

Minutes of the Bondi Junction Precinct Meeting held at Waverley Library on 16 February 2011

Chaired by Peter Lynch with Stephen B. Cohen taking minutes

The meeting was opened at 6.30 pm by the Chairman and apologies were accepted from Andrea Baker, Don Slattery, Police Commander Jason Box, Superintendent Nic Twentyman, Sgt Bolt & Rob Riddle (immediate past president of Liquor Accord)

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

Matters arising from the last meeting on 24 November 2010

No matters arising

Moved by John Wright that the minutes be accepted.

Reports

Community Safety Advisory Committee (minutes of December meeting)

- local worry is bike riding in the Mall
- night audit of Bondi Junction
- graffiti clean up
- electronic clean-up?

Last night's meeting (without Waverley Police) addressed pub patron behaviour, underage drinking in Clementson Park (Ranger Carlos report) and recommendation that Council refer back complainants. His contact number is 0414 884 393

Commander Box is prepared to meet with residents prior to the next CSPC meeting on 10 March 2011

Tackling unsocial behaviour

Council is planning to prune bushes and trees in Clementson Park in order to reduce the incidence of illegal underage drinking in the park.

Danielle Ecuyer mentioned that both underage and mature age drinkers are present in Clementson Park. Also Council should protect the foliage on the bushes protecting the adjacent houses.

Kerryn Sloan noted that the foliage is necessary to protect fences from vandalism.

Frank Cahill questions why cutting of trees is necessary since many drinkers frequent the playground. Frank mentioned that the "no drinking" sign on the western side of the park has been missing since January 2011.

Richard Andrew reported that trees were cut in the park near the Oscars, but that has had no effect on drinking rates in the park.

Mayor Sally Betts & Peter Brennan (Council's Director of Planning & Environmental Services) spoke about the adoption by Council of a motion to lodge a formal undue disturbance complaint against the Grand Hotel. Council is currently gathering evidence.

Danielle Ecuyer says Council doesn't need further evidence as a report on the "A Current Affair" show on television recently would be sufficient. She asked if the complaint is based on historic or future events.

Gayle Walker says video evidence would be accepted in a court of law.

Tony Moses reminded those present that the pub has been there for many years and if patrons leave the premises they are no longer the responsibility of the hotel.

Peter Brennan says that is not the case and patrons who leave the hotel are still their responsibility.

Andrew McGowan recently saw a patron leave the Grand Hotel, walk to the chicken shop then return to the street and urinate on a wall, the resulting mess covered the footpath.

Margaret Bowering said she was woken by a woman screaming outside the Grand hotel after 12.30 am

Frank Cahill hears shouting in Lawson Street as patrons leave the hotel and walk in a westerly direction towards Denison Street after 12.30 am. They rip branches from trees and damage cars. Noise emanating from the Grand hotel can be heard for quite a distance during the night as the rest of the area is very quiet.

Kerryn Sloan says we should be looking into all the hotels and not just the Grand Hotel.

Enid Hokin says the Tea Gardens is also very noisy at night.

The Council view is to focus on the Grand Hotel at the moment to see what can be achieved. Once we succeed we can move ahead to the other hotels.

The Tea Gardens Hotel had a limited consent to trade till 3.00 am and have lodged a DA to renew this consent which has lapsed. Mayor Betts said that the Council would oppose the application, and that the submissions would close on February 28.

Mora Main says we are trying to make Bondi Junction more civilised and we already have a lot of evidence recorded against the hotels in our area.

Mayor Sally Betts visited the Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing on 11 January 2011 who claim they have found no recorded breaches of the legislation.

Council should not be approving any small restaurants that only serve alcohol. Mayor Sally Betts also spoke about the Eastern suburbs Liquor Accord which had a meeting recently. Members of the Accord have come up with various solutions such as a bus to drop people home at night (similar to Randwick). Also access to toilets is needed. The Liquor Accord will list all hotel contact numbers for complaints and will look into a way of collating these complaints.

Danielle Ecuyer says that pubs are serving far too much alcohol over a long period of time resulting in a number of very drunk patrons. They should be serving alcohol responsibly.

Civilised pubs are found in neighbouring suburbs of Woollahra, Double Bay and Paddington.

Frank Cahill mentioned that pubs in Newcastle and Gunnedah are successful and have reduced trading hours and Gunnedah has also reduced the strength of drinks served.

Adrian Guest, the Eastern suburbs Liquor Accord spokesman- Bondi Junction Representative (from the Grand Hotel) requested to speak to the meeting. The Accord doesn't want hours of operation reduced. The Accord would like to find other avenues that work, for instance, if someone sees a patron leave a hotel and urinate in the street, they can contact the hotel. Security will find the person who urinated and will debar them from the hotel.

General Business

Denis Sheridan complained that there is rubbish everywhere around Bondi junction. He asks if it was still Council policy to pick up prunings wrapped in orange plastic. The response was that all clippings go in the green bins. If rubbish is spotted in the street, it should be reported to Council who will pick it up. Otherwise the piles will get bigger.

Ruth Tarlo mentioned an incident where a furniture store on the corner of Waverley & Hollywood Roads left crates and a mirror on the footpath towards the end of last year. The mirror broke and small pieces remain in the cracks on the footpath. Mayor Sally Betts will organise a street sweeper to visit the area.

