

Waverton Precinct Minutes

Tuesday 6 October 2020



WAVERTON

2060

Meeting was held at Uniting Church Hall with correspondence laid out for viewing, gloves available.

Meeting opened: 7.30pm

Chair: IG

Minutes: SF

Attendance: 13

1 Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed recidivists and one new attendee. Apologies included PK and KA. BD carried greetings from BB who is in poor health.

Attendees were reminded that the meeting was being held under COVID rules, with the correspondence available on a side table with disposable gloves for handling.

2 North Sydney Council replies

Footpath Verge Garden adjacent to Grumpy's Baker in Bay Road: Comments by Precinct noted by Streets Alive Coordinator.

Trees in Larkin Street: A plant pathologist was scheduled to inspect the dead trees on 4 September. No further report.

DA 4-6 McKye Street: A Senior Assessment Officer will consider the issues raised.

DA Paper Copies: The Manager Services noted the request to maintain at least one paper copy at Council for inspection.

3. Waverton Peninsula Working Group.

BD reported on both the history of the group and its predecessors since 1994 and the most recent meeting. Relevant matters included:

Coal Loader Wharf: After years of discussion there appears finally to be constructive progress from RMS/TfNSW which has a team including landscape and heritage expertise working on the issue. The excellent reuse design by David Banbury of NSC based on the underlying steel support skeleton is being considered by TfNSW as part of addressing future use or demolition. (It had been noted at the Working Group meeting that TfNSW currently plan to build a new wharf to the south-west of the coal loader platform to house the Baragoola and Cape Don during WHT works. This was seen as a waste of money which would be better applied to repurposing the heritage wharf.) It was also reported that the Coal Loader is being assessed for heritage listing as a whole site, not just the wharf.

Quarantine Launch Depot:



The working group was advised that negotiations regarding the buildings were at the final stages. The NSC on Monday ratified the purchase of the two houses on the site from the NSW Government for a sum in excess of \$2m. This was despite the site being contaminated. It was noted that this acquisition did not include the wharf and lower buildings which remain in TfNSW control.

Motion moved IB, Seconded PK

Precinct congratulates NSC for their persistence which led to acquiring the buildings. However, there was disappointment expressed at the State requiring a money transfer for a site which is not sewered and is contaminated. The disappointment included that the full site was not transferred, given that its heritage integrity requires the wharf and associated shoreline buildings (coal store etc) to be integrated with the cottages which were homes for the skippers of the vessels (Pasteur and Jenner) moored at the wharf. NSC is urged to press the logic of this with the State with a view to TfNSW releasing their holding so that the site can be amalgamated and properly presented as a unified heritage site.

Vote: In favour 13 / Against 0. Carried

With respect to the \$2.3m being transferred to the State, the view of Precinct was that these funds should be applied to the betterment of the Peninsula facilities.

Berrys Bay Western Arm reuse following WHT works: The State government is setting up a separate committee under their control to examine options and engage stakeholders. Despite a motion carried at the Working Group meeting calling for this function to be carried out by the existing Working Group, this has been rejected although members are able to apply to join the government committee. Concern was expressed that the commitment to the open public use of these lands and facilities could be downplayed to the benefit of other commercial concerns in a similar manner to the abortive marina initiative by State government over the last decade.

Carradah Park lower track access to Balls Head Road during WHT works.: The Chair reported that concept sketches for a ramped connection from the lower path to the upper path in front of the townhouses had been passed to NSC with a view that

they would push State government to include this in WHT preliminary works.



The Peninsula Working Group is to meet again in November.

Bowling Club

The status is that the site is now subject to an Aboriginal Land claim under the NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983 . It was reported that NSC has responded, opposing the claim on behalf of the Council and community. However Precinct was not consulted, nor was there any other community engagement on the matter. Precinct does not consider that such an approach is ethical. Rather, there should be a full consultative process, including Waverton Precinct as a stakeholder, which complies with the letter and spirit of the State law under which the claim was lodged. Further, as the Council and community have embraced the indigenous heritage of Waverton Peninsula, both in naming of Carradah Park and the celebration of the indigenous art work and history, NSC should use this as a positive opportunity to educate both Council and the community in regard to how a respectful process should be undertaken.

Tree Cover in North Sydney

It was noted that an assessment has found that North Sydney has failed to increase tree cover in accordance with published targets. Precinct would appreciate input from NSC, perhaps in the form of a Council officer talking to Precinct about how such goals could be achieved.

4 Subcommittee Reports

Rail Noise

The Chair advised that trials of a Slovenian lubrication system are proposed.

Committee For North Sydney and OVERdevelopment We're Over It

No reports, although the Chair reported that efforts to constrain building heights in Crows Nest and St Leonards have been fruitless against the combination of developers and the State government. The Pacific Hwy at Crows Nest from the five ways to St Leonards will become a canyon and 24 storey buildings will loom over East Wollstonecraft on the west side of the Hwy.

5 DAs

31 King St: This DA was reported to include a car stacker which would require a 5m deep excavation close to the boundary of No 33 and the footpath. The house is heritage listed. It was discussed that the proposed stacker is out of character with the two adjacent heritage houses and the streetscape. Precinct agreed to lodge a comment on the DA citing potential noise, heritage impact, safety of pedestrians, geotechnical integrity, watertable impacts and generally rejecting the concept as it would set a bad precedent for the area, potentially encouraging more car use and storage.

13 King St – Amendment to DA: No Precinct comment.

15 Crows Nest Road – Amendment: No Precinct comment.

11 Balls Head Road – Amendment: No Precinct comment.

1 Balls Head Drive – Liquor licence application by Job Done Boating. It is unclear whether this relates to a vessel, and if so, which.

DAs generally: It was reported that Precinct will no longer be notified of DAs and must become a subscriber. This will also apply to residents generally.

6 New Items

Waverton Park Cycle Path

A budget of less than \$100k has been estimated for a cycle track which includes adding to the existing path to create a loop, and adding a spur along to Merritt Playground (with safety fence)

Moved TW, seconded KA

Precinct supports the creation of a bike track in Waverton Park/merritt Playground, with design to be finalised, and funded by NSC.

Vote: In favour 13 / Against 0. Carried

Graffiti

Whilst work by NSC in graffiti removal was acknowledged, it was noted that there is a considerable amount in the Woolcott rail underbridge and Commodore Cr areas. If these surfaces are outside NSC jurisdiction, NSC is asked to contact the appropriate State instrumentality for action.

7 Correspondence and Minutes of Last Meeting

The correspondence having been made available for viewing prior to and during the meeting:

Moved VY

Seconded PK

“The Minutes and correspondence be accepted”

Vote: In favour 13 / Against 0. Carried

8 Date of next meeting November 3, 2020 (Melbourne Cup day)

The meeting closed at 8:50 pm.