

7th August 2023, 7:00pm – 8:30pm, Ocean Room Bondi Pavilion

Meeting opened: 7:04pm

Chair: Margaret Merten

Guests Present: Alana Novak, Community Planning Advocate, Mary Shiner, Manager Executive Services - Waverley Council, Michelle Gray (Councillor, ALP), Chris Vaughan (Community member, Owner Concrete Skate Supplies)

1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge this land as the traditional lands of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People of Australia, respect their spiritual relationship to Country and pay respect to their Elders past and present.

We acknowledge that we meet on the land of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation and the important role all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people continue to play within Australia and our community.

2. **Apologies:** Lenore Kulakauskas, Dominic Wykanak (Councillor, Greens), Leon Goltsman (Councillor, Liberal Party)

3. Special Guest: Community Planning Advocate, Alana Novak

Alana gave an overview of her role and her background. (Appendix 1)

- Alana's role as the Community Planning Advocate sits in the council Executive Services Team
- Legal background in litigation, Law degree and Sociology degree
- Her role is to:
 - Support residents and community members preparing to attend Waverley Local Planning Panel (WLPP) or other courts or panels
 - Facilitate/educate the community in planning process
 - Support precinct committees and groups with DA enquiries, planning proposals and planning matters
 - Provide feedback to the Strategic Planning and DA team regarding resident's Planning and Regulatory concerns.
 - Conduct surveys with residents, businesses, the community, and visitors about the cumulative impacts of overdevelopment.

There was general discussion around Alana's role and the midterm to longer term plans for the role.

Mary Shiner spoke about the initial goal of the new role would be to examine the impact of overdevelopment in the LGA. An external researcher would be contracted to conduct a liveability study. Council will manage the scope of the study. Reports from study will be fed into LEP (Local Environmental Plan) and DCP (Development Control Plans).

Concerns were raised about agenda bias in a research study. It was raised that it would be beneficial in such a study to have community input into the types of questions included in the scope.

4. Address by Chris Vaughan about the Skate Park Petition lodged in 2021

There was a petition lodged to council in 2021 signed by 2000 people requesting the upgrade of the skate park including shade, toilets, condition of the park and water. Margaret confirmed that the installation of toilets under the carpark was included in the Master Plan for Bondi Beach upgrades. Chris has raised with council representatives the issues relating to urgent maintenance and that the

park has become unsafe for users and bystanders. The outside fencing is broken down and there are cracks in the concrete and inadequate signage.

ACTION: BB Precinct will assist Chris to draft a motion to put to council requesting a response to the issues raised. Mike and Paul offered to assist with drafting the motion. This will be presented at the next meeting.

5. Reports from Bondi Ward Councillors

Michelle Gray spoke about the following:

- The Electric Vehicle strategy document, which is on public exhibition at the moment. Council is discussing electric vehicle chargers being installed on streets in the Bondi locality to support residential charging of vehicles.
Go to Have Your Say Website for submissions <https://haveyoursay.waverley.nsw.gov.au/>
See Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure
- City to surf this weekend, 13/8/2023
- Heard feedback re the Bondi Winter Festival.

A resident raised the issue of electricity short fall at the level of Ausgrid and the problems strata buildings will have in upgrading to accommodate electric vehicle charging as well as converting to electricity in general (e.g., gas to electricity).

There was discussion about the Business Activation component of Winter Festival for Hall Street. Suggestions were made for festival to extend to some activities in Hall Street such as street stalls etc

ACTION: Discuss extend some activities in Hall Street further at next meeting

6. Minutes 7th June 2023

THAT the minutes of the Bondi Beach Precinct Meeting held on 7th June 2023 are a true and correct record.

Proposed: Margaret Merten

Seconded: Paul Paech

Motion carried.

7. Business arising: Response Report Items

Item 1: That Bondi Beach Precinct, having identified numerous unaddressed problems in the South Bondi Beach Park, urges Council to raise the priority of various major projects and maintenance works in this area.

