

## NEUTRAL PRECINCT MINUTES

Tuesday 10 November 2020, commenced at 7:00pm

1. Attendees were reminded of procedures for holding precinct meetings in the COVID - 19 Pandemic Period.
2. All attendees provided contact details for attendance sheet
3. Apologies: GC, DM
4. Additional items added to the Agenda at item 10
  - i. Memo from Council regarding Intersection Improvements, Neutral Bay and Cremorne
  - ii. Possible development of Neutral Bay Club site and adjacent residences.
  - iii. Upgrade of Barry Lane, Neutral Bay
5. Business from minutes of meeting 8 September 2020
  - i. October 2020 minutes. Following review, moved and seconded as read and correct: Moved by EC, Seconded by CP.
  - ii. Platypus Sub Base. Noted that the Precinct's motion from the September meeting that *"As part of Council's vision to increase green spaces and community facilities in the LGA that the Council partner with the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust to provide community facilities, at the Platypus Sub Base, such as a community art gallery or recreational facilities; and that this motion be considered in the context of the draft North Sydney Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan"* has been noted by Council's Director Open Space & Environmental Services as well as the Team leader - Policy, in the context of the Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan.

**The meeting unanimously agreed that the Precinct write to the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust in advocacy of the September motion.**

6. Correspondence sent and received.
  - i. Council Memo: Precinct Committee AGMs not to be held for 2020/21. EC and CP agreed to remain as Co-Chair and Acting Secretary respectively for a further 12 months. GC, Co-Chair was absent but will be contacted.
  - ii. Council Memo: Young Street Plaza and Road Closure Trial. Noted that construction works commenced 2 November for eight weeks to be followed by a 3-month trial to March 2021 as part of Council's ongoing efforts to make the shopping and commercial strip more appealing as a shopping destination for residents and visitors.

Discussion points:

    - It was agreed that the Plaza should improve pedestrian safety and access in the area between Military Road and Grosvenor Lane, particularly at the intersection with Military Road.
    - It was noted that the Mayor, at the October Combined Precincts Meeting, had indicated that pedestrian safety was her number one priority.
    - Concern was raised that the Plaza means a significant loss of car parking spaces which are already at a premium in the area.

- Concern was expressed that Waters Road could be greatly impacted by the additional traffic detoured from entering Young Street from Military Road.
- The ongoing issue, raised by residents at many Neutral Precinct meetings, of installing a safer pedestrian crossing of Military Road within the shopping precinct, was raised once again. It was noted again that the *Military Road Corridor Planning Study Stage 1* proposes a wide road level crossing between May Gibbs Plaza and the Young Street Plaza.
- The merits of an overhead pedestrian walkway, were discussed and the cost of such infrastructure was acknowledged. The meeting agreed unanimously that the installation of an overhead walkway, similar to Bridgepoint Mosman, could be made a requirement of a building developer in the context of the Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan.

**The meeting unanimously agreed to continue to advocate to Council for an overhead, covered pedestrian pass across Military Road in Neutral Bay.**

iii. Military Road Corridor Planning Study - Bydown Street cottages research.

It was noted that Dr Ian Hoskins, Council Historian has provided the precinct with historical research on the cottages. In summary the information received is:

- 5 of the 6 cottages were built in 1907 and the 6<sup>th</sup>, Number 27, followed in 1908.
- They were built by or for William Harpham who acquired pre-existing leases on the vacant land all of which was owned by John Cooper who was the absentee owner of much of Neutral Bay through the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century until his death around 1911.
- That part of Bydown Street was originally called Olive Street.
- The houses look as if they were built in the 1890s rather than the 1900s, Victorian rather than Edwardian/Federation probably because of painting and re-roofing.
- The photograph of the cottages in the Stanton Library collection shows them looking identical and brightly painted in 1980. Dr Hoskins suspects that was when they were given the appearance of Victorian semis rather than Federation-era dwellings. One indication is the existence of mortar sitting proud of the brickwork which would suggest original tuckpointing - a skill only employed with unpainted bricks. Further evidence of renovation are the current brick fences.

