

Waverton Precinct Minutes

Tuesday 1 June 2021



WAVERTON

2060

Meeting opened: 7.30pm
Chair: IG
Minutes: SF
Attendance: 17

1 Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed residents and visitors, and provided a quick COVID procedures update.
There were no apologies.

2 Minutes of the meeting of 4 May

The minutes of the last meeting, having been distributed to all attendees, were also on view.

Moved PK
Seconded KA
“**The May 2021 Minutes be accepted**”
Carried

3 Matters Arising

Floating Dry Dock: The Chair outlined the current situation, that Noakes have appealed their DA rejection. The Chair advised that the Waverton Public Lands and Waters Protection Association Inc would be pressing to be a party with standing to any hearing and mediation. The recently formed Friends of Berrys Bay Inc, as it did not exist at the time of the DA, was considered as having difficulty in justifying a position at the table. In discussion it was reiterated that the position of the community is to support the current level of working waterfront (so long as compliant with its environmental obligations), but that it did not support a scaleup in this location, nor the risks associated with moving the industrial processes from land to water.

Berry Street, North Sydney: The planned campaign by the Committee for North Sydney was outlined by JD. It aims to have the State government reconsider the use of Berry St as a loading ramp to the proposed tunnels, with focus being directed to the feasibility of making such connections from local arterial roads rather than bisecting the North Sydney city centre. The points were made that the EIS was deficient in many respects including its failure to examine alternatives to Berry Street and its failure to address the deleterious consequences to local traffic. A public meeting is to be held on 19 June in Berry Street to bring these matters to the attention of the press. Residents were encouraged to examine the issues and take part in spreading the word using social media.

MLC Building: The meeting was advised that a decision on the heritage listing of the building is expected on Friday. The point was made that full demolition and rebuilding goes against the long term sustainability goals of North Sydney Council as

well as being environmentally undesirable. A better solution is considered to include retention of the Miller Street building with redevelopment focused on the buildings at rear, fronting Denison Street.

4 North Sydney Council replies to previous minutes

- 20 Larkin Street: Precinct comments have been passed on to the assessment officer.
- Wood St/Balls Head Road intersection: The issue of loss of sightlines has been passed to the bushland management team for action as necessary.
- Electric Skateboards and Bicycles: This issue will be considered in an upcoming review of cycle strategy.
- Speed in Waverton centre: NSC will monitor speed to ascertain the level of compliance achieved by the existing calming measures.

5 Reports from Standing Committees

BBCSWG: This is the new committee set up by Felicity Wilson to undertake masterplanning for three blocks of land adjacent to the Woodleys/WHT tunnel work site. The chair is Deborah Deering, with 6 local community representatives. The first meeting has been held, with the next scheduled for 8 June. The deliberations of the committee will not be made public. However, it was discussed that the remit of the committee currently fails to address the full area of public lands and none of the water, so its outcomes risk being meaningless unless its charter is expanded (with Governmental support) to force all State Government Departments to include their land and water plots in the process.

WWRNAG: IL reported that a start to lubrication trials is waiting on Government commitment to the potential budget implications of a successful trial. The action group is also planning a survey of affected ratepayers in the Waverton and Wollstonecraft areas.

Treasurer: The new treasurer reported that he is up and running, and that electronic payments are now being made, thus relegating the cheque books to redundancy.

6 DAs

- Remediation of Quarantine Station lands: Precinct is supportive.
- 37 Carr St: NSLPP has approved plans for alterations and additions.

7 Community Updates

Streets Alive: Concern was raised that native grasses in Wakelin Reserve have been killed, either by deliberate or inadvertent overspray of poison. It is not known if this was by council, Railways or an adjacent private property holder.

Precinct requests NSC to confirm that it has a policy of consultation prior to spraying areas where community gardeners put in time and effort, so that damage to natives can be avoided.

8 Other Business

Balls Head Night Access: NSC has tabled a position paper suggesting it will put boom gates at the bifurcation of the road around Balls Head, allowing officers to close road

access from 10pm to 6am. This is in response to vandal damage and rubbish dumping which has cost NSC hundreds of thousands of dollars over recent years.

There was considerable discussion on various aspects of the proposal. The following are general comments/principles agreed by the meeting:

- The principle of keeping public spaces open to the public is important, and restrictions should be seen as a last resort
- There was concern that with the road closed there would be no likelihood of nightly patrols by Police, so antisocial behaviour could get worse.
- There are regular fishermen who use Balls Head at all hours who would be inconvenienced by the closure, and whose presence probably helps to avoid some antisocial behaviour.
- CCTV of sites used for rubbish dumping may be a more successful way of actually catching perpetrators, who, if there are gates, are likely to dump at the gates anyway.
- The Police have Safety in Design principles which should be consulted to help determine a good strategy.
- Bollards would be preferred to gates as this would allow cyclists to use the park overnight/early morning.
- If the road is to be closed, it would be better closed at the Coal Loader entrance where antisocial behaviour is unlikely due to better lighting.

Draft NSC Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2030: This NSC initiative is on display on the Council's website, with comments open till June 26. All interested were encouraged to respond. SF and JB will address comments on behalf of Precinct.

10 Correspondence

The correspondence having been circulated:

Moved IB

Seconded KA

Accepted

11 Date of next meeting July 6, 2021

The meeting closed at 8:50 pm.