Waverton Precinct Minutes Tuesday 5th June 2018

Meeting Opened: 7.35pm

Chair: IB
Minutes: IG
Attendance: 12

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from NW (Base Commander), SA and PY

2. Existing Business

a) Replies from Council

The Chair noted that the Precinct had not formally passed many resolutions at the last few meetings and so there was not much by way of replies.

b) Upgrade of computer systems

The Chair has spoken again to the head of 'Friendlyware' and will set up a meeting for next Tuesday to discuss setting up a database of attendees and the maintenance and management of our various websites (for example, the "Save Berry's Bay" campaign,) plus establishing a Precinct website to access agendas, minutes, and key items.

c) Ross Street upgrade

The Chair has talked with the NSC Traffic Engineer who was supervising the recent work in Whatmore St., who confirmed Ross Street is to be done late this year. He noted that before then Council is also trying to design and construct a roundabout at the junction of Ross St., Bay Rd., Woolcott St., Horace St., and Balls Head Rd. - but no plan is yet up for discussion.

d) NSC Public Domain strategy meetings

The Council has contractors running a series of meetings. MP briefed the attendees on the recent meeting and the process being followed, noting many of the ideas discussed seemed very good and attuned to our areas of concern. However, it was also noted that as recently as yesterday, the huge disconnect between this sort of discussion and the specifics of an intended major project in the CBD was still apparent, at the Sydney Metro community briefing on their intentions. It was agreed a Precinct submission on the Sydney Metro proposal will be prepared by MP, KA and IG and it was noted this has to be submitted by 22 June.

e) Combined precincts meeting with NSC planners

The Chair noted the precincts have been discussing the seeming lack of integration of the various 'high impact projects' in the North Sydney CBD for several months and approached Councillor Zoe Baker to set up a briefing session with relevant NSC staff. That meeting is taking place tomorrow and in advance the various documents tabled at our own meetings have been given to the NSC staff to get a sense of the issues that concern us (for example the "Give North Sydney a heart" paper).

It was stressed the approach for tomorrow is to listen and understand NSC's position, and where possible that of the State Government, get a clear idea of the approvals processes and timings, and not to advocate for any specific issues or around details of developments.

3. New Business

a) HMAS Waterhen exercises

The Navy has advised of on-base exercises from 0800-1600 on Friday 8 June, and that nearby residents should expect to hear mock gunfire and ship alarms and PA emergency messages.

b) Other matters

There was a query about trains frequently rolling through Waverton (and Wollstonecraft) station without stopping on weekends. Given there is often a gap of 10 or more minutes between trains, this seems an unnecessary by-passing of these stations. Precinct was asked to raise this with our State member.

The State member has advised that she used our submission on the Noakes DA to make representations to the Minister for the Environment. The reply on behalf of the Minister was read to the meeting, noting they were not part of the approval process but had recently strengthened the pollution restrictions on the shipyard.

4. Development Applications

There were no new DAs.

The Chair read a letter from the Manager Development Services NSC on the status of the DA for the floating dry dock at Noakes Shipyard, outlining the current status of the DA. It was noted we can track progress of this and any other DA on the Council website and that no date has yet been set for consideration of the DA. It will be considered by a Regional Planning Panel, which is a joint State Government and NSC body. August is still the most likely timeframe.

A query was raised about the frequent public advertising of new apartments at 4-6 McKay St., when no DA has been approved by Council. Indeed, one has only been lodged in the last week or so. This situation has previously been checked and the Chair advised it is deemed acceptable practice by the Department of Fair Trading and is virtually standard practice by many property developers.

5. Other Business

It was decided to place "The next phase of improvements for the Coal Loader Platform" on the Agenda for the next meeting. Residents are grateful to NSC for such a great location, but are baffled by obvious shortcomings like no shade, no toilets or baby changing facility, no seats or tables – but the provision of numerous phone recharging stations.

6. Next meeting

The meeting closed at 9:05 pm. The next meeting is on Tuesday 3 July.