

North Sydney Combined Precincts Committee (CPC)
General Meeting
Thursday 21 April 2022
Library Conference Room

Participants¹: JB (Bay); MdS (Harrison); DM (Hayberry); LT (Holtermann); BS (Lavender Bay/CPC Co-convenor); JC (Milson); EB (Milson); JB (Registry); KH (Union); IG (Waverton/CPC Co-Convenor)

Also present: Mayor Zoe Baker (North Sydney Council, guest speaker); JG, Manager Corporate Planning & Engagement (North Sydney Council); GN, Community Engagement Coordinator (North Sydney Council, Minutes)

Apologies: CC (Harrison), MTJ (Willoughby Bay), JH (Wollstonecraft)

Co-convenor presiding: Ian Grey (Waverton)

The meeting started at 6.05pm

1. Acknowledgement of Country

IG (CPC Co-convenor/Waverton) opened the meeting by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land on which the meeting was held. All attendees were welcomed to the meeting.

2. Guest Speaker: Mayor Zoe Baker

IG (CPC Co-convenor/Waverton) welcomed Mayor Baker, who is in attendance as an invited Councillor and Guest Speaker.

The following is a high-level summary of Mayor Baker's address to the CPC:

- opened by explaining her background and how it relates to her support of the Precinct System as a genuine method of consultation - stemming from her mother and former Mayor, Carole Baker being integral in the 1972 motion initialling establishing Precinct Committees, and her commitment to open space in North Sydney (including being against overdevelopment).
- will only attend Precinct Committee meetings when invited, including the Precinct area in which she resides.
- was against forced Council amalgamations and the same applies to forced Precinct Committee amalgamation.
- described the new Council as energised and enthusiastic.
- top two items in relation to delivering expanded open space are:
 - a) 1 Henry Lawson Drive, noting the NSW Government has transferred the land to Council, but initially without funding for remediation works, this funding has now been allocated; and
 - b) acquisition by Council of the Quarantine Depot in Berrys Bay from NSW Government.
- the biggest challenges/opportunities for the new Council are:
 - a) finance - noting the scale of the NSOP redevelopment has left the Council with debt and borrowings; \$3m has been taken from the open space reserves to funding the project this reducing the amount of funds available for open space. The new NSOP complex also needs to incorporate sustainability (the new facility as planned includes less sustainability features than the former

¹ Two representatives maximum per active Precinct Committee

- facility), and explore if there are revenue streams as a way for it to pay off the loan. Concerned about intergenerational equity and not burdening future generations;
- b) impacts of major infrastructure projects on the North Sydney LGA, including loss of part of Cammeray Park if it proceeds as planned, and the Metro which has less negative impact and Council has played a key role in seeking embellishment to public open space with Miller Place as a positive opportunity; and Overdevelopment more generally - incursion of big development and the need to protect heritage and low-density areas. There are seven current Planning Proposals in the Crows Nest/St Leonards area. There was detailed planning work undertaken with the 2013 LEP which earmarked development in the Crows Nest area to protect other areas. Focus is needed on protecting Cremorne and Neutral Bay and looking at Heritage Controls.
- c) public participation - a return to better, more embedded public participation including in Council meetings, and exploring new engagement types e.g. citizens jury.
- d) transparency - including regarding Council's finances. Unless an item is 'commercial in confidence' it should not require a GIPA application to access. Want Council to be a leader in FOI and public participation again.
- e) Green space/canopy cover e.g. Urban Forest Strategy, impact of double decker B-line buses
- Full year in election mode, with opportunity to put pressure on the State Government to seek changes in planning controls for Heritage/Planning Proposals, and for pushing back regarding Cammeray Park i.e. no next loss within the North Sydney LGA. The Federal Government election also brings opportunity.
 - engagement in the public exhibition of the Community Strategic Plan (CSP) is encouraged. The document has been renewed, is shorter in size and includes a new vision statement.
 - Mayor Baker is in the office every Friday, noting her door is open and visitors are welcome.

