

NEUTRAL PRECINCT MINUTES

Tuesday 14 September 2021, commenced at 7:00 pm (Meeting conducted via Zoom)

1. Apologies: Nil
2. Additional items added to the Agenda (see Item 8 General Business)
 - i. Update on Council's consideration of the Precinct System
 - ii. Damage to footpaths by electrical contractors
3. Business from minutes of meeting held on 13 July 2021:
 - i. Following review, the minutes were moved by TM and seconded by DM as correct.
 - ii. The meeting noted the following advice from Council's Director City Strategy in relation to the Warringah Freeway Upgrade/Western Harbour Tunnel infrastructure projects:

The Active Transport Review is included in the planning approval conditions of consent for the WFU & WHT. This has been acknowledged by Transport for NSW and the WHT project team. The active transport review is also under consideration by the North Sydney integrated Transport Program (NSITP) which is a separate group within TfNSW who are developing a holistic transport strategy for the North Sydney CBD area. Note: that the active transport review has not been finalised and Council is not aware of the next steps in relation to community consultation.

Legacy Projects. The creation of a green bridge over the freeway and the undergrounding of the WHT operations buildings were included in the submission to TfNSW and DPIE made by Council in response to the assessment / consultation process for the project. These requests were rejected and were not included in the conditions of approval. Council feels that these projects have community impact but at present there is no mechanism available to revisit these matters.

With regard to the cycleway from Cammeray to the SHB there are currently discussions across a number of teams (TfNSW, cycle advocates and Council) with regard to the North Sydney cycle network. These plans are covered, in part, by the requirement that the WHT project include an active transport element. These plans are still being developed and Council is not aware of the next steps in relation to further community consultation. Council does however continue to seek further details regarding cycle planning.

- iii. Neutral Precinct sent a question to Council on Infrastructure reform and the need for these reforms to be communicated to residents. The meeting noted advice from Council's Manager Strategic Planning that Council's position on Infrastructure Development Reform which was endorsed by Council at its meeting on 26 July 2021, is as follows:

1. *THAT Council endorses the submission made to the Development Contributions Upper House Committee dated 9 July 2021 as attached to this report.*
2. *THAT Council makes representations to the Minister for Planning and Public Spaces to withdraw the current Infrastructure Contributions Bill and that more detailed analysis be undertaken, greater level of consultation be conducted with local government and that the full impacts on Council's capacity to fund infrastructure to support growth in the context of changes proposed under the Bill, be better understood.*

The meeting also noted that Neutral Precinct's question on this matter was not adequately addressed in the response received from Council.

It was also noted that at the recent Council meeting on August 23rd a motion was passed which stated:

THAT Council write to all residents regarding the changes to infrastructure charges and the implications for rate payers.

Discussion points:

- Council's strong advocacy against the proposed changes, by the NSW Government, was welcomed.
 - Neutral Precinct requests Council to let us know when this motion will be actioned.
- iv. The meeting noted advice from Council's Executive Manager Governance relating to the Code of Conduct for Councillors that the requirements with regard to declarations of interest are set out in the *Code of Conduct - Councillors & Staff* available on Council's website. The specific provisions are as follows:
- Clause 4.21 Disclosure of interests in written returns which requires that a Councillor designated person must make and lodge a return in the prescribed form within three months of becoming a Councillor, within three months of 30 June each year and within three months of becoming aware of an interest they need to disclose which was not previously disclosed. This requirement is in addition to the ongoing requirement for council officials (including Councillors) to effectively declare and manage pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests as required under the Code of Conduct (relevant sections are Part 4 - Pecuniary Interests and Part 5 - Non-pecuniary interests).

Council's Code of Conduct is based upon the Office of Local Government's Model Code of Conduct as required.

Discussion points:

- The Precinct's August motion to Council sought advice on the time, following a sale of a property, that a Councillor needs to disqualify themselves from the decision-making process on any Development Application on the site.
- All attendees agreed that just saying the situation is under control through the Code of Conduct doesn't answer this question.

4. Outcomes from 23 August Council meeting

- i. Military Road Corridor - Stage 1 Planning proposal & Development Control Plan (DCP).

Discussion points:

- Noted that Council did not endorse the preparation and progression of a planning proposal and development control plan amendment to give effect to the aspects of the Military Road Corridor Planning Study – Stage 1 - Future Directions; and
- Agreed there appears to be a number of Councillors who are re-thinking the previously endorsed proposals and that the Precinct needs to be vigilant to proposals put to Council post the coming Local Government elections.

- ii. Hayes Street Amenities Block.

Discussion points:

- Noted funding of \$130,000 has been allocated to the project. Without the details of the work to be done it was commented that the amount seems excessive to create what is understood to be 1 additional toilet.

- iii. Harbour Bridge Cycle Access Ramp - Design Competition.

Discussion points:

- Noted the decision by TfNSW to conduct a ramp design competition with the linear option being preferred.
- A resident provided additional information that they understood designs need to be submitted in September for public viewing in October.

- iv. Warringah Freeway Upgrade – loss of trees in Cammeray.

