

Parks Precinct

Meeting Minutes 26th November 2020

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

Meeting Opened: 6.30pm.

1.) Attendance: 18 attendees via zoom, as per attendance sheet,

Apologies received from RF CL (inadvertently not admitted despite waiting for 20 minutes!) and SB

2.) Confirmation of Minutes from last meeting approved. Moved by DW Seconded by SM.

3.) Business arising from the Minutes.

A) The Precinct was informed that Grosvenor Lane is open to through traffic.
CT Suggested to ask Council to study the number of vehicles using the lane

B) The Mayor has been advised that Parks Precinct wants low rise options.

4.) Young St Plaza.

Question from the floor was on how to handle the traffic when Young St is closed.
PS would not like to see high traffic volume at Young St Plaza, then suggested monitoring through traffic numbers and speed - see above

GD asked what is Young St Plaza supposed to do?

SM responded that Council wanted more green space. Young St Plaza is not a skate park. The container is a multipurpose space. The lawn, including the waves, looks like being artificial grass. There are also playrooms. More open space is part of overall Council strategy for the 10-year, 4 year and 1-year implementation process.

PS stated it is creating a complimentary plaza to the one next to the Post Office.

From the floor it was asked Who is invited to use it? Are artists etc going to be invited to use it?

CT mentioned it was probably compensation for the B line (later confirmed that Funding is from the NSW government compensation for the B Line impact on Neutral Bay)

JA Objected to the plaza. Suggested it is pushing traffic into Ben Boyd Rd, Grosvenor Street and Waters Road. Why block of a street so close to the main road.

Parks Chair SM responded that it imposed more traffic into Grosvenor Lane rather than Waters Rd as expected.

Motion: Parks Precinct write to Council suggesting that Council monitor traffic and speed through Grosvenor Lane as traffic has increased following the closure of Young Street Parks Precinct expects this to be a No Thoroughfare Street i.e. no through traffic but deliveries and access to parking is allowed. (GD and CT to draft)

Motion Carried without opposition

5.) Tunnel Update

Gladys Berejiklian has not weakened her commitment. SM asked her about her submissions on the Warringah Freeway upgrade but has not got any answers.

Council has had a successful response to its anti-tunnel campaign. The State Government will provide funding for the North Sydney CBD strategy (Miller St Plaza) Council has taken down its signs along the corridor but there has been no benefit to Parks Precinct

Motion: Chair to write to North Sydney Council and Councillors expressing disappointment that the campaign did not give any benefit to Parks

Passed Unanimous

SM quoted that the traffic on Military will increase by 15% over the next few years and an extra 15% growth in traffic would be diverted to the tunnel but the tunnel will then fill up with traffic. Rail as an alternative was mentioned.

SM also stated that rail at Brookvale is not practical.

SM The Western Harbour Tunnel will feed into West Connex and the Airport and it is a good idea that Precinct members go and see the structure for the West Connex at Wahroonga, including the 30-metre smokestack.

There was discussion about joining with Registry to arrange a meeting with Mat Keane and/or Rob Stokes to get a better outcome for the WHT. SM to investigate and approach Registry

6.) Precinct Review

Chair SM reminded the precinct that tomorrow there are 4 workshops for the Precinct's review and feedback. If you want to attend the feedback meetings let SM know.

7.) General Business

A.) Top five must haves for a village feel group discussion

SM provided ideas from the feedback on the Parks Out of Committee feedback.

The meeting felt that the Community Centre in an appropriate place. The Mayor JG would like to move it across to the other side of Military Rd.

PS We need more parking to allow people to come to the shops and bring more people into the area.

SM stated we need parking as we need to drive to the top of the hill as Neutral Bay is on top of a ridge. Also, would like to have the option of the lowest rise construction.

SM Reminded the precinct that successful neighbourhoods like Kirribilli have a lot of variety in shops and life. It has the village feel as does Blues point. St Leonards Station has high rise all

around it. It has no village feel and looks devoid of any real life. Neutral Bay could end up like St Leonards.

GD suggested providing a community bus service to take people to the shops. But the existing one takes an hour to drive around, BB responded that people would take their cars instead, as it is more convenient.

PS Mentioned to ask the Council, Town Planner to achieve what we are thinking.

From the floor an idea was mentioned of being able to afford now what is wanted without closing of any possibilities for a better outcome later.

BP stated that Military Rd is like a scar running through the village.

After the meeting SM distilled to discussion to

Ten things you need for a village atmosphere.

1. a low rise centre
2. a destination with no through traffic
3. space for community activities e.g. fund-raising stalls
4. trees and flowers
5. public seating
6. toilet facilities
7. sun in winter and shade in summer and protection from wind
8. pedestrian friendly but accessible (using both private and public transport) for those with limited mobility. Remember Neutral Bay is at the top of a hill and not everyone can walk up.
9. local shops where residents can buy
10. open after 5pm

Areas such as Kirribilli, Blue Point and Crows Nest meet these requirements. North Sydney and St Leonards are examples of areas which have failed to gain a village atmosphere.

B.) Other Matters

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

At Grasmere Park there will be a refurbishment to the children's playground in Young Street, that is upgrading all the facilities such as the swings and the paths etc.

A discussion took place about the need for speed bumps in Sutherland Street. Most agreed that together with the new bike lanes and the reduction in the width of the road that most traffic has already slowed down, and there is no real need for the speed bumps

Note that SM and DW are looking to rotate out of the committee positions and are looking for volunteers to take over the position of Chair and Secretary for Parks Precinct.

Meeting adjourned: 7.35pm.