

NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL
KIRRIBILLI SHOPPING AREA STREETScape COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE 81st MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY, 26 JULY 2022 AT 5.30PM
IN THE ROS CRICHTON PAVILION, COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Present: The Mayor in the Chair. Councillor Beregi, Councillor Gibson and Councillor Welch

Jillian Christie, Milson Precinct
Estelle Blair, Resident
Fran Hernon, Resident
Michael Bracka, Resident
Nicole Oldfield, Resident
Anna Dickinson, Loretto
Joe El-Khoury, St Aloysius College
Tony Morgan, Business owner Morgans and San Antonio Bakery
James Nettleton, Resident
Debra Blair, Resident
Bernard Smith, Lavender Bay Precinct
Michel Reymond, Resident
C. Totterman, Resident
J. Berents, Resident

Council staff:
Diana Mejia, Engineering Project Manager
Paul Yang, Engineering Project Manager
Peita Rose, Governance Officer (Minute Taker)

1. Meeting opened at 5.30 pm, with The Mayor in the chair.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from the Duncan Mitchell, Director Engineering and Property Services.

3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 80th meeting held on 14 March 2017

Moved by Jillian Christie and seconded by Councillor Welch.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

No matters arising from the minutes.

5. Kirribilli Village Centre Public Domain Master Plan – Projects Update

a) Burton Street plaza - permanent closure. Status of design

Council's Engineering Project Manager advised the committee that the Burton Street plaza - permanent closure went to the April council meeting to decide what will happen next with the plaza. At present 50% of the concept design for the permanent plaza is ready and it will be presented to the late August council meeting. The design intent is to propose a fully pedestrianised area. Concept design will come back to the committee.

It was advised by the Mayor that the purpose for having the detailed design come back to Council was that council could take on feedback from the meeting, and it is likely that the results are about consultation to all stakeholders, small businesses and the community.

It was advised there is some concern with the timing of the construction for the small businesses. It was asked that there be no construction held in the summer period.

Council's Project Engineer stated that there will be a concept plan for the design going to the Council meeting, and after that meeting council will proceed with the option for the design. The construction won't be happening this calendar year.

It was advised that the pedestrian traffic around Burton Street across the road and through the bridge area as well as the stairs, in the plan in terms of the area, should be thought about more broadly to encompass both sides of Burton Street and nature of the pedestrian traffic as well as the nature of the usage. Burton Street runs directly into the bridge and a strategy that embraces pedestrian access on both sides of Broughton Street in that area and the usage of those areas on both sides of Broughton Street might be a bigger idea, than just looking at this section of Burton Street.

Council's Engineering Project Manager stated there is an adopted Masterplan for the area and Council is trying to embrace all these ideas. At present the budget and funds available are limited so it should be adopted when funds become available. Council is also proposing to offset parking loss in the Burton Street underpass to Ennis Road which is a part of the Masterplan.

The Mayor stated that the fact of the process is that Council raised the rates and they did it for three projects and one of these is the village upgrade. There was a process of an adopted Masterplan which was adopted by the Council. Council cannot reside from that because Council has an obligation, as the rates have been raised and all the work and the community were consulted. The next step is to implement the Masterplan.

There are three stages, the first is Burton Street: Council has moved from having a trial to a resolution of the council that it be made permanent, and now we are 50% of the way through a concept design and so the time to look at the texture and finishes and all of that is when the concept design comes back for community Consultation. There will be two concept options submitted to the Council meeting in August.

It was raised by the schools' principals that there are concerns as 1000 students and pedestrians cross there, and cars don't stop – concerns about conflicting traffic will be addressed during the detail design stage

Below is the link to the Kirribilli Masterplan

<https://yoursay.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/kirribilli-public-domain>

b) Broughton Street streetscape upgrade

It was stated that Broughton Street is lower than the others streets and therefore suggested that it be made wider where applicable.

It was stated that the garden installed on the corner of McDougall and Broughton Street is where there have been incidents with the size of the garden. Cars with boat trailers cannot get around that corner successfully. It was suggested that for future gardening and landscaping, it is important to consult to immediate residents.

c) Bligh Street - Shared Zone

It was stated that the Bligh Street Shared Zone and Burton Street Plaza are treated as one project. They will have the same character to look uniform and connected. This will go to council with the concept plan and later for Consultation to the Community.