Discussion points:

- The meeting was pleased to note that the Council has communicated to TfNSW the serious concerns voiced by many residents at the removal of a large number of mature trees.
- The Precinct commends Council staff for working with TfNSW on both removal of trees and the expectations of residents that mature replacement trees will be planted at the completion of upgrade works.

- v. Lawn bowls during COVID 19

Discussion points:

- Council's decision to write to the NSW Government in support of Lawn Bowls being exempted from current COVID-19 restrictions was supported.

- vi. Bike Jumps in the North Sydney area

Discussion points:

- The Council's decision to look for new sites to establish bike jumps for kids was welcomed.
- Residents have noted a large increase in the number of kids riding bikes, mainly on footpaths, in the Precinct area during COVID-19 lockdowns.

- It was suggested that basketball hoops was another form of safe recreation activity for kids. A resident has noted a surge in use of the basketball courts in St Leonards Park from early morning to well into the evening.

Motion: That the Council considers the installation of a Basketball hoop, with a small area of rubber matting underneath, be installed in the north east corner of Ilbery Park. Vote: unanimous

vii. Outdoor dining waiver

Discussion points:

- The meeting commended the Council's decision which will assist the economic recovery of local cafes and restaurants.

5. Report from Combined Precincts' Committee meeting held on 17 August

- Guest Speaker Shane Sullivan, Council's new Executive Manager of Governance described Council's new Governance Division which commenced in July. Departments within the new Division include Corporate Planning & Engagement (formerly Integrated Planning & Special Projects), Council & Committee Services (formerly Governance & Committee Services), Legal Services and Risk Management/Work Health & Safety. Shane also spoke to the changed arrangements for the deferred LG elections on 4 December.
- Guest Speaker Camilla Tobin, Council's Access and Inclusion Coordinator spoke to Council's role in supporting homeless people in the LGA. Council responds to requests for support to offer advice and referral if required. Council partners with Link Housing to deliver social housing.
- Council has agreed to ask the State Government to transfer already identified/agreed land at Berry's Bay to the Council prior to the WHL Tunnel project commencing on the understanding the land would be made available to the WHT project for the duration of the project.

6. Development Applications

- DA119/2020 - 23A Lower Wycombe Road Kurraba Point. Modification of consent to alterations and additions to dwelling. **No affected resident attended the meeting.**
- DA 315/2020 - 40 Wycombe Road Neutral Bay. Modification of consent to alterations and additions to dwelling. **No affected resident attended the meeting.**
- DA 76/2021 - Lot 19 Suite 18 81-91 Military Road Neutral Bay. To convert Office 19 into one dwelling unit. Noted this is currently a commercial building. **No affected resident attended the meeting.**

- iv. DA 254/2021 - 11 Bray Street North Sydney. Alterations and additions to dwelling. **No affected resident attended the meeting.**
- v. DA 33/21 - 13 Shellcove Road Kurraba Point. Amended Plans. Alterations and additions to dwelling house including excavation, two level addition below existing dwelling, 25 metre pool, Internal and external alterations to existing dwelling, landscaping works. **The meeting noted the proposal suggests major engineering works that could result in the loss of a significant amount of sandstone from the site. No affected resident attended the meeting.**
- vi. DA 267/2021 – 57 Ben Boyd Road Neutral Bay. Alterations and additions to a dwelling. **No affected resident attended the meeting.**
- vii. DA 291/2019 – 15 Montpelier Street Neutral Bay. Modify DA 291/2019 for various modifications to a residential flat building. **No affected resident attended the meeting.**
- viii. DA 97/2016 – 13 Lower Wycombe Road Neutral Bay. Modify consent for alterations and additions to create an attached dual occupancy including retention of existing garage and deletion of approved carport. **No affected resident attended the meeting.**
- ix. DA 136/2021 – Section 8.2 Review No. 43.2021.6. - 29 Doris Street North Sydney. Review of Determination of DA 136/2021 for construction of a deck at the rear of a dwelling. **No affected resident attended the meeting.**

7. Precinct E-News items this month:

The meeting noted the proposal to create angle parking on one side of Reserve Street (East) and welcomed the increase in available parking spaces.

8. General Business

- i. Update on Council's consideration of the Precinct System
A resident asked about Councillors' current support for the Precinct System. It was agreed that, at least until 4 December, Councillors appear to support the precincts. The meeting was reminded that at Council's August meeting consideration of the report of the Precinct Review was deferred until after the upcoming Council elections.
- ii. Damage to footpaths by electrical contractors
A resident advised that they had written to the Council regarding 3 locations in the Neutral Precinct area where electrical contractors have removed /cracked new footpath pavers and replaced them with a green cap and asphalt creating a trip hazard. Another resident indicated they understood there were protocols/arrangements in place between Councils and contractors servicing utility installations.

MOTION: The Precinct requests advice from the Council on current arrangements required of contractors and responsibilities to return any affected area back to original condition. Vote: unanimous

9. Noted the following upcoming meeting dates:
 - i. Neutral Precinct meeting – 12 October
 - ii. Combined Precincts' Committee meeting – 19 October
 - iii. Council meeting – 27 September

Meeting closed at 8:10pm