

**NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL**  
**CROWS NEST SHOPPING AREA STREETScape COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE 97th MEETING**  
**HELD ON TUESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2021 AT 5.30PM**  
**IN THE FULLER ROOM, CROWS NEST CENTRE**

**Present:** Diana Mejia, Project Manager, Engineering Infrastructure in the chair  
Councillor Jilly Gibson, Mayor

John Meadows, Holtermann Precinct  
John Hancox, Wollstonecraft Precinct  
Sue Wadley, Wollstonecraft Precinct  
Joellen Henderson, Crows Nest Mainstreet  
Anthony Melinz, Crows Nest Mainstreet  
Sean St Clair, Crows Nest Mainstreet  
Denise Ward, Crows Nest Centre

Council Staff:

Duncan Mitchell, Director Engineering and Property Services  
Diana Mejia, Project Manager, Engineering Infrastructure  
Josh Jongma, Governance Co-ordinator  
Peita Rose, Governance Officer (Minutes)

1. **Meeting opened at 5.35pm**
2. **Apologies:** Vince Caruso, Crows Nest Mainstreet
3. **Confirmation of the Minutes**

The Minutes of the 96th Meeting held on Tuesday 18 February 2020 were adopted.

4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Nil.

5. **Projects Update**

- 5.1. **Willoughby Road Maintenance Works**

Council has completed various footpath repairs along the whole of Willoughby Road between Falcon and Albany Streets as well as some paving relaying around service lids in various locations around Crows Nest, being Clarke Lane and Hume Street. All of this has been completed in the last 5 months.

**Various footpath repairs**  
**Missing edge tile – 112 Willoughby Road, Crows Nest**



**Before**

**After**

Several Telstra pits have failed or collapsed and need to be repaired by the service authority. It was stated that until Telstra complete their work on the pits, Council can't go ahead repairing the surrounding paving. Telstra's contractors can take time to schedule the repair of failed pits and therefore Council has to hold off before starting any works. Council is reporting every pit that has issues to Telstra.

**Paving re-laying around service lids  
Uneven surface and tripping hazards – 99 Willoughby Road, Crows Nest**



**Before**

**After**

**Uneven surface around Telstra pit (72 Willoughby Road, Crows Nest)**



**Before**

**After**

**Planter boxes cleaned/painted and reinstated sandstone capping**



**Before**

**After**

As shown Council has completed cleaning and painting in the cracking as well as replaced the sandstone capping. This has been done in different locations on Willoughby Road.



**Before**

**After**

A general clean was done to the footpath with a pressure washer to the whole of Willoughby Road between Falcon and Albany Streets. There has also been removal of Graffiti. If graffiti is detected it can be reported to Council and it will be removed by Council’s contractors within 3 to 4 days.

**Graffiti removal**



**Before**

**After**

**General clean to footpath pressure washer**



**Before**

**After**

Mr Hancox from the Wollstonecraft Precinct stated that he has walked around the area many times lately and the restoration works that have been done had not restored the planter boxes to the way they were originally. There are still a lot of chips on the face of the bricks and the sandstone is still dirty, he suggested a water blaster be used to clean them properly. Mr Hancox also stated that there is a mixture of different types of cappings on various planter boxes, and that it looks like it's just a cosmetic fix up and not a restoration as it should be. The colour is outdated as it is a yellowy colour and suggested that it should be grey which is a more modern colour.

Mr Hancox asked if the capping was going to be replaced as there is a mixture of three cappings on the new style, and one or two of the old style with three different shapes.

Council's Project Manager stated that she would ask the contractor to match the existing shapes to the sandstone capping replaced, however a full replacement to all the existing capping that is still functional will not be possible due to budget availability.

Ms Wadley stated that she wrote to the Mayor and Councillors about the state of Willoughby Road and was assured that Willoughby Road would be upgraded properly, she also said that she has walked around numerous times and the planter boxes are still cracked and chipped. She wanted to know why the cracks and chips weren't repaired before they were painted, and also said that the sandstone capping looks upkept.

The Mayor stated that this was only ever really a quick fix. Council resolved it in September 2020, and it was completed in December 2020. Council was worried about the state of the road, this was only ever a very quick cosmetic makeover and the big makeover is going to happen. There needs to be major changes in the colour, as is the situation throughout the entire municipality. It wasn't all repainted and if it was going to be repainted it would have been done in one colour.

