

CHARING CROSS VILLAGE PRECINCT MEETING

WEDNESDAY JUNE 7TH 2023

WELCOME TO MEETING

Danny Caretti (DC) welcomed Residents to the meeting and acknowledged the Traditional Owners: The Bidjigal and Gadigal peoples, of the land on which we meet.

Acknowledgement of the Presence of Cr Angela Burrill (AB)

APOLOGIES

Mayor Cr Paula Masellos

Cr Tony Kay

JM

MM

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING - Held on April 19th 2023

Minutes of April 19th Accepted by the Meeting .

Moved by SB

Seconded by JF

Accepted

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Robin Hood / Charing Cross Hotel

Advice from the Police Safety Precinct Meeting in February was the Liquor Accord no longer existed. Council was asked if they could talk to Police about re activating Liquor Accord.

Council has raised this with the local Police and is awaiting a response.

Tobacconist signage 248-250 Bronte Road

Signage is fluorescent yellow, and residents were wondering why they are allowed to use such bright colours. Are there any signage controls in Charing Cross?

Council advised this site operates under a CDC. Council has found that the business is compliant with SEPP Part 5, however if you feel the business does not comply with the above, please let Council know. Council also advises that Charring Cross does not have its own signage controls.

General discussion regarding how the signage fits in with the heritage controls specific to this building, as opposed to the controls covered under SEPP Part 5.

Discussion for this item extended beyond signage to other compliance matters relating to this business, including the advertising of Vapes, and display of certain items in the shop-front windows. Of particular concern is the proximity of the shop to numerous schools and reports the shop is already frequented by school students. Following reports from residents, NSW Health have visited the business and issued fines. Different compliance matters are handled by different State Government agencies, ie some by NSW Health, others by NSW Police. Suggestion made to consider writing to State Local Member for a holistic approach should the issues remain unresolved.

ACTION: Check with Council's Planning Team how signage fits in with the heritage controls for this building. Ask Council to check whether the Tobacco business in Charing Cross is allowed to sell and advertise cigarettes and Vapes on its shop front, especially given its location close to Schools and School Children

CARRINGTON ROAD

Residents to put together a paper requesting various changes to Carrington Road to present at the next meeting. Then contact Marjorie O'Neill (Member for Coogee) to lobby Transport NSW who controls this road.

SB put forward and spoke to the following motion:

Charing Cross Precinct requests the NSW Govt, Transport for NSW through Waverley Council provide these changes to Carrington Road

- 1. A pedestrian refuge island be constructed at or in the vicinity of Judges Lane on Carrington Road to access Queens Park. The main issue is safety, Judges Lane is used by pedestrians, as they cross at that point into Queens Park. A refuge will provide some safety for pedestrians attempting to cross this busy road*
- 2. KEEP CLEAR road markings be painted in both directions of traffic flow on Carrington Road at the intersection of John Street, Queens Park. There are existing keep clear signs further south in Randwick Municipality on Carrington road. The same road markings should be applied further North on Carrington Road in Waverley, so drivers can turn out of John Street*
- 3. 50 (K/Hr) speed limit signage be placed in at least 2 locations on Carrington Road, on both sides between Darley Road and the Charing Cross intersection. Drivers are unaware of the speed limits on Carrington Road and are travelling at excessive speeds of up 60-70kms per hour especially at night*

Moved by SB

Seconded NH

Motion Supported Unanimously

St Catherine's CCC

Council to confirm the Rep on the St Catherine's CCC and ask them to contact Roberta Ryan to attend the next meeting in July.

Council's Executive Manager of Infrastructure, Nik Zervos, will attend this and future meetings. Executive Manager of Compliance, Sunil Kushor is also likely to attend on occasions.

Flooding in High Street

When are the pits going to be adjusted? ie Time Frame

Manager of Asset Systems and Planning has advised that the pit upgrade has been added as high priority to the next year capital works program. It is expected the work commence early next financial year.

Bins in Charing Cross

Various businesses continue to keep rubbish bins on the street.

Council staff are aware of a number of issues in Charing Cross with bins being left on street. Recently there has been some improvement in this situation but Council there are still a number of situations where waste bins are causing an obstruction. Council will be liaising with businesses so that the presentation of waste improves, noting that businesses that require daily collection and have limited storage available means that there isn't always a straightforward solution.

