

Minutes of the Mill Hill Bondi Junction Precinct Meeting (AGM) held at Waverley Library on Monday 8 May 2017



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

The meeting opened at 6.35 pm

Present

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

Apologies

Councillor Angela Burrill.

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting on 28 February 2017

Eric Scott raised the point that whilst it is illegal, we should not be encouraging cycling on footpaths. This is especially so in the area in front of Waverley Bus Depot where the footpath is narrow and people are concentrating on arriving buses and not passing cyclists. Numerous accidents and near misses have occurred in that location without encouraging more cyclists to use the footpath. Sydney Buses are not keen on widening the footpath as it would take up space they need for storing their buses.

During the last meeting Councillor Andrew Cusack stated that Council did not fund the Wayside Chapel. It has since been discovered that Council has a relationship with the Wayside Chapel – funding some programmes and working with the chapel very closely. The main issue is that Chapel staff have changed and the food now presented is not appropriate, as many homeless do not have teeth and are unable to eat it.

Outstanding motions

There were no responses to the following motions from the 28 February 2017 meeting:

Motion

Howard Parry-Husbands's motion:

This precinct sends a delegation to Peter Monks to understand the process in more detail and then send clear and simple communication to everybody in terms of what the process is.

Motion

Hayden Miller's motion:

This Precinct Committee will go and meet Centennial Park Trust to put the position of the Precinct to them and find out what their position is as well.

Motion

Catharine Munro's motion:

Residents of the Twin Towers should not be able to obtain parking permits for Area 22 and should only be able to park on Oxford Street.

Motion

Gil Morris's motion:

We oppose any proposal that does not provide parking for the residents of the Twin Towers.

Motion

Howard Parry-Husbands's motion:

That Waverley Council notify the public of any changes to any public amenity at least four weeks ahead and also consultation by definition requires both feedback and advice as opposed to just a notification.

Motion

Howard Parry-Husbands's motion:

The Precinct will contact Dan Joannides to discuss measures that can be put in place to improve cycling and pedestrian safety on the entire stretch of pavement between Mill Hill Road and York Road.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted by Danielle Ecuyer and seconded by Gil Morris.

Annual General Meeting - election of Committee members for 2017-2018

Howard Parry-Husbands stepped down and Councillor Andrew Cusack chaired the meeting during the election.

Nominations were called for the following committee positions, all nominees were elected unopposed:

Convener: Paula Gallagher nominated **Howard Parry-Husbands**, seconded by Gayle Walker.

Secretary: Gil Morris nominated **Stephen B. Cohen**, seconded by Frank Cahill.

Second Secretary: Paula Gallagher nominated **Ilana Cohen**, seconded by Howard Parry-Husbands

Traffic Rep: Kate Watson nominated **Howard Parry-Husbands**, seconded by Gil Morris.

DA Rep: Danielle Ecuyer nominated **Graham Swann**, seconded by Gil Morris.

Licencing Rep: Frank Cahill nominated **Danielle Ecuyer**, seconded by Gil Morris.

Community Safety: Danielle Ecuyer nominated **Maria Flood**, seconded by Gil Morris

Heritage Rep: Danielle Ecuyer nominated **Graham Swann**, seconded by Kate Watson.

General: None.

Update on Amalgamations

All councils will hold elections on Saturday 9 September 2017.

Since the change of state government leadership, forced amalgamations are no longer happening in regional areas however they are still proceeding in metropolitan areas.

We are currently waiting on the High Court decision which is expected on 12 May 2017. If Woollahra Council loses the appeal we will be amalgamated, quite possibly on the same day.

If our Council is amalgamated, there is a prospect of three large wards with 5 Councillors or 5 wards of 3 Councillors. That will make it difficult for minor parties and independents to gain a place on the Council.

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

Over 400 submissions were received by Council. We assume that most are against the development. They are now looking at a spot rezoning which is not illegal, although it contravenes planning guidelines.

Do we know the view of our state member? Should he be pressured?

Residents are advised to write to or send emails to our local member of parliament Bruce Notley-Smith and the Minister for Planning Anthony Roberts:

- Bruce Notley-Smith: coogee@parliament.nsw.gov.au
- Anthony Roberts: lanecove@parliament.nsw.gov.au

The Joint Regional Planning Panel is now the Greater Sydney Commission.

There was a discussion on traffic congestion on Oxford Street Bondi Junction. There were reports that it has taken half an hour to drive from Newland Street to York Street. There is a lot of extra traffic congestion due to construction of the new Tramway. At Mill Hill Road occasionally it is impossible to exit into Oxford Street. At one time, the police were also stuck in traffic on Mill Hill Road. Emergency services response times is an issue.

There are some concerns regarding the Mill Hill Hotel redevelopment. Demolition has already started before a construction certificate has been issued. There are now holes in the walls of the heritage buildings which may become a demonstration apartment. We do not know if a heritage architect has been appointed. The existing awning may go to be replaced buy a new awning which runs across the heritage buildings in the wrong place.

It appears that stacked parking will now be allowed instead of an additional parking level.

Graham Swann advised that documentation has changed and we haven't been notified. This led to the following motion:

Motions

Motion 1

Graham Swann moved the following motion:

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

The motion was seconded by Paula Gallagher.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Update on Council's plans to revitalise evenings in Bondi Junction

There is some concern about Council's plans to revitalise evenings in Bondi Junction. An increase in the number of restaurants open at dinnertime is welcome as an increase in people using the area will make it safer, however an increase in the number of venues that alcohol is served in is not so welcome.

Some of the planned activities are a little vague. Amusement, wellbeing and nourishment. Outdoor yoga & gym, art, food, live music and alfresco dining, a block party in Nelson Street! What sort of crowds are expected? It is important to keep any of this commercial activity from leaking into residential areas.

Eric Scott stated that there is support for community friendly activities and development. Could we request detailed plans and a timeline? A presentation to the Precinct prior to public exhibition would be most welcome.

Bronte RSL and Bondi Pavilion

Bronte RSL is a big hole in the ground. There will be a hearing in the Land and Environment Court on 29 May 2017. Residents are still fighting the height of the development. Council is the defendant as they haven't given approval in an appropriate time.

We are still opposed to the possible commercialisation of the Bondi Pavilion. Part 1 of the redevelopment appears to be going ahead.

General business

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

A number of large residential towers have been constructed along East Oxford Street. Are there any measures to track the success of these developments? Most towers have low architectural merit and the ground floor retail spaces are often left empty.

The traffic gridlock that is expected once the overdevelopment of West Oxford Street occurs would have an impact on emergency services.

Councillor Paula Masselos stated that the Draft operational Plan (including fees and charges) is available and submissions close on 24 May 2017.

The meeting closed at 8.24 pm.

The next meeting will be held at Waverley Library at 6.30 pm on Monday 14 August 2017