

# **Parks Precinct**

## **Meeting Minutes 21 October 2020**

*Meeting was held via Zoom with the option of attending in person at the Ros Crichton Pavilion*

### **Meeting Opened: 6.30pm.**

1.) 20 attendees via zoom, as per attendance sheet,

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**Meeting minutes** from last meeting approved. Moved by DW Seconded by SM.

**Matters arising from the Minutes.** None

### **2.) Discussion with Mayor JG and Councillor SB**

Parks Chair S.M. asked both the Mayor JG and Councillor SB what their vision were for the following topics.

#### **How does council get their ideas?**

The Mayor JG gave a brief description of her 21 years in Council including Chair of Nutcote, on the Risk and Audit Committee, has lived in the local community for 30 years and that her girls grew up here.

Noted that the State and Federal government can dictate who comes into the North Sydney area; the pressure is to have more premises and people. Have to get more shops and people in. If you give extensions to the number of storeys developer will go for more. The State Government has control over development.

It was also noted there is a need to use the Pacific Highway for further development. With the cost of funding local projects DA applicants can be asked to please give some public facility. Suggested residents to lobby government about issues for example about the smoke stacks for the tunnels. State Government has control over development.

The Mayor advised there was \$10 million dollars for the Redlands Bridge.

#### **Neutral Bay Village**

Grosvenor lane was discussed by all including the Mayor JG, Councillor SB and members of the Precinct.

Since it's remodelling Park's members were happy that no large trucks were now using the laneway and asked that the "No through traffic be enforced". SM stated that most vehicles are accessing garages and parking (Later investigation revealed that there is not a "no through traffic" requirement)

The Young St Plaza trial construction and traffic management is now going ahead with Council now asking for tenders

The Mayor mentioned her concept of joining Military Rd to Grosvenor Plaza by demolishing the Community Centre building a relocating it to the other side of Military Rd.

### **Council decision making**

Noted that Council cannot do a lot. The Mayor summarized how the decision making is done by Council. JG informed the precinct that being the mayor is a full-time position and the councillors are unpaid positions with some remuneration and those councillors hold normal jobs outside of council. Some funding is received via state government for spending on projects, for example bike lanes. That funding must be used on those projects and cannot be diverted.

### **How to participate in decision making?**

The Mayor JG and Councillor SB asked that anyone with concerns should also submit objections to the major projects affecting Neutral Bay to their State Government representative.

SB and JG said they are open to contact from residents and want to hear from everyone either via text or Email to Council members. Stop councillors in the street and have a chat. SB stated the individual counts Councillors will work with you to sort out problems.

With the Woolworth's development the Precinct members have concerns about overdevelopment. Shop keepers are concerned if an underground car park is built, women may not like to park there and that they would prefer to park above ground. Parks would like everything above ground as this is the option which results in lower building heights.

There is work on the shared pathways for north of Military Rd. More childcare services. The playground at Young and Grasmere Rd to be upgraded. Government granted the funds to fix the roundabouts, they are continuing to try and find a fix.

It is hoped the Woolworths redevelopment of the Coles site will hopefully give us a nice residential area.

Bike lanes causing some problems like in Bannerman St with reduced road space where opening the car door is right beside the street.

SB Council is trying to negotiate with the design of the bike lanes, encouraged everyone to use the "Your Say" web site.

Talk to mums at school, parents at sporting events etc

CD suggested to make Military Rd less of a barrier lobbying dept of Main Rds, Noted that the traffic lights are quick changing lights. Less mobile pedestrians need to race the lights

Identified any new proposal. Need to lobby everyone at Military Rd. To open up the village, Remove the Community Centre and open up a path. S.M suggested it is important to keep the community centre at ground level.

Statement from the floor was how can we have more traffic and also limit population growth!

SM. Successful neighbourhoods like Kirribilli have a lot of variety in shops. It has the village feel as does Blues point. St Leonards Station has high rise all around it. Apartments with childcare inside. It has no village feel

1970's buildings have gardens around them. We need some aesthetics that have space, e.g. green or garden space that creates a feel and a love for the area. SM said it is an issue of green space. The mayor replied that cost constraints for developers meant they had to maximise building space

SB Stated the Post Office at North Sydney could be a shared area.

MK Stated she likes the new Grosvenor lane.

SM thanked the Mayor JG and Councillor SB for their attendance. Both JG. and SB suggested if residents want to get in contact with them to phone or text them, or if the Mayor or the Councillors are busy to send an SMS with a message like "What is a good time to call."

**Grasmere Reserve.** JG informed the precinct that Grasmere reserve has received some welcome upgrades plus a maintenance enhancing programme for the playground.

### **3.) Tunnel Update.**

Chair SM wrote to and recently visited the Premier GB's office to ask for her opinion on the E.I.S statement, for the Warringah Freeway Upgrade. Our Chair has not yet received a reply back.

### **4.) Confirmation of out of meeting minutes.**

The Minutes of the "Out of committee vote" were approved by a majority

The topic was a vote on the major concerns of this precinct: Members have responded stating there is a need for open space, plus requirements for low rise and limiting development. Members expressed concern over losing Neutral Bay village's atmosphere. Concerns rose over high rise buildings together with associated problems with traffic and parking.

### **5.) General Business.**

#### **A) Your view (Precinct members) vision of the Neutral Bay Village**

A general discussion took place about the Military Rd corridor, on building heights and also on local development and the affect this will have on traffic, parking and access to shops.

Motion was put to Parks Precinct. "That the Precinct to write to Gladys Berijikian, to ask for a copy of her EIS submission" Proposed MK seconded by PS, carried unanimously.

With regards to the Warringah Freeway Upgrade, Parks Precinct should get their submission classified as a private submission.

#### **B) Any Other Matters**

PS asked if any work (study) on wind tunnels was done either by Council or the State Government. This is in reference to buildings being proposed for the area. SM replied we get a lot of wind on top of the hill at Neutral bay.

From the floor it was stated that the width of tree canopy can have an effect, it adds feel to the open spaces. The desire at the moment is for homes rather than offices.

VO reminded those at the meeting that the current Community Centre is very well used, with level access.

GD commented that convenience to facilities is not necessary a village.

MK is surprised that the mum's and bub's time in the local early morning meeting areas are not a university study.

Over the next 12 months Individuals were encouraged to lodge submissions and concern to the state and local governments. Especially to their state representatives and to get these problems raised as elections issues.

**Meeting adjourned: 7.43pm.**