 Edward x 1 Harrison x1 Lavender Bay x1 Milson x1 Parks x1 Union x 1 Registry x1 Stanton x 1 Waverton x1 Willoughby Bay x1		Neutral x1
Total: 11	Total: 0	Total: 1

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

i) WHT and Warringah Expressway Upgrade

Interested Precinct Committees are encouraged to commence the next phase of the WHT campaign. Suggest that residents write to MPs instructing them to oppose the current proposed project.

JG (NSC) advised that a report (Item 8) was considered at the Council meeting held 27 April 2020, which responded to Mayoral Minute 01 of 6 April 2020, calling for a report as to the proposed cost and commencement date of a Council led community campaign regarding the WHT. Council unanimously adopted the Community Engagement Strategy which outlines how the campaign will be promoted. The campaign will commence from 7 May 2020. Further information will be provided to all Precinct Committees in due course.

ACTION: The CPC requests that Council staff meet with representative Precinct Committees (Waverton, Registry and Bay as mentioned in the Mayoral Minute) to discuss

the Council's WHT community campaign messaging, for alignment with Precinct Committees' own campaigns.

C. INFORMATION REQUESTS/STATUS UPDATES - ATTACHMENT D of agenda

i) Precincts E-News (Edward)

Precinct Committees welcome the weekly PDF version of Precincts E-news, in addition to receiving via email for those who subscribed. It is intended that individual Precinct Committees pass this onto their email groups as a way of keeping members informed during the pandemic/between meetings. JC (Edward) assistance with the PDF conversion was acknowledged. It was questioned why this arrangement is only for 3 months. JG (NSC) advised that while Council staff can offer this service for the Precinct E-news only, such is not available for other E-news subscriptions. Ongoing continuation of this can be considered in context of the review of Council resources under the Precinct System Review.

ii) Individual Precinct Committee Email Addresses (Edward)

JC (Edward) asked if other Precinct Committees would welcome a Council issued email address, highlighting that there is benefit in access if office bearers change. MDS (Harrison) felt that it is hard change over accounts if office bearers change. Brightmore, Neutral and Lavender Bay Precinct Committees indicated that they were using Gmail/Yahoo accounts, have been able to change logins and haven't had any problems. JC (Edward) felt that an IMAP/POP3 account is better than a web-based account.

JC (Edward) agreed to refer the request to the Precinct System Review.

iii) File Names of Council documents (Edward)

JC (Edward) agreed to refer the request to the Precinct System Review.

ACTION: JC (Edward) to provide further information for submission to Precinct System Review, Stage 1.

iv) Feedback on the effectiveness of the NYE crowd control policies and the viewing of the Fireworks 2019/2020 (Union)

KH (Union) noted positive feedback in relation to crowd management via ticketing. Discussion indicated that Precinct Committees were interested in seeing the forthcoming report to Council. KH (Union) asked if the report was still going to May Council meeting as indicated. JG (NSC) advised that per the advice of the Manager Communications & Events two weeks ago the report was still scheduled to go to the May Council meeting. Confirmation will be sought, and Precinct Committees advised accordingly.

ACTION: CPC requests an update on when this will be reported to Council.

iv) Information about development proposals and improvement of public facilities in Berrys Bay (Union)

ACTION: The CPC requests that Council arrange a meeting of the Waverton Peninsula Working Group (as the meeting scheduled for 17 March 2020 was cancelled due to the pandemic).

v) Traffic conditions on Military Road, Cremorne (Harrison)

MDS (Harrison) explained that as per the update (provided on Attachment D of agenda) this should be deferred until regular traffic flows recommence. In the interim, Council's Manager Traffic & Transport Operations has forwarded the following request from MDS (Harrison) to Transport for NSW for consideration.

That Council to write to Transport for NSW (and/or the appropriate department) to request that the Traffic Tidal Flow System (TTS) on Military Road at Cremorne be temporarily switched off during Covid19 due to the reduced traffic on Military Rd.

Not operating the TTS would benefit the Cremorne community by increasing the number of hours per weekday that are allowed for on-street parking which would entice more people to stop and shop in Cremorne and would also restore the "village" feel to Cremorne.

The Bus Only lane would continue to operate as normal which would ensure smooth operation of transport along Military Road during peak hour.

The TTS would resume operation when "life returns to normal" post COVID19.

vi) Mosman Daily only online (Harrison)

MDS highlighted that the Mosman Daily is no longer available in hard copy and online access required payment. It was noted that Council advertised in Sydney Morning Herald (SMH) throughout April and requested that this continue through May. JG (NSC) advised that corporate advertising has not been booked in the SMH for May following legislative changes advised by the NSW Government concerning public notices. Council is exploring advertising options. Further information detailing these changes will be provided to all Precinct Committees in the near future. The meeting noted that this makes the need for inclusion in electronic correspondence (e.g. Council E-news, Precincts E-news) more prominent.

