



**Questions raised by the community
at the Tunks Ward Community Forum
held on Tuesday 9 March 2010**

Questions Raised	Council's Reply
1. Willoughby Bay Precinct expressed concerns regarding the cost of lighting and usage times of Primrose Park.	<p>The current lighting at Primrose Park does not meet Australian Standards. A DA for new lights has been approved. The tender was recently approved and the cost is \$305,000: \$189,000 contribution by Council, with \$102,000 secured from a Federal grant, and \$7,000 from Department of Sport and Recreation matched by \$7,000 from the rugby club (dollar for dollar matched grant). Works will start in April. Expected completion is June 2010.</p> <p>Council has capped the amount of hours all fields/facilities are used at 32hour per week. Training can occur until 9.30pm.</p>
2. Will the spill and glare be increased by the new lighting system?	<p>Council is confident that the new lighting will have a minimal impact on local residents. Council is conscious of glare and light spill. The current lighting system is inefficient, providing only 32 LUX at present. The new system will be on average 100 LUX, which meets Australian Standards. The new poles will be taller; the taller the pole, the less spill and glare. This is the second lighting project Council has undertaken in recent years, the first was Anderson Reserve, Neutral Bay which has a similar topography as Primrose Park.</p>
3. Concerns were raised regarding the cost of the new lighting for only a small majority of users. The Rugby Club is putting in less than 2% towards the costs of upgrading the lighting.	<p>Council will recoup some of the costs of the project through sportsfield hire fees. It is not just the Football Club that will benefit from the new lighting. Council's role is to provide recreational facilities opportunities for its community. The upgrade of this facility will provide increased opportunities especially for our youth. There is a huge demand on our sporting facilities from a range of organisations and sporting clubs.</p>
4. Will Council charge more for the hire of Primrose Park once the lighting has been upgraded?	<p>Council has no plans in the near future to substantially increase sportsfield hire fees, including for this particular field.</p>
5. What is the expected lifespan of the new lighting?	<p>The new lighting is expected to last beyond 20 years, which was the lifespan of the existing system.</p>
6. Are there any plans to install lighting at Tunks Park? If not, why not?	<p>Council's first priority is upgrading lighting in facilities that currently do not meet Australian Standards, before looking at installing additional lighting in our other recreational facilities. For more information refer to Council's Recreation Needs Study (2005), available at</p>

	http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/www/html/2065-recreation-needs-study.asp
7. What is planned for the ANZAC Club in 2011, when the lease ends?	Council owns the ANZAC Club facility. Both the land and building are leased on a 50year lease which is terminating in 2011. Council will undertake a strategic review of the facility to determine its future usage, which will include community consultation. The land recently developed around the Club, was owned by the ANZAC Club, and was sold by the Club.
8. Concerns were raised that the sporting facilities at the ANZAC Club are not being well utilized.	The Club has several bowling greens and synthetic surfaced fields. The synthetic surfaced fields were recently being used for futsal. However following noise complaints from neighboring residents the Club was asked to cease futsal by Council, because the Club had no approval to do so.
9. When is the redevelopment of the boating ramp and pontoon at Tunks Park expected to be completed?	The ramp and new pontoon have been fully functional since early April 2010.
10. Does the new pontoon go further out?	Yes. The pontoon extends further out, but the bay is shallow. Council explored further dredging but costs were considered outside of Council's budgetary constraints.
11. What happens with overflow from the Water Reuse System?	Water goes into the culvert. The Dam is filled up via a pump. The pump cuts out when filled to the correct level.
12. Who owns the Early Childhood Centre? Why does it need to be redeveloped?	Council shares ownership of the Early Childhood Centre with Mosman Council. Services are provided by Northern Sydney Area Health Service. The facility needs to be upgraded to meet current standards for such centres, particularly in light of the greatly increased number of children in the two local government areas. The Early Childhood Centre is one of only two such services in North Sydney. Its redevelopment within a multi purpose facility would be only one outcome of the main purpose of the proposal, which is to provide for increased affordable parking in the Cremorne area. Other desirable outcomes include additional open space (a park) and 20 units of affordable housing.
13. What stage is the proposed Parraween Street Car Park currently at?	The proposal is fully developed as a concept, and within 12 months will be a completed Development Application.
14. How will the Car Park redevelopment be funded?	The proposal is dependent on either State or Federal Funding. Without this the proposal will not go ahead and the proposed parking meters will be withdrawn from Parraween Street. Other elements of the funding model are possibly a contribution from Council's Section 94 reserves for establishing new open space, carpark and parking meter income, and income from the cafe. The Affordable Housing would be cost neutral as regards ongoing expenses.
15. What is 'affordable housing'?	Affordable housing is a term used to describe dwelling units whose tenants spend no more than 30% of their income on rent.
16. Is Council obligated to supply a certain number of affordable housing properties within the local government area?	No. For over twenty years, however, Council has taken advantage of State Government legislation which recognises that development can lead to a loss of affordable bed spaces and in these circumstances a levy can be payable to Council to replace them. While this levy is only a small proportion of the actual cost of replacement, Council has traditionally

