

NEUTRAL PRECINCT MINUTES

Tuesday 8 February 2022, commenced at 7:00 pm

1. The meeting was held on Zoom in accordance with the current procedures for holding precinct meetings in the third COVID phase. Precinct members were advised by email that the AGM has been deferred until the Precinct can meet in person again.
2. Apologies: Nil
3. Additional items added to the Agenda. See General business item 11.
4. Business from minutes of meeting held on 14 December 2021:
 - i. Following review, the minutes were moved by GC and seconded by TM as correct.
 - ii. TfNSW response rejecting, for now, the Precinct request for upgraded pedestrian safety on the Mount Street Overpass was read out and is attached to the minutes.
5. Outcomes from 24 January Council meeting

Discussion points:

- Noted the new Council has 10 Councillors: 6 independents - Z. Baker, M. Beregi, J. Spenceley, I. Mutton, J. Gibson and A. Drummond; 2 representing The Labor Party - S. Welch & G. Santer; 2 representing the Sustainable Australia Party - W. Bourke & A. Lamb.
- The Precinct welcomed the new Council's decision to rescind the 2021 motion of 22 February 2021 to adopt the Military Road Corridor Planning Study - Future Direction Report for the Neutral Bay Town Centre.
- Noted strong advocacy from residents individually and through Precincts objecting to the proposal to allow 12 storey buildings on 2 sites.
- Welcomed the Council's commitment to add to its program and budget to create an updated strategic development framework for the Military Road Corridor including the Neutral Bay centre.
- Welcomed the Council's commitment to engage with the community and stakeholders to prepare a better balance between development height and the provision of additional public open space.
- Noted the new council appears to be more aligned to community views regarding overdevelopment and the community impact of infrastructure projects (Tunnel & freeway widening projects) and development in R3 zones.

6. Proposed changes to Council meetings and practices

Discussion points:

- Mixed views were expressed, in particular concern for work overload for Councillors and Council staff and associated costs. There was agreement that the proposal should be given the opportunity to see if it provides improved accountability and transparency of decision making.

Motion:

The Neutral Precinct supports the proposal for more frequent meetings. We ask the Council monitor the impact on Council staff and the impact on Council's budget of holding more regular Council meetings. The Precinct supports the elimination of Committees and the inclusion of issues dealt with by Committees, in Council meetings. The Precinct welcomes the proposal to hold live streaming of Councillor briefings which will underpin the transparency of decision making.

Vote: Unanimous

7. Community Development Strategy

Discussion points:

- Noted the current Strategy is supported by a series of plans addressing homelessness, family and children's services, affordable housing, arts & culture, youth work actions, disability, inclusion & access.
- Noted a consultation process is underway with community service organisations and groups.
- The Precinct suggests Council explore ways of improved support for community centres for example finding a way to fund before and after school child- care.
- Noted that public exhibition of a draft Strategy will be undertaken in mid 2022.
- The Precinct looks forward to reviewing and providing feedback on the specific action plans in the draft Strategy.

8. Request to re-install cycle ramp on steps between Undercliff & Harriet Streets

Discussion points:

- A Ben Boyd Road resident and cyclist, advised that the former steel sections on the steps were a significant help to cyclists on this very steep section between the streets. They were removed approx. 2 years ago during maintenance of the steps. The metal sections remained on the area adjacent to the steps and cyclists thought they would be reinstalled but they were then removed.
- Removal of this assistance is counter to Council's pro-cycling policy.
- Cyclists are now avoiding the area because the steps are too steep to navigate with a cycle.

Motion:

The Precinct requests the Council reinstall the metal ramp assistance for cyclists on the steps between Undercliffe & Harriet Streets.

Vote: unanimous

9. Development Applications (DAs)

- i. DA 130/21 - 172 Kurraba Road, Kurraba Point. Amended plans. Significant alterations and additions to dual occupancy. Noted no affected resident attended the meeting.

- ii. DA 21/22 - 105 Shellcove Road Kurraba Point. Alterations and additions to a dwelling and associated works. Noted - no affected resident attended the meeting.

10. Precinct E-News items this month:

- i. Draft North Sydney Walking Strategy

Discussion

- It is a good idea to try and find ways for residents and visitors to walk around the LGA.
- Opportunity to identify ‘hotspots’ where pedestrians are having difficulty accessing areas of the LGA particularly in the CBD
- It is noticeable that construction sites are particular points affecting pedestrian safety. E.g. construction work and deliveries extending onto footpaths.
- It was noted the connectivity between the CBD and Neutral Bay was identified as an issue and the Precinct would be supportive of a proposal to install an additional footbridge across the Warringah Freeway.
- Noted another idea is to improve access around the High Street intersection with the Warringah Freeway
- The Precinct looks forward to consultation on the details of the ideas.

Residents were encouraged to go to Council’s website and provide individual feedback by 14 February 2022

<https://yoursay.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/walking-strategy>

- ii. Small Grants Program.

Discussion

- The scope and nature of previous small grant allocations was noted. Residents were encouraged, where they participate in or have knowledge of eligible non-for-profit organisations to recommend those organisations submit projects for consideration of a grant.
- Noted applications for the 2022/23 Financial year close on 11 March 2022.

- iii. Noted the Community Recycling Centre at Artarmon has reopened for e-waste.

11. General Business.

- i. Mr Don Menzies

The Chair moved a vote of appreciation to Mr Don Menzies who is no longer able to attend Precinct meetings. Mr Menzies has been an active member of the Precinct for many years. The Chair thanked Don for his hard work on behalf of Neutral Bay residents.

The Secretary advised that Mr Menzies had sent an email expressing his “appreciation to the Precinct office bearers for their absolutely first-class work on behalf of all residents”.

ii. Footpath and traffic issues

The meeting moved three motions, as follows:

- 1. Precinct members thank the Council for restoring the paving and streetscape in Military Road where electrical contractors undertook maintenance work in 2021.**

Vote: Unanimous

- 2. Precinct members request Council rectify trip hazards on the footpaths each side of Bydown Street between Yeo Street and Cheal Lane by grinding down the raised surfaces as has been done in nearby streets.**

Vote: Unanimous

- 3. Precinct members request Council install a speed limit sign in May Lane, at Yeo Street, and consider making the Lane a Shared Zone similar to sections of Olive and Cheal Lanes.**

Vote: Unanimous

12 Upcoming meetings/events were noted:

- i. Noted Neutral Precinct – 8 March 2022 www.neutralprecinct.com
- ii. Noted Council meeting – 21 February 2022 www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au
- iii. Noted Combined Precincts meeting – 15 February 2022

The meeting closed at 7:50pm