

Waverton Precinct Minutes

Tuesday 2 November 2021



WAVERTON

2060

The meeting opened at 7:35 pm.

Chair: SF

Minutes: JED

Attendance: 11 members; three representatives from TfNSW

Keith Anderson, Iain Bartholomew, Jeremy Dawkins, Bruce Donald, Sid French, Lorna Hall, Peter Krinks, Steve Mullarke, Georgina San Roque, Tim Wilson, Vera Yee

1 Welcome and apologies

The Acting Chair explained that Ian Grey has stood aside while contesting the local elections.

The Acting Chair welcomed residents to the first (in a while) in-person meeting of the Waverton Precinct Committee.

2 Apologies

Kevin Alker, Ian Grey, Alberto Guterres, Kate Miller, ...

3 Minutes of the previous meeting – having been circulated electronically

MOVED KA, seconded SM: THAT the minutes be accepted. Carried unanimously.

4 Impact of the Western Harbour Tunnel on Berrys Bay and Waverton: Discussion with representatives of the Department of Transport

The Chair welcomed Zoe Rourke (Manager Communications and Engagement, WHT), Mark Russell and Ian Blaiklock.

A Q&A session revealed the following:

The main works contractor has been appointed. The project still has to undertake detailed design and investigations including sourcing and connecting high voltage electric power lines. The major works are still in procurement. Contracts will be awarded at the end of 2022, works (including detailed design) to start in 2023.

Asked about access to the Woodleys sheds, the meeting was advised that they had no plans for the site. BD explained the background to the community's aspirations for the Woodleys shed and asked if TfNSW was aware of the campaign for early transfer. The committee was told that an answer would be provided.

The TfNSW representatives were asked for an explicit answer about the care of the site so that the structures are handed back in working order. No commitment could be given.

On the question of structural damage to houses, the meeting was told that precondition surveys would take care of everything, and was assured that the tunneling techniques were OK. Asked about access to an official regarding the effect on individual houses, the meeting was told that the information was available, but that it would be possible for those effected to speak to someone.

Subsequently Zoe Rourke advised that the best way to get in touch with the project is via the below phone number, email address or web portal.

<https://caportal.com.au/rms/wht>

1800 931 189

whtbl@transport.nsw.gov.au

The TfNSW representatives were asked to report back to TfNSW that residents of Waverton (and other precincts) strongly rejected the use of Berry Street as an on-ramp for the Western Harbour Tunnel.

The Chair thanked the representatives for their information and openness.

5 Responses from NSC on issues raised previously

There have been no new responses from the Council.

6 Updates from subgroups

Rail Noise Mitigation Committee: The Committee continues to try to persuade CityRail to use the Serbian lubrication system.

The Floating Dry Dock: After intense efforts by the community and Council, conciliation failed. The L&E Court will hold a hearing next year.

OverDevelopment We're Over It: The 60 storey tower at Crows Nest has been rejected. The Council and developer will now negotiate on a lower limit, presumably in secret.

7 DAs

3 Ross Street Waverton

MOTION:

The Waverton Precinct Committee:

- (i) deplores the demolition of the house at 3 Ross Street, apparently without a DA or any public process including opportunity to object to loss of character continuity in the street;
- (ii) requests that the Council review this case and advise the Precinct how this could have happened under existing planning regulations.

MOVED VY seconded PK: THAT the above motion be agreed to. Carried unanimously.

332/2021 2 Ross Street Waverton

The Waverton Precinct Committee:

- (i) notes that this site is unusual in shape and condition and should not be developed to the potential maximum envelope;
- (ii) notes that this site is prominent in the streetscape and important for the views it allows of the harbour;
- (iii) agrees that the proposed building is unacceptable on the grounds of site coverage, footprint size, bulk, scale, height, character, and visual impact in a critical location;
- (iv) urges the Council, when approving any subsequent DA for this site, to consider the complex traffic movements at this location and to impose conditions relating to the building's lighting so as to avoid potential dangers to traffic.

The Committee asked the Chair to make a formal submission along the above lines.

293/21 1 Denison St North Sydney

Members of the Committee were encouraged to make submissions in relation to the proposed signage if they saw fit.

8 New business

The following issues were noted.

- NSC guidelines for the return of in-person meetings.
- NSC notice that AGMs are deferred to February 2022.
- Community Strategic Plan review – Stage 1.
- Research/events survey for North Sydney Events Strategy 2022-2025.

9 Other business

9.1 Dangerous bicycle riding around Balls Head

Walkers in Balls Head have to contend with cyclists, sometimes in groups, using the circuit for training, and riding at speeds of 40 kph in an area where the posted maximum speed is 10 kph.

MOTION

The Waverton Precinct Committee requests the Council to investigate amelioration of this situation, and to advise the Committee as to what mechanisms can control the speed of cyclists, including signage that informs cyclists that the speed limit applies to them.

MOVED SM seconded BD: THAT the above motion be agreed to. Carried unanimously.

9.2 Proposal for a footpath on the Waverton Park side of Larkin Street

The Committee discussed how the needs of pedestrians (and cars on Larkin Street) can be met. It was agreed that options would be considered at a future meeting, with possible input sought from park users.

9.3 Substandard footpath on the north side of the Waverton Station rail bridge

The meeting agreed that the footpath, which should be safe and convenient for children, pedestrians and wheelchairs, is dangerously narrow, and causes those with wheelchairs to cross Bay Road twice to avoid using it.

MOTION

The Waverton Precinct Committee requests the Council to investigate ways to bring the footpath into conformity with standards and accessibility requirements, and advise the Precinct accordingly.

MOVED LH, seconded IB: THAT the above motion be agreed to. Carried unanimously.

9.4 Possible changes to the parks, gardens and bushland policy

VY asked if others on the Committee were aware of proposed changes to the parks, gardens and bushland policy, and of a 125-page document that is open for comments until 24 November.

The Waverton Precinct Committee requested the Chair to investigate this matter and, if appropriate, request the Council to (i) allow more time for submissions and (ii) publish guidance explaining in detail how the current policy is proposed to be altered.

9.5 Subpoena

The Waverton Precinct Committee has received a subpoena from the Crown Solicitor regarding a native title claim. The Committee asked the Chair to refer it to the Council, which is responsible for the management of the land.

9.6 Precinct minutes: names or initials?

The meeting was asked why only initials are recorded in the minutes, reducing transparency. The Committee requested the Chair to see if the Council has a policy on the recording of names in the minutes.

10 Correspondence

MOVED VY, seconded PK: THAT the correspondence (circulated) be received. Carried unanimously.

11 Date of next meeting: 7 December 2021 at the Coal Loader if available and with self-supplied Christmas cheer if allowable. A more formal invitation and agenda will be issued once details are clarified.

The meeting closed at 9:45 pm.