Q. DM (Hayberry) Please provide more information on Public Participation as an opportunity?

A. Mayor Baker noted this includes:

- ability to speak on items at Council meetings i.e. rather than at the public forum before the meeting
- the Environmental Reference Group recently resolved to trial a citizen jury exploring options to reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfill
 - LH (Holtermann) noted that a project tabled many years ago never processed. This was to provide a food waste facility for restaurants in Crows Nest. The Mayor noted that this is also applicable to Neutral Bay.
- partnerships with Precincts, schools etc.

Q. KH (Union) What are your thoughts on the Educational Precinct?

A. Mayor Baker was part of Council's former Educational Institutions Working Group, which worked with the public/private Primary and High schools, as well as working with the ACU. Regarding the ACU; this led to formalisation of a MOU, which resulted in funding from ACU to finish the public domain upgrade works within the Education Precinct. Mayor Baker recently met with the ACU, who are interesting in again collaborating with Council; noting that the ACU's Blacktown campus recently collaborated with Blacktown Council to deliver a library.

Q. KH (Union) What are your thoughts on the CBD and activating it with events such as VIVID?

A. The impact of COVID is a challenge to all CBDs as workers enjoy the flexibility of working at home 2 to 3 days per week. However, the Metro will bring new life to North Sydney CBD. There's also funding/grants available for events and Council is pursuing/applying for these.

Q. JC (Milson) There are various proposals for large buildings in the CBD and still a desire from developers to convert these to residential. Could this be a problem for the CBD in the future?

A. The North Sydney CBD is fairly small, it's four streets essentially, the fact that it is small makes it easier to protect.

IG (CPC Co-convenor/Waverton) thanked Mayor Baker for addressing the meeting.

7.15pm Mayor Baker left the meeting

3. Minutes of 15 February 2022 - ATTACHMENT A

MOTION: That the minutes of the general meeting held on 15 February 2022, were confirmed as read and correct.

MOVED BY: BS (CPC Co-convenor/Lavender Bay), SECONDED BY: JC (Milson)

CARRIED

In favour	Opposed	Abstain
Bay x 1 Holtermann x 1 Lavender Bay x 1 Milson x 1 Union x 1 Waverton x 1		Harrison x 1 Hayberry x1 Milson x 1 Registry x 1
Total: 6	Total: 0	Total: 4

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

IG (CPC Co-convenor/Waverton) spoke to the Summary of Actions and expressed disappointment at the lack of response from Council staff to matters considered to be timely and of significant community importance.

The CPC accepts Council's replies via the Summary of Actions and requests response to outstanding items.

MOVED BY: IG (CPC Co-convenor/Waverton), SECONDED BY: BS (CPC Co-convenor)

CARRIED Unanimous

5. Co-convenors Report

IG (CPC Co-convenor/Waverton) advised that:

- Committee for North Sydney - is meeting soon with Felicity Wilson, MP regarding the WHT and traffic impacts in the North Sydney CBD;
- New term of Council - Precinct Committees need to continue to suggest/articulate how to improve the relationship with the community and local issues of importance;

Meeting new Councillors - in accordance with the CPC Terms of Reference, Councillors must be invited by the CPC to attend and/or address the CPC. It was discussed that all Councillors be invited to attend a CPC meeting with allocated/maximum time to address the meeting. It was agreed that all Councillors are invited of the next two meetings with St Leonards ward being first.

MOTION: That the CPC invite all Councillors to one of the next two CPC meetings, with St Leonards Ward Councillors to be invited first.

