

Lavender Bay Precinct Committee

Minutes of Meeting

Thursday, 26 August 2021
Starting at 7pm (via Zoom)



Sketch by renowned local artist Peter Kingston AM

~~McMahons Point Community Centre~~
~~165 Blues Point Road, McMahons Point~~

Chair: RRS rrs@7thfloor.com.au
Secretary: BPS lavenderbayprecinct@gmail.com
Minutes: CT

1. Welcome / Apologies / 29 July minutes

The meeting was held via Zoom due to COVID. There were 24 people on line and 12 apologies. The meeting accepted the minutes of the 29 July meeting.

2. Chair's report

(a) Luna Park: The Chair spoke about a discussion he had with a senior compliance officer at the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE), expressing the community's concerns about noise levels (based on pre-lockdown trials and testing) and Luna Park's promotional campaign encouraging riders to scream.

The compliance officer was unaware of the advertising campaign, the effect of the new rides north of Coney Island and the consequential nuisance they are likely to create for residents of Milsons Point, Lavender Bay and McMahons Point.

Amendments to the State Significant Precincts SEPP were promoted as a simpler approval pathway for low impact rides, with specific provisions to ensure no unreasonable impacts on neighbours.

Our meeting discussed the building of new adult thrill rides, noise controls on the site, past legislative changes and the harm to the community. The meeting heard that the Government should restrict noise levels and heights of rides on the site.

In relation to Lavender Green, the 'temporary' marquee has been reinstalled, and the area is still closed to the public. The ability to use the area during lockdown would have been helpful.

The Treasurer and other Precinct members will pursue these matters with DPIE and the Premier.

- (b) Warung Street trees:** The Chair thanked Council for replacing the Robinia with a new Jacaranda. Council's reply to Actions Arising indicates that the Robinia had initially been planted in Blues Point Road.
- (c) East Crescent Street lookout garbage bin:** The Chair thanked Council for removing the red garbage bin and plinth that had been installed near the park bench.
- (d) Filming near McMahons Point wharf:** The Chair noted that a film production had recently taped off 37 parking spaces for two days in Henry Lawson Avenue, Blues Point Road and Warung Avenue, McMahons Point, which caused some confusion.

3. State Government items

- (a) Harbour Bridge cycleway:** Transport for NSW (TfNSW) has published a [consultation report](#) (6.1Mb) summarizing the feedback received in June. 61% of respondents in postcodes 2060 and 2061 objected to both the linear and looped ramp options. Respondents living further away supported a linear ramp. TfNSW has decided to commence a competitive design process to design a linear ramp.

The meeting heard that many people wanted a third option included (to investigate alternatives) and that local residents have been whitewashed during the process.

The meeting heard that the number of cycle trips across the bridge has fallen by around 33%, from a peak of approximately 2000 trips a day (1000 cyclists) in early 2014 to less than 1400 trips a day (700 cyclists) when the counter was removed in September 2020.

The community, including cyclists who reside in the local area, does not understand why the politicians are so intent on pushing through a ramp. It was noted that the bicycle lobby (most of whom reside outside the North Sydney LGA) are quite vocal.

It was suggested that the heritage elements of the Bridge, and the position that no fixtures can be attached to it, are being ignored, that the Heritage Council has been marginalised and that it might be useful to talk to the National Trust.

Motion: That the Lavender Bay Precinct Committee confirms its previously stated opposition to ramps as a solution to taking bicycles off the Harbour Bridge, and restates its preference for all options including elevators to be considered as part of the solution. Carried with one abstention.

- (b) Warringah Freeway Upgrade:** [Early works](#) to relocate services are causing distress for residents. Some residents have resorted to not sleeping in their bedrooms.

The meeting heard that the online information sessions felt like a tokenistic attempt at public engagement, with no real insights provided or discussion encouraged. The meeting also heard that some residents have been preemptively approached regarding noise abatement such as double glazing of windows. This raises the question as to what the noise levels will be upon completion.

It was noted that the impact on Cammeray in particular is substantial with the removal of a large number of trees and loss of land at the public golf course.

The meeting also discussed the significant impact that changes to Berry Street will have to the North Sydney CBD, and traffic in and out of McMahons and Milsons Points, until completion of the project. Berry Street is planned to become a four-lane access point to the freeway system which is very concerning.

The Chair will write to Transport for NSW about the impact on the local community and the North Sydney CBD.