	gathered the accumulated levies and purchased a small number of properties by itself or in conjunction with the NSW Department of Housing. These properties are then handed over to a not-for-profit Housing Association who manages the tenants at no further cost to Council, although the properties remain within Council's ownership.
17. Why all this to get just 40 more spaces?	The whole proposal needs to be considered. The doubling of the existing car spaces is not a small achievement, particularly in light of the State Government proposal to remove parking from Military Road during peak periods for the "S" turns; that will impact on the trade of businesses along Military Road, if alternative parking is offered close by. The additional features (a park, an improved early childhood centre, and Affordable Housing) are also major achievements.
18. Use of the Ernest Street Skate Park is not permitted after 9.30pm, however young people are constantly using the facility after 9.30pm and this is affecting neighbouring residents. What can Council do enforce compliance within permitted hours of use?	<p>The approved hours for the Skate plaza are: 8am - 6pm April to September 8am - 8pm October to March</p> <p>Council has a responsibility to provide recreational facilities that meet the needs of its residents. The Skate Park is a highly regarded and utilised youth facility. In accordance with development approval, signage erected at the Skate Park indicates that the facility is not to be used after dark. There is no lighting to encourage skating a night time, however it is acknowledged that lighting spill from the neighbouring bowling club and oval provides some lighting at the Skate Park on some nights.</p> <p>Council's Rangers work till midnight daily. Two (2) Rangers are rostered on daily for the PM shift; they patrol the whole local government area during this shift. Council's Rangers monitor the Skate Park daily making periodic visits to the facility after closing. Council's Rangers have authority to issue fines for failing to abide by lawful regulations. Concerned residents are encouraged to contact Council's after-hours service (ph 9936 8100) to report usage of the Skate Park after dark or to the Police.</p> <p>Council has considered several proposals, including fencing and appointment of a security firm to monitor and respond to complaints after midnight. The latter was rejected by the residents as an unwanted task. The proposed fence was not supported by the elected Council on several grounds, including that it would be ineffective (as the children could climb over) and for urban design considerations.</p>
19. Why was futsal closed down at the ANZAC Club, but the same can not be done for the Skate Park?	The ANZAC Club did not have development consent (DA approval) for the intensification of use i.e. permitted to play lawn bowls but not futsal. The Skate Park is operating within approved consent conditions. Signage is erected at the Skate Park which details operating hours. Council is doing what it can to manage compliance.

