

**Report to General Manager**

Attachments:

1. Previous Report 28/10/19
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**SUBJECT:** Proposed Community Garden at Little Young Street, Neutral Bay - Outcome of Site Meeting

**AUTHOR:** Eric Sturman, Streets Alive Coordinator

**ENDORSED BY:** Rob Emerson, Director Open Space and Environmental Services

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

At the Council meeting on 28 October 2019, Council resolved to conduct a site meeting at Little Young Street, Neutral Bay with interested Councillors. For the site meeting, the footprint of the garden site was marked out on the ground to gauge its size and position on the park and the proximity to surrounding houses.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

This project will be funded from allocated funds within the 2019/20 adopted budget for the Streets Alive Program.

**Comment by Responsible Accounting Officer:**

The funds for this project estimated at \$80,000 have been allocated in the 2019/20 adopted budget.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** the Community Garden at Little Young Street, Neutral Bay proceed as proposed.
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## **LINK TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN**

The relationship with the Community Strategic Plan is as follows:

- Direction: 1. Our Living Environment
- Outcome: 1.3 Quality urban greenspaces  
1.4 Public open space and recreation facilities and services meet community needs

## **BACKGROUND**

Council at its meeting on the 28 October 2019 resolved:

*THAT a site meeting be undertaken by interested Councillors of the proposed Community Garden site at Little Young Street, Neutral Bay.*

## **CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS**

Community engagement has been undertaken and the subject of a previous report.

## **SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT**

The sustainability implications were considered and reported on during the initiation phase of this project.

## **DETAIL**

On Saturday the 23 November 2019, a site meeting was held at Little Young Street, Neutral Bay attended by Mayor Jilly Gibson, Councillor Jessica Keen, Director Open Space and Environmental Services, Robert Emerson and Streets Alive Coordinator, Eric Sturman.

The site map and concept design were presented to the attending Councillors and the boundaries of the proposed garden were marked out in the park. Once the boundary had been established, proposed structures within the garden were marked out to gain an understanding of the visual impact of the proposed community garden.

Other potential sites for the community garden in the vicinity of Little Young Street were discussed in relation to access, solar exposure and the impact on the existing environment, however it was generally agreed that the benefits of the nominated site outweighed all alternative locations and best met the broader community's needs.

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**DECISION OF 3724<sup>th</sup> COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON MONDAY 28 OCTOBER 2019**

**288. Item 22: Community Garden Proposal – Little Young Street, Neutral Bay**

Report of Eric Sturman, Streets Alive Co-ordinator

Council is proposing the establishment of a new community garden on the southern end of Brightmore Reserve located at Little Young Street, Neutral Bay. Community engagement letters were delivered on two occasions to 120 households in the surrounding streets. A copy of the letter was exhibited on site. First stage consultation returned one negative response and 11 in favour with suggestions on design and placement of the garden. The second stage consultation letter was delivered to the same households with an attached design and site location in response to the feedback from the first letter. A copy of the second letter with attachments was posted on site. The second letter resulted in two negative responses from the same household that had already objected in the initial consultation.

This project will be funded from allocated funds within the 2019/20 adopted budget for the Streets Alive Program.

The funds for this project have been allocated in accordance with the annual budget process.

**Recommending:**

**1. THAT** the proposed Community Garden at Little Young Street, Neutral Bay be approved and establishment of the garden is undertaken.

A Motion was moved by Councillor Gibson and seconded by Councillor Brodie,

**1. THAT** a site visit be undertaken by interested Councillors of the proposed Community Garden site at Little Young Street, Neutral Bay.

The Motion was put and **carried**.

Voting was as follows:

For/Against 5/4

Councillor	Yes	No	Councillor	Yes	No
Gibson	Y		Barbour		N
Beregi		N	Drummond	Y	
Keen	Y		Gunning		N
Brodie	Y		Mutton	Y	
Carr		N	Baker	Absent	

**RESOLVED:**

**1. THAT** a site visit be undertaken by interested Councillors of the proposed Community Garden site at Little Young Street, Neutral Bay.

**Report to General Manager**

Attachments:  
1. Location Map  
2. Perspective Drawing

**SUBJECT:** Community Garden Proposal – Little Young Street, Neutral Bay

**AUTHOR:** Eric Sturman, Streets Alive Co-ordinator

**ENDORSED BY:** Rob Emerson, Director Open Space and Environmental Services

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

Council is proposing the establishment of a new community garden on the southern end of Brightmore Reserve located at Little Young Street, Neutral Bay. Community engagement letters were delivered on two occasions to 120 households in the surrounding streets. A copy of the letter was exhibited on site. First stage consultation returned one negative response and 11 in favour with suggestions on design and placement of the garden. The second stage consultation letter was delivered to the same households with an attached design and site location in response to the feedback from the first letter. A copy of the second letter with attachments was posted on site. The second letter resulted in two negative responses from the same household that had already objected in the initial consultation.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

This project will be funded from allocated funds within the 2019/20 adopted budget for the Streets Alive Program.

