

Lavender Bay Precinct

Minutes of Meeting

Thursday, 27 May 2021

Starting at 7 pm



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 / Minutes of previous meeting

There were 37 attendees and 15 apologies. The meeting accepted the minutes of the 29 April meeting.

2. Chair's report

(a) Blues Point Road proposed speed cushions: The Traffic Committee has considered the issue of speeding on Blues Point Road until late at night, which is an issue the local community has raised several times.

Council has released a proposal to install speed cushions. The speed cushions have an advisory speed of 25 km/h and the proposal involves multiple sets. Where speed cushions have been installed elsewhere, Council has received complaints from residents about noise as vehicles travel over them.

Alternative measures such as signage, street narrowing, speed camera, police enforcement and 40 km/h speed limit are also being investigated. Council considers speed cushions as the most cost-effective solution.

This is a contentious issue for Precinct and the Traffic Committee has settled on the cheapest and easiest-to-install option. This proposal is open for consultation presently. (See discussion later in the meeting.)

(b) East Crescent Street walkway upgrade: Contentious work has occurred in relation to the trees at Harbourside Apartments. Considerable efforts have been made by Precinct over the years to preserve the trees, which have historical provenance to the area. The new work being undertaken by Council to improve the stairs involved contractors drilling directly into the trees on May 26 and 27.

The meeting heard that the contractors were very combative when approached by local residents asking them to cease drilling into the trees on the Harbourside Apartments property. A Council staff member stated incorrectly that the trees were on Council property and that the contractors have the right to do whatever they want. There had been no prior communication with the land owners.

The meeting heard that bolts had been used directly into the trees to support the construction of the new steps, and that the contractors had encroached by over a metre into private gardens. The contractors had been rude and disrespectful. Police had been called and had been unable to resolve the situation. Council staff advised that an arborist had signed off on the 9" coach bolts going into the trees.

Precinct will keep a close eye on this and is not happy with how this has been handled. It was suggested that an independent arborist could be brought in to seal the holes and damage done, so that the trees do not become infected.

The Deputy Mayor reported that he had been called in to help resolve the situation. He has great affection for this area and previously lived in the Precinct. Three Council directors have also been consulted to resolve the situation.

Clearly a mistake has been made and the Deputy Mayor has been assured the trees will be safe. It seems that the contractors thought the adjoining land was a Council easement, which it isn't. Council staff and contractors aren't able to enter private land except in emergencies. Arborists have assured Council that the trees will be okay, and the work will be watched very carefully by Council directors.

The Chair thanked the Deputy Mayor for his attendance and requested that Precinct receives assurance in writing that the trees will be okay, that the trees are carefully inspected, and that the number of holes are counted and filled. The Chair also requested a report be prepared by an arborist.

(c) Speed cushions additional discussion: The Traffic Committee meets every two months and includes a Police representative. The Deputy Mayor offered to take any suggestions directly to the Traffic Committee.

The meeting heard that viewing the issue as speeding misses the real issue, which is that the vehicles causing the problem include modified cars that can accelerate very rapidly. The proposed traffic calming will exacerbate the noise issue.

The meeting also heard that, if Blues Point Rd is made 40 km/h all the way down to the reserve and police patrols issue defect notices to just a small number of cars and motorbikes, there will be a quick change in the current situation. It is not speed that is the issue; it is noise. The cars congregating near Blues Point Reserve have been modified to be noisy. These cars and bikes are in violation of stated acceptable decibel levels.

It was suggested that Police presence will make a big difference as they will find many vehicles are not legal. The meeting heard that Police have only two patrol cars currently available because of COVID-19.

The following comments were also made:

- Narrow the road in certain places, as has been done in other areas.
- Residents do not want speed bumps because of the additional noise.
- Traffic calming will affect locals negatively and is a disproportionate solution to the actual issue, as local residents abide by the road rules.
- Speed cameras with a 40 km/h limit are more desirable. Speed cameras have been requested by council and the request is now with Transport for NSW.
- The decision by the Traffic Committee to go with the speed cushions is the beginning of traffic calming with a view to the 40km/h limit as part of the [40 km/h and 10 km/h Shard Zone Masterplan](#).

Precinct proposes that the Traffic Committee implement (a) speed cameras, (b) a 40 km/h speed limit along the entire stretch of Blues Point Road, and (c) spot Police patrols to issue defect notices.

3. State Government items

(a) Harbour Bridge cycleway proposals: The situation has been under discussion for many years. The current Transport for NSW (TfNSW) proposals involve a linear ramp ending north of the Milsons Point station entrance and a spiral ramp near Fitzroy Street. A third proposal, ending north of Lavender Street, has been proposed by a local resident.

A recent community meeting rejected the two proposals put forward by TfNSW. Milsons Point residents are opposed to these proposals as they involve a loss of precious green space. Liberal Party policy is not to impact green space. The meeting heard that TfNSW has not come up with satisfactory solutions or seriously considered all the options.

Our meeting heard that a lift or a travelator does not appease the cyclists, who are prepared to accept any kind of ramp. It was reported that Bicycle NSW with a membership of 30,000 members is pushing for one of the two current proposals to go ahead. Bicycle NSW is a very active advocacy group and gets its members active on issues, who write to and visit their local politicians.

