

# Waverton Precinct Minutes

## Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018

---

Meeting Opened: 7.35pm

Chair: IB

Minutes: IG

Attendance: 18

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

No Apologies , and 3 new attendees relating to a DA

### 2. Existing Business

#### a) Replies from Council

The Chair noted that this remains a problem, with recent staff changes in NSC meaning we have no update at all this month.

The Chair noted that NSC has moved Precincts to a financial year and that we are in healthy financial shape and will request and expect to receive the administrative support subsidy from NSC this year, which will assist with the costs related to establishment of a Precinct website and converting over to electronic updates and notices of meetings etc.

JD,BD, and SF noted the Council has just put out a new protocol for Council meetings, which is changing the ability of residents to directly address Council meetings. Instead, a time will be made available to address Councillors who choose to be there, before the meetings commence. This was seen as a significant backward step and the wrong way to manage some chronically disruptive individuals. By contrast, our speakers have valued their interaction with the Councillors in session and this interaction has altered their voting on key issues as a direct result of the discussion on the evening. For this reason, it was:

Moved SF Seconded BD

*“That in relation to the proposed changes to the protocol recently put out concerning public input to Council meetings, Waverton Precinct records its appreciation of the high level of democratic access which has applied up until now, and is concerned that the proposed new protocol has the potential to reduce democratic access to the full Council. It is also concerned at the level of control delegated to the General Manager in the proposed protocol, which will further alienate residents from access to the Council itself and to the Councillors as a collective group”*

Carried unanimously

#### b) Rail Noise

State Rail completed its survey in 2017 and presented its Report to the EPA in March. This showed the main source of the noise is corrugations in the tracks, and that the lubrication trials did cut the noise and, importantly, did not impede train braking capability. State Rail is now working out its integrated response.

A leaflet was tabled which outlined for residents how to complain about this ongoing problem.

#### c) Precinct computer systems

The trial site has been prepared and a mailing list of previous attendees at the Precinct meetings has been assembled. The next step is to trial a mail-out, which will be done soon via a short welcome email plus the Minutes of this meeting. If all works, the site will then be brought to 'live'. At the moment you can see it by searching “waverton.org.au/wp” and comments are welcomed.

The site has links to our various campaign websites (for example, the "Save Berry's Bay" campaign); to other campaigns in our area (for example the Highline); and to local community activities like 'The Hub'.

d) Sydney Harbour Highline

State Rail has prepared a broad costing for the works proposed and is now looking at how the work might be staged – the NSC preference is for the first stage to be from Wendy Whiteley's Garden up through the tunnel, with a second stage being from there up to the bottom of Union Street. The Highline Association has commissioned its own quotes for tunnel lighting and trail building and other identifiable and discrete activity. The Minister is looking to see where funding might come from as this is not in State Rail's current budgets or forward projects.

It has been clarified that all the construction work will be done by State Rail or its contractors, should the activity proceed. NSC would advise on aspects like tree planting or landscaping.

e) Committee for North Sydney

This body is now functioning and has met twice and will meet again next week. The Committee has met with the people from Sydney Metro and put formal submissions in about both Metro station developments, in North Sydney and in Crows Nest. The Committee remains highly concerned about the flawed planning process for the Metro and about the lack of any coordinated or integrated (let alone impressive) framework for the massive local developments that this new rail line is unleashing in both suburbs. The Committee website has been up and running since July - search for "committeefornorthsydney.org.au" and it now has the capability to take member subscriptions online. These are \$50 pa for an individual.

The Association is also active and met last week, and is about to conduct a membership drive.

f) Proposed Metro buildings

In addition to the above information, the Chair noted both Waverton and Wollstonecraft had put in nearly identical submissions on the Crows Nest site and largely the same submission on the North Sydney site. Both drafts were prepared by Waverton Precinct. Additionally, a large special Precinct meeting was convened by Wollstonecraft over the Crows Nest station and over 100 people attended, with nearly half these later submitting individual submissions based on dot points we had developed.

We have met with the Sydney Metro head; the NSC Mayor; the State and Federal MPs; spoke to the Councillors at their August meeting and had them strengthen their own stance against the proposed developments; and got some coverage in the local press.

However, the State Government seems intent on pressing ahead on its timeline.

Moved VY Seconded KA

*"Precinct is requested to follow up quickly on the supposed changes being made to their Over Station Developments due to our submissions; and to report back at the next meeting"*

Carried unanimously.

### 3. **New Business**

a) Combined Precincts meeting

This was held in late August, with only JD attending for Waverton mainly to assess the usefulness of this group in promoting the Committee for North Sydney.

No Minutes are yet available.

#### b) Waverton Peninsular Steering Group

The Chair has requested 3 things be found out by NSC before this group convenes again, to make the meeting useful. The first is why Property NSW has not yet handed over the Quarantine houses to NSC; where Heritage NSW is up to in considering the whole Coal Loader area for possible heritage listing; and what Maritime is currently doing with the derelict wharves in Berry's Bay and at the Coal Loader wharf.

#### c) Western Harbour Tunnel

The Chair has organised for a special Information Session for Waverton residents, at a date yet to be announced in September. Many individuals had gone to the Information day at Crows Nest last Saturday and numerous books and single pages about Berrys Bay were circulated around the meeting.

It was noted that the lease of the marina development company has recently been terminated by the State Government.

The Precinct will write to ask if there was a financial settlement attached to that termination.

The government appears to understand there is a need to keep talks moving along about the future of the Bay, including the construction of a modest marina like at Elizabeth Bay, so that whatever is agreed upon can be actioned around the work relating to the tunnel. In particular, coincided with the wind down of the construction site.

The broad outline of the tunnelling impact and its timing was outlined – in effect the vacant section of the foreshore and Woodleys shed and related buildings will become a construction zone from early 2020 for about 2-3 years.

In that construction zone, under an acoustic shed, will be a ramp down to the tunnels and a storage shed for rock spoil, plus a barge service taking the rock across to White Bay. It is understood the barges will only operate in daylight hours and there will be minimal bus or truck movements onto the site – access will dominantly be by water.

The project team seems very confident that vibration and noise from the tunnelling will be minimal. The Precinct was asked to suggest a set of stairs be installed before, or at the beginning of the project to link the south facing lower steps at Carradah Park with the roundel below the end of Larkin Street, to facilitate a continuous walkway to replace the section of harbourside path which will be absorbed into the Construction Zone. Plus an upgrade of "the boaties' track" behind the Woodleys shed and down to the beach was seen as a useful addition, as that will form part of any ongoing plans for the Bay.

### **4. Development Applications**

#### a) Noakes

This is still due for NSC to finalise its position in the August-October period.

#### b) 8 Woolcott Street

This is for a large glass box style house. While at least it is a single dwelling, despite zoning that would allow for multiple dwellings, it is not sympathetic to the streetscape at the top end of that street and will severely shadow its downhill neighbours.

#### c) 7a King Street

This is for a garage at street level. The garage is designed to match the already approved garage for 7b and the concept is supported by both sets of neighbours.

d) 25 Shirley Road

This development by Tresillian Nursing was noted but is seen as a matter for Wollstonecraft Precinct.

#### **5. Community Activities**

Material was handed out about the upcoming activities of the Waverton Hub and the 'Streets Alive' group for the month of September.

#### **6. Next meeting**

The next meeting is on 2 October 2018 at the Uniting Church Hall, commencing at 7:30 pm

The meeting closed at 9:30 pm.