ACTION: Council to keep Precinct Committees updated on Council's response to changes related NSW Government's Policy regarding DA advertising

viii) Special Rate Variation (Willoughby Bay)

PM (Willoughby Bay) outlined Willoughby Bay Precinct Committee's discussion of Council's response provided via the CPC SOA on 18 February 2020. It was agreed that the CPC adopts the same discussion and motion as discussed by Willoughby Bay Precinct Committee at its meeting of 12 March 2020.

Council's response confirms that:

- 1. The residential ad valorem rate was increased by 9.5%.*
- 2. Council's advice that the increase in the business rates was 8.3%, based on reports to Council is not accepted. In the North Sydney Council's IPART - Part A wk2 - Notional General Income, the business rates for 2018/19 were quoted as \$16,918,674. The*

increase from 2018/19 (\$16,918,674) to 2019/20 (\$17,590,534) is 3.97%, using the comparative information included in Council's IPART submission. Council advised IPART that the increase in the business rates would be 3.97%.

3. Council advised residential rate payers that their rates would go up by 7%, but the SRV application was to increase the average residential rate pool by 7% without making it clear that the ad valorem residential rate would increase by 9.5% and the residential rate pool by 9.1%.

4. Council's advice of the cumulative increases over 3 years confirms the higher rate increases levied on residential rate payers.

5. The excessive increase in the residential ad valorem rate is due to a combination of Council's 60/40 total income split and the number of residential properties on the minimum rate.

MOTION: The response from Council confirms the CPC's view that the Residential Ad Valorem rate has increased by 9.5%. However residential ratepayers and the Precinct Committees were told that residential rates would go up by 7%. CPC does not believe that they were told that the 7% was the average rate increase and that many residential rate payers would have increases of 9.5%. The CPC requests an explanation and asks whether the approved cumulative increase in rates can be clawed back in future years.

MOVED BY: PM (Willoughby Bay), SECONDED BY: JC (Milson)

CARRIED UNANIMOUS

The meeting thanked PM (Willoughby Bay) for his analysis and work on this item.

BE (Bay) left the meeting.

D. OTHER ITEMS - TO BE TABLED AT THE MEETING

i) **North Sydney Olympic Pool (NSOP) (Milson)**

See background information on *ATTACHMENT 2*. JC (Milson) encouraged all to review the amended plans and make submissions. Those who made a submission during the first exhibition period shouldn't assume it applies to the amended plans and need to make a new submission.

MOTION 1: The CPC requests that Council ensure that the 115 submissions received during the DA advertising period for the NSOP redevelopment are reviewed and taken into consideration in any assessment, and the new plans be re-exhibited for a period of 6 weeks before any approvals are given for the design.

MOVED BY: JC (Milson) SECONDED BY: CH (Brightmore)

CARRIED

In favour	Opposed	Abstained
Brightmore x 1 Edward x 1 Lavender Bay x1 Milson x1 Neutral x1 Parks x1 Union x 1 Registry x1 Stanton x 1 Waverton x1 Willoughby Bay x1		Harrison x1
Total: 11	Total: 0	Total: 1

MOTION 2: The CPC requests Council to reopen the NSOP post COVID-19 restrictions as the closure period will be shorter than the time required to achieve an approved DA, tender process and letting of a contract to the builder, construction certificate, as well as securing funding.

MOVED BY: JC (Milson) SECONDED BY: JC (Edward)

CARRIED

In favour	Opposed	Abstained*
Brightmore x 1 Edward x 1 Milson x 1 Union x 1 Registry x 1 Waverton x 1 Willoughby Bay x 1	Neutral x 1	Harrison x 1 Lavender Bay x 1 Parks x 1 Stanton x 1
Total: 7	Total: 1	Total: 4

*Abstention related to the topic not being prior discussed by individual Precinct Committees.

MOTION 3: When the North Sydney Olympic Pool is reopened that preference be given to re-engage the full-time, casual and part-time employees of NSOP.

MOVED BY: JC (Milson) SECONDED BY: JC (Edward)

MOTION FAILED

In favour	Opposed	Abstained
Edward x 1 Milson x 1 Union x 1	Neutral x 1	Brightmore x 1 Harrison x 1 Lavender Bay x 1 Parks x 1 Registry x 1 Stanton x 1 Waverton x1 Willoughby Bay x 1
Total: 3	Total: 1	Total: 8

JB (Registry) left the meeting.

ii) Military Road Corridor Planning Study, Stage 1

CH (Brightmore) raised an intention to discuss this topic at the meeting to be held 19 May 2020. CH (Brightmore), MDS (Harrison), EC (Neutral) and DW (Parks) all noted their respective Precinct Committees had all voted to keep heights relatively the same and this study proposed heights of 8-12 stories. Neutral indicated that they were putting together a position paper which they can share prior to the meeting and MDS (Harrison) and CH (Brightmore) indicated that they can put together some dot points for the meeting on 19 May 2020. GN (NSC) advised that the project coordinator is preparing a presentation and will consider alternate options to “meet” with Precinct Committees during the exhibition period.

B. Next meeting

Informal ‘remote’ meeting to be held 19 May 2020, commencing at 6pm.

The next formal ‘remote’ meeting to be held 16 June 2020, commencing at 6pm.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm