

Waverton Precinct Minutes

Tuesday 5th February 2019

Meeting Opened: 7.35pm

Chair: IG

Minutes: IG

Attendance: 18

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from Base Commander Westoby, TJ and JD.

2. Existing Business

a) Replies from Council

The Chair noted NSC is now providing these regularly. The key items since our last meeting were the Rates increase; Waverton Park issues; and Ross St. upgrade which were covered in detail. All Correspondence since the last meeting, including NSC meeting minutes and Precinct e-News, was tabled and circulated during the meeting.

b) Rates Increase proposal

NSC voted to seek the highest option at their meeting on 29 January. While sympathetic to the desire for Council to maintain and improve services; and noting the base line used seems to be when NSC was actively spending as much as it could before possible forced merger with other Councils; and after noting the papers do not mention the increase in s7.11 contributions and the inevitable large increase in of rateable value of properties in North Sydney CBD; and after consideration of the various options as detailed in the Council papers; it was:

Moved KA

Seconded VY

“That after consideration of the pros and cons of the three options as outlined in the NSC discussion paper, Precinct authorises its representatives to vote against the Option 3 increase should such a suggestion emerge at the Combined Precincts meeting on 19 February and also approves for this view to be communicated to IPART”.

Carried unanimously

c) Floating Dry Dock

The investigation into compliance with the 1990's DA approval at Noakes apparently found the company had failed to build a public wharf. Council has approached them and they have indicated they are prepared to construct a wharf, in principle.

Unrelatedly, Noakes withdrew its application for the FDD the day before it was to be decided and it is understood a new version is being prepared. This may be lodged by Noakes, or its parent company, Stannard Marine. We do not have a timeline for this activity.

d) Sydney Harbour Highline Project

The Highline Project team, in cooperation with Sydney Trains, has submitted a detailed 'project pitch' document to the Transport Minister. It is understood the document is to be used to try to get financial support from other State and Federal Agencies in particular those related to tourism.

e) Metro OSDs and related development in North Sydney and in Crows Nest

The tender for the OSD at Victoria Cross was announced on the last working afternoon before Christmas. The successful tenderer was Lend Lease. This announcement effectively ends the campaign for a public plaza on that site. This means the pressure to create open space and public amenity turns to other options around Berry and Miller Streets and possibly over the freeway. The vehicle for pursuing this discussion in North Sydney seems to be to comment on the draft NSC Public Domain Strategy, for which the closing date is February 8.

A template submission, designed for possible use by any interested Precinct, is underway.

The situation in Crows Nest is far more volatile. There are currently 6 separate Government initiatives in this area, including the rezoning application for the Metro site and the proposed development application for that OSD – to both of which Waverton Precinct has submitted documents of opposition by the original due date in early January – but the other documents are as broad as a draft Crows Nest and St Leonards 2036 Plan. The Government subsequently set all the submission dates to February 8. Through the "OVERdevelopment – we're OVER it!" group, nearly 2000 petition signatures have been collected and forwarded to the 3 local MPs and almost a thousand pro forma objections have been lodged on all 6 draft documents.

A public Rally in Ernest Place is scheduled for 23 February.

f) Waverton Peninsula Committee update

With the Council, a walk through of Carradah Park and the Coal Loader access area was done. NSC supports the suggestion for some more benches on the way down to the Coal Loader, but not in the roundels in Carradah Park.

It was noted by the meeting that shading, benches and toilets on the Coal Loader platform ("Stage 2" as we have called it) remain a priority, too.

g) Other standing committee updates

Nil

3. **New Business**

a) Waverton Bowling Club

This body has announced it intends to put itself into receivership at a members meeting tomorrow. The club has a lease from the State Government and so it will be critical what happens next. Attendees from Precinct at tomorrow's meeting will seek to ensure there is an ongoing community facility on site, for example childcare or community centre, and hopefully the activated site can be financially underpinned by a good restaurant or bistro and retain a bowls site and/ or other sporting activities. There are plenty of examples of tennis and other bowls clubs which have successfully managed this change of community focus. Importantly, we do not want the building to become derelict or the site to be an unmaintained eyesore.

b) NSC decision on public access and speaking rights at Council meetings

The Council meeting on February 4, the intent of which caused confusion, was explained to the meeting. The position of Precinct remains that public access to speak at Council meetings is

vital to effective local democracy, but that constraints such as limiting the number of topics for each speaker, were practical in the circumstances.

c) Development Applications

The 4 new ones were detailed. They are not relevant to the Precinct.

4. Community Activities

Activities and summer/ hot weather initiatives by the 'Streets Alive' and 'Bushcare' groups were detailed. Attendees were also referred to 'The Hub' poster on the village noticeboard.

5. Correspondence

There were no issues, not already dealt with, arising from the Correspondence.

6. Any Other Business

a) Precinct priorities for 2019

The Precinct spends a lot of effort and time on issues and items raised by other people, as it should. There is a risk that we forget to work towards the things which are important to our own community – so a free ranging, open session was held for 15 minutes to discuss the priorities for 2019. These are not ranked or prioritised, but were:

- recommence talks on the future of the Bay and the marina/Woodleys site
- establish a harbour swimming pool, like the one at Greenwich
- sort out the bitumen area behind the butchers shop to at least get more parking spaces
- activate more events on the Coal Loader Platform
- investigate a 40 km/hr speed limit in the suburb or better police the 50 km/hr on main streets
- lobby NSC for the 'Stage 2' facilities on the Coal Loader Platform including toilets and more shade
- beautify and modernize the picnic areas on Balls Head
- erect signage to identify Carradah Park at its main pedestrian entrances
- get rid of the flag poles at the station; or at least coordinate relevant flags for local events
- clean up tracks and roads around Balls Head, they are consistently messy and overgrown
- install more benches for pedestrians to sit along tourist-used streets across Waverton.

b) House and slipway on water at McMahons Point.

The Precinct regularly gets requests to support or advise other groups, all of which are considered. Such a request has been received from Lavender Bay Precinct. It was:

Moved SF

Seconded RO

“That as part of our consistent overall support for maximizing public access to the Harbour foreshore wherever practical, Waverton Precinct supports the campaign by Lavender Bay Precinct to seek the removal of the last house and slipway on Henry Lawson Drive, in McMahons Point.

We assume this should be achieved by prompt resumption of the property, removal of the existing premises (subject to any heritage restrictions), and rehabilitation of the site to be consistent with the adjoining parklands”

Carried unanimously

7. Date for Next Meeting

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 5 March commencing at 7:30 pm, at the Uniting Community Hall in Bay Rd.