



WOLLSTONECRAFT PRECINCT MEETING 14 February 2024 – MINUTES

1. **Acknowledgement of Country:** RB (Chair) read the acknowledgement
2. **Apologies:** JS, DK, EY
3. **Confirmation of Minutes** of meeting held on 13 December 2024:
Motion: That the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13 December 2023, having been circulated were taken as read and are hereby confirmed.

Proposer: JH Seconder: RB

The motion was put and passed unanimously.

4. **Guest Speaker:** Councils Director of Open Space and Infrastructure
 - He outlined his work experience as an engineer with 30+ years in local government and his strong local connections (Willoughby resident for 20 years). He joined North Sydney Council as Director of Open Space and Infrastructure in August 2023. This Directorate includes Public Presentation, Capital Projects & Asset Management, Traffic & Transport, and the Olympic Pool.
 - **Trees:** NS LGA has 17k trees. Each tree has an ID number and is inspected every 18 months but tree canopy is still diminishing. So far in FY 2023/4, 2400 trees have been planted.
 - **Footpath maintenance. Wollstonecraft** has a budget of over 800k over 3 years, mostly allocated to Shirley Road, Milner Crescent and Milray Avenue. [Street repair is separate and has its own budget.] He provided an overview of the 19 asset classes and how they are managed by Council. Footpaths and kerbs are visually inspected every 3 years. The Asset Management Plans for all 19 asset classes are available on the Council website.
 - **Eradication of weed trees (Chinese Celtis) throughout the LGA.** No permission is required to remove Chinese Celtis trees. There is no eradication plan – trees are removed on an ad-hoc basis and residents are encouraged to remove them. A wholesale eradication program would rob the LGA of a not insignificant part of

the tree canopy.

- Gardening/maintenance of Railway land behind 2A Milner Crescent. Local residents are unhappy with TfNSW proposals to erect fences and their lack of control of the Chinese Celtis trees. He has made contact with Transport for NSW and the Mayor has written to the Minister for Transport requesting that the gardeners at 2A Milner Crescent enter into a deed with TfNSW allowing them to look after an extended area of the railway land.
- **Local Area Traffic Management Plan** for Wollstonecraft, Crows Nest and Waverton are included in forward plans. We are encouraged to write in numbers as the squeaky wheel often gets results.
- **Brennan Park** – no long-term plans for improvement. Changes to lighting and installation of BBQs require input from residents.
- **Willoughby Road Upgrade** project is ongoing. Longer-term there is a push to pedestrianise part of Willoughby Road, especially once the Crows Nest Metro Station opens and volumes of foot traffic increase. More open space is required.

Q and A – New matters arising

Issues raised for follow up by Council included:

TREES

Wollstonecraft station trees: what is the status of replacing the trees that were removed when the station was upgraded in 2022? **Council to advise.**

St Leonards South trees: Many trees have been cut down in St Leonards South despite all the developer ads / collateral showing loads of new trees. This is Lane Cove Council jurisdiction. Council to bring up when meeting with Lane Cove.

Precinct members are encouraged to provide suggested locations for new trees to be planted in the LGA to Precinct for consolidation before sending to Council for prioritisation.

Dangerous intersections:

- Boronia and River Roads

- Holterman St and Willoughby Road
- Atchison St and Alexander Street
- Nicholson and Oxley Streets

Precinct members are encouraged to provide Precinct with comments on dangerous intersections for Precinct to consolidate and share with Council for prioritisation.

Park lighting: could the lighting in Brennan Park and St Thomas Rest Park be improved. Both are popular, well-loved and well used parks. Precinct to provide further suggestions on both parks to Council.

5. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

a. Garden at Wollstonecraft Station - Dealt with in Items 4 and 6 above³ in Councils SOA.

b. Shirley Rd corrugation

Council to be asked if some minor corrugations on Shirley Road have been noticed and if they will be accepted. **Council Engineers advise that the road surface has been inspected and is considered to be intact and fit for purpose. CLOSED.**

6. General Business

a. **Five Ways development at Crows Nest.** Developer has approval for 16 stories but now wants to increase to 21 stories with half of the additional units to be assigned to affordable housing.

b. **NSW Government Housing Reform** impact on Wollstonecraft and nearby areas. The proposal will provide an enormous uplift of allowable heights and there is widespread dissatisfaction with the 'One Size fits All' policy but some support for a more targeted policy such as give LGAs targets and let each LGA decide how to meet them. The State Government proposal is open for submissions until February 23 2024. **Everyone is encouraged to make a submission and a motion was passed unanimously for the Precinct to make a submission supporting Council and objecting to the current proposal.**

c. **Open Space** – it was suggested the community continue lobbying NSW government to contribute to funding additional open space in our local area. In particular: Holtermann St car park redevelopment (1600 sqm) and Hume Park (up to 8,000 sqm).

d. **Parking at Wollstonecraft station:** Is it possible to increase parking at Wollstonecraft station? **Council to investigate.**

7. The chairman closed the meeting at 9.00 pm. The next meeting is Wednesday April 10 at 7.30pm.