

North Sydney Combined Precincts Committee (CPC)
Tuesday 20 April 2021
6.00pm start Hutley Hall

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Participants¹: JB (Bay); CH (Brightmore); JC (Edward); MDS (Harrison); CC (Harrison); GS (Hayberry); LT (Holtermann); BS (Lavender Bay/CPC Co-convenor); IC (Lavender Bay); JC (Milson); GC (Neutral); CP (Neutral); GD (Parks); MA (Registry); KH (Union); IG (Waverton/CPC Co-Convenor); PM (Willoughby Bay); LT (Willoughby Bay) and CE (Wollstonecraft).

Also present: Mayor Jilly Gibson; JH, Director City Strategy (North Sydney Council); JG, Manager Integrated Planning & Special Projects (North Sydney Council, Minutes) and JD, Committee for North Sydney

Apologies: Cr Keen, Cr Brodie, Cr Beregi, GM (Edward), TB (Milson), SM (Parks), MC (Union), JH (Wollstonecraft)

Co-convenor presiding: Ian Grey (Waverton/Co-convenor)

Meeting commenced at 6.02pm, IG (Waverton/Co-convenor) welcomed attendees to the meeting.

IG (Waverton/Co-convenor) welcomed Mayor Gibson, advising the meeting that Mayor Gibson had requested to attend as an observer and was invited to do so; noting the invite was also extended to all Councillors.

1. Guest Speaker - Joseph Hill, Director City Strategy: Precinct System Review - Progress Update (ATTACHMENT 1)

- JH (NSC) provided an overview of the Review, including the final draft recommendations proposed by the consultant plus background information, much of which was the same as was provided at the Stage 2A and 2B workshops.
- JH (NSC) detailed how the Precinct System sits within Council's community engagement framework, that is a longstanding program that complements other engagement methods/programs.
- JH (NSC) advised that in response to Recommendation No. 4 concerning the timing of Council consultations, that a new consultation schedule has been implemented. The intent is that with set days per month of consultations to comment (falling one week after the Council meetings) that advance notice can be given to Precinct Committees as to the start/ends dates for a consultation that affects their Precinct area, and that as desired, the Precinct Committee may want to change its meeting date to provide opportunity to discuss the proposal etc.
- JH (NSC) noted further work is underway by staff regarding the proposed boundary redistribution options (Recommendation No. 5), with an additional round of stakeholder consultation likely in due course.
- JH (NSC) advised that a progress update was provided to Councillors last month and that the intended next step is for a progress report to go to the Governance & Finance Committee meeting on 10 May 2021.

¹ Limited to one representative per Precinct Committee

- IG (Waverton/Co-convenor) invited questions for clarification:
 - It was asked when the consultant’s final report will be available. JH (NSC) advised that the consultant’s final report will be reported to Council via the Governance & Finance Committee meeting on 10 May 2021.
 - LT (Willoughby Bay) asked what is considered to be “political” in context of flyer content allowable by Council. JH (NSC) advised that each flyer is reviewed on a case-by-case basis i.e. topics vary so there is a level of subjectivity, as such a definition is not available. Recent examples where Council has required edits prior to being able to print flyers for an individual Precinct Committees include reference to voting patterns and assertions i.e. perceptions of lobbying removed. On occasion where staff have involved themselves in the rewording of flyer content , it has been a conservative and consistent approach.
 - JC (Edward) noted they share their co-chair with Union Precinct Committee and recommended enabling such; as co-chair/co-secretary roles are valuable in his opinion.

