

# UNION PRECINCT



PO Box 7041 McMahons Point NSW 2060

## **Minutes - Wednesday 5 August 2020 held at McMahons Point Community Hall, Blues Point Road at 7.30 pm**

Co-Chairs: MC & KR, Secretary and Treasurer: ID. Meeting chaired by MC; minutes by ID.

Present: 13 – as per attendance sheet.

Apologies: MG, PM, GM, ZB and DH. Councillor Ian Mutton present by invitation.

### **1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2020 were accepted as a proper record of the meeting. BM noted that the representative of Noakes had undertaken at this meeting to provide answers to questions he took on notice and asked whether any answers had been received. The Secretary advised that nothing had been received which was disappointing for the residents.

KH moved and KR seconded. This was the last physical meeting due to COVID restrictions. MC noted that COVID meeting practice had been adopted and additionally all attendees had had their temperature read.

### **2. Ian Mutton**

Councillor Ian Mutton was invited to address the meeting as one of our local Councillors on a number of matters of interest.

IM raised a number of issues affecting the Union Precinct. He mentioned a proposal to spend up to \$12m on Blues Point Road including additional trees and underground power lines and to make the area more appealing for pedestrians. He noted that the proposal had been developed by Council (Draft Masterplan for the Public Domain Upgrade of McMahons Point – Blues Point Road Village Centre) which will be placed on public exhibition and which he agreed to forward to the Precinct for distribution. His comment was to read the words and not be influenced by the pictures.

IM raised a concern that up to 60% of the Voluntary Planning contributions for residential developments on the Pacific Highway near Crows Nest/ St Leonards in North Sydney Council had been ear marked for Willoughby Council rather than North Sydney Council. Several attendees expressed serious concern at this allocation of funding meant for North Sydney Council and requested North Sydney Council for an explanation.

IM mentioned the North Sydney Pool and the need for it be expedited to a modern facility in keeping with the times and volume of users. He was not in favour of keeping it open for a short period whilst the planning approval process is still underway.

Lavender Green – IM noted that submissions had closed, and that the vast majority were against the proposal. In the interim he stated that a fence had been erected around Lavender Green and expressed his concern as to why this had happened.

He also noted that due to works on the Harbour Bridge, a large portion of Bradfield Park would be closed off, hence even less green area available to residents.

He is also sending the secretary some comments on the Precinct System Review to be circulated to the members.

MC thanked IM for his comments.

### **3. Correspondence and Notifications**

The Chair reported the following Development Application information from Council:

- DA 57/19 Floating Dry Dock – Noted in correspondence from Council that the recommendation from the SNPP was that the application could be withdrawn, or it would be sent to the SNNP for determination in August. It was unsure if a public meeting would be held. It was noted that if Noakes withdrew the application their appeal rights to the Land & Environment Court would be reduced, however if SNNP rejected the application they would be able to appeal. BM noted that she was in discussions with North Sydney Council regarding a Land & Environment Court case for several infringements of the DA 1164/90 conditions. It was noted North Sydney Council has thus far not progressed the public jetty at John Street, despite a Council resolution (which should have been built 25 years ago) and requested that Council provide an update on the matter.
  - DA 47/20 2 Blue Street, North Sydney – Approved by SNNP. Chair noted this site included some “art deco style” buildings in Blue Street and additional unit blocks in William Street and would be turned into office space.
  - DA 103/18/2 Shore School 14 William Street North Sydney – Noted that the Shore School was seeking to remove the clauses in their approvals relating to restoration of affordable housing or contribution to Council of \$500,000 in lieu. No information had been provided to community or Precincts and it was resolved to request an update from Council on this application.
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- DA 132/20 2 Commodore Crescent, McMahons Point– modifications including increased roof height, first floor and roof terrace. The owner was present and noted he had spoken to his neighbour and amended the plans slightly to facilitate less overshadowing. No further comment.
  - DA 347/18/3 32 Carr Street, Waverton –no owner present – noted no further comment
  - 1 Henry Lawson Avenue –Property in initial stages of compulsory acquisition by State Government. This would link the public grass area along the harbour.
  - North Sydney Council Olympic Pool – Redevelopment approved by SNNP. Several Residents continue to raise concerns about the planned development components and heritage elements connected with the NS pool proposed development.