MOVED BY: IG (CPC Co-convenor/Waverton), SECONDED BY: JC (Milson)

CARRIED Unanimous

JB (Bay) left the meeting at 7.35pm

6. Council Update

- Precinct related Council updates

Due to time constraints the Council Update section did not occur in full (as advertised on the agenda). JG (NSC) spoke briefly to the:

- i. Precinct System Review - status update
- a Councillor Briefing was held in March, providing new and continuing councillors with an overview of the Review and the final recommendations as presented to the previous term of Council in June 2021.
- it was agreed at the briefing that the deferred report be presented to the Council Meeting of May 2022.
- as stated in the deferred report (June 2021):
 - the proposed next steps are further consultation regarding proposed Precinct area boundary changes, by way of public exhibition; it is anticipated (that this engagement would occur May to July - indicative timings or longer depending when the exhibition period starts based on other engagements) and would include a flyer letterboxed to each household within the affected Precinct area, explaining the options concerning that Precinct area and inviting feedback,
 - the engagement outcomes, together with the updated Precinct System Guidelines, Policy and Code plus an Implementation Plan will be reported to Council in October 2022.
 - a promotional/awareness campaign essentially relaunching the Precinct System program would occur January to May 2023,
 - boundary changes (should such be resolved) to come into effect from 1 July 2023 to align with the new financial year for purposes of operational funding),
 - AGMs next to be held August/September 2023 i.e. the term of office for the 2022/23 AGMs would be until then rather than this time next year, unless an office bearer would like to resign earlier (TBC),
 - Induction Session to be held in October 2023
- an Implementation Plan is being prepared, same as occurred following the 2006 Review; to ensure implementation of all agreed actions arising from the recommendations. Consultation on this and amendments to the Precinct System Guidelines, Policy and Code will occur directly with Precinct Committees, but necessarily via a formal public exhibition period (TBC).
- IG (CPC Co-convenor/Waverton) asked if the issue of how Precinct Committees can pay for remote meeting subscriptions would be covered. JG (NSC) advised that one of the recommendations is the formal introduction of remote meetings, funded by Council, with the format for this still to be determined.
- JB (Registry) requested the final report will include reference to the financial benefits of changes to Precinct area boundaries.

It was agreed that information concerning the following items be circulated to all Precinct Committees via email, separate to the minutes:

- i. Precinct System 50th anniversary (1972-2022) - planning update
- ii. Precinct Office Bearer Training - will be held 31 May 2022, 6pm. All office bearers, new and continuing are encouraged to attend.
- iii. Current/upcoming consultations

7. General Business²

- a. Future Guest Speakers - discussion of this item was deferred to the next CPC meeting due to time constraints.

² At the time of agenda compilation, there were no items for VOTING (pre-submitted items with proposed motions) or RECENT EVENTS (for discussion)

- Aboriginal Heritage Office - action arising from CPC August 2021 (Item 7ai)
- Harbour Trust - HMAS Platypus - [Torpedo Factory Renewal Project](#)

JC (Milson) noted that The Harbour Trust was hosting an information session on 28 April 2022. **ACTION: sessions details to be provided to all Precinct Committees via the Precinct eNews.**

- b. DISCUSSION (pre-submitted items for information/discussion) - discussion of the following item was deferred to the next CPC meeting due to time constraints.
 - i. Fire Safety, regulations, developments and practices (Union)
Background: To increase awareness and preparedness to ensure that we have good fire safety regulations and readiness in place in the North Sydney LGA. There is a good deal of attention being given to the Bush Fires of 2019/20. We are experiencing an exceptional wet season and consequently a buildup of undergrowth and fuel for coming times. We are also experiencing unprecedented expansion of the Built environment and concerns have been raised about building materials and fire safety regulations and insurance about safety standards and practices. Some members of our Union Precinct have raised questions about how we might improve and prepare to minimise Fire Risks and ensure Safety measures across the range of activities in the local area.
- c. OTHER ITEMS - to be tabled at the meeting
 - i. Venue Feedback - some commented that the Library Conference Room was not suitable for CPC meetings due to its configuration and that Stanton Library closes at 8pm, and hence conclude the meeting by 8pm. Preference was stated for the Ros Crichton Pavilion.

Meeting closed at 7.45pm (AGM followed, see separate minutes)