

North Sydney Combined Precincts Committee (CPC)
Tuesday 22 June 2021
6.00pm start Hutley Hall

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Participants¹: JB (Bay); JC (Edward); MDS (Harrison); CC (Harrison); LT (Holtermann); BS (Lavender Bay/CPC Co-convenor); CT (Lavender Bay); JC (Milson); TB (Milson); EC (Neutral); CP (Neutral); GD (Parks); MDS (Registry); GT (Registry); KH (Union); IG (Waverton/CPC Co-Convenor); JH (Wollstonecraft)).

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

Apologies: GM (Edward), DW (Hayberry), GS (Hayberry), CE (Wollstonecraft)

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

Meeting commenced at 6.05pm, IG (CPC Co-convenor) welcomed attendees to the meeting.

1. Minutes of 20 April 2021

JC (Milson) noted minor typos within the minutes (pages 2, 3 and 5), and it was agreed the edits would be actioned.

MOTION: That the minutes of the general meeting held on 20 April 2021 were confirmed as read and correct, subject to minor amendment by JC (Milson)

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

Council's response to the actions arising from the previous meeting was noted, and there was further discussion on the following:

- a. Community poll/referendum questions (April 2021, Item 7ci)

MOTION: That the CPC expresses its disappointment that Council did not invite the community to suggest poll/referendum questions ahead of the 2021 Local Government elections.

MOTION: That the CPC request that Council does not abandon its previous practice of seeking suggested poll/referendum questions, and invite suggested questions 6 months prior to any future Local Government Election.

MOVED BY: JC (Milson), SECONDED BY: BS (Lavender Bay)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- b. Local Area Character Statements ((April 2021, Item 4)
-

ACTION: SOA to be updated to include the additional response from Council's Director City Strategy per Agenda Attachment C.

MDS (Harrison) read an extract from the *North Sydney Council Heritage Review 1993* (page 346):

12.5.6 Recommendation 42 - Precinct Committees

The Precinct Committees should be further encouraged by Council to perform a role which will assist in conserving the Council area's heritage. The committees should be supplied with current heritage information have access to the Inventory database and be educated about the heritage conservation process in North Sydney. The annual Precinct Committee get-together should include a presentation by the Conservation Planner on the operation of heritage conservation planning controls in North Sydney.

Precinct Committees have both an active role in policy information about conservation in their respective areas and a reactive role in commenting on any proposal or application which has heritage effects. Precinct committees, when properly briefed, can perform the "frontline role" seeking appropriate conservation solutions and lessening the drain on council officer's time and resources.

JG (NSC) noted that the 1993 Heritage Review pre-dates the most recent prior Precinct System Review, which was conducted in 2006. GT (Registry) reminded that this also predates the advent of the Internet.

TB (Milson) highlighted that Precinct Committees should be central to a heritage review. Most contemporary reviews focus on 'place' - suggesting that such a review should focus not only on heritage, but the generality/nature of place, threats and suitability for change. GT (Registry) supported the above noting that Local Area Character Statements don't just include heritage.

- c. Affordable Housing (Harrison) (February 2021, Item 5biii) MDS (Harrison) noted that a homeless person recently died on the streets on North Sydney; discussion ensued as to what facilities/amenities are available in North Sydney LGA for homeless people, what services and support is available and Council policies and practices are in place in this regard.

ACTION: Council staff to invite the A/Director Community & Library Services or their delegate to the address the next CPC meeting in relation to local services and Council policies and practices in relation to homelessness in North Sydney LGA.

**MOTION: That CPC accepts the Summary of Actions.
MOVED BY: JC (Milson), SECONDED BY: GT (Registry)
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. Co-convenors Report

BS (Lavender Bay/CPC Co-convenor):

- MLC Building (already a locally listed heritage item in Council's LEP) has now been gazetted as listed on the NSW State Heritage Register.
- Coal Loader complex also listed on NSW State Heritage Register.
- 1 Henry Lawson Drive has been acquired by the NSW Government - there was discussion on what this land will be used for e.g. to be public open space in line with the NSW Government's vision to allow access to the harbour foreshores; there was suggestion that

some of the space could be used for small watercraft storage. It was noted that the Metro site shed will be in place at Blues Point Reserve for a further 6 months.