JESSICA TO SEND TO SHARON CASSIDY, Director Assets& Operations

QUESTIONS FOR SHARON CASSIDY

1. Bondi Beach Precinct requests further clarification of the actual timeline for the upgrade to South Bondi Park including detailed steps.
2. The urgent safety repairs at South Bondi Park including rails required for the stairs were not addressed in the response document. Could a timeline for these repairs please be supplied?
3. The criteria council uses to prioritise works was not included in the response document. Could this please be advised?

Item 2: Bondi Beach Precinct requests that all traffic be prohibited from turning right when travelling: 1. North on Sandridge St Bondi Beach to cross Bondi Rd, heading towards Campbell Pd; or 2. East down Bondi Rd to turn across traffic in Bondi Rd to enter Sandridge St. Submission:

JESSICA TO SEND TO SHARON CASSIDY, Director Assets& Operations

MOTION 1:

THAT Bondi Beach Precinct requests council to urgently consider the following for improved traffic safety at Campbell Parade and Sandridge Streets:

Following the meeting of the Bondi Beach Precinct on 5 June 2023, the following proposal was submitted to Waverley Council:

"That all traffic be prohibited from turning right when travelling:

- 1. North on Sandridge St Bondi Beach to cross Bondi Rd, heading towards Campbell Pd; or*
- 2. East down Bondi Rd to turn across traffic in Bondi Rd to enter Sandridge St.*

Submission:

The reason for this proposal is that this traffic presents a very real danger with frequently heavy and fast moving traffic travelling into or out of this steep bend. Such traffic is frequently travelling downhill at speed and includes buses, bikes and cars, or is crossing into this intersection with heavy traffic moving in both directions along Bondi Rd.

The slightest mistiming could potentially result in a multiple vehicle crash with major damage, injury, and loss of life."

The Waverley Council Response Report from Assets & Operations reads:

"Council has considered a roundabout at this location but have not proceeded it has been considered a high priority at this stage. Cost would be in approximate excess of 250K, and Council does not have funding for such a project at this stage."

Bondi Beach Precinct expresses its dismay and disappointment at this dismissive response to an important safety proposal. It is emphasised that the proposal was submitted solely for PUBLIC SAFETY reasons. This Precinct remains firmly of the view that right turning at the intersection of Bondi Rd and Sandridge St represents a serious danger to the public and urgently calls upon Waverley Council to reconsider its negative response.

We emphasise that there was absolutely no suggestion for the construction of a roundabout at this intersection. On the contrary, that would be an inappropriate and frankly dangerous solution. Introducing a roundabout on such a wide, cantilevered bend which carries a high level of traffic makes no sense and would increase the risk of accidents and would also probably cause traffic congestion.

The introduction of "no right turn" signs would probably cost a few hundred dollars – nothing like \$250,000!

We hesitated to put forward suggestions as to how Council might address this matter. However, in light of the response received we now point out that the prohibition of right-hand turns at this intersection would essentially mean that traffic would need to be diverted. The most obvious place for diversion would be to Dudley Street which is only a few hundred metres further up Bondi Road. There is already a traffic light at the intersection of Dudley Street and Bondi Road. All that would be required would be a tweaking of the timing of that traffic light to accommodate the increased resulting traffic on that corner. It is a simple and easily achievable solution.

Even if it causes a minor degree of inconvenience for some drivers, we submit that PUBLIC SAFETY is the immediate priority.

In the circumstances we request that Council give further urgent consideration to this proposal.

Proposed: Mike Lyons

Seconded: Paul Paech

Motion carried.

8. Motor Bike Parking

Discussion included the potential for parallel parking on the foot path next to the curb which is done in Melbourne (where footpaths are wide enough). Some raised the issue of accessibility of wheelchairs and walkers if space were taken up by bikes parking.

JESSICA TO SEND TO SHARON CASSIDY, Director Assets& Operations

MOTION 2:

THAT Bondi Beach Precinct submits Mike Lyon's proposal (Appendix 3) to trial new designated bike parking locations and prohibition of bikes parking in car spaces.

Proposed: Mike Lyons

Seconded: Paul Paech

Motion carried.