General discussion regarding dumping of rubbish and bulky items in areas around Charing Cross. Cr Burrill confirmed Council is involved in the RID (Report Illegal Dumping) surveillance programme. Residents can report illegal dumping via the *Snap Send Solve* App (which can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play) and they may wish to suggest recurring sites as a potential location for RID surveillance as part of their report to Council.

New Street Lighting in Santa Marina Avenue

Request sent to Council via SSS requesting shade placed on new, brighter street lighting recently installed that is impacting homes.

Council advise they have not received any requests via Snap Send Solve on this matter, noting the request may have been sent to Ausgrid. Council requests that the resident raise the matter through our website https://www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/top_link_pages/contact_us/request or the Community Liaison Coordinator, so that we can investigate.

DC confirmed JP has now sent details to Council through above contact channel.

PUBS AND RESIDENTS REPORT

SB reported:-

- JM was recently contact by a journalist from the Wentworth Courier who had seen issues experienced by residents as documented in minutes of previous Precinct meetings.
- SB spoke with journalist and sent off detailed information and images.
- An article was published in the Daily Telegraph on 15/05/23. NB Precinct has not seen the article as it is published online and behind a paywall.
- SB has spoken with security guards at both Robin Hood and Charing Cross Hotels. One head security guard has left, new guards posted to these locations in recent weeks.
- No evidence of any additional guards being rostered to date. No apparent positive action to date following meeting with Licensing Police. No additional guards or patrols.
- PUDO not effective yet with ride-share vehicles continuing to set-down and pick-up passengers in Carrington Rd. SB noted anomalies with GPS directions to Robin Hood Hotel on some platforms pointing to Carrington Rd.
- SB has had discussions with Council Officers regarding various ongoing issues, awaiting an update and will share with Precinct once received.

Cr Burrill advised it can take some time before the PUDO locations and associated geofencing directing ride-share operators to these specific locations are effective as managed by Transport for NSW.

ST CATHERINE'S COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

DC reported: -

- Ongoing issue with drop offs at the corner of Albion and Macpherson Streets
- Local Residents petitioned Council to make changes to the St Catherine's School drop off area on Macpherson Street.
- Three (3) Carparking spaces have been removed, and the pedestrian crossing re located to improve the drop off zone for the school.
- The main issue for residents is that Cars are not moving down the line and are continuing to drop students off near the top entrance gate of the school on Macpherson Street, near Albion Street. This is causing traffic congestion in the roundabout. The result is that the "Kiss and Go" zone arising from relocation of pedestrian crossing and bus stop, is not being fully utilised.
- The St Catherine's Community Consultation Committee held an unscheduled meeting, with Nikolaos Zervos, Council's Executive Manager of Infrastructure present to discuss this issue. At this meeting it was noted that one of the conditions of consent for the school development was that if parents/carers don't use the full extent of the "Kiss and Go"/drop off zone, the school will be required to close the top gate (Gate 5) near Albion Street.

- St Catherine's confirmed Gate 5 is now closed mornings and afternoons and all students can only access Macpherson St through Gate 6 (At the entrance of the new Performing Arts Centre). The also advised they will install bollards and signs at the front of the drop off area (near Albion St), to encouraged drivers to move their cars down the line. Both students and parents have been advised.
- DC inspected the Drop Off zone on Friday 02/06, and again on the morning of 07/06 and saw no changes had been implemented - he subsequently sent an email to school 07/06 morning. NS advised bollards were seen to be in place on afternoon of 07/06.
- Council have advised if there is no resolution to this matter, they may make changes along the footpath to ensure the School's drop off area works more efficiently and does not cause congestion in the Albion St / Macpherson St Roundabout.
- Traffic counts continue to be recorded annually to monitor traffic in the local area as is required as part of the schools "conditions of consent" for its building program. There is to be no net increase in traffic annually. In order to fulfil this requirement the school is actively encouraging students to walk to school or catch public transport or school buses.
- Next meeting of the St Catherine's CCC will be in July.

CHARING CROSS STREETSCAPE UPGRADE - UPDATE

DC asked for an update from Council who advised the following:-

- Detailed design details expected to be available June 2023
- Review of Environmental Factors (REF) will be open for community review and feedback for 28 days from late August 2023.
- Notifications of the feedback process will be across multiple platforms including, Council's "Have your Say" webpage, letters to residents/businesses, social media.
- Construction will be streamlined for efficiencies - Preliminary electrical works to be undertaken October 2023 whilst the Request for Tender issued to identify a head civil contractor.
- Cr Burrill advised the REF will cover the technical detail of the project and stressed the importance of community input.
- *It is estimated that the bulk civil works in begin the early months of 2024.*

Cr Burrill gave the example of concerns regarding the mid-block pedestrian crossing. It was suggested a trial pedestrian crossing (temporary) prior to construction could provide an opportunity to review effectiveness.

