

WAVERTON PRECINCT MEETING

Tuesday 3rd September, 2024

MINUTES

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES:

The meeting commenced at 7.36pm

Chair: Kevin Alker (Chair stood down due to Council elections)

Minutes: Deborah Lloyd

Attendance: 21

Apologies: No apologies

1. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The confirmation of the previously circulated draft minutes was moved by PK and seconded VY

“That the July 2024 Minutes be accepted”.

Carried unanimously.

2. EXISTING BUSINESS:

Merritts Playground and Moreton Bay Fig clean up.

Upgrade is now underway. Scheduled for completion around November. NSC has included a new walking/ bike path in Waverton Park in the works to be done.

A large branch fell from one of the fig trees in Larkin St and this is currently being cleaned up by the Council. Hopefully they will check all the trees and trim them as needed.

SOS - Save our Harbour petition and campaign continues.

Efforts continue to get signatures on the petition. Deadline is late December. Other Precincts are supporting this campaign too. The Inner West Council is leading the petition. Please ask family and friends to sign. *(Petition information was made available at the Precinct meeting).*

A succinct pitch is required to get people engaged and understand what it is about. It was noted that the campaign is getting good reception when explained well.

All Precinct meeting attendees are encouraged to do what we can to ensure as many signatures as possible are gathered.

Metro Stations - now open.

General feeling from attendees who had traveled on the new Metro was that the facility is very good; the stations are well designed but the trains do not offer the smoothest travel experience and this surprised some.

Funding of Precinct Activities.

\$1,500 per year is available from Council to fund Precinct activities.

Our new website will require some funding so this allocation will be stretched this year. The Treasurer would like to put a Motion to Council to request an additional \$1,000 to finalise the website (which can be a model for other Precincts) so we can maintain better communication with the Waverton community.

The new Website will enable the community to keep up with developments by getting the Minutes, and generally facilitate community engagement. A re-design of the old website was necessary as the old site was difficult to use, a new look, a new provider and total overhaul of content has incurred a small pressure on our existing annual budget has occurred costing a little more than the Precinct annual stipend from Council.

Moved by KA

Seconded by IG

“The Precinct seeks Council’s support for the creation of a new Precinct website and request NSC to provide an additional \$1,000 to enable it to maintain the website and existing functions through to the end of 2024” Carried.

It was noted the new Website address is : <https://wavertonprecinct.org/>

A vote of thanks to the Secretary, Deborah Lloyd, for running this entire project was moved by Ian Grey and supported by all attendees at the meeting.

Woodleys Shed

The Harbour Tunnel construction no longer needs land in the west arm of Berry’s Bay so the future of Woodley’s Shed can now be considered. At a meeting of the Waverton Peninsula Steering Committee a fortnight ago, a presentation was made on progress on the new Park at Berrys Bay.

Mr Grey had represented the Precinct at a recent meeting with key stakeholders (other relevant Precincts, Transport for NSW) and reported back on the meeting.

Transport for NSW provided two options for the future of the Woodley's Shed - up until now they expected to simply demolish it. Both North Sydney Council and Transport for NSW noted they have no funds for a community centre - but Transport for NSW thought they might be able to find some funding if the project remains simple and modest. They noted a design brief would be the next step.

Option 1: Re-use

Slipway, storage, basic shelter. Might use some of the present structure but use it more as a community centre with some visual cues of its past function. Future commercial function perhaps a cafe. They want to have a walkway access next to the water.

Two designs were presented. One was the Transport for NSW's design and another that was presented by resident and Architect John Bohane. Both were deliberately fairly modest, with John's design providing further space around the building, allowing some aspect for future changes as the community's needs change, providing more covered area and better access to the water for kayakers/sailors. Drawings of both were passed around the meeting.

Option 2: Lock it up and do nothing

The other option is to retain the building as is now, fenced off, until someone can fund a revitalisation.

It was stressed that both the Council and Transport for NSW have said there is no funding at all currently allocated for Woodleys Shed but Transport for NSW have said that if it is a modest proposal they are confident they will find a small amount of funding.

We prefer Option 1 and Mr Grey has requested a Motion be passed tonight. He is liaising with the other 2 Precincts involved to try to get a parallel response back quickly to both NSC and Transport for NSW

After discussion, it was agreed to drop the last 2 points and the meeting agreed with the other points 1-5.

Moved by IG

Seconded by DL

"The Precinct supports the first Option, that is, for Transport for NSW to provide some funding for a modest community facility that of Woodleys Shed that retains an echo of its original purpose

1. We welcome the approach from Transport for NSW

2. We support the idea of a purpose designed community facility in this location and the idea that its style reflects the old boatshed - and we'd like it to feature the

"Woodleys" sign

3. We see this facility possibly could in time be the base for a kayak or sailing club.

4. We understand there currently is no funding for this project and that North Sydney Council has no funds for this renovation/rebuild.

5. We do not want the existing building fenced off and remain unmaintained on an open ended basis." Carried.

3. NEW BUSINESS:

Council elections

Council elections are on 14th September. Voting is compulsory.

North Sydney Festival

2nd November- CBD - turning the streets and laneways into "the place to be" - around Victoria Cross Metro station. Music, dance, art, family friendly activities. Kids zone, roving performances. 11am to 5pm.

DAs

- 6 Whatmore Street. Additions to a house. Extending first floor - pitched roof.
- 10 Larkin Street. Retractable awning.
- The Precinct could not understand Council's issue with 17 King Street Waverton. It has come before the Precinct twice and at no time has objection been raised to the lodged DA.

OTHER BUSINESS

Land at Waverton Station

Our request for information around Botanica cafe and other lands around the station will need more research. Botanica closed, it seems likely some buildings on the site will be demolished, (revert to original footprint) and will re-establish as a cafe.

However, we have not yet found out if all the businesses to the east of the station are on short leases as was rumoured to be the situation.

NSW Rail be requested to provide advice on future uses of land around Waverton Station.

Local planning

On local planning, the Precinct asked for NSC to take leadership on a state wide system of common level planning controls. Council has responded saying they have a strong preference to place based approach.

North Sydney Traffic after the tunnel

Western Harbour Tunnel - Transport for NSW are developing a North Sydney Integrated Transport Plan with the Tunnel company.

Berrys Bay Park Moving

forward.

Dolphin Wharf demolition

Now two vessels are left here as one was recently burnt and sunk. We are told one of these (the South Steyne ferry) is due to go soon to the Maritime Museum.

Reactivation of Precinct Sub-committees

The current committee requests more residents to become involved so we can do more, and more can be actioned.

Badangi Beach project

The Precinct had a presentation and long discussion regarding this project in June. We understand that this project is proceeding. Some residents asked as to the status of the water testing that was to take place. It was proposed by a resident that a Motion be passed to find out what was happening with the water testing but discussion did not result in this being agreed.

NEXT MEETING:

The meeting closed at 9.34 pm. The next meeting is 1st October, 2024