IG (Waverton/CPC Convenor):

- Noted that distribution of the Ward boundary changes information pack by the CPC Co-convenors to individual Precinct Committees (per April 2021, Item 7cii) is pending; have received information prepared by Cr Beregi and Cr Baker which will be reviewed prior to distribution. JC (Milson) mentioned that there was minimal information available from Council, about the Local Government elections. JG (NCS) advised that the August 2021 issue of North Sydney News will be dedicated to the elections, as has occurred in the past. Registered candidates are listed on the NSWEC website, the register is updated weekly.
- The Committee for North Sydney has commenced its 'Save Berry Street' Campaign (as foreshadowed last meeting), noting they have minimal funds available for promotion and information is provided on their website. It should be noted that Council is neutral on this campaign e.g. not against but has confirmed it is not able to assist with promotion. CPC noted that changing Berry Street into a traffic funnel would thwart efforts to make the North Sydney CBD more pedestrian friendly, and create irreparable damage for residents, workers, students and visitors.

MOTION: That the CPC welcomes the Committee for North Sydney's 'Save Berry Street' Campaign (i.e. from becoming only a traffic corridor)

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Council Update

JG (NSC) provided the following updates:

- Precinct System Review - reminder that the report was deferred from the 24 May 2021 Council meeting, will be included on the agenda for the 28 June 2021 Council meeting. The Councillor Briefing was held 21 June 2021. Councillors were reminded of the submissions made by the CPC and Registry Precinct to the May 2021 Council meeting. Deferral of the report provided the opportunity for staff to confirm with all Precinct committees potentially affected by the proposed boundary changes, and their sentiments were passed onto Councillors and included in the revised report. In turn, minor changes to the report will be made including a change in order of the attachments so that staff/management responses and maps are listed ahead of the consultant's report, maps updated to reflect Registry/Bridgeview merge and Bay/The Plateau merge (rather than Bay/The Plateau/merger as initially proposed). The officer's recommendation remains as is, proposing the public exhibition of the revised boundary options, including a letterbox drop to the current 17 Precinct areas affected by proposed mergers (including the inactive areas) - the option of feedback by way of voluntary mergers will be invited (Union/Edward less parts of the CBD). Work will commence on updating the Precinct System Guidelines and Communications Plan.
- Local Government elections - reminder that the intent of the Memorandum dated 5 May 2021 is to ensure consistency with the OLG directive that Council resources cannot be used for campaign purposes. The Precinct System is under the auspice of Council, therefore Precinct meetings cannot be used to aid (real or perceived) candidates. The advice provided was as per the most recent information available at the time (i.e. 2017 circular) and the 2021

circular has since been issued, consistent with previous advice. The provisions of the memo apply to all candidates, including office bearers (who are required to temporarily stand down), non-office bearer members (casual attendees/members of the public) and sitting councillors who have registered/nominated to run again - they can attend/participate in Precinct meetings but cannot promote their candidature.

- Community Campaign: Sydney Harbour Bridge Cycleway - as resolved at the Extraordinary Council (EC) meeting of 7 June 2021, [MM01 Enough is enough it's time to fight for our open space](#) the campaign is underway; most residents should have by now received a flyer regarding this campaign, encouraging people to make a submission to TfNSW by the 27 June 2021 deadline as well as write to their local MP and/or sign Council's petition.
 - it was noted that the EC meeting (7 June 2021) was advertised to commence at 7.00pm however finished at 7.03pm, many logging on a few minutes late were surprised to find the meeting had already concluded.

ACTION: Feedback to be passed onto the Manager Governance & Committee Services.

- Current consultations:
 - Draft Fees & Charges Schedule 2021/22- closes 22 June 2021
 - Draft Community Grants & Subsidies 2021/22 - closes 22 June 2021
 - Draft Operational Plan & Budget 2021/22 (and Amended Long Term Financial Plan) - closes 22 June 2021
 - Draft Loan Borrowing Policy - closes 22 June 2021
 - Replaces Council's current Debt Management Policy
 - Draft Environmental Sustainability Strategy - closes 28 June 2021
 - online information session recording/Q&A available online
 - Gerard Street at Langley Avenue - Proposed Continuous Footpath and Drainage Works - closes 29 June 2021
 - [Proposed Ben Boyd Road Renaming](#) - closes 18 July 2021
 - [Australian Liveability Census 2021](#) - closes 30 June 2021; big thank you to Precinct Committees for promoting the Census as North Sydney LGA has one of highest response rates Australia-wide, meaning we will have established a sound baseline. Data will be used to inform the upcoming review of the North Sydney Community Strategic Plan.
 - [Crows Nest Metro Over Station Development Site C \(Sydney Metro\)](#)
 - It was noted that an online information was held two days after the exhibition commenced which CPC members felt was too early in the consultation period i.e. lack of awareness it was scheduled etc.