General discussion regarding multi-function poles (smart poles) and their functionality and future options. Current usage for street lighting, flags/banners, signage, hanging baskets. Those in Bondi Junction house wi-fi technology. Concerns regarding future use impacting privacy raised due to an article (unknown source) reporting facial recognition/listening devices in another jurisdiction. Cr

Burrill assured, whilst unlikely to see such technologies in Waverley, any matters like that would be publicised and open for feedback prior to adoption.

Remarks that some business owners were deciding whether or not to renew leases as a result of concerns relating to the streetscape upgrade. Cr Burrill assured lead contractor (when appointed following tender process) would work closely with businesses to minimise disruption and provide communication prior to and during construction.

ACTION: Request Council install a temporary pedestrian crossing for a trial period on Bronte Rd in the position as proposed in the Charing Cross Streetscape Upgrade to enable the community and Council staff to review effectiveness prior to REF public consultation.

WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL UPDATE

JF reported: -

- Council Planning Officers produced a revised draft Site-Specific Development Control Plan (SSDCP) developed to guide any new development on-site and complement the previously finalised Planning Proposals.
- This was made publicly available (including to Councillors) on 28/04/23, to be discussed at the Strategic Planning & Development Committee (SPDC) meeting on 02/05/23.
- At the SPDC meeting, four speakers addressed the committee - 1 from Uniting Care and 3 from the community.
- The Mayor put forward a motion to defer this item to the Council Meeting to be held 16/05/23, seconded by the Deputy Mayor and carried unanimously by all Councillors. The Mayor noted this is a complex site and it's important to get the DCP right.
- Community group Friends of War Memorial Hospital (FOWMH) have held several meetings to discuss issues arising from the revised draft SSDCP, noting that in its current form, it does not reflect resolutions previously made by Councillors nor the feedback from the community. It does not currently comply with the Waverley Local Environment Plan. FOWMH have composed a letter to update members of the community who signed a previous petition, with this update to be distributed by email.
- A current resident owner has advised Uniting are required to provide 12-months notice to vacate, which has not occurred to date, though some residents renting apartments in the Bushell & Johnson have recently left.
- Item did not appear on agenda of Council Meeting held 16/05/23 or SPDC meeting 06/06/23.

Cr Burrill provided the following update:-

- Councillors have received a briefing from and attended a workshop with Council Planning staff.
- Following letters from the community, several Councillors have requested Planning officers respond, in plain English, to each of the concerns that have been raised.
- This is a work in progress with Council Have Your Say webpage to be update addressing the

issues raised.

- Once Planning officers have completed this task, there should be improved clarity when the item returns to Council.

DC noted the key areas of concern relate to building heights, tree preservation and the heritage gates being opened up to allow public access through the site as a historic feature.

Cr AB advised there has already been further review relating to positioning of buildings in relation to the heritage gates/driveway.

PHILLIP HOUSE - LAND & ENVIRONMENT COURT HEARING

DC reported: -

- Council has approved a Boarding House for an over-55's for approx 41 single residents, to replace Phillip House an Aged Care Facility in Bronte Road Waverley
- The owners (Summit Care) are challenging this decision in the Land and Environment Court and want to make this facility available to all ages and double the number of occupants to over 80 in small studio rooms
- MM & DC made representation at the Land and Environment Conciliation Meeting in May. They argued that boarding houses of the proposed style are not typically utilised by low-income earners but rather younger professionals who pay higher-rents, or backpackers. They argued that it is important to retain over-55's condition to provide local, affordable housing for the aged. They also argued that doubling the number of occupants is excessive.
- At this hearing at the Land and Environment Court, conciliation failed.
- A further hearing will take place in November. The Charing Cross Precinct once again intends to send representatives to Court to speak on behalf of residents, following which a further update will be provided.

DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

227-229 Bronte Road "Stamatiko Flats"

Application to demolish the Rear section of this building has been deferred, pending more information.

MM made a submission on behalf of the CC Precinct.

Recommended that the façade on Bronte Road be repaired and restored.