2. Guest Speaker - Jeremy Dawkins, Convenor of Committee for North Sydney: Committee’s push to get WHT entrance changed from Berry Street (ATTACHMENT 2)

- JD (Committee for North Sydney) noted that the Greater Sydney Commission views the North Sydney LGA is being a part of the Harbour CBD, therefore we should request the same facilities and conditions as Sydney CBD. The future of the North Sydney CBD/Centre is a critical issue including the Berry Street entrance to the WHT, which is dramatically impact the North Sydney Centre.
- The Committee is pushing to get the entrance changed from Berry Street - had copy information sheet distributed at the meeting (copies to be provided via post to Precinct Committee not present).
- JD (Committee for North Sydney) advised the Committee is meeting on 29 April 2021 to decide if it will undertake a campaign; more information will be provided to all Precinct Committees in due course.
- Email info@committeefornorthsydney.org.au for more information about the Committee for North Sydney.
- IG (Waverton/Co-convenor) invited questions for clarification:
 - JC (Milson) noted that High Street is the way into/out of Kirribilli. The current and future increased impact on local roads has not been taken in consideration. The High Street intersection will not be able to cope with increased buses daily.
 - GS (Hayberry) questioned why public transport had not been considered as an alternative to a road network. JD (Committee for North Sydney) noted we can’t influence if the tunnels will be built, but we can fight for better solutions on Berry Street and the North Sydney Centre.
 - LT (Willoughby Bay) asked if it’s true that there is a plan to eliminate the southbound ramp from Ernest Street to the Warringah Freeway, as this is a diabolical impact on Military Road. JC (Milson) noted that everyone south of Military Road will try to access via Kurraba Road, thus increasing traffic volumes.
 - GC (Neutral) advised he had spoken with TfNSW and was informed that a “double diamond” interaction was proposed, which is designed to allow 60% more traffic to flow through. There is only one example of such in operation, in QLD. The average speed on Military Road will slow dramatically.

ACTION: Council’s Director City Strategy to confirm whether the southbound ramp from Ernest Street to the Warringah Freeway is to be removed.

3. Minutes of 23 February 2021

MOTION: That the minutes of the general meeting held on 23 February 2021 were confirmed as read and correct.

MOVED BY: GC (Neutral), SECONDED BY: KH (Union)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

Council's response to the actions arising from the previous meeting was noted:

- Item 5biii - the Council officer's response was noted, however it was commented that the response is a "little like wiping one's hands of it because it is outside one's purview". The privileged footprint of the North Sydney LGA was noted; KH (Union) suggested we need a more enlighten view to explore modification/retrofitting of buildings e.g. unused commercial office space into temporary residential accommodation, women's refuge etc. It was noted that Council does not have a social housing requirement for new residential apartments. CH (Brightmore) expressed disappointment that Council is no longer actively pursuing new social housing within the proposed Parraween Street Car Park redevelopment. PM (Willoughby Bay) reported local rental stress has increased due to the Pandemic.
- Item 5bii - the Council officer's response was noted, however many Precinct Committees consider there is urgency in Council prioritising review of the Local Character Statements in the *North Sydney Development Control Plan*, and are disappointed that such a project has not been budgeted for in the foreseeable future. It was noted that Council's Manager Strategic Planning attended Harrison Precinct Committee in April 2021, at which the approximate cost was advised as \$300,000². PM (Willoughby Bay) questioned whether the additional funding raised via the SRV could be allocated towards such a project.

BS (Lavender Bay) left the meeting at 7.30pm.

MOTION: That CPC accepts the Summary of Actions.

MOTION: The CPC requests Council expedite a comprehensive review of the Local Character Statements in the North Sydney Development Control Plan and Heritage Items within the North Sydney LGA.

MOVED BY: PM (Willoughby Bay), SECONDED BY: CC (Neutral)

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. Co-convenors Report

IG (Waverton/Co-convenor):

- noted the MLC Building, which is currently a locally listed heritage item in Council's LEP, is intended to be recognised at State level, as recommended by the NSW Heritage Office. It has been referred by the Minister for Arts to the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) for a recommendation.
- advised that the NSW Government recently announced the community members appointed to the Berry's Bay Community and Stakeholder Working Group. Noting that it is pleasing that this group is now up and running, but is yet to hold their first meeting. This Group is different

² The minutes of Harrison Precinct Committee's April 2021 meeting are available at https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Council_Meetings/Community_Engagement/Precincts/Harrison_Precinct

to Council's long standing Waverton Peninsula Working Group. An important focus is to ensure that both groups discuss the same issues and to ensure a parallel. JC (Edward) noted disappointment that no one from McMahons Point was selected for the Group.