ACTION: Council to pass feedback onto Sydney Metro engagement staff.

- Upcoming consultations:
 - North Sydney Community Centre Joint Strategic Plan 2021-2025
 - Burton Street Raised Pedestrian Crossing
 - Draft DCP 173-179 Walker & 11-17 Hampden Street, North Sydney
 - 50-56 Atchison Street, St Leonards - Planning Proposal and Voluntary Planning Agreement

BS (Lavender Bay/CPC Co-convenor left the meeting) 7.37pm

5. General Business

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

i) Sustainable Transport Solution Cammeray - Sydney Harbour Bridge (Milson)²

JC (Milson) outlined the need to provide a long term cycling solution which includes pedestrians, pram users and wheelchair users, the 2010/11 Harbourlink project was highlighted as a preferred alternative. CT (Lavender Bay) noted that the Harbourlink proposal was discussed at the recent Lavender Bay Precinct meeting and was deemed to be a good solution.

JH (Wollstonecraft) left the meeting 7.56pm

LT (Holtermann) left the meeting 7.58pm

MOTION 1: That the CPC requests Council negotiate with TfNSW to provide a comprehensive, integrated, lightweight, elevated sustainable transport solution from Miller Street, Cammeray to the Sydney Harbour Bridge and City (e.g. [Harbourlink](#)), along the western side of the Warringah Freeway, as part of the 'Upgrade' and WH&BL tunnels.

MOTION 2: That the CPC strongly opposes both options presented in TfNSW's proposal for a Cycle Ramp for the Sydney Harbour Bridge as being inadequate for needs.

MOVED BY: JC (Milson), SECONDED BY: CT (Lavender Bay)

CARRIED

In favour	Opposed	Abstain
Bay x 1 Edward x 1 Lavender Bay x 1 Milson x 2 Parks x 1 Registry x 2 Union x 1		Harrison x 2 Neutral x 2 Waverton x 1
Total: 9	Total: 0	Total: 5

JC (Edward) tabled slides relating to a cycleway run-off alternative proposed by Cr Brodie³, similar to one that he had previously submitted to TfNSW. The cycleway would leave from near the top of the Harbour Bridge steps and run at the same level along the western side of the railway structure, as far as the Albert St bridge. It would pass under the bridge then follow the railway at the same level connecting to the tram area and Blue St. Consideration could be given to a second descent in Bradfield Park North for use by cyclists seeking to travel west on Lavender St or to or through Kirribilli. It is noted that the cycleway reaching the tramway area would link to the Harbourlink proposal, a cycleway running along the Warringah Freeway. An alternative to the Blue St option would be a descent to the southern part of Middlemiss St requiring a cycleway along the Pacific highway from Arthur St to West St.

MOTION: That the CPC requests that Council convey to TfNSW that the two options for an extended cycleway reaching the tram area/Blue St, or Middlemiss St are researched and

² BACKGROUND: This solution would go some way in taking bikes off North Sydney LGA streets, travelling through to get to the Sydney Harbour Bridge, they would not have to deal with the topography, and would have an easier access into the city, for all those cyclist who are coming from further afield, using the designated bike routes, that will link into the 2010 HarbourLink proposal². This would mean that a simpler bike lift at Bradfield Park central could cater for the few more local e-bikes, parents and children on bikes etc. without the need for the snake or corkscrew elevated structures impacting upon the heritage of the SHB or the limited open green space of Kirribilli/Milsons Point area. With the existing bike steps and ramp remaining for the Lycra clad cyclists. The community of NS LGA also deserves some positive offsets for all the impact of the other tunnel infrastructure.

³ Note: Cr Brodie did not request her proposal be tabled at the CPC meeting.

considered as possible alternatives to the linear option proposed by TfNSW. A second descent would be required for cyclists seeking access to Milsons Point or Kirribilli.