Gil Morris says meeting notices weren't delivered to Birrel Street. Others streets also didn't receive notices and many of those that did receive notices, received them late.

Motions

Frank Cahill submitted the following motions:

"The precinct congratulates the Lawson Ward Councillors, especially Councillors Main and Sloan, for their strong support for residents during the debate in Council last night over the Grand hotel motion".
Carried.

"The precinct also notes the strong support of other councillors who supported Councillor Main's motion especially Councillors Wakefield and Clayton from Bondi Ward".
Carried

"The precinct agrees to the formation of a precinct hotel subcommittee of residents to monitor the Grand Hotel and report back to the precinct on a regular basis".

The precinct agrees to the appointment of the following residents to the sub committee:

Ms Gayle Walker - Brisbane Street

Mr Adam Brass - Brisbane Street

Ms Danielle Ecuyer - Lawson Street

The motion was carried with one against

Motion for modest reduction in trading hours of the Grand hotel

"There is proven evidence that a reduction in trading hours can reduce pub violence and antisocial behaviour, eg, Newcastle & Gunnedah.

The precinct calls on Waverly council to support a reduction in trading hours of the Grand Hotel. The precinct strongly seeks the following alteration to the trading hours of the Grand Hotel:

Monday to Saturday: 12.00 pm close with 11.00 pm lockout

Sunday: 11.00 pm close".

Gil Morris spoke for the motion

The motion was carried in the majority

Responses to previous motions

Motion 1

That speakers from Council speak for no more than thirty minutes (unless the address is on multiple matters relevant to the Precinct) as the Precinct does not always have enough time to address other matters of importance in a timely manner.

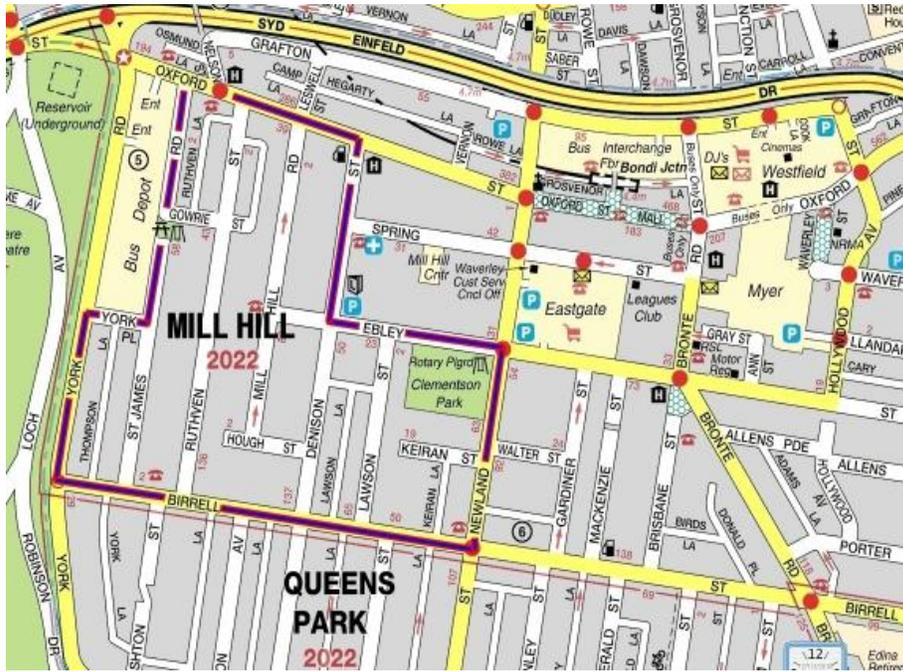
Response

This motion has been noted for future reference.

Motion 2

That the official suburb name of the area that includes most of the western heritage residential section of BOND JUNCTION to be renamed MILL HILL.

The proposed area of Mill Hill would be bounded by Oxford Street; York Road, Birrell Street & Newland Street. The Newland Street border could be extended eastwards towards Bronte Road [ie, the whole Mill Hill conservation area] (but would not include the commercial area bounded by Oxford Street, Denison Street, Ebley Street & Newland Street) See map.



Mill Hill is the current locality name for the western part of this area, but it is proposed to extend the suburb eastwards as many similar residences of historical interest can be found there.

Response

Waverley Council Officers have investigated the process for renaming suburbs or areas. The information from the Geographical Names Board is attached and outlines the processes involved. In discussions with Officers from the Geographical Names Board, it is clear that this process involves many different steps including community consultation and reporting to a full Council meeting for endorsement of any recommended changes.

As this project has just come to the attention of Council, there are no resources available in the 2011-12 Waverley Council Operational Plan to enable actioning of this motion.

Council would in any case need to have evidence of broad community acceptance of this proposal before considering name changes. If in 2012-13 the name change continues to be an important issue for the wider community, the Precinct will need to demonstrate broad residents' support through community consultation.

Motion 3

That the Precinct's AGM is to be held during the first meeting of each year. February rather than May. 16 February 2011 is the proposed date for the next AGM

Response

The last Bondi Junction precinct AGM was held in May 2010 and the Executive are to serve for a 12 month period with the next AGM due to be held in May 2011.

This is in line with general practice and current Waverley Council Precinct Policy.

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 18 May 2011 (AGM).

The following meetings will be held on Wednesday 17 August 2011 & Wednesday 23 November 2011.