

QUEENS PARK PRECINCT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

13 May 2015

commencing 7pm Waverley Library Theatrette

Convenors: Peter Cohen, Simon Swifte
Apologies: Sarah McCarthy, George Feuerlicht
Councillor present: Councillor Cusack

Welcome to residents at the meeting for the first time

Centennial Park – representative unable to attend; no report provided

Election of Precinct Committee

BJ convenor Marcella McAdam conducted the election. All positions declared open.

Co-convenors

Peter Cohen nominated by Simon Swifte, seconded by Roma Gillam
Simon Swifte nominated by Simon Carless seconded by Daniel Bando

Secretary

Roma Gillam nominated by Simon Swifte, seconded by Daniel Bando

Community Safety Representative

Ian Barber nominated by Simon Carless, seconded by Simon Swifte

Committee members

Simon Carless nominated by Simon Swifte, seconded by Ian Barber
Daniel Bando nominated by Roma Gillam, seconded by Peter Cohen
Michael Ahrens nominated by Simon Swifte, seconded by Ian Barber
Sarah McCarthy nominated by Peter Cohen, seconded by Simon Swifte
George Feuerlicht nominated by Peter Cohen, seconded by Simon Swifte

Meeting endorsed a vote of thanks to Community Liaison Coordinator Mary Shiner for her work with precincts.

West Oxford St update – information provided by Precincts Coordinator Mary Shiner

- Update available from Council's Operations Committee meeting minutes of 31 March 2015 – available on Council's website
- Minutes summarise community views based on a survey undertaken (very few ideas had majority support) and proposals to be further investigated relating to traffic, planning, tree planting etc.
- It was pointed out that the questionnaire did not include an option to leave the area as it is and suggested that it was designed for a certain outcome.
- Councillor Cusack said that a number of amendments were put forward at meeting but were not passed. One of these was that no changes be made to BJ LEP 2012. This was rejected for certain blocks relevant to the planning proposal for a very large development that has been submitted to Council. No changes can occur while this development is being assessed. Legal advice is that the proposal has to be considered.
- He said that nothing is likely to proceed for a long while yet.
- Michael raised the issue of traffic impacts. The developer has prepared a traffic study but it only relates to the immediate vicinity and does not consider the impact on the wider community.
- There is a community gathering to protest against high rise development for West Oxford St, planned for 4pm Saturday 16 May on corner of Oxford St and St James Rd.

Complete Streets: Cycleway and Streetscapes update

- Waverley Traffic Committee has endorsed the latest plan and it will go to Council next Tuesday 19 May.

- If passed by Council, the projected start date is September 2015.
- Businesses in Spring St and Oxford St still have issues with the plans.
- Many residents (some of whom are serious cyclists) at the meeting raised issues with the plan too, including:
 - the impact on Spring St that is already clogged with pedestrians (many elderly), loading zones, traffic, taxi stands, cordoned off seating etc
 - lack of measures to prevent cyclists using the Mall
 - issues with access and space at the western end of Bondi Junction etc.
- Councillor Cusack, who does not support the plan, said that the plan had been developed to maintain grade for cyclists.
- Residents thought that the plan needs further consultation and alternatives investigated.
- Resident and keen cyclist Francis Hasek said that in his experience, consultation with cycling groups can be hard as the various groups do not speak as one on issues.
- **The following motion was passed:**

That council defer the implementation of the Bondi Junction Cycleway pending wider consultation and consideration of alternative routes.

Moved: Simon Carless Seconded: Michael Ahrens

Jaycar site development application update

- Currently being assessed. There were about 80 objections. Some were not based on planning principles but just thought it was not appropriate for the area.
- A Blenheim St resident outlined problems that a boarding house in that street already causes, especially on Friday and Saturday nights when many of the occupants spill out onto the street.
- Issues arising from the application include excessive height and overshadowing, excessive FSR, proximity to two Conservation Areas, monitoring adherence to SEPP Affordable Housing if plan proceeds, etc
- Once Council staff has assessed the application, it will be considered by WDAP.