Council's Project Manager stated that Council painted those that had more substantial damage and most of the cracked planter boxes were fixed.

Mr Hancox from the Willoughby Precinct stated that the umbrella's outside the businesses in Ernest Place are looking very tacky and need to be cleaned as they are very dirty.

Council's Project Manager stated that Council approached a few of the businesses who's umbrella's were extremely dirty and two of them cleaned them and one is yet to be cleaned.

The Mayor stated that Council approach all licencees and offer to do a free Gurney clean on their umbrella's, and that this be done as soon as possible with time to coordinate with the businesses so that they are all cleaned on the one day, and that the cleaning of the umbrellas be done within the next six weeks. Once it has been done the committee members including Mayor are to be notified by email stating that the action has been taken and which businesses were done and what businesses didn't want to be included.

Council's Director Engineering and Property Services stated that he would approach the cleansing team to see what the best way would be to clean the umbrellas.

## **5.2. General Streetscape Improvements**

Council's Director Engineering and Property Services stated that the next stage in the Crows Nest Public Domain Upgrade that Council is looking at is the western side of Alexander Street. Council is going to do some paving works, the same paving to match what's happened in Burlington Street and also along the frontage of Falcon Street and the Woolworths development in front of the Crows Nest Hotel. That is the next stage of the streetscape works in Crows Nest and they will be starting in May 2021 and finish in June 2021.

These works include:

1. New footpath paving.
2. New street furniture.
3. New street lighting.

These works will connect the upgraded streetscape works in Burlington Street and Ernest Place.

### **5.3. Holtermann Street carpark Redevelopment**

Council's Director Engineering and Property Services stated Council, as part of the NSW Government St Leoanrds/Crows Nest 2036 Plan, is now looking at an initiative to underground the carpark that is on the back of the Crows Nest Centre building and create a new public park.

At this stage all that is in place is an agreement and funding to get design work done. Council is currently out to tender to seek a consultancy team for all design stages of this project, including concept design, development application, tender and construction documentation. This is a project that has been identified in the NSW 2036 plan due to the lack of public open space in the middle of Crows Nest. There will more about the Holtermann Street Carpark in the coming months, once there are concept designs to work with, Council will undertake community consultation. Design Consultancy tender closes 23 February 2021.

Mr St-Clair suggested Council look at The Canopy at Lane Cove which is like a larger version of Ernest Place where people tend to stay as there are cafes on the outskirts, a kids playground and a large communal area with tables and chairs, and lots of parking. He stated it was a small space, but they have done a really good job and Council could get an idea and maybe replicate it.

Council's Director Engineering and Property Services stated that once Council gets consultants on board, they will do a tour to Lane Cove Canopy, Carisbrook House and Hughes Park.

The Mayor has asked for information on how Lane Cove afforded the Canopy and that a Councillor briefing needed to be arranged at the Canopy, as well as design on this development.

Council's Director Engineering and Property Services stated the new public park behind the Crows Nest Centre is a minimum 1500m<sup>2</sup> of public space with playground, as well as kiosk/café opportunities. The project will also include a new interface with the northern side of this building that interacts with the park. Design and construction will ensure that all existing operations within Crows Nest Centre building can still function. The project brief included the upgrade and refresh of the public amenities within the Crows Nest Centre as part of the project.

The plan is to get a DA approved and to go out for tender for construction in the coming months. Council is expecting to be able commence construction works by July 2022 and it will take roughly 17 to 20 months due to the large scale of project.

### **5.4. Hume Street Park through Site Link**

Council's Director Engineering and Property Services stated that the Hume Street through Site link has started the demolition of those buildings. Demolition works are nearing completion. The general public can access artists impressions of what the final design will look like via Council's website.

Council appointed Lloyd Group Pty Ltd as the construction contractor for Stage One works.

Demolition of buildings 90 and 92 Willoughby Road and 43 and 45-49 Hume Street commenced in December 2020 – expected to be complete in February 2021.

In ground construction works will commence after post-demolition investigations (geotechnical, environmental and re-surveying) – including foundations, underpinning of adjacent properties (if required) and in-ground services.

Above-ground works will commence in May 2021 – including paving and pathways, small structures, lighting, street furniture and planting.

Works scheduled for completion in September 2021, this project will deliver additional 800m<sup>2</sup> of open space.