A suggestion was made to amend the motion to include a 10-minute designated parking area for delivery bikes at the corner of Beach Road and Campbell Parade. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

9. Fighting Overdevelopment

Margaret tabled the Combined Precinct Committee motions as follows:

- a. The combined precinct is concerned that the heritage of Bondi Beach Campbell Pde, and other heritage areas throughout the LGA are being lost with new developments replacing original buildings. We ask for a meeting with the Heritage Officers to better understand how heritage protection is implemented and its real and active scope for preservation with the aim of better understanding heritage protections.
- b. The combined precinct supports the Council's commitment to increase building compliance activities and notes that Council predicts \$1M in the operating budget as a result of this. We support the importance of building compliance throughout the LGA.
- c. The combined precinct asks that Council and Councillors formally request that the new Planning Minister Paul Scully return planning powers to local councillors.
- d. The combined precinct asks that Council implement a building hoarding policy that a) prevents commercial advertising and b) required developers to use instead historical images of the area or commission a local artist (as does Sydney City Council) and c) where appropriate, messages on hoardings display the following wording: "This development was not approved by Waverley Councillors."

- e. The combined precinct requests that Council formally write to the Planning Minister requesting an extension of ownership beyond the 15 years proposed in the new affordable housing proposed legislation.

10. Ratify Secretary – Alice Liew

THAT Alice Liew is ratified as Secretary of Bondi Beach Precinct

Proposed: Margaret Merten

Seconded: Paul Paech

Motion carried.

11. Table support letter for statue of Pauline Menzcer (see attached)

12. General Business

None

Meeting Closed 8:39pm

Next Meeting: Monday 9 October 2023

Alice Liew Secretary

Margaret Merten Co-Convenor

7 August 2023

APPENDIX

Appendix 1

Community Planning Advocate – Waverley Council

The Community Planning Advocate is a new position in Council and is based within the Executive Services Team.

The purpose of this role includes:

- Working with the Executive Services Team and the Community Liaison Coordinator to assist in supporting Precinct Committees and other community members on Planning and Regulatory matters.
- Providing regular education programs for residents about Planning and Regulatory matters, including the NSW Planning System, our Local Environmental Plan and Development Control Plan, the approval process, how to read plans, developing information sheets about Development Applications, voluntary planning agreements and planning proposals that relate to developments.
- Developing metrics which capture the cumulative, aggregate impacts of development/overdevelopment.

What the role will do

The CPA will:

- Provide support to residents and community members preparing to attend the Waverley Local Planning Panel (WLPP) or other courts or panels.
- Facilitate/educate the community – via webinars, workshops and forums to support residents understand the Planning process.
- Support Precinct Committees and groups with DA enquiries, Planning Proposals and Planning matters including:
 - § Advice on how to write a submission.
 - § Following up the status of DAs.
 - § Explaining next steps in the assessment process.
 - § Advice on the Social Impact Assessment process, what it is, and how it is applied.
 - § Information on Compliance issues and information about processes post DA approval stage.
 - § Triaging Planning queries received from the community in conjunction with Executive Services.
- Provide feedback to the Strategic Planning and DA Team regarding resident's Planning and Regulatory concerns.
- Conduct surveys with residents, businesses, the community and visitors about the cumulative impacts of overdevelopment.

What the role will not do

- The CPA will not review DA decisions, assess any DA applications or assist with the lodgement of DAs.
- The role will not write submissions or objections for residents, Precinct Committees or groups.

Alana Novak Community Planning Advocate

E. alana.novak@waverley.nsw.gov.au

P: 02 9083 8121

Appendix 2

BONDI BEACH PRECINCT – TRAFFIC SAFETY

PROPOSAL REJECTED BY WAVERLEY COUNCIL REGARDING TRAFFIC SAFETY ON THE CORNER OF BONDI ROAD AND SANDRIDGE STREET, BONDI BEACH.

Following the meeting of the Bondi Beach Precinct on 5 June 2023, the following proposal was submitted to Waverley Council:

“That all traffic be prohibited from turning right when travelling:

1. *North on Sandridge St Bondi Beach to cross Bondi Rd, heading towards Campbell Pd; or*
2. *East down Bondi Rd to turn across traffic in Bondi Rd to enter Sandridge St.*

Submission:

The reason for this proposal is that this traffic presents a very real danger with frequently heavy and fast moving traffic travelling into or out of this steep bend. Such traffic is frequently travelling downhill at speed and includes buses, bikes and cars, or is crossing into this intersection with heavy traffic moving in both directions along Bondi Rd.

