



North Sydney Local Government Area
Edward and Union Combined Precinct Committees

Minutes of Meeting Wednesday 6 July 2022
Lavender Bay-McMahons Point Community Centre 7:30pm

Chairs: KR/GM
Secretaries: JC Edward Precinct
CT Union Precinct
Minutes: JC & CT

1. Welcome / Apologies / June Minutes

- (a) The meeting accepted the minutes from the June meeting without objection
- (b) There were 15 attendees and 4 apologies

2. COUNCIL RESPONSE: SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

The meeting noted that the supplied Summary of Actions only included one item from our Precinct meeting. The meeting felt this does not accurately reflect the views/wishes of members. Precinct(s) will continue to refer outstanding items from previous meetings that have not been addressed by Council as running agenda items.

3. CONTINUATION OF EDWARD/UNION MERGER

The meeting agreed to continue the temporary merger of the two Precincts for another three months and continue to streamline joint processes.

4. DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

- (a) [DA 167/22](#) 12 Toongarah Rd, Waverton Alterations and additions to a detached dwelling including first floor additions. Closed 8 July. Noted
- (b) **DA 151/22 108 Bank Street.** Alterations and additions including new external laundry at rear. Closed 24 June. Residents can still make comments on this DA. Noted
- (c) **DA 188/22 39 Union St McMahons Point.** Alterations and additions to a house. Closes 22 July. The meeting discussed this DA which has only just been listed and noted the application and will raise on the agenda for next meeting.
- (d) **Noakes Floating Dry Dock.** The meeting noted receipt of a letter from Council's law firm, regarding Floating Dry Dock in Berrys Bay. The meeting heard it will take approximately three months to learn of the outcome of the L&E Court Appeal and eagerly awaits the response.

Refer to <https://apptacking.northsydney.nsw.gov.au> for full details of each application

5. COUNCIL/LGA ITEMS

- (a) **Draft Code of Conduct for Councillors and Staff .**
Based on the Office of Local Government Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW August 2020. A substantial (104 page) document can be viewed on the council website. Closed 11 July.
Precinct members are encouraged to comment by email.
<https://yoursay.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/policies-on-exhibition>
- (b) **Arts & Cultural Strategic Plan Review**
NSC is updating the North Sydney Arts & Cultural Strategic Plan and would like feedback to ensure the new plan is tailored to local arts and cultural needs. Stage 1 closes 31 July and encourages members to find out more and to complete the survey

The meeting discussed the first stage of engagement which seeks to identify new and /or reaffirm current priorities in three focus areas and that the survey does not allow for much and feels like a tick-a-box exercise. Ideas like a women's shed and our own LGA gallery, revitalising the Platypus subbase (managed by the Harbour Trust) were discussed by members present at the meeting.

(c) Western Harbour Tunnel

The meeting heard Council considered in detail at its June Council meeting the status of the Western Harbour Tunnel (WHT) and Northern Beaches Link (NBL) project. Council has written to the Federal Member for North Sydney and passed a motion for the NSW State Government to halt, review, reassess the WHT because of a proposed cessation of construction of the NBL. With no NBL, the WHT would have even greater detrimental impact on traffic in the North Sydney LGA.

The meeting heard that NSC has been unable to identify any benefit to North Sydney from either tunnel. 85% of North Sydney residents were opposed to construction of the tunnels.

Tree removal at Cammeray (which has been substantial) has already had a major impact on affected areas with wind, noise and light pollution to recreational parkland.

Motion: The Edward/Union Precinct Committees fully support North Sydney Council opposition to continued construction of the Western Harbour Tunnel due to the detrimental impact on the local areas' amenity and quality of life due to the halting of the Northern Beaches Link.

Motion passed without objection.

(d) Code of meeting Practice & Meeting Dates

The meeting heard that Council is abolishing the Legal and Planning and Governance and Finance sub- committees established in 2012. These meetings were not open to the public.

Matters formerly referred to those Committees will now be reported directly at Council Meetings. The meeting also heard there will now be an increased number of Council meetings (every 2-3 weeks) also recorded and made available online, which is a positive outcome for the community providing enhanced transparency and accessibility. Precinct unanimously commends Council for this decision.