**The meeting unanimously agreed that Dr Hoskin's research confirmed the cottages are of historical significance and add unique character to the Neutral Bay town centre. It was also agreed to confirm, in writing to all Councillors, the Precinct's objection to the proposal in the *Military Road Corridor Planning Study - Stage 1* to increase building heights to 6 storeys on the site which would inevitably result in the demolition of the cottages.**

7. Precinct E-News items this month:

- i. Ferry Service changes. Noted there are no changes to the Hayes Street, Neutral Bay and Cremorne Point ferry services.
- ii. Reminder: WHT and Warringah Freeway EIS Submissions Report released.  
Discussion points

- It was noted, again, that none of the concerns raised in the Precinct submission to the State Government have been addressed in the EIS Submissions Report .
  - The issues of loss of green space and the proposal not to properly filter emissions stacks are of particular concern.
  - Everyone was encouraged to write again to the State Government. The Combined Precincts' Committee has developed letter templates which will be sent out with the minutes of this meeting.
- iii. Reminder: Northern Beaches and Lower North Shore Bus changes (Region 8).
- Noted there will be changes to Bus route 263. Further information at: <https://transportnsw.info/news/2020/northern-beaches-lower-north-shore-bus-service-improvements>
  - A question was raised about the temporary closure of Bus 225 stop on the corner of Hayes St/Lower Wycombe Rd. It was suggested the closure was to allow for road resurfacing work now completed.
- iv. Tree regulations and Canopy Management in the North Sydney LGA. Noted that there are new tree protection thresholds in Council's *Development Control Plan*. Further information available at [northsydney@nsw.gov.au](mailto:northsydney@nsw.gov.au) for the list of trees that can be pruned/removed and those trees that are protected.
- v. Draft Plan of management for St Leonards Park. Noted that there is a new draft plan which sets out Council's land management objectives for the park. More information is available at [northsydney@nsw.gov.au](mailto:northsydney@nsw.gov.au)
8. Combined Precincts' Committee - report from September meeting. Noted the major discussion points at the September meeting were:
- The parking survey on Bent Street and Lower bent Street to capture residents' views in relation to work to upgrade the Warringah freeway
  - The introduction of a 40kph speed limit in the Kirribilli village
  - Kirribilli Village update to improve the look and allow for additional outdoor dining spaces
  - The commencement of the Street Play Pilot program
  - A survey to identify users of The Coal Loader facility, to inform sustainability of the facility.
9. Development Applications (DAs) - nil new in Neutral Precinct
10. General Business - additional agenda items added at the meeting.
- i. Intersection improvements Neutral Bay and Cremorne. Noted that there are 5 intersections along Military Road where an upgrade to pedestrian crossings is proposed. The meeting reviewed and discussed the proposals and provided the following feedback:
- Location 1: Rangers Road and Military Road (LATM Zone 6 - T.120).  
**It was agreed the raised crossing should provide improve safety for pedestrians. Also agreed that the pedestrian crossing is blind to drivers of turning vehicles from Military Road and a prominent pedestrian crossing sign, maybe a flashing light, is required to alert fast turning vehicles out of Military Road into Rangers Road.**

Location 2,3, and 4 - Holt Avenue, Spencer Road and Cabramatta Road and Military Road Cremorne (LATM Zone 6 - T.111, T112).

**A unanimous preference was agreed for Option B, with extension of the curbs at each of these intersections, as safer option for pedestrians, was agreed.**

Location 5 - McPherson Street and Military Road, Cremorne (LATM Zone 5 - T.53)

**It was agreed the raised crossing and adjacent footpath upgrades would provide increased safety for pedestrians.**

- ii. Development discussions Neutral Bay Club. PC advised the meeting that he was aware of ongoing discussions between members of the Neutral Bay Club and the Moran Health Care Group regarding possible development of the NB Club site and adjacent residential properties in order to upgrade the NB Club facilities and possibly establish an aged care facility. PC was advised to contact Councillor Jessica Keen [cr.jessica.keen@northsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:cr.jessica.keen@northsydney.nsw.gov.au) and/or make a planning enquiry with [council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@northsydney.nsw.gov.au) to see if they are aware of any development proposal. PC agreed to keep the Precinct Committee informed [neutralprecinct@yahoo.com.au](mailto:neutralprecinct@yahoo.com.au)
- iii. Barry Lane Upgrade works. TM advised that \$600,000 has been allocated in the *North Sydney Council 40km/h and 10km/h Shared Zone Masterplan and Action Plan*, approved at Council meeting on 23 March 2020, to upgrade Barry Lane, Neutral Bay.

**The meeting unanimously agreed to seek advice from Council on the status of this project and the scope of works for the expenditure of \$600,000.**

- iv. Primrose Park Tennis Courts. SW thanked the Precinct for their advocacy on behalf of residents to repair the Primrose Park tennis courts. Noted that Council has obtained Federal Government funding for the work which is expected to be done in 2021.

#### 11. Upcoming meetings/events

- i. Neutral Precinct meeting, 8 December at the Neutral Bay Club - Noted that the Committee will provide refreshments following this meeting.
- ii. Combined Precincts' Committee meeting 24 November – Noted.
- iii. Council meeting 30 November – Noted.
- iv. Traffic Committee meeting 27 November – Noted.

Meeting closed at 8:30pm