The meeting heard that the [HarbourLink](#) proposal from the bridge to Falcon Street should be reconsidered. Precinct will keep protesting and fighting for no impact or encroachment on green space.

(b) Warringah Freeway Upgrade: Transport for NSW has [advised](#) that one lane of the Mount Street on/off ramp from Arthur Street will be closed from Friday 28 May. TfNSW has also [advised](#) that the Blue Street temporary construction site is currently under construction on the old tramway ramps.

4. Council items

- (a) **Blues Point Road proposed speed cushions:** See Chair's report. [Feedback](#) closes Sunday 6 June (extended closing date).
- (b) **Kirribilli to Cremorne walking, cycling and streetscape upgrades:** Along Broughton Street, Clark Road, Kurraba Road, Wycombe Road and Harriette Street. The [proposal](#) is open for feedback until Monday 14 June.
- (c) **McMahons Point ferry access steps reconstruction:** See Chair's report.

5. Development applications

- (a) **65-83 Walker Street, North Sydney ([97/21](#)):** Demolition of existing buildings and construction of 26-storey commercial (Waratah) building with 4-5 levels of basement parking. Comments due 21 May.

The meeting heard that there would be some afternoon shadowing of residences on the eastern side of the Freeway and noted the application.

- (b) **6/149 Blues Point Road, McMahons Point ([109/21](#)):** Fitout and use the former florist shop as physiotherapy clinic with associated signage. 8am-7pm weekdays, 8am-2pm Saturdays. Comments due 21 May and approved on 24 May.

The timing of this approval indicates the importance of timely individual submissions, rather than waiting for a Precinct meeting.

- (c) **99 Mount Street, North Sydney ([110/21](#)):** Change existing ALDI shopfront to facilitate a barista 'hole in the wall' style servery. Comments due 21 May. The meeting noted the application.
- (d) **80 Blues Point Road, McMahons Point ([465/16/3](#)):** Modify consent for change in windows and extended balcony. Comments due 21 May. The meeting noted the application.
- (e) **Balls Head Drive, Waverton ([118/21](#)):** Remediation of former quarantine depot, including excavation of contaminated soils, backfilling with clean material. Comments due 28 May. The meeting noted the application.
- (f) **99 Mount Street, North Sydney ([126/21](#)):** New business identification sign around existing JB Hi-Fi entry, illuminated 9am to 10pm each day. Comments due Friday 4 June.

The meeting heard that the store closes at 6pm on weekdays and 5pm on weekends and agreed that illumination should cease at these times.

- (g) **20 Bay View Street, Lavender Bay (CDC [109/21](#)):** First floor addition to a single dwelling. The complying development certificate was issued by a private certifier under revised legislation relating to medium density housing, which was strongly opposed by several Councils and is now starting to have an impact.

The meeting heard that residents and Precinct have been unable to view the plans for this development, which has been approved without any scrutiny or consideration by Precinct. Precinct is unable to discuss or consider this development unseen.

Motion: The Lavender Bay Precinct Committee opposes this development until it can see what is planned. Passed without objection.

6. Community items

- (a) **Harbourside Villages grassroots initiative:** www.instagram.com/harboursidevillages and www.facebook.com/groups/harboursidevillages are now operational and a website is being developed. Please submit local photos and stories for sharing. An online survey has been developed to help determine what is important to the local community.
- (b) **Wendy's Secret Garden:** The next gardening morning is Saturday 5 June. RSVP to Ian C at icurdie@bigpond.com asap.
- (c) **Sculpture at Sawmillers exhibition:** Entries are open until Wednesday 30 June, with a \$30,000 major prize. The exhibition is scheduled to run from 8-17 October.

7. General business

- (a) **Lavender Green:** Using the area as a construction site was questioned. The area is part of a long lease to Luna Park, with restrictions on permanent structures.
- (b) **Vivid festival:** The lack of illumination on the western side of the bridge was questioned. It was suggested that Council support be revisited, that people contact Destination NSW and our local member to let them know of the community's desire for illumination on the western side of the bridge and activities around North Sydney.
- (c) **Luna Park:** The meeting heard that Milsons Point residents understand that the children's playground area will be the site of new thrill rides. However, Luna Park's current promotion to encourage screaming which will echo around Lavender Bay is galling. The Chair will write to Council about the advertising.
- (d) **Milsons Point/Kirribilli traffic calming:** The meeting heard that the full road width raised thresholds near the Chinese Christian Church and the Greenway Apartments look very similar to raised pedestrian crossings. Pedestrians are using them to cross the road without checking for traffic. Precinct asks Council to review the line markings that contribute to this confusion.

- (e) Blues Point Reserve:** The Reserve is increasingly being used for commercial purposes with no income to Council, as discussed at previous meetings and the subject of a Council paper in April. The meeting heard that the Northern Beaches Council has implemented a fee system that Council could look at.
- (f) Blues Point Road footpath lighting:** The meeting heard that footpath lighting outside the village centre is very poor.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.40pm.

Next meeting: 7pm, Thursday 24 June (subject to COVID restrictions).