- advised that Council's General Manager has offered to meet with the CPC Co-Convenors to discuss the proposed changes to the CPC as part of the Precinct System Review. Individual Precinct Committees are invited to forward their feedback on the proposed CPC changes to the CPC Co-Convenors by 5 May 2021.

LT (Holtermann) left the meeting at 7.45pm

6. Council Update

JG (NSC) provided the following updates:

- Current/upcoming consultations
 - [Morton Street pedestrian crossing \(second round of consultation\)](#) - closes 20 April 2021
 - [Crows Nest Station Over Station Development VPA](#) - closes 23 April 2021
 - [Crows Nest Centre Joint Strategic Plan 2021-2025](#) - closes 26 April 2021
 - [Kirribilli Centre Joint Strategic Plan 2021-2025](#) - closes 26 April 2021
 - [Union Street alternate to speed cushions](#) - closes 2 May 2021
 - [Carter Street pedestrian crossing](#) - closes 9 May 2021
 - [Draft Amendment to NSDCP 2013: Ward Street Precinct Masterplan](#) - closes 17 May 2021
 - [Australian Liveability Census 2021](#) - closes 30 June 2021; please promote to your members; Council is hoping to achieve a strong baseline as the feedback will help inform the next Community Strategic Plan. In the first week of promotion had over 200 respondents which is very encouraging.
- Upcoming consultations:
 - Young Street Walking, Cycling and Streetscape Upgrade - due to commence 28 April 2021
- Administrative support - flyer printing etc
 - Discussed at item 1 - refer to the last slide of ATTACHMENT 1.
- COVID-19:
 - Safety Plans per Committee - Council staff are currently reviewing the requirements and provide further advice to all Precinct Committees in due course. Council staff are in the process of updating the signage in all Council owned meeting venues, noting that whilst the PHO has reduced from the 4qsm to the 2sqm rule, that 1.5m physical distancing is still required, and therefore for some venues the increase in maximum capacity between the 4qsm to the 2sqm rule is not that significant. Any Precinct Committee requiring a larger venue should discuss direct with JG (NSC). It was asked when Precinct Committees can start offering refreshments at individual Committee meetings.
 - Public Forum arrangements - changes will come into effect from 26 April 2021³, with members of the public back permitted in the gallery; however capacity limits will apply due to physical distancing requirements. Further details will be provided to all Precinct Committees and the standing item in the Precinct eNews

³Maximum 30 members of the public in the gallery. Pre-registration mandatory. Non pre-registered attendees will not be permitted. https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Council_Meetings/Meetings/Council_Meetings

updated. Reminder - Individuals can provide a written submission on any agenda item which will be provided to the Mayor and Councillors - email governance@northsydney.nsw.gov.au by 4pm on the day of the meeting.

ACTION: Council to provide update on whether refreshments can be provided at individual Precinct meetings.

7. General Business⁴

a. RECENT EVENTS (for discussion)

i) WHT and Warringah Freeway Upgrade/Beaches Link - Update

- Berry's Bay Community and Stakeholder Working Group - community members [announced](#)
- Ongoing TfNSW consultation via Sydney Program Alliance (SPA)⁵

Discussed at items 2 and 5.

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

Nil

c. OTHER ITEMS - tabled at the meeting

Mayor Gibson left the meeting at 7.59pm

- i. JC (Milson) spoke to the possibility of requesting community poll/referendum questions at the next local government election, noting that in the past the Council has invited suggested topics/questions from Precinct Committees.

ACTION: Council to confirm if Precinct Committees will be invited to suggest community poll/referendum questions and the respective submission deadlines⁶.

ACTION: Topic to be listed on the next CPC agenda and individual Precinct Committees to discuss as desired.

- ii. The total number of councillors and wards to be come into effect at the next local government election was discussed - reduction from three to two wards, the total number of councillors will remain at 10, and instead of a popularly elected mayor, the mayor will be elected from a two year term by the councillors. It was noted that there is confusion within the wider community as to what comes into effect at the next election. MdS (Harrison) requested the CPC Co-convenors provide an information pack to assist individual Precinct Committees to explain the changes. JG (NSC) advised that Council is in the process of updating its website⁷ to advise the changes to come into effect at the next election.