- (c) Henry Lawson Reserve reinstatement:** Sydney Metro has started planning for the reinstatement of Henry Lawson Reserve after the acoustic shed has been removed, with formal community consultation planned for September/October.

The meeting heard that some residents have been approached as part of an early consultation process, with various options being reported, including narrowing the roadway to the parking area at the bottom of Blues Point Rd, making it a shared pedestrian zone, an amphitheatre on the former grassy slope, sandstone seating, a plaque recognising the archaeological dig on the former cottage site, and tree planting.

There was some alarm at the option of an amphitheatre or any other type of construction. The recent purchase by the State Government of the derelict boatshed, as part of its remit to foster open public greenspace, was raised.

The meeting heard concerns about any deviation from green public open space along the Harbour foreshore, and the risk of Council losing control of planning the area.

The Secretary will meet with Council to discuss Council's position on plans for the area.

4. Council items

- (a) 23 August Council meeting:** Our meeting noted:

- Council's discussion of the TfNSW cycleway consultation report and residents' disappointment, frustration and anger at TfNSW's conclusion to design a linear ramp.
- Council's decision to request a pause on the felling of further trees in Cammeray until after this week's community information sessions, and to request a meeting with the Program Director and the Premier to ensure that environmental damage is minimized in future stages of the Warringah Freeway Upgrade project.
- Council's decision to apply to TfNSW for a 40km/h speed zone on Blues Point Road, with as minimal use of raised flat-top thresholds as possible, and a preferred position for full-width raised thresholds rather than speed cushions on Council's roads, where practical and feasible.
- The election of Cr. Kathy Brodie as Deputy Mayor for the balance of Council's term.
- Council's decision to send a delegation to meet with the Premier to seek the transfer of Government land on the western side of Berrys Bay to Council prior to commencement of the Western Harbour Tunnel.
- Council's decision to seek compliance with the terms of the s34 agreement with Noakes Boatyard, investigate fire safety concerns raised by residents, and its commitment to pursuing compliance with the DA condition for a public jetty.

(b) Council consultations: Our meeting noted Council's current consultations:

- **Burton Street Raised Pedestrian Crossing:** To raise the crossing at Humphrey Place, Kirribilli, and install kerb extensions. [Feedback](#) closes 29 August.
- **Development Control Plan draft amendment – CBD commercial tower setbacks and separation:** To protect daylight and sky views. [Submissions](#) close 5pm 30 August.
- **Free 15-minute parking trial - Parraween Street Cremorne:** [Feedback](#) due to close on Tuesday 31 August, but now extended to Sunday 19 December.
- **Draft Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Protocol Guidelines:** Council's existing guidelines have been reviewed by Council's Aboriginal Heritage Office. [Feedback](#) closes Sunday 19 September.

5. Development applications

(a) 110-122 Walker Street, North Sydney (19/21): Construction of 53-storey commercial tower. Amended plans submitted 11 August. Comments due [Friday 10 September](#).

Precinct objected to the DA in February on the grounds of height, overshadowing and potential wind impacts. The meeting agreed to maintain Precinct's objection.

(b) 48-50 Alfred Street South, Milsons Point (245/21): Alterations and additions to childcare facility including new playroom and outdoor area. Increase capacity by 23 children (to 94), allow operation 7.30am - 6pm Monday to Saturday (currently Monday to Friday). Comments due [Friday 10 September](#).

The meeting heard that safety and noise have not been an issue for neighbouring properties, and that 80% of children at the centre are from local postcodes. The meeting noted the application.

(c) 101 Blues Point Road (271/19/3): Modify consent for reduction in consulting rooms to one, new internal stairs, new internal doorway and reinstatement of unauthorised doorway. Comments due [Friday 10 September](#). The Secretary declared a pecuniary interest as the owner of a nearby property and temporarily stepped down during discussion of this item.

The meeting heard that these internal changes are separate to the other DA ([8/21](#)) for new administration areas and first-floor residence. The meeting noted the application.

6. Community items

(a) Wendy's Secret Gardening: There is a lockdown opportunity for an hour's weeding on [Saturday 4 September](#). Contact [Ian C](#) if interested.

(b) Harbourside Villages Pop-up Community Creative Space: COVID-19 has impacted the opening date for the space. In the meantime, interest has been building for the community who have been making donations, stopping to find out more and expressing interest in what is planned. Contact [Carolina](#) for more information.

7. General business

Nil.

The meeting closed at 8:35pm. Next meeting: 7pm [Thursday 30 September](#).