<p>20. Long term parking of boats opposite Green Park, near KU and Cammeray Occasional Childcare facilities, is causing parking and road safety issues, particularly for the users of the childcare facilities. Are these boats parked legally? What can Council do to regarding parking in this location?</p>	<p>Australian Road Rule 200 states that it is legal for a registered boat or trailer (less than 4.5 tonnes and less than 7.5 metres long) to park in a built-up area in accordance with any parking restrictions.</p> <p>Council's Manager Ranger Services went to this very location recently. He looked at all the boats and they were all within the size restrictions above. Further, he checked that they were all providing at least 3m clearance to the centre island as required under the Australian Road Rules. Council's Rangers regularly inspect trailers parked throughout the Council area to ensure they are registered.</p> <p>With regard to the "slip" lane on Cammeray Road, adjacent to Green Park, this matter was considered at the North Sydney Traffic Committee on the 19 March 2010 where the Committee resolved to install 8 Hour Parking at this location. This will mean that the boats will no longer be able to park for extended periods of time. It is noted however, that this is likely to push the boats to park in nearby streets.</p>
<p>21. Who is part of the Traffic Committee? Who can attend Traffic Committee meetings?</p>	<p>The Traffic Committee deals with traffic matters affecting North Sydney reviews the Council's Traffic Management Strategy. The North Sydney Traffic Committee is not a Committee of North Sydney Council. Council has been delegated certain powers from the Roads and Traffic Authority, with regard to traffic matters upon its local roads. A condition of this delegation is that Council must take into account the Traffic Committee recommendations.</p> <p>There are four permanent members of the Traffic Committee, each of whom has a single vote only. The members are: The NSW Police, the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA), the local State Member of Parliament (for the location of the issue to be voted upon); and North Sydney Council.</p> <p>North Sydney Council operates its Traffic Committee on the basis that the single Council vote, upon any issue, is determined by the majority vote amongst those Councillors present at the meeting. Generally the Mayor, Cr Genia McCaffery, chairs Traffic Committee meetings. However, in the Mayor's absence, it is customary for a pre-elected Councillor to take the chair.</p> <p>The Traffic Committee agenda and reports are published on Council's website on the Wednesday before the meeting; available at http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/www/html/4048-committees--reference-groups.asp. North Sydney Council allows the public with an item on the agenda to attend and speak at its Traffic Committee meetings.</p>
<p>22. What is happening with the Variable Message Signage (VMS) outside the PCYC on Falcon Street, near Moodie Street?</p>	<p>Council is aware that the electronic signage has never been turned on. It as installed as a requirement of the Lane Cove Tunnel.</p> <p>Council contacted the RTA to ask what is happening with the</p>

	<p>VMS; the RTA has advised: the subject VMS was installed in this location to notify drivers about the incidents or delays on the motorway before they enter it via the Falcon St ramp, and is operated and controlled by the motorway company Connector Motorways.</p> <p>In the other states (e.g. Vic and SA) the VMS operate only during incidents, and are normally turned off. In NSW, VMS sometimes display road safety and other supplementary messages even in the absence of incidents.</p> <p>The VMS082 sign has been operational until recent damage to one of the electronic components, which is on a back order with the supplier. The VMS will be repaired in the near future as soon as the parts are received. This VMS is a critical part of the incident management and traveller information assets in NSW, and there are no plans to remove or relocate it.</p>
<p>23. Is the RTA planning to RTA install another concrete wall along Ernest Street?</p>	<p>Traffic has increased in this locale due to the ramp. Concrete walls are erected along the freeway by the RTA where noise pollution levels are considered above acceptable levels. Council has lobbied to have more noise barriers erected along the entire Warringah Freeway, in consultation with residents. Residents may also wish to contact the RTA to determine if they are eligible for noise treatment under the RTA's Noise Abatement Program (NAP). Further information on the NAP is available on the RTA's website: http://www1.rta.nsw.gov.au/environment/noise/index.html</p>
<p>24. When will Council repair the Weringa Road, Cammeray road surface/retaining wall and safety fencing?</p>	<p>This matter will be considered by the Traffic Committee at its meeting 30 April. The agenda can be viewed at http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/resources/documents/4.06_Minor_Traffic_Investigations4.pdf Minutes of the meeting will be made available in due course and can be viewed at http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/www/html/2368-view-committee-meeting.asp?numPageNo=2&numTypeID=3&numResID=6850&numYearNo=2010</p>
<p>25. What is Council's long term vision of the vacant hall in Green Park that is supposedly being used by Scouts?</p>	<p>While the hall is not owned or managed by Council, we continue to forward enquiries to the Scouts for additional use (when scouting numbers are low). Should the Scout hall pass into council's ownership (as Forsyth Park and Smoothery Park Scout halls have) then a long term alternative community use can be established.</p>
<p>26. Does Council know when Sydney Water is planning to complete the work in Brightmore Reserve?</p>	<p>Council expects Sydney Water to be completely out around September this year.</p>
<p>27. Where do I find out when and where my local Precinct Committee meets?</p>	<p>For up-to-date information about Precinct Committee meeting times, venues and office bearer contact details visit http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/precincts ; alternatively contact Council's Community Engagement Officer on Ph 9936 8181 or 8100; or Email precincts@northsydney.nsw.gov.au.</p>