**Comment by Responsible Accounting Officer:**

The funds for this project have been allocated in accordance with the annual budget process.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**1. THAT** the proposed Community Garden at Little Young Street, Neutral Bay be approved and establishment of the garden is undertaken.

Report of Eric Sturman, Streets Alive Co-ordinator  
 Re: Community Garden Proposal – Little Young Street, Neutral Bay

(2)

## LINK TO COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

The relationship with the Community Strategic Plan is as follows:

Direction: 1. Our Living Environment

Outcome: 1.3 Quality urban greenspaces  
 1.4 Public open space and recreation facilities and services meet community needs

## BACKGROUND

In recent years there has been a growth in the number of community gardens in the Sydney region, indicating that the public, community organisations and local governments see community gardens as important to public needs. People regularly contact North Sydney Council seeking locations of community gardens and further possibilities of growing plants on Council land.

At present there are six (6) community gardens in North Sydney: The Coal Loader Community Garden and The Platform Community Garden at the Coal Loader in Waverton, Milson Community Garden at Kirribilli, Kurraba Community Garden at Kurraba Point, The Anzac Park Community Garden at Cammeray and Forsyth Community Garden at Neutral Bay. All venues are extremely popular in the local community. Benefits of being a member of a community garden include gardening workshops, educational resources and in particular, a sense of community.

## CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS

Community engagement will be undertaken in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Protocol.

## SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT

The following table provides a summary of the key sustainability implications:

QBL Pillar	Implications
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Effective management of soil nutrients.</li> <li>• High water usage; however, effective management of water use by effective watering and mulching techniques.</li> </ul>
Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sense of community.</li> <li>• Connection to the environment.</li> <li>• Health promotion.</li> </ul>
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing cost and initial cost of construction.</li> <li>• Reduce cost of produce to local households.</li> </ul>
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nil.</li> </ul>

Report of Eric Sturman, Streets Alive Co-ordinator  
 Re: Community Garden Proposal – Little Young Street, Neutral Bay

(3)

## DETAIL

A letter of consultation was distributed on 11 July 2019. One hundred and twenty letters were distributed by hand to residents in Little Young Street, Young Street, Benelong Road and Benelong Lane in Neutral Bay. An A3 laminated copy of the letter was also exhibited at the approximate site of the proposed garden. The letter of consultation invited comments, suggestions and expressions of interest for the proposed community garden in Brightmore Reserve. In total, twelve responses were received by email, and three by phone. Of the respondents, eleven were in favor of the proposal. Three telephone calls were received with two in favour (after clarification) and one opposed.

The local Bushcare volunteer group was informed of the proposal at a working bee during the period of consultation. The proposal was explained to the group and no objections from the group were received.

A further consultation letter was sent in response to the feedback from the original consultation letter was distributed to the same households on 12 September 2019 accompanied by a site location plan and an artist impression of the proposed garden. The design considered the input provided by the responses to the original consultation letter. The original objector remained still not in favour of the proposal.

It is evident that there is consensus support for this proposal. The park is readily accessible and has sufficient sun exposure to be viable. The area taken by the garden will leave a considerable amount of adjacent public open space for all forms of recreation. The design intention is to have the garden to the western side of existing parkland to allow access for maintenance and retain recreational area for existing park users. It is considered that the design of the garden and the construction materials will add to the cultural landscape rather than detract from the existing sense of place. Garden beds will be raised as in all other gardens with clean uncontaminated soil. Due to the proximity to bushland, Bushcare has been consulted on the placement of the garden. The design is yet to be quoted but funding includes: ground treatment, water supply, tools, construction of garden beds, construction of composting areas, plant supply, storage area and fencing.

Details of the objections received appear below:

Comment	Issues	Action
Gardens might be unsightly	Aesthetics	This is a subjective comment and the design of the garden is similar to other gardens. No action necessary.
Concern loss of parkland	Space	Utilise approximately 10% of grassed area of upper Brightmore Reserve. No action necessary.
Water across site during times of heavy rain	Flooding	Positioning of garden to side of reserve where water flows are lowest.
Potential contaminates in soil	Soil contamination	Raised garden beds with new clean soil.

