

NEUTRAL PRECINCT MINUTES

Tuesday 11 May 2021, commenced at 7:10 pm

1. Attendees were reminded of the current procedures for holding precinct meetings in the COVID - 19 Pandemic Period.
2. All attendees provided contact details for attendance sheet
3. Apologies: DM
4. Additional items added to the Agenda (see agenda item 12)
 - i. Parking in Harriette Street
 - ii. Land swap between Neutral Bay Club and North Sydney Council
 - iii. Ilbery Park Reserve use
5. Fiona Gracie, Cremorne Conservation Group

Key points:

 - The organisation was recently formed to bring to community attention various issues in the area.
 - To launch the organisation a National Trust Heritage Week event will be held at the Cremorne Orpheum on Monday 17 May at 6:30pm. Guest speaker Elizabeth Farrelly, SMH columnist, author and architecture critic will talk about her new book 'Killing Sydney: The Fight for a City's Soul'. Elizabeth's talk will highlight the threats to both Sydney's built heritage and local character, with specific reference to Cremorne. Clive Lucas from the National Trust will also attend. Fiona invited the Precinct to provide her with examples of Neutral Bay's local built heritage, community issues for reference at the event.
 - Fiona also provided background on a probable DA in Parraween Street Cremorne for the establishment of an aged care facility, primarily for residents with dementia. The development would replace multiple dwellings. Local residents and businesses, while acknowledging the need for and supporting the establishment of aged care facilities, believe it is the wrong site for the following reasons: the nature of the residents means that they will not be using local businesses, the site is on a busy narrow street that is already a 'rat run' at peak traffic times and will be further impacted by an increased number of vehicles needing to access the facility 24/7; and the site is shadowed by multiple high rise apartment buildings, to the north in Gerard Street, which would not provide the pleasant open outlook they believe would be beneficial to dementia sufferers.
 - EC thanked FG for her talk and encouraged Precinct members to book a seat to attend the National Trust Heritage Week event on 17 May.
6. Business from minutes of meeting held on 13 December 2020
 - i. April 2021 minutes. Following review, moved and seconded as read and correct:
Moved: GC; Seconded: SW
 - ii. Precinct request to Council to undertake urgent work in Grosvenor Lane to improve pedestrian safety
The meeting noted that:

- Council's Project Manager for the Young Street Plaza Trial's advice that the Precinct Committee's comments will be treated as a submission on the Young Street Plaza Trial.
- New signs banning trucks from entering Grosvenor Lane from Ben Boyd Road have been erected. The meeting agreed this goes some way to improving pedestrian safety in the Lane, however, the speed of vehicles and vehicles not observing the stop sign at the Young Street end remain safety issues.

7. Parliamentary Inquiry into the Western Harbour Tunnel, Warringah Freeway Upgrade and the Beaches Link

The Terms of Reference were read and noted, specifically that the Inquiry is looking at the method of consultation. Precinct members were encouraged to make a submission to the Inquiry at:

<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries/Pages/inquiry-de-tails.aspx?pk=2767#tab-termsofreference>

It was agreed the key points to consider are:

- There were around 1200 submissions to the Warringah Freeway upgrade EIS objecting to aspects of the design and none of the comments were taken into consideration nor responded to.
- Both Projects' should offer something back to North Sydney/Neutral Bay/Cammeray such as green space to replace that which is being lost.

Noted that the Beaches Link EIS is still open.

Noted that in a related matter the two proposed designs for a bike ramp onto the Harbour bridge from Kirribilli/Milsons Point will both severely impact community facilities. E.g., the space available for the popular and regular Kirribilli Markets which will mean a significant loss of revenue for the Kirribilli Neighbourhood Centre and impact the programs the Centre runs/sponsors.

8. Precinct System Review

The Consultant engaged by the Council to conduct community consultations has produced their Report. Key recommendations are that: the Precinct System be retained; Council's staff positions responsible for supporting the Precinct System be retained; the Combined Precinct Committee continue; and some amalgamations of Precincts proceed to incorporate inactive precincts including Neutral Precinct to include the current Hayes and Kurraba Precincts and the northern end of Anderson Precinct.

Noted that the Report identified the value of the System to Council staff, in particular the Planners.

9. Report from Combined Precincts' Committee April meeting

The meeting noted the key points from the following presentations by:

- Joseph Hill, Director of City Strategy on the process and preliminary outcomes of the Review of the Precinct System; and
- A representative of the Committee for North Sydney on the impacts on the North Sydney CBD, from the State Government proposals to funnel all traffic along Berry Street to connect to the Warringah Freeway, and proposed Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link.

10. Precinct E-News items this month: The meeting noted the following:

- i. Liveability Census – Closing date 30 June. Precinct members encourage to complete the survey as North Sydney Council will use the Survey results.
- ii. Local Government elections to take place on 4 September 2021.
- iii. E-waste collection temporarily unavailable at the Community Recycling Centre. Noted the Council is seeking a new contractor for E-waste.

11. Development Applications (DAs):

- I. DA104/21 52 Raymond Road Neutral Bay. Nobody attended the meeting to speak to this DA.

12. General Business – additional agenda items added at the meeting.

- I. Parking in Harriette Street.

A resident raised the issue of parking spaces in Harriette Street at the Wycombe Road end. There is one 'Go Get' Car Share reserved space but it is unclear how many other cars can park in this area. At least one resident has been fined for parking there. The Precinct understands the Council has been reviewing this issue.

The Precinct recommends that the Council install appropriate signage and/or line markings on the road surface.

- II. Land swap between Neutral Bay Club and North Sydney Council at Ilbery Park Reserve

The land swap proposal was noted and supported by the meeting.

- III. Ilbery Park Reserve use

A resident raised the issue of dog owners not abiding by Council's signage in the Park, including not collecting and bagging dog poo, and suggested some segregation is needed between off-the-leash dogs and the children's playground. The meeting noted:

- the area is probably too small to fence off the playground; and
- that there is no other facility nearby for dogs to exercise off-the-leash.

The Precinct recommends that the Council:

- **install a dog bag station next to the waste bin at the Anderson/Barry St entrance; and**
- **install larger signage at the Park entrances.**

13. Upcoming meetings/events. The meeting noted the following meetings and events:

- i. Neutral Precinct meeting – 8 June
- ii. Combined Precincts' Committee meeting – 22 June
- iii. Council meeting – 24 May
- iv. Traffic Committee meeting – 11 June
- v. Australian Heritage Festival – 18 April to 19 May. Coal Loader
- vi. Sculpture at Sawmillers. Entries invited for exhibition at Sawmillers Reserve, McMahon's Point from Friday 8 October to Sunday 17 October 2021

Meeting closed at 8:45pm