MOVED BY: JC (Edward), SECONDED BY: JB (Bay)

CARRIED

In favour	Opposed	Abstain
Bay x 1 Edward x 1 Lavender Bay x 1 Milson x 2 Registry x 2 Union x 1		Harrison x 2 Neutral x 2 Parks x 1 Waverton x 1 Parks x 1
Total: 8	Total: 0	Total: 7

ii) Western Harbour Tunnel & Warringah Freeway Upgrade - Tree Preservation (Milson)

MOTION: *That the CPC requests that the relevant staff from Council's Open Spaces and Environmental Services Division liaise with the TfNSW project team to ensure that all trees are protected and maintained or otherwise replaced with significantly advanced planting of similar species.*

MOVED BY: GT (Registry), SECONDED BY: CT (Lavender Bay)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. RECENT EVENTS (for discussion)

- Nil

a. DISCUSSION (pre-submitted items for information/discussion)

i) WHT/WFU (Registry)

- traffic arrangements and management concerning early works
- WHT/WFU early works commenced by TfNSW without necessary documentation/investigation

GT (Registry) noted that TfNSW has produced an update specifically to Anzac Park Public School and that the temporary site on Rosalind Street was a change from the EIS as a result of community feedback. Encouraged all to continue to provide feedback during the construction works and take photos and report anything that looks out of place directly to TfNSW as per contact details provided in agenda Attachment C (Phone 1800 931 189 or email whtbl@transport.nsw.gov.au)

iii) **Request Council conducts a review of all Area Character Statements, commencing with areas that are under threat of significant change (Milson)**

See discussion under Item 2b.

iv) **Why have Precinct Committees not been invited to suggest to Council poll/referendum questions ahead of the 2021 Local Government elections (Milson)**

See discussion under item 2a.

v) Request Council to provide to all Local Government election candidates a CV type template, that would be agreeable to the NSWEC, to present their qualifications, experience, beliefs, aspirations of what they could contribute to North Sydney LGA for the next term, vs just listing their name, address and political party membership. We would then ask Council to provide a platform for this information, so that voters could read the details of candidates, via a link, prior to pre-polling and polling day (Milson)

JC (Milson) noted that prior to the 2004 Local Government election that a meet the candidates session was held in the Hutley Hall. JG (NSC) advised, that as discussed at item 4, and per Council's previous response to the CPC, that Council cannot facilitate this (includes use of Council resources, such cannot be used to support election campaigns). This is contemporary guidance (consistently applied by Council since 2017) that supersedes any precedent set by past 'meet the candidate' events. It was noted that a new local publication called the *North Sydney Sun* is providing information on known/registered candidates in its June 2021 edition.

JC (Milson) conveyed that it was important for the community to have an understanding of who they are voting for by discourse enabled outside of the Precinct System.

vi) Concern regarding the level of notification of consultation e.g. memo to Precinct Committees concerning Kirribilli to Cremorne walking, cycling and streetscape upgrades was issued late (Harrison/Milson)

JC (Milson) noted that there was limited notification for this i.e. only along the route and not to the areas of Kirribilli that could be impacted by this proposal. JG (NSC) noted that the Precincts E-news is Council's primary means of communication with the Precinct Committees. Although the memo for Precinct Committees was issued at a date later than commencement of this engagement it was included in the Precinct E-news from the date of commencement.⁴

vii) Revisit affordable housing (Harrison)

See discussion under item 2a.

JB (Bay), MDS (Registry), GT (Registry) left the meeting 8.20pm

d. OTHER ITEMS - to be tabled at the meeting

KH (Union) noted that National Reconciliation Week occurred recently and NAIDOC week was upcoming.

ACTION: Add item Aboriginal reconciliation: promoting indigenous matters to next CPC agenda

⁴ Further details on Council's 'inform methods' is available in the post exhibition report to Council of 28 June 2021 [Item 8.16. Kirribilli to Cremorne Walking Cycling and Streetscape Upgrades](#)

6. Next meeting

Proposed remaining CPC meeting dates for 2021:

- Tuesday 17 August 2021
- Tuesday 16 November 2021*
- Monday 6 December 2021 - AGM

JC (Edward) noted the 3-month gap between the August and November CPC meetings and suggested the November meeting should be held in October 2021.

ACTION: Council to explore alternate dates for October 2021 and include as an agenda item for the next CPC meeting

The meeting closed at 8.35pm