

Minutes of the Mill Hill Bondi Junction Precinct Meeting held at Waverley Library on 26 August 2015

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

The meeting opened at 6.30 pm

Present

Councillor Paula Masselos; Councillor Andrew Cusack and Councillor Leon Goltsman.

41 people signed the attendance sheets.

Apologies

Councillor Angela Burrill; Matthew Gain; Bettina Ferguson, Anne Casamento and Corey Worgan.

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting on 24 June 2015

There was a response to the motion presented at the previous meeting:

Motion

Eric Scott moved the following motion:

That the Mill Hill Bondi Junction Precinct requests that Waverley Council re-designates St James Pocket Park as St James Park.

Response

The name "pocket park" is simply a reference to the group that helps maintain the space under the old "Pocket Parks" / Shared Garden programme under the Public Place Gardening Policy and Street Garden Guidelines:

http://www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/residents/trees_and_gardens/public_gardening/shared_garden_groups

It is known as St James Street Reserve and it's a road closure.

The minutes were accepted by Howard Parry-Husbands and seconded by Gayle Walker.

- Concern was raised by several residents of the last minute delivery of our precinct minutes and agenda notice by council. It has always been practice that council email the minutes & agenda to those who sign the attendance sheets which is why they exist, but this has not been done for the last few meetings. Residents would like time to read the minutes and prepare questions they may have so request council continue with their role of disseminating these materials prior to each meeting. The executive will liaise with council on this matter.

Reports

DA

The DA for 55 Ebley Street was originally knocked back in 2014, however in has been resubmitted with some changes. The Precinct still has concerns about this proposed boarding house.

The Precinct also has concerns with the Bronte RSL Club development as it isn't within the LEP and it could morph into something larger.

Waverley Council has submitted a DA to run events at Bondi Beach. It would allow Council to run events without having to submit separate DAs. There would be 18 events with up to 5,000 attendees and 12 events with up to 10,000 attendees. There is concern about crowd management and transport to the beach through Bondi Junction.

Community Safety (Maria Flood)

There has been an increase in steal from motor vehicles, especially when valuables are visible. Steal from retail is also increasing, especially around Bondi Junction. It is often captured by CCTV. Police have been using this footage to help identify offenders.

Toyota Hilux are now being targeted by thieves. These vehicles aren't turning up again (unlike most vehicle thefts).

There has been a low level of alcohol related crime (although this is expected during the winter months).

Police have been undertaking a lot of breath testing and there has been a reduction in motor vehicle accidents.

On 6 July 2015 outdoor smoking bans were introduced. There is also a restriction on smoking within four metres of an entry to a public building or hospitality venue. The law is being policed by NSW Health. Anyone can report smoking breaches at: https://nswhealth.formstack.com/forms/online_form_2_copy

Approval from Waverley Council has been given to implement CCTV in Bondi Junction and Bondi Beach. Funding is still being sought and exact locations have not been determined.

Homeless people are still sleeping in Bondi Junction Mall. They are harmless and Council has an outreach programme that deals with them.

Licensing (Danielle Ecuyer)

The Grand Hotel has applied to revoke conditions on it in 2003, relating to removal of security on certain nights of the week. The owner states that these nights are very quiet with not many patrons in the venue. The Precinct is opposed to removing any security. There has been a long history of alcohol related violence and vandalism relating to the three big hotels in the area.

Frank Cahill reported that even though this is the quiet time of year, there is still noise from 12 midnight till 12.20 am whilst patrons from the venues move out of the area.

Traffic (Howard Parry-Husbands)

In order to improve safety at the Nelson and Oxford Street intersection, there needs to be pedestrian phasing so traffic turning right out of Nelson Street is stopped for eight seconds whilst pedestrians cross Oxford Street. Councillor Andrew Cusack said that just changing the phasing is a simple operation and this should not be a problem.

Waverley Council is going to undertake an integrated traffic plan as there are concerns about all the high rise developments in the Mill Hill / Bondi Junction areas.

These was a request for a pedestrian crossing between Spring Street and Westfield on Bronte Road, however Sydney Buses is opposed to this as it would impact on many buses travelling through Bronte Road.

West Oxford Street - update

George Bramis responded to a request for an update on 194 Oxford Street Bondi Junction:

Regarding West Oxford Street, we will begin investigating the recommendations adopted by Council this financial year however this project has not yet been finally scoped. The traffic related issues such as the roundabout at Grafton and Nelson Street Shared Zone will involve a collaboration with our transport colleagues.

Regarding the 194 Oxford Street Planning Proposal assessment, we are currently finalising internal referrals before providing feedback to the applicant, however I am not in a position to confirm exactly when the report will be presented to Council. I am tentatively thinking of October but this may be dependent on how long it takes to generate extra information is required.

