

Waverton Precinct Minutes

Tuesday 14 July 2020



WAVERTON

2060

Meeting room at Sustainability Centre was open from 7pm for viewing of correspondence

Meeting opened: 7.30pm

Chair: IG

Minutes: SF

Attendance: 10

1 Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed residents and visitors to the first post-lockdown Precinct Meeting.

The meeting was opened with an explanation of the background and rules under which the meeting was being run and sanctioned by North Sydney Council (NSC). These rules included current COVID safety rules promulgated by NSC, including safe pre-registration, tick sign-on, social distancing, avoidance of unnecessary touching of objects including doorhandles, and sanitizing as appropriate. Both the Chair and Secretary had completed the required online safety course.

There were apologies from RO, K & DA, TN and KA

2 Summary by Chair of activities since last meeting, as generally represented by the tabled correspondence

The Chair explained that in the absence of regular meetings, that issues of importance had been handled on behalf of Precinct by the appointment of ad-hoc subcommittees comprised of people adjudged to have experience and interest in particular matters as they arose.

Key issues reported were:

Western Harbour Tunnel/Warringah Freeway Modifications

Precinct has supported objections to a range of issues from the doubtful overall business case to the failure of the design to follow world's best practice which would not allow such long tunnels without filtration and/or more frequent vents. Detailed objections included the poor impact on traffic in the North Sydney CBD and surrounding intersections including the Bay Rd/Pacific Hwy intersection which is the main point of access/egress to Waverton. Other matters include impacts on Berrys Bay and Waverton residents due to noise and vibration during construction, risk of low cover at Woolcott St, pollution during dredging and loss of green space in the municipality. It was mentioned that the Mayor was in favour of the concept of covering parts of the Warringah Freeway with land bridges to create more open space, an idea supported in principle by Precinct. This could potentially improve space for pedestrians and cyclists as well as providing recreational space. Letters to the NSW Government have been responded to with little indication of interest in addressing shortcomings or changing the current plans.

The current status is that EIS submissions are closed. These have been passed back to TfNSW for review before final planning assessment is made. This is expected later this year as part of the State Government's COVID response with "shovel ready" projects, despite the obvious major flaws which should render the scheme rejected.

North Sydney Olympic Pool

Waverton Precinct made a submission on the proposed DA. The current status is that the DA has been approved with some more minor items such as shade over the wading pool, still to be resolved.

North Sydney Public Domain Strategy

NSC has promulgated this strategy which includes the closure of Miller St between Berry and Mount, and further parts of Mount St. Unfortunately this scheme is in conflict with TfNSW plans for the WHT and little co-operative planning between the two levels of government has occurred nor appears likely.

Civic Precinct Strategy

Plans for a future vision for the area around the Council Chambers and as far as Falcon Street are included.

Sculpture for Carradah Park

Submission date for the location of this piece of donated art remains open until Sunday July 19. Precinct has not taken a position on preferred location, but residents were encouraged to voice their preference. It was generally thought that placement in the middle of the larger tank circle may inhibit its use for other purposes (such as live theatre previously played there).

Military Road Corridor

This plan appears to follow a pattern of allowing ever-increasing building heights with open space receiving only lip service. Redevelopment of the Big Bear/Bus Depot zone is expected to follow the Woolworths site. No additional facilitation of pedestrian crossing of Military Road is proposed, and allowable heights are increasing from 5 to 12 storeys.

Noakes Floating Dry Dock

This DA is in limbo whilst NSC waits on the outcome of EPA action against Noakes for pollution offences. The public wharf issue also remains in abeyance.

Coal Loader Platform Upgrades including Toilets

It is understood that plans for a sewer link which was to include the platform and the toilet block at Balls Head have been shelved due to cost. Instead, the septic system at Balls Head is to be upgraded. The status of plans for the Platform is unknown.

Waverton Bowling Club site

An Aboriginal Native Title Claim has been lodged over the site, putting other ideas on hold.

3 Reports from Standing Committees

Committee for North Sydney

JD reported that a document will be promulgated shortly addressing forward opportunities to improve the amenity of the North Sydney CBD.

4 Community and Other Activities

The Hub

This remains active, and members were reminded that annual fees were due. The question was asked whether Precinct was a member. The Chair explained that it is not and that The Hub is a standalone organisation, but which has full support from the Precinct as it provides much needed community for the area. Hubbub copies were made available to the meeting

5 New Business

Trailer parking. It was suggested that a parking sticker scheme be set up to allow residents to park trailers in the municipality, and then exclude those from elsewhere. There was no motion made in relation to this suggestion.

6 DAs

None relevant.

7 Correspondence and Minutes of Last Meeting

The correspondence having been made available for viewing prior to and during the meeting:

Moved VY

Seconded IB

“The March 2020 Minutes and correspondence be accepted”

Vote: In favour 8 / Against 0. Carried

11 Date of next meeting August 4, 2020

Details are yet to be finalised, but it is hoped that the next meeting can be held in the Uniting Church Hall as this is more central to residents. COVID rules will apply.

The meeting closed at 8:40 pm.