### **4. Changes to DA submissions and Council Access to Information Policy**

Council has advised that from the 1 July the DA Application Tracking System made all submissions to DAs public, unless an individual submitter requests that their submission be restricted. This includes personal details such as address, emails and phone numbers. Requests to withhold information must be made by a separate cover document indicating the reasons why the information should be restricted. All requests would be reviewed and determined by Council’s Document Management Services Department.

It was resolved to register the concern of the Precinct in allowing all personal details to be made public as this was a threat to the privacy and safety of the submitters. There was agreement that names could be disclosed to stop anonymous submissions, but all other

identifying information should be automatically withheld. Proposed by MK and unanimously accepted by all the attendees.

#### **5. Precinct System Review Stage 1**

Submissions will close on 19 August 2010 and no further extension was anticipated, despite the restrictions on meeting caused by COVID. Some matters were discussed generally by the meeting and some concerns raised over the matter of communications. Resolved that KR would submit a draft response electronically to members and then submit it to Council.

Due to an expression of frustration over how to discuss this important matter within the precinct, it was resolved that a request be made to Council to make the whole discussion process easier under the circumstances of time constraints and restricted meetings. MCC and other attendees expressed their concern that no attempt had been made by Council to communicate the issues with the residents via Zoom or other new technology. It was resolved to recommend to Council that new technology be adopted to engage more with community. The Chair agreed to write to our precinct facilitator.

#### **6. Unions Street Speed Controls**

Some information had been provided regarding possible interim options (this was briefly discussed at the meeting), but concern was expressed that nothing more had happened due to COVID. Suggestions were made for better signage at Woolcott Street and a pedestrian crossing and controls be installed at Bank Street. KR will respond to Council on these matters and a request was made to Council to come and address the meeting on options to solve the speed issues on Unions Street between Bank Street and Woolcott Street.

#### **7. Sydney Metro Blues Point Site**

Serious concern was expressed about the recent proposed extension of time of at least 12 months for the large work shed at the bottom of Blues Point Road and the loss of the public park. Additionally, there would be a huge impact on the community with movements of cement trucks and other heavy vehicle access down Blues Point Road every five minutes and seriously affect residents behind the shed. Attendees expressed concern at the expedient way that the State Government had announced the change despite what it has promised in the original EIS, namely the fit out was to be in Barangaroo and North Sydney proper.

IM noted that the Council were powerless to act as it was State Government decision. Resolved that the Union Precinct Committee ask Council to strongly object to the Metro Authority / Department of Planning regarding the proposed continued use of the Blues Point temporary site beyond the end of 2020. Carried unanimously.

#### **8. E-waste collection**

Council had indicated that they were not prepared to reintroduce E-waste collections as the development of a facility at Artarmon meant there was little demand for street pick up of these items.

#### **9. Recent Council Matters**

The Chair displayed the North Sydney Public Domain Strategy booklet, which contained illustrations on how the CDB could look in the future. However, with the uncertainty of the WHTL and the closure of Miller Street, these plans seem uncertain. Several residents expressed concern about how they would navigate the CBD if Miller Street was closed.

WHTL – submissions are closed and NSC has launched a campaign to make changes to the proposal. Many intersections will fail under the current proposal and there is uncertainty as to the benefit for NSLGA. The chair displayed an NSC brochure “All Pain and No Gain” She noted she had written personally to our state member Felicity Wilson as suggested.

Council Draft Trailer Parking Policy now closed. Chair noted she had made a personal submission which gave flexibility to residents of the street to make decisions. Noted some precincts suggested non-residents should not park trailers in NSLGA.