⁴ At time of agenda compilation there were no items for VOTING (pre-submitted items with proposed motions) and no items for ACTION (pre-submitted items with proposed actions).

⁵ The SPA is the consortium of contractors undertaking the early utility works for the WHT.

⁶ Final poll and referendum questions must be forwarded to the NSW Electoral Commission by 28 June 2021. It is intended that a related report be presented to the Governance & Finance Committee on 10 May after which time further information would be provided to all Precinct Committees, as relevant.

⁷ https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Council_Meetings/Our_Organisation/Elections_2021/Council_elections

ACTION: CPC Co-Convenors to disseminate an information pack to individual Precinct Committees.

- iii. JC (Edward) raise concern regarding file naming by Council. The file names used by Council usually require those Precinct Committees that care about file naming to change file naming and dating to modify every file received, taking time. It is requested that Council changes the file naming and dating systems. File names at the top of pdf files. Council often uses Document Title rather than File Name to appear at the top of open pdfs. This can make it impossible to identify the file when many files are open.

MOTION: The CPC requests that for all files sent to Precinct Committees by Council, File Name should always be set, rather than Document Title.

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

CARRIED

In favour	Opposed	Abstain
Bay x 1		Neutral x 1
Brightmore x 1		
Edward x 1		
Harrison x 2		
Hayberry x 1		
Lavender Bay x 1		
Milson x 1		
Neutral x 1		
Parks x 1		
Registry x 1		
Union x 1		
Waverton x 1		
Willoughby Bay x 2		
Wollstonecraft x 1		
Total: 15	Total: 0	Total: 1

Further, JC (Edward) advised that most Council file names that include the date use e.g. 14 April 2021. This means that file sorting in Microsoft Explorer by date and name give different file sequences. Edward Precinct prefers to change the names e.g. 210414 as the date, which makes the name and date sorting sequence the same. Majority prefers use of full year e.g. 20210414.

MOTION: The CPC requests that all Council files that are sent to Precinct Committees with a date in the name should include the YYMMDD sequence in the file name, or YYYYMMDD if preferred by Council.

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

CARRIED

In favour	Opposed	Abstain
Bay x 1 Brightmore x 1 Edward x 1 Harrison x 2 Hayberry x 1 Milson x 1 Neutral x 1 Parks x 1 Registry x 1 Union x 1 Waverton x 1 Willoughby Bay x 2 Wollstonecraft x 1		Neutral x 1 Lavender Bay x 1
Total: 15	Total: 0	Total: 2

IC (Lavender Bay) left the meeting at 8.04pm

JB (Bay) left the meeting at 8.05pm

- iv. JC (Milson) and MdS (Harrison) noted that the weekly mailout from Council to individual Precinct Committees which is sent on Fridays is not arriving to PO boxes until Tuesdays, meaning that the agenda for Council and Committee meetings arrives after the meeting has been held.

ACTION: where practicable, Council will send the Precincts mail out on Thursdays; noting that such is not always possible as timing is dictated by when the Council/Committee agenda has been printed etc.

- v. .Precinct System Review - GD (Parks) noted that Council’s desired to maintain the “village feel” in areas of North Sydney contradicts the proposed reduction in the number of Precinct areas. CH (Brightmore) noted that the Review has not tackled the “basic logistics” including where meetings would be held i.e. larger venues required for larger Precinct areas. Also need to acknowledge that meetings are run by volunteers and that larger Precinct areas would place increased burden i.e. require different planning for running a meeting of 20 than for 50+. IG (Waverton/Co-convenor) noted that Wollstonecraft Precinct is current example of a larger Precinct area and that their meeting format requires the office bearers to prepare PowerPoint presentation as often cater for over 50 attendees. Concerns raised that economies of scale not gained from the proposed reduction in number of Precinct areas.

8. Next meeting

- 22 June 2021 - Venue TBA

The meeting closed at 8.30pm