It was stated that the coloured lighting poles are going to be replaced with the current council standards.

It was asked was Bligh Street tasked by Council as a shared zone?

It was also stated that the footpath has been narrowed by the planter boxes. The school mentioned they have an objection to the planter boxes with the children having to walk onto the road as it is very narrow. It was suggested to widen the footpath.

It was stated that the nature of traffic flow in the area and the traffic issue being partly with the parents in the area, the way they drive to get in and out of the area is part of the challenge. The biggest challenge is the conduct and number of buses that charge through Kirribilli and even the speed limit along the intersection of Broughton Street and Burton Street. It is 40 km/h zone along that street, but buses are going much faster than that. The intersection of Broughton Street and Burton Street, which is an even bigger challenge of a green light and cars turning right, as well as cars slipping around the left hand side. The Traffic Management as part of the broader community streetscape plan needs to be considered carefully, and taking into account the tidal flow of traffic as only during certain times. The traffic consideration is a big factor in the community.

It was asked if Bligh Street was staying open?

It was advised by the Mayor that Bligh Street is staying open and stated that it was one of the items on the agenda as to whether it was going to be a shared zone or what happens. That was reported as part of the concept to the August meeting and then everyone will be able to have a say.

6. General Streetscape

General footpath maintenance, pot holes, safety and accessibility of kerbs and ramps
- Public lighting outages in the area.

It was stated by the Mayor that there needs to be a hub at Council where people can report things.

Council's Project Engineer stated that people can contact Council with issues, and that they will be looked at as soon as possible.

7. General Business- raised by the Streetscape committee

- a) Businesses within the village - encourage more diversity - IE limit bottle shops and encourage butcher, fruit & Veg, Deli, Newsagency, bank etc. back into the area.

It was asked if it would be of interest if council would form a chamber of commerce to speak to the local business owners and see what issues they have got, and what they might be able to do to bring it to Council's attention.

It was suggested surveying some of the business especially the ones that haven't been there for a long time, and how to attract other types of business like getting a butcher back.

It was stated that a meeting with Harris Farm is being had to see if they are interested in moving into the area.

- b) Burton St. and Bligh St. trials - the benefits and impacts - mitigation methods & trial proposed for alternate use of the tunnel space on the weekends - to see if it is viable to change from parking to 'live' events 24/7, or only for weekends and special events.

It was stated that this item is to do with traffic issues as spoken about earlier and including the parking loss offset.

- c) What can be used to liven that tunnel space all the time. The precincts have said you need to trial this all the time. Something in that tunnel space rather than the markets once a month. It was suggested some ideas like conservatory of music playing classical music or something rather than the two markets a month.
It was stated that the precincts over the last 8 months or so have been suggesting using the tunnel space, and the loss of parking during the market

It was suggested that something be held in the tunnel every weekend, whether it be a market or some other activity.

It was stated by the Mayor that Council's community development team be contacted and that they do a trial over a series of weekends.

- d) Jacaranda Time - need to manage the traffic, the people and provide increased services that are more appropriate this year.

It was stated by the Mayor that the reality is that there are real logistical issues with managing the streets during Jacaranda season and that there has been a bit of a reprieve, but not much of one during covid because there weren't as many international tourists. She advised that it would need to be on our minds in getting ready for November and there needs to be consultation with those people that live on Broughton, McDougall and on Hipwood Street, so that Council can trial something that works. It is a work in progress and there were traffic things put in place for last time and we learn from each experience and improve.

It was suggested that Council really needs to be careful in terms of mitigation. They're not very sufficient with the number of people and it's an accident waiting to happen.

It was suggested to close off at the roundabout on Broughton Street and Clarke Road, just at the section where the trucks have gone through the garden bed, and where the shop is on the corner. If that is closed off vehicles won't be able to turn left and traffic has to go up and turn left down Willoughby Street, then effectively only one way coming up. Then when leaving the cars go down Willoughby Street turn left into McDougall and then right into Hipwood and left into High Street. That gives people access to get down to the area.

It was suggested that there needs to be more signage down to where the Jacarandas are.

It was stated that the residents of McDougall Street aren't in favour of a one-way system. It was suggested that there be some focus groups or discussions with the residents of McDougall, and in gaining their own input.

8. General Business

Nil.

9. Next meeting – TBC

10. Close of Meeting

The meeting concluded at 6.45pm.