The slightest mistiming could potentially result in a multiple vehicle crash with major damage, injury, and loss of life."

The Waverley Council Response Report reads:

"Council has considered a roundabout at this location but have not proceeded it has been considered a high priority at this stage. Cost would be in approximate excess of 250K, and Council does not have funding for such a project at this stage."

The response appears to emanate from the Directorate, Assets & Operations.

The Bondi Beach Precinct expresses its dismay and disappointment at this dismissive response to an important safety proposal. It is emphasised that the proposal was submitted solely for **PUBLIC SAFETY** reasons. This Precinct remains firmly of the view that right turning at the intersection of Bondi Rd and Sandridge St represents a serious danger to the public and urgently calls upon Waverley Council to reconsider its negative response.

We emphasise that there was absolutely no suggestion for the construction of a roundabout at this intersection. On the contrary, that would be an inappropriate and frankly dangerous solution. Introducing a roundabout on such a wide, cantilevered bend which carries a high level of traffic makes no sense and would increase the risk of accidents and would also probably cause traffic congestion.

The introduction of "no right turn" signs would probably cost a few hundred dollars – nothing like \$250,000!

We hesitated to put forward suggestions as to how Council might address this matter. However, in light of the response received we now point out that the prohibition of right-hand turns at this intersection would essentially mean that traffic would need to be diverted. The most obvious place for diversion would be to Dudley Street which is only a few hundred metres further up Bondi Road. There is already a traffic light at the intersection of Dudley Street and Bondi Road. All that would be required would be a tweaking of the timing of that traffic light to accommodate the increased resulting traffic on that corner. It is a simple and easily achievable solution.

Even if it causes a minor degree of inconvenience for some drivers, we submit that **PUBLIC SAFETY** is the immediate priority.

In the circumstances we request that Council give further urgent consideration to this proposal.

Appendix 3

**BONDI BEACH PRECINCT - PROPOSAL REGARDING PARKING OF MOTOR BIKES IN BONDI BEACH
BIKES BELONG IN BONDI BEACH**

Background

The ubiquitous presence of bikes and bike riders in Bondi Beach adds charm and character to this beach precinct. Not only that, but when bikes are parked next to each other in designated Motor Bike parking spaces, this allows more space for the parking of cars and other motor vehicles.

This is recognised by Waverley Council which allocates exclusive spaces for bikes which are marked **“MOTOR BIKES ONLY”**. A typical such space, roughly equivalent to the space required by single a car, accommodates five or six bikes. As well as that, bikes appear to be exempt from the payment of parking fees.

There is a space in Francis Street, on the corner of Ormond Street which has emerged as a “de facto bike parking area” although not designated as such. It often accommodates as many as 15 bikes. It is an ideal space to be demarcated as an exclusive bike parking area.

However, even when there is adequate available exclusive motor bike parking, many bikes regularly park in spaces which would otherwise be available for cars. As a result a single bike may take up the space which could otherwise accommodate a car (or otherwise obstructs the use of such space). This seriously disrupts and reduces the available space for legitimate car parking. Even then, no parking fees are extracted from these bike riders.

Proposal

It is accordingly proposed that:

1. Additional exclusive motor bike parking areas be designated, initially in Sir Thomas Mitchell Road, Francis Street, and Lamrock Avenue, with additional parking areas being made available in other streets in and around Bondi Beach once this is shown to be successful.
2. The area in Francis Street off Ormond Street be designated “Motor Bikes Only”. And
3. Bike parking in areas which are not designated as being for Motor Bikes Only be prohibited, and fines levied when this prohibition is breached. [An alternative might be to levy parking charges on bikes so parked and to limit the time periods when they are permitted to park in the same way as applies to cars]

These proposals will have the advantage of encouraging the use of bikes and providing bike riders with additional convenient parking spaces while at the same time allowing better use by cars of the remaining available parking spaces.