Sculpture “The Sun Also Rises”, proposed for Carradah Park. Chair displayed a flier of the sculpture and noted that the original proposal was in Milson Park but was vetoed by the residents. KR noted that the options in Have your Say were only to place it in one place or another in Carradah Park and that there should have been an option not to have it at all and he felt it was not in keeping with the design and industrial history of the park. MC stated she was not against the sculpture personally but understood and acknowledged community feedback.

Public Forums – It was noted that these were to be reinstated at NSC meetings in a modified form.

Residents are concerned that in general their views are not being aired and they support that the office bearers of the precinct have their interests at heart to represent them. One suggestion put forward in the precinct review process was that a resolution must be passed on an issue before office bearers can speak on it at Council’s Public Forum and this does not work simply from a timing factor. It was noted that this does not preclude office bearers speaking purely on a personal level.

MLC Building – 105 Miller Street, North Sydney. (Precinct was not within the notification map) DA 147/20 to demolish and replace with a new office block. Chair noted that there was much publicity and concern not just locally and there are close to 1500 signatures on the Change.org petition. Precinct members are encouraged to make their own submissions if interested.

### **10. Combined Precinct Meetings**

KH addressed the meeting to discuss the recent Combined Precinct Meeting and gave a comprehensive review of activities happening in the North Sydney LGA. KH referred meeting participants to the North Sydney Council Website to access details from the regular publication of the Precincts E-News. The E-Newsletter generally contain over 12 issues and invited feedback from interested parties as part of the communication feedback system. The latest edition included matters relating to: Blues Point; Kirribilli; Traffic Flows; Precinct Reviews; Crown Land usage: Local Government Conference; Harvest Collective Program; Consumer Satisfaction Survey findings; Wollstonecraft Station upgrade; Ausgrid Matters; Combined Precinct matters; Parking; DA Notices and Consents. Further, several matters of current concern have been raised as topics for discussion at this meeting. The CPC continues to meet formally on a bimonthly basis with additional Skype meetings to address various matters of concern during these COVID 19 times.

### **Speakers for Future Meetings**

IM suggested that Sydney Harbour High Line would be ready to present at the meeting around October 2020, once various developments had occurred.

Noted that Sydney Heritage Fleet had presented at the recent Waverton Precinct meeting and could be approached to speak at a future Union Precinct Meeting as residents were keen to understand their proposal. It was noted that General Manager, Sydney Heritage Fleet had publicly supported Noakes on the Floating Dry Dock and we do not want any workshops or work on the water or derelict boats left in the Bay. The upside is that this may stop any future commercial development in Berrys Bay at Woodleys marina area. MC to action.

A request was made for the State Government or one of the contractors to speak at the meeting regarding the proposed traffic movements on Blues Point Road caused by the recent time extension of the shed. MC to action.

Council could be requested to present on their proposal for Blues Point Road. KR to action.

### **11. Any Other Business**

BM noted the dangers with the lack of wire protection on the fence surrounding Waverton Park onto the water. She noted that some areas had wire mesh to protect users of the park, however the wooden fence near the tap and gym equipment and 100-150 meters up the roadway to John Street, did not have any wire and it was a potential danger to young children to fall into the bay. Resolved to request Council to investigate and rectify. Carried unanimously.

A request for toilet facilities at Sawmillers Reserve was made. Noted that the current Scout hall had toilet facilities which may be able to be used with permission. Resolved to request Council to investigate. Carried unanimously.

The Precinct congratulated Council on the new boat and kayak storage facilities in Sawmillers Reserve and resolved that they consider the same boat storage facilities in John Street near the proposed public jetty which is supposed to be built. (noted earlier). Carried unanimously.

### **Next Meeting**

The next Precinct meeting would be held on Wednesday, 2 September 2020 at 7.30 pm.

### **Closure**

The meeting closed at 10.07 pm.

Signed as a correct record

Chair