Save West Oxford Street has met with Centennial Park and they agree 100% with community concerns. This high rise development will set a precedent as it will be the first tower block at the edge of the park.

They are worried about noise complaints from the tower block as currently noise is blocked by trees and doesn't reach street level housing. Noise will also bounce off the towers.

Council Amalgamations and related matters

The State Government has not yet made any decisions on the Waverly Council and Randwick Council merger.

Once merged, the Civic Precinct at Bondi Junction would not be the best spot as it is at the northern extreme of the proposed merged Council area.

Open discussion items

Impact of continuing development on Mill Hill / Bondi Junction

There are concerns that any development on the Spotlight building would result in increased traffic & parking congestion.

Traffic overhaul & pedestrian safety (Waverley LGA)

(See also Traffic report)

The slippery paving around Bondi Junction is still a concern. Councillor Leon Goltsman said he would look into this as there was a similar situation in Rose Bay.

Underground electrical wires

Recently many of the trees in Mill Hill Road and Denison Street that are located under electric wires were cut in half. There has been a request to have the wires placed underground. This was previously investigated and in order for TransGrid to do this, there needs to be 100% agreement of all the owners in the street who would be required to pay approximately \$5,000 each to bury the cables.

It was suggested that the cables could be buried when trenches are dug for the NBN. A separate motion has been tabled regarding burying the cables.

Motions

Motion 1

Kate Watson moved the following motion:

That Waverley Council correspond with TransGrid; NBN and Foxtel regarding the possibility of placing the overhead wires in the NBN trench at the time NBN will be trenching in our area.

The motion was seconded by Graeme Swann.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Motion 2

Howard Parry-Husbands moved the following motion:

Request that St James Pocket Park be officially classified as a park, not as a reserve in order to guarantee the green space be preserved.

The motion was seconded by Roz Elwing.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Motion 3

Kate Watson moved the following motion:

That Waverley Council consider providing (at least) lockers for homeless people to put their belongings into and have access during the day. Also if possible, look into providing amenities such as showers and toilets for the "rough sleepers" to use.

The motion was seconded by Gayle Walker.

The motion was carried unanimously.

General Business

Ruth Tarlow lives in Hollywood Avenue Bondi Junction. She described a couple of recent issues she's observed in the Bondi Junction area.

When walking home one night, Ruth observed that the lights in Waverley Mall were not operating, posing a safety risk. She called Waverley Council. She was referred to AusGrid. AusGrid told her the lights were Council's responsibility. After contacting Council again, nothing happened for six weeks. After Ruth told a Council officer she'd call the Mayor, she was informed that the lights would be fixed, and they were! However, by the following Monday the lights were out again. [The lights are sometimes operating at night].

On Grafton Street near Grosvenor Street there was a big garden plot with no plantings, only rubbish and weeds. The pathway and railings were filthy. Ruth complained to Waverley Council and met with a Council officer at the site to point out what needed to be done. Since that meeting they've used a pressure

cleaner on the footpath and have cleaned up the area, however only 2/3 of the area was done. It appears that the Council officer overseeing the cleanup has left the Council. The garden plot is still bare.

Maria Flood will raise the lighting in Waverley Mall as a community safety issue. Whenever the lights are out, they need to be fixed as soon as possible.

There is a situation in Lawson Street Bondi Junction in which a dog owner with two dogs leaves one inside barking, whilst the other dog is outside crying and whining. Neighbours have complained to Waverley Council and the RSPCA. The RSPCA has stated that they need to witness mistreatment of the dogs before they can act. Councillors Paula Masselos and Leon Goltsman will look into this situation and prepare a report for our next Precinct meeting.

Waverley Council has completed its investigation into the Mayor Sally Betts / Luke Lazarus reference incident and have exonerated her as they have found that there was no breach of the Code of Conduct (in its present form).

Waverley Council is giving away a free plant or tree to ratepayers on presentation of their rates notice.

The Bondi Junction cycleway went before Council again last Tuesday. There are still more reports and studies being carried out. There are still various streets and options being considered and there is concern around Waverley Bus Depot and at Bronte Road at the end of the Spring Street section.

Leon Goltsman outlined how Waverley Council was helping the homeless people in the area. Some have moved from Bondi Junction to Bronte Beach. Waverley Council has received complaints that some of the homeless people have built shelters in and around Oxford Street Mall. They are generally happy to sleep in Oxford Street Mall at night (as it offers some shelter and safety). Council officers ask that these shelters and other belongings be packed up and removed every morning and stored so that the area can be cleaned. Council has offered to store these possessions. Councillor Andrew Cusack is looking into suitable (accessible) storage areas (possibly under Syd Enfield Drive).

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

The next meeting will be held at Waverley Library at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 28 October 2015.