Minutes from 11 February 2015 meeting

Moved: Michael Ahrens

Seconded: Peter Cohen

No business arising

Traffic calming in Queens Park

- Concern was expressed by many residents to the decision making process of the WTC (Waverley Traffic Committee) in relation to a request from an Alt St resident for an additional speed hump just north of Cuthbert St.
- The Precinct Committee was not advised of the proposal but when it learned of it, wrote to Council outlining the principles of the longstanding Queens Park LATM (Local Area Traffic Management) Plan, including the need to consider the precinct as a whole and not favour one street over another; the need to base any change on hard evidence of a speeding issue; and the potential impact of undermining the LATM that has provided stability and harmony all these years.
- Council's technical staff had taken measurements earlier in the year and they showed that the speed of vehicles did not warrant further calming measures as the yardstick measure of 85% of cars travelled within the 40kph speed limit (in fact 38kph or less).
- Council asked Alt St residents for comment just prior to Christmas 2014 but did not provide the speed data. According to an Alt St resident at the meeting, the proponent knocked on doors to garner support, gaining 19 supporters from a street of 80.
- Council technical staff's report to the WTC recommended that the hump not be installed, citing reasons that included the speed count and opposition from those closest to the proposed hump.
- At its meeting on 26 February, WTC overruled Council's technical staff and supported

installation of the hump.

- At its next meeting, Council endorsed WTC's decision with minor amendments.
- The implications are that any individual can garner supporters in their street for traffic changes and that neither speed measurements nor the longstanding principles of the Queens Park LATM apply.
- Councillor Cusack supports this position in both his response to the Precinct Committee's letter and at the meeting. He claims that this is a *democratic process*.
- Many disagreed about it being democratic, for the following reasons:
 - Residents in other streets have no say, even if a proposal impacts on them.
 - With measurements not taken into account, where is the rule on what percentage of residents constitutes support?
 - The WTC makes its decision in private and does not give any reasons for its decision. This is clearly not a transparent, democratic process.
- Many suggested that this case has undermined the LATM and will generate lots of requests from individuals in other streets. On what basis will decisions be made?
- One resident also suggested that, as there was clearly not a speeding issue, the request from the resident could be seen as a means to discourage drivers from using the street. Roma recalled that in his address to Council, the resident spoke about the increase in vehicle numbers in his five years in the street.
- Michael mentioned the increase in the use of back lanes. Roma reported that the traffic consultants for the LATM advised that too many calming measures would push cars into lanes and had recommended the four measures in each of the north-south streets.
- **The following motion, directed to the Waverley Traffic Committee, was passed.**

Please provide reasons why the Waverley Traffic Committee ignored the recommendation provided by the Council's traffic expert that the speed hump in Alt St not be installed. Also, was the full Queens Park LATM considered as part of the decision, including what impact this speed hump would have on other streets?

Moved: Ian Barber Seconded: Michael Ahrens

- Following the discussion, Roma commented on the severe impact that this decision for a totally unnecessary hump will have on her home of 40 years.

General Business

- **Pedestrian safety** Resident Jeff Jaffers suggested pedestrians rather than cars be given the highest priority in the area. He suggested improving access to Centennial and Queens Parks e.g. by changing York Rd refuges to pedestrian crossings. The meeting was reminded that this was canvassed some years ago and rejected by authorities.
- **The following motion was carried**

That Council be petitioned to investigate pedestrian access into Centennial and Queens Parks from Queens Park streets.

Moved: Jeff Jaffers Seconded: Francis Hasek

- **Increase in dumped shopping trolleys** Councillor Cusack reported that Council had met with Coles and warned that trolleys would be impounded. Coles are changing trolley collector contractors.
- **Slowness in street cleaning following storm** – Councillor Cusack said that it had to be prioritised.
- **Moriah security staff carrying guns** – intimidating and possible danger in streets. Residents have raised this before.

Next meeting: 12 August 2015