SB stated the intricate architectural detail of the rear section of the building appears to have been overlooked.

Robin Hood Hotel Owners who own this land have the site up for sale along with the Robin Hood Hotel

GENERAL BUSINESS

LOCAL BUS SERVICES

NH wished to know if there has been any progress regarding restoration of local bus services such as Routes 314 & 316. Noted that many residents now need to walk further to access some buses (like Route 390x), and many buses do not serve the destinations previously available. NH stated that residents are reliant upon services and rely on services that are frequent and accessible.

Cr Burrill commented the State Government trying to deal with a shortage of drivers by reducing the job requirements.

ACTION: Council to find out whether local bus services, removed by the former NSW Govt will be restored

RAIN GARDEN - CORNER HENRIETTA ST AND SALISBURY ST

LF raised concerns regarding the recently constructed rain garden and continuous footpath and related, ongoing concerns with the bicycle lane on Henrietta St.

Background - in 2010, residents met with Council officers regarding the bicycle lane in Henrietta. Residents were against the bike lane (contraflow in one-way street) due to safety concerns. Council officers advised the project was part of a State Government plan and were essentially powerless.

In April 2023, residents were advised by a construction company that a raingarden would be replacing the existing concrete blister at the corner of Henrietta and Salisbury Sts. Residents advise they were not otherwise informed or consulted about this project.

Key concerns:

1. Raingarden resulting in water ingress to properties, impacting the footing of adjacent houses. A Council Project Officer assured this would not be a problem, but residents remain concerned due to reports of flooding adjacent to other raingardens. NB: This officer was unable to comment on traffic related matters.
2. Bike lane safety remains an issue with injuries witnessed. Increase of e-bikes has seen bikes travelling at higher speeds in recent times. Salisbury St intersection with Henrietta St has a blind spot as a result of the fencing in place on properties on either side of the road (fencing is not new, many decades old) further impacting vehicle movements at this intersection. Continuous footpath treatment blurs the delineation between footpath and road. Particular concern with young children riding bikes on footpath not always aware they are approaching an active roadway. Stop sign in Salisbury St set back from corner, prior to continuous footpath, requiring cars to roll forward after stopping in order to move beyond blind spot. Review of risks required.
3. A fixed metal bollard on the corner of Salisbury and Henrietta Sts was removed as a result of this project. Bollard was in place to prevent vehicles from stopping on footpath. Since

removal, trucks are now driving up onto the footpath.

Cr Burrill recommended meeting on site with Cr Kay who is involved with the Traffic Committee, as well as with Council staff to review concerns.

ACTION: Charing Cross Precinct requests Council send representative(s) to corner of Salisbury St and Henrietta St, and to contact LF asap by email (*Please note at the time of writing these meeting minutes this has now been done*)

CHARINGFIELD ACCESS ROADWAY

NS reported continued illegal parking, contrary to the No Stopping signs along the laneway to the Charingfield Aged Care facility.

Cr Burrill advised this is private property

Overdevelopment in the Waverley Municipality

Background

We're already congested: Mayors of rich suburbs resist calls for new homes

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/we-re-already-congested-mayors-of-rich-suburbs-resist-calls-for-new-homes-20230601-p5dd38.html?btis>

Recently representatives from The NSW Government stated that All Suburbs must increase their density and housing targets. As reported in the SMH 4 May 2023 (see link above) Waverley Mayor Cr Paula Masellos states that Waverley has one of the highest densities in NSW. Neighbouring councils agree adding that social infrastructure has failed to keep up. The article also points out that most Councils and communities are worried about unacceptable building standards and inappropriate urban design and impacts.

JM proposed a motion that:

MOTION

The Charing Cross Precinct writes to:-

(1) The Waverley GM and Council supporting the Mayor's position; and write to

(2) the Member of Coogee reiterating our position in the strongest terms with

(a) A reminder that we support her views and campaign stance on inappropriate over development and in particular her recent comments about impacts of overdevelopment in Coogee and

(b) to express our concerns and possible impacts of the Premier's seemingly blanket

approach and commentaries on future housing development.

Furthermore, we support a community and locally led approach to planning and solutions to housing supply and development.

And finally, We would be happy to meet to discuss and share our ideas.

Moved by JM

Seconded MV

Motion Supported Unanimously

NEXT MEETING Wednesday August 9th 2023

MEETING CLOSED at 9.00pm