

Parks Precinct Committee Meeting Minutes - 15 February, 2023 (Meeting was held on Zoom)

Meeting Opened at 7.05pm

1. Attendance and Apologies

Apologies: MK, PP, GS

2. Confirmation of Minutes (on NSC website) and matters arising:

A motion was moved by SB and seconded by RF that the minutes be accepted. This was confirmed unanimously.

3. Guest Speaker: The meeting welcomed Fiona Gracie, Founding Member of the Cremorne Conservation Group, who updated the meeting on the following matters:

Parraween Street, Mosman – DA for Development

23 cottages on Parraween Street (built between 1885 and 1907) and 3 cottages on Gerard Street, have been purchased by developer 'Pathways', to enable the building of a dementia hospital/facility. Residents are concerned about the continuing push for modern development in the area and the diminishing of the heritage character. NSC has taken out an Interim Heritage Conservation Order on these properties and is awaiting a report on the heritage significance of these combined dwellings. Cremorne Conservation Group has a petition in progress and currently has 1050 names on the petition opposing this development. It is understood that due to local community opposition, the developer is now considering retaining the cottages and building the modern dementia hospital **behind** these heritage frontages. This matter is still in progress.

Parraween Street Carpark

Council is considering building affordable housing on the carpark and adding underground car parking.

Cremorne Orpheum Theatre

Fiona Gracie has been doing some research on Cremorne Orpheum Heritage Listing and has found that The Orpheum currently has NO State Heritage listing although it does have a Local Heritage listing status. The theatre is owned and was refurbished in the 1980's by well-known Sydney identity, Mike Walsh. The local Member, Tim James, supports the Orpheum to be listed on the State Heritage listing and also to be listed on the Art Deco Heritage Listing. This matter is ongoing.

Information on How You Can Obtain a Heritage Listing to Prevent Development

(for more information you can contact Fiona at Cremorne.conservaion@gmail.com.)

Fiona gave an overview on the ways to research the facts regarding a building and history of a property – and these points are as follows:

- 1) Do your research
- 2) Enlist help from the surrounding community
- 3) You will need a Councillor to 'put a motion' to council and therefore you must be able to convince a Councillor that the building is worthy of Interim Heritage Order. Once the council agrees and votes that the building is worthy of an Interim Heritage Order, the council is bound to arrange a Heritage Assessment on the property and this can cost the council anywhere up to \$10K

Places to research information about a property/person of historical interest or street:

- NSC Library – from here you can access water, sewerage plans and the North Sydney Rate Book (which commences from around the 1800's). You will find Lot Numbers and the names of the owners of a property over time.
- Mitchell Library
- Sands Directory (instigated in 1858 by John Sands of the large greeting card business name). In this directory you will find information about a street and the naming of that street
- Trove – National Library – here you can search newspaper clippings/photos/information
- Ancestry sites such as www.ancestry.com (access to Ancestry is free at the Mitchell Library)
- Northern Suburbs Heritage Review – find this via the Stanton Library
- North Sydney LEP (Local Environment Plan)

4. Development Applications Under Consideration

2 Sutherland St., Cremorne

2 Byrnes Ave., Neutral Bay

1 Earle St., Cremorne

34 Grosvenor St., Neutral Bay

Of the above DAs the only one of concern was the DA for the rear of the house at 2 Byrnes Ave., Neutral Bay as there are just a few remaining 'workers cottages' left in this street and it was thought that perhaps this renovation would change the heritage value of the street. The cottages in Byrnes Ave were built for the workers on the Military Road tramway. There was some concern and discussion regarding this DA between RF (who lives in Byrnes Ave.,) and CT. This matter will be discussed further at the Parks Ave Weekly Zoom meeting.

General Business

Woolworths Development – Rangers Road – NSC has opposed the Woolworths proposal for a 10 storey height apartment development incorporating 91 apartments and a revamped Woolworths store and speciality shops. Woolworth's have now submitted a new Planning Proposal increasing the Height Limit from 16 metres (five storeys) to part 27 metres (for six storeys) and part 33 metres (for eight storeys).

Note: as per Nov 2022 Parks Meeting Minutes: Woolworth's site on Grosvenor Street is owned by Coles. Coles have been in conversation with Council and are planning to take over the Grosvenor St

Woolworths site once the lease has expired in 2024. The Woolworths store will be turned into a Coles Supermarket. NSC owns the carpark behind this site and also the Community Centre. The carpark is under consideration to become greenspace.

Unauthorised Demolition of North Sydney Bus Shelters

GD raised the issue of the NSC unauthorised demolition of 5 x NSC heritage bus shelters. The bus shelters were designed in the 1980s to reflect the traditional tram shelters built during the 1880s and they are part of the unique character of North Sydney. There are 44 shelters listed as heritage items in the NSLEP. No DA was presented for acceptance of this work and there was no community consultation. Mayor Zoe Baker has commenced an investigation as to how this action could have happened without the Council's prior knowledge, or how the Council managed to bypass its own procedures. NSC has apparently proposed the spending of \$300K to rebuild these shelters exactly as they were. GD raised the point as to how can NSC be relied on to support the retention of heritage listed properties when they can't follow their own processes prior to making a decision to demolish? GD plans to raise this matter at the next CPC meeting.

GD proposed a motion that "The Parks Precinct understands that an investigation is underway into the mechanism whereby the demolition of the heritage listed bus shelters bypassed Council requirements and requests the full disclosure of corrective actions taken by the Council to prevent any re-occurrence of such an event". The motion was seconded by SB and passed unanimously.

Grosvenor Lane – Pedestrian/Traffic shared laneway

The Road Safety Dept of Council met on 28 Nov 2022 to review this project – the outcome of this meeting is unknown.

To understand the options the Council are considering please refer to NSC website. The combination of roadway and pedestrian laneway was good in theory but in practise has not been successful because cars are not keeping to the 10kph speed limit. It has become a dangerous walking zone for pedestrians. CT suggested Parks write to the Council to re-state our concerns for pedestrians using this laneway and suggest that this matter be added to the Agenda for the next Traffic Control Meeting. GD requested Mayor Baker to consider installing speed cameras or fitting speed bumps in Grosvenor Lane to slow traffic. No action has been taken on either of these requests. ES advised he is happy to attend the next Traffic Control Meeting and advise his serious concerns for the safety of pedestrians using the laneway.

A motion was put forward by CT that "Parks Precinct re-iterate that Grosvenor Lane is a dangerous mix of cars and pedestrians and request urgent action improving safety and that that the matter be referred to the North Sydney Council Traffic Committee" The motion was seconded by ES and passed unanimously.

Parks Precinct also request attendance at any Traffic Committee meeting where Grosvenor Lane is under consideration.

Proposal for pedestrian crossing across Park Ave to tennis courts/soccer field

SB raised concerns about the number of young people crossing Park Ave to use the tennis courts/sport fields. SB put a suggestion for a motion for a safe pedestrian crossing be put to the next meeting of the Traffic Committee. This suggestion was put to Mayor Baker when she attended the Zoom Parks November 2022 meeting.

Cremorne Plaza and Langley Place

Upgrades are under consideration for Cremorne Plaza and Langley Place and leaflets have been distributed to surrounding residents. Submissions for suggestions close Monday 3, April 2023. For more info contact Diana Mejia, Project Manager on 02 9936 8100.

Meeting adjourned: 8.50pm

Next Meeting 7.00pm on Zoom

Wednesday, March 15, 2023