## 6. Strategic Planning

### 6.1. Crows Nest Metro Over Station Development Update

On 23 December 2020, the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces approved the concept proposal for the Crows Nest Over Station Development. Approved concept proposal includes maximum building envelopes as follows:

Site A: 21 storey commercial tower

Site B: 17 storey mixed use tower

Site C: 9 storey commercial tower fronting Hume Street Park



Detailed design and construction work will be subject to separate detailed State Significant Development (SSD) application/s, exhibition and assessment process.

Council's Director Engineering and Property Services stated that Council has an interface agreement with Transport for NSW on the public domain outcomes for this site as part of that agreement, TfNSW will upgrade Clarke Street, Pacific Highway frontage and Oxley Street. The surroundings of the whole site will get an upgrade with no cost to Council as part of the Metro development, this will happen towards the end of the project but they have given us all plans and drawings to see what it will look like which are being reviewed by Council at the moment. Station due to open in 2023/24.

Additional information please contact North Sydney Council Strategic Planning at [council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au) or (02) 9936 8100.

## 6.2. Priority Precinct

Council's Director Engineering and Property Services stated that on 29 August 2020 NSW government released the 2036 plan for Crows Nest /St Leonards which supports the additional dwellings and also new jobs in the area. There is an uplift in density as a part of that. This plan includes funding for the undergrounding of Holtermann Street carpark and the creation of new park adjacent to the Crows Nest Community centre (Details of this project in item 5.3 of these minutes).

Since the released of this plan Council has received 2 planning proposals to amend current planning controls to the following sites:

- ✓ 20-22 Atchison St, St Leonards - 35 storey mixed use tower – this site is subject to Rezoning Review  
(<https://aptracking.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Pages/XC.Track/SearchApplication.aspx?id=009.2020.00000003.001>)
- ✓ "Triangle Site" Crows Nest - 19 storey mixed use tower – this site is been lodged and pending assessment  
(<https://aptracking.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Pages/XC.Track/SearchApplication.aspx?id=009.2020.00000007.001>)

The above-mentioned proposals have been lodged to Council and they are currently going through planning assessment process. Additional information about planning proposals can be found at Council's website in the below link:

[https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Building\\_Development/LEP\\_DCP/Planning\\_Proposals](https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Building_Development/LEP_DCP/Planning_Proposals)

Council has also engaged in several pre-planning Proposal discussions for other sites along the highway.

Additional information please contact North Sydney Council Strategic Planning at [council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au) or (02) 9936 8100.

## 7. Crows Nest Mainstreet (CNMS) Update

Mr Melinz, Chairman of the Crows Nest Mainstreet stated that due to Covid they have been restricted as to what they can do but they have been trying to activate the area with some activities. They had a much lower key Crows Nest Festival in October 2020 where they had buskers, artwork murals drawn up in various places. The festival was smaller and cheaper than a normal festival with less sponsorship than previous years, CNMS are hoping to have the festival this year. During this year's festival the new Crows Nest suburb website was launched to assist local businesses in the area to have exposure and offer their deals and promotions.

The Crows Nest Mainstreet are also trying to gather local businesses data. Mr. Melinz stated they are trying to find out who owns the commercial properties in Crows Nest Mainstreet. The contributions to the levy are largely paid by the people who pay the rent in the buildings, and CNMS want to get them involved so they are trying to gather contact details to increase the number of supporting businesses, and to do so they have to go to each business and collect their information.

Mr. Melinz asked if there was possibly somewhere maybe in a carpark storage area to store things like old banners etc.

Council's Director Engineering and Property Services stated he would look into a space in one of Council's car parks in the area, probably Nicholson Street car park.

It was also asked if there could be more streetscape lighting in the area.

Council's Director Engineering and Property Services stated that the lighting that is in Burlington Street at present is what Council would like to roll out throughout the whole of Crows Nest but that is a major project that will be implemented progressively as funding becomes available.

## **8. General Business**

- Markings on Pavers at Ernest Place

It was asked if Council could clean up all the marking on pavers in Ernest Place.

Council's Director Engineering and Property Services stated that he would ask the team to remove and fix the service utility pain and remove graffiti on everything Council owns.

Council's Director of Engineering and Property Services stated that people are welcome to contact Council any time with any concerns they may have.

- Pest Control Traps

It was requested that due to an increase in the number of rats around Crows Nest, if Council could have additional traps set up.

Council's Director of Engineering and Property Services stated that this will be tasked to the relevant Council's division.

## **9. Next Meeting - 21 September 2021**

## **10. Close Meeting – 6.40pm**