

Minutes of the Bondi Junction Precinct Meeting held at Waverley Library on 20 February 2013

Chaired by Peter Lynch with Stephen B. Cohen taking minutes

The meeting opened at 6.30 pm

All current correspondence and notifications are available at the rear of the room.

Present

Mayor Sally Betts; Councillor Andrew Cusack and 20 residents were present, as per the attendance sheets.

Apologies

Councillor Angela Burrill; Councillor Paula Masselos and Joseph Kasses

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting on 21 November 2013

The Eastern has applied for a permanent extension of their trading hours and this is still before the courts.

The application for a three storey development at the corner of Ebley and Lawson Streets is being resubmitted by the architects in order to address heritage concerns.

There is a need to ask the Planning Department of Council to respond to motions submitted to Council via the Precinct in a timely matter so a report can be presented at the following Precinct meeting.

Moved by Gayle Walker and seconded by Danielle Ecuyer

Reports

Danielle Ecuyer informed the Precinct that there has been an on-site get-together between The Eastern, Council, Lawyers and Police. Residents were not permitted to attend.

The Tea Gardens is still noisy and The Grand still has some problems. Clementson Park has improved since signs prohibiting the consumption of alcohol have been installed, however there have still been some alcohol related disturbances at the park.

A number of roads throughout the Council area are in a poor state of repair since Ausgrid have been laying new underground 132,000 volt electricity cables between Surry Hills and Rose Bay. Mayor Sally Betts stated that Ausgrid have completed their works and are paying Council to resurface the affected roads.

Mayor's address

Mayor Sally Betts informed the Precinct that Council is currently in the process of looking at its structure as this is required to be undertaken every four years. In its current state, the Council is not financially sustainable over the next 10 years. Council is not planning a rate rise, instead Council will improve efficiencies. At present staff are spread out in numerous locations creating much duplication of roles. Council is looking into consolidating staff in one building and this may necessitate the construction of one large building. A possible site is the area currently housing The Mill Hill Centre; The Boot Factory and Officeworks. There is no schedule for this amalgamation of staff, however Council will look at every building owned to see what value it has and if it can be reused, kept in its present state or sold to generate money to go towards the construction or purchase of another building. No money obtained from the sale of building will be used to cover Council's operational expenses.

Council has sold land in the City of Sydney area and purchased land near the Alexander Canal to house its Works Depot. This area will be shared with Woollahra Council.

Council is looking into an extension of light rail to Bondi Beach, either from the City or Randwick.

Council is still planning to restrict bicycles from Oxford Street Mall. Bicycles would be required to travel via Spring Street.

The footpath at the corner of Grafton and Grosvenor Streets is in disrepair. It is uneven and weed infested. Council will approach Roads and Maritime Services (formally the RTA) as they would be responsible for maintaining the area.

Proposed wall on Syd Einfield Drive

Oliver Coleman informed the Precinct that Roads and Maritime Services is proposing to construct a noise wall along the northern side of the western end of Syd Einfield Drive. The wall would run from Ocean Street for around 400 metres towards Vernon Lane. The wall will end up dividing the lane and destroying existing tree canopies along that part of the road. Noise is not actually a problem in that area, so there is no real necessity for a wall. There is currently a wall on the southern side of Syd Einfield Drive, however it extends easterly right up to Vernon Street. The northern wall would not go that far. So if noise is really a problem, why is the wall only being built for the benefit of some residents and not those living to the east of the wall's proposed extent?

Roads and Maritime Services have only notified some residents about the proposed wall and it has been difficult for other residents to obtain any information. The area is in the Woollahra Council area, however they have been unwilling to assist. Waverley Council has assumed responsibility for the northern verge of Syd Einfield Drive.

A motion will be presented towards the end of this meeting.

General business

The area at the northern end of Brisbane Street near the Cock and Bull Hotel will now be inspected by Council and cleaned daily.

At the intersection of Grafton and Vernon Streets, Council garbage trucks block the view of traffic trying to enter Grafton Street.

A submission was presented to the meeting for the traffic committee to look into illegal parking in front of the store at the corner of Birrell and Ruthven Streets. When vehicles stop there it is difficult to see traffic on Birrell Street when entering from Ruthven Street.

There was a request for an update on 253 Oxford Street. There was no news at the time, however Councillor Andrew Cusack was going to check up on this development. Following is the information obtained:

253 Oxford Street is DA-386/2012 for demolition of existing buildings and construction of a mixed use 19 level development containing 90 residential units, ground level retail and basement level parking.

This DA has been in since September and is in an amended form and in the process. The amendments were quite extensive and involved changing the siting of the tower form to amongst other changes site it hard up against the blank side wall of the existing building to the west. Its assessment is being finalised.

It has to go to the JRPP but we also report these applications to DCC for their comment. The earliest it is likely to go to DCC is 18 March, however there are still some assessment issues to be resolved regarding potential affordable housing units within the existing building and contamination.

I will be sitting down next week to discuss these matters with the applicant.

Philip Bull
Area Manager (South)
Development & Building Assessment
Waverley Council

Motions

Motion 1: Submitted by Oliver Coleman

Proposed wall on Syd Einfeld Drive

We ask Bondi Junction precinct to raise the issue with Waverley Council for further consultation with Roads and Maritime Services:

0 to clarify Roads and Maritime Services plans for the wall

1 to accurately communicate with all residents that will be directly impacted by the construction

The motion was seconded by Susan Coleman and carried

Motion 2: Submitted by Gil Morris

Replies to motions by Council

For a well run Precinct Committee system, it is necessary for Waverley Council to reply to motions passed at Precinct Committee meetings in a timely manner. At each meeting Council should reply to motions from the previous meeting.

The motion was seconded by Frank Cahill and carried

Meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

The next meeting (AGM) will be held at Waverley Library at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 15 May 2013