Report of Eric Sturman, Streets Alive Co-ordinator  
Re: Community Garden Proposal – Little Young Street, Neutral Bay

(4)

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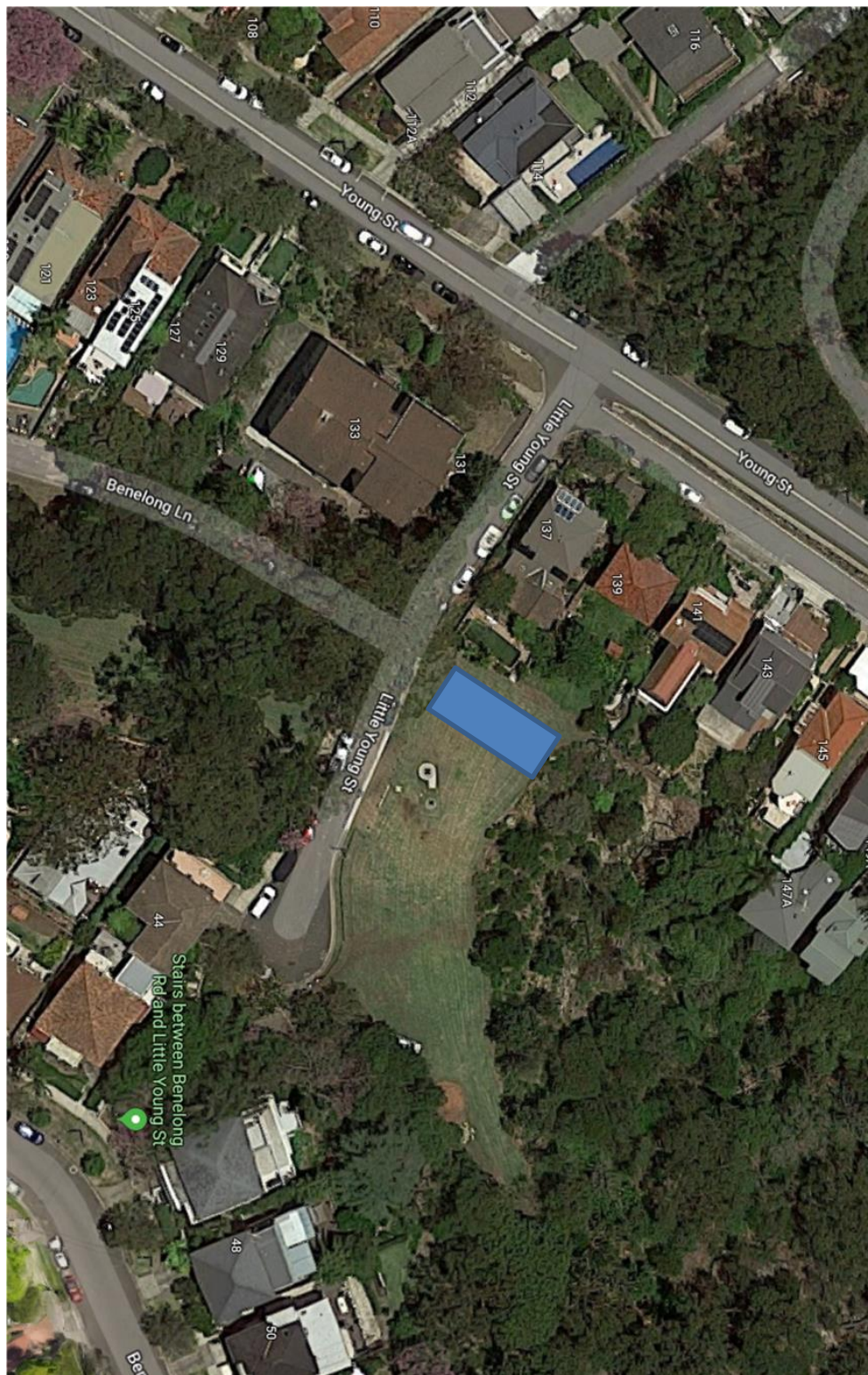
Increased people to area	Parking shortage	Most people will walk to garden as they do at other gardens. No action needed.
Water needs	Increased water usage	Proposed to use wicking beds similar to that utilised at the Coal Loader Platform. This reduces water needs in the beds.

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Report of Eric Sturman, Streets Alive Co-ordinator  
Re: Community Garden Proposal – Little Young Street, Neutral Bay

(5)

**Location Map**





Report of Eric Sturman, Streets Alive Co-ordinator  
Re: Community Garden Proposal – Little Young Street, Neutral Bay

(6)

**Perspective Drawing**

