

Minutes of the Mill Hill Bondi Junction Precinct Meeting held at Waverley Library on Monday 14 August 2017



Chaired by Howard Parry-Husbands with Stephen B. Cohen taking minutes

The meeting opened at 6.35 pm

Present

Councillor Angela Burrill; Councillor Andrew Cusack and Councillor Paula Masselos and around 30 others were in attendance based on a headcount.

Apologies

Sergeant Bolt.

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting on 8 May 2017

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting (for discussions on the “twin towers” development, see “Update on 194 Oxford Street”), however there was a response to a motion from the 8 May 2017 meeting along with responses to questions raised during the same meeting:

Update on local developments including the two apartment tower development proposal at 194 Oxford Street, West Bondi Junction

As has been explained on many occasions, the proposal for towers at 194 Oxford Street is not a development application. It was a planning proposal and undertakes a different assessment and approval process in accordance with the Environment and Planning Act and Regulations.

Council resolved at its meeting held on 18 July 2017, to not support the planning proposal for 194 Oxford Street. As the Precinct Committee is aware the final decision on planning proposals is not made by Council, and accordingly the relevant documentation including the submissions made by the community, have been forwarded to the Department of Planning and Environment for a determination. Any further queries on this planning proposal should be directed to the Department of Planning and Environment.

Motion

Graham Swann’s motion:

We are very concerned about the lack of transparency. We would like Council to inform Graham Swann when changes to documentation are made.

Response

Council does not accept that its processes concerning either development applications or planning proposals can in any way be considered as lacking in transparency. To the contrary, Waverley Council has a longstanding commitment to ensuring applications are widely advertised for public comment and advertised again following any changes made to any application. Whilst this has the possible effect of contributing to consultation fatigue in the community, Council considers this is a most important measure to ensure transparency in the assessment process.

Request for information

Graham Swann wanted to know if Waverley Council has a policy on advertising posters stuck to posts.

Response

Whilst no formal policy exists, Council strongly discourages the posting of advertising posters and actively removes the material to reduce the impact it may have on the environment as it deteriorates.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted by Paula Gallagher and seconded by Gayle Walker.

Update on 194 Oxford Street

A question was received from the floor: Did the design charrette lead to conditions that made the twin towers more conducive to a planning proposal rather than a development application?

Councillor Andrew Cusack gave an opinion that the planning proposal is running its course as it legally does.

Howard Parry-Husbands commented that the design charrette was a broader process looking at the whole of West Oxford Street with a mandatory requirement to consider the area now known as 194 Oxford Street as a "Key site".

Councillor Andrew Cusack stated that Council officers were aware of a proposal or application that no one else including Councillors were aware of at the time.

Councillor Masselos said that the charrette was not a process we actually needed to engage in as we have an LEP. The charrette extended the process. We now have an outcome that nobody is happy with.

Howard Parry-Husbands stated that a charrette is supposed to be a public meeting, however we were allowed to be involved if we signed a form that said we would not disclose anything that came in the charrette, which is the opposite of public.

An observation from the floor: When the charrette was being decided at a Council meeting all the Liberals voted to have all the LEP controls lifted for that site (excised from the LEP).

Councillor Angela Burrill replied that at the last meeting she attended, she explained to the Precinct that they didn't excise anything and left it as it was. They can't change the LEP.

Another question: Was the planning proposal assessed against the LEP or was that area excised from the LEP?

Councillor Paula Masselos replied that the area was not excised from the LEP, however they were treated differently in terms of the processes.

Motion 1

Eric Scott moved the following motion:

At a Council meeting, I recollect there was a motion to endorse the LEP and it was done so with the exception of certain geographical areas. I know the word "excised" was used that night. I move that the Executive is asked to obtain a copy of the minutes of the meeting where there was discussion on endorsement of the LEP and make them available to the Precinct.

The motion was seconded by Danielle Ecuyer.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Howard Parry-Husbands had a further update on 194 Oxford Street: The proposal has now been unanimously opposed by Council and is now before the State Government. The Minister for Planning and Environment makes the decision, but gets his advice from the Greater Sydney Commission (which took over from the Joint Regional Planning Panel (JRPP)).

The people to write to are the Minister for Planning and Environment; the Greater Sydney Commission and our Members of Parliament - Bruce Notley-Smith: coogee@parliament.nsw.gov.au and Malcolm Turnbull: Malcolm.Turnbull.MP@aph.gov.au Carolyn McNally is the Secretary at the Department of Planning and Environment.

There were 406 applications on 194 Oxford Street Bondi Junction, with 98% of them opposing the development. The key areas of complaint were overdevelopment; traffic; congestion; heritage etc...

Update on Amalgamations

The amalgamation of Waverley Council with Randwick Council and Woollahra Council is not happening!

Eric Scott suggested that although forced amalgamations are no longer happening, after the Council elections, if two or three Councillors decided to approach the State Government and say we'd like to amalgamate, then it would happen, that is, if Councils voluntarily decide to

amalgamate then it could still happen. If a future Waverley Council and Woollahra Council wanted to amalgamate, there would be a reasonable assumption that the State government would facilitate that rather than oppose it.

Meet the candidates for the 9 September 2017 Council elections

Five candidates for the 9 September 2017 Council elections were given six minutes each to introduce themselves and outline their policies and achievements.

Councillor Angela Burrill [Liberal]

Spoke about access, community safety, parking, dumped rubbish, WiFi and public art.

Councillor Andrew Cusack [Liberal]

Spoke about finance, giving back to the community, shopping trolleys, dumped rubbish and parking.

Paul Arico [Independent]

Spoke about cycle paths, graffiti, trees, the mall, parking, care for the aged, youth, overpopulation and being in favour of marriage equality.

Elaine Keenan [The Greens]

Spoke about overdevelopment, loss of trust and accountability and donations from developers.

Paula Masselos [Labor]

Spoke about heritage, Bondi Pavilion, amalgamations, the "Civic Heart" and cleaning up the Junction.

The meeting closed at 8.37 pm.

The next meeting will be held at Waverley Library at 6.30 pm on Monday 13 November 2017