(e) Waverton Peninsula Working Group

The meeting heard from the Chair details regarding the minutes of the Waverton Peninsula Working Group tabled at Council's meeting on 27 June:

- Questions remain about the Berrys Bay land transfer to Council for from the State Government that will not be used for the Western Harbour Tunnel work site and when the transfer will happen. There is an MOU in draft but no firm decision.
Precinct acknowledges Council's efforts relating to Waverton Peninsula, in particular in relation to maintaining land for public use.
- There are still negotiations on-going between Council and the State government over a public pathway from Caradah Park to Woodleys Shed and between Quarantine Depot and Woodleys.
- Council has taken possession of the Quarantine Depot and would like to open its grounds as quickly as possible.

- Dolphin Wharf – no change in status. The meeting heard that funds were allocated many years ago to remove the structure, although it has not yet been removed. The meeting noted the condition of vessels currently moored on the wharf and the fear that another situation like the MV Baragoola might be repeated where lack of action caused the vessel to sink, resulting in a cleanup cost of \$5 million.
- There are discussions about the State Heritage listed Coal Loader Wharf and the lack of progress on the adaptive re-use project. However, discussion at the meeting felt that if it is not repaired soon, it will also sink into the harbour.
- The status of Waverton Bowling Club is awaiting a decision from a Land and Environment Court hearing, which will determine what becomes of the site and if it will be handed back to Council. There is no clear direction as to what will become of the site if it is handed back to Council. Council has indicated that further consultation will be required.

(f) Employment Zone Reform in North Sydney LGA

The meeting heard that the Department of Planning and Environment has decided to change the names of light industrial and business zones to “employment” zones and to increase the number of permissible uses in those zones in the LGA. The meeting expressed concern around the lack of consultation on this matter which has the potential to inflict significant changes on our precincts and which may affect us all both as residents and neighbourhoods.

Motions

1. Edward and Union Precincts wish to convey their concern about the proposed Employment Zone Reform in the LGA and are critical of the Council's Planning Department for not alerting Precincts earlier of these changes.
2. Edward and Union Precincts will support the submission that will be put forward to DPE by Lavender Bay Precinct and look forward to improved efforts by Council in relation to communication about proposed changes within the LGA that impact amenity, character and livability in the North Sydney LGA.

Motions passed without objection

6. GENERAL / OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Combined Precinct Meeting

The meeting heard that the June 21 meeting of CPC discussed:

- the Western Harbour Tunnel.
- Woolworths proposed changes to its planned development at Neutral Bay on Yeo Street, increasing height from 16 to 40 levels. The meeting discussed the impact of large developments in Crows Nest, St Leonards and now it seems Neutral bay/Cremorne.
- Fire Safety measures in the LGA.
- The election of a new co-chair.
- The Precinct review and the decision to maintain the status quo until a clear pathway emerges in August next year in relation to Precinct status, processes and mergers. The meeting noted the importance of local voices.
- An integrated cycleway was touched on.

(b) Sub Base Platypus

A meeting participant raised the activities of the current tenants at the Sub Base Platypus located in the North Sydney LGA and if there are any ways Council can activate the site for better community use.

The site, the Harbour Trust and other successful sites were discussed.

The Meeting resolved to look at some ideas that could form a strategy of some sort at the next meeting.

(c) East Crescent Street Pocket Park

The meeting heard that there has been opposition to the proposed landscaping at the site and fears around loss of parking. The sculpture component has been separated from the project.

There will be a site inspection later in July. Anyone interested should contact CT at Union Precinct.

(d) 1 Bank Lane – Land and Environment Court appeal

The meeting heard that the Clause 34 meeting reached agreement between Council and the proponent in relation to the planned development. Precinct looks forward to seeing the approved plans when published.

(e) Naidoc Week

The meeting heard from a member who attended an event at the Coal Loader who also noted that North Sydney's profile and in relation to acknowledging First Nations people is less than at other Councils.

(f) Edward and Union Merger

Meeting members discussed the pros and cons of the current trial merger between Edward and Union Precincts and agreed to continue in a temporary fashion for another three months. The meeting also agreed to trial a hybrid meeting strategy of 'streaming' the meeting for those unable to attend in person to still stay informed. The hybrid model will not be as participatory as the previous zoom meetings however there will be an opportunity for those tuning in 'online' to forward questions to a moderator who will raise them on their behalf in the meeting.

Meeting members also indicated that they understood there will be some trial and error as an acceptable hybrid model is established. Some technical testing will be done in advance of the next meeting.

(g) Edward and Union Flyer redesign

A meeting participant suggested that the flyer distributed prior to the meetings be given an update. Some new design options will be presented at the next meeting for members to view and consider. Some Union members present noted that they had not received the flyer in their letterboxes. Council is asked to inquire as to whether the distribution occurred.

The meeting closed at 9:28 pm