

Minutes of the Bondi Junction Precinct Meeting held at Waverley Library on 22 February 2012

Chaired by Peter Lynch with Stephen B. Cohen taking minutes

The meeting opened at 6.30 pm

All current correspondence and notifications are available at the rear of the room.

Present

Mayor John Wakefield; Councillor Sally Betts; Councillor Mora Main; Councillor Tony Kay; Council officers: Tony Reed, General Manager; Linda Bathur ; and 14 residents were present, as per the attendance sheets.

Apologies

Councillor Rose Jackson; Maree Girdler; Mary Shiner; George Newhouse; Andrea Baker; Jennifer Lynch; Ruth Tarlo; Tony Moses; Enid Hokin.

Absent

Councillor Kerry Sloan.

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting on 23 November 2011

The style of precinct minutes was debated at Combined Precinct meetings. There would be no Hansard style minutes. They would be more general, featuring a summary of the proceedings at each Precinct meeting.

The November minutes were presented in this format.

There were no matters arising and the minutes were accepted with no change.

Address by Tony Reed, General Manager

Tony Reed spoke about the Precinct Handbook and operational guidelines (currently in draft form).

The document is currently difficult to read and repetitive. So far around 35 concerns have been addressed and the handbook should be finalised by April 2012. It will be much thinner and simpler. It will be presented to the Combined Precinct before it is adopted.

There was a brief discussion on parking issues in laneways. Construction vehicles in Donald Place (behind Bronte Road) are parking illegally and not being fined, whereas residents are fined for parking in the same area. A similar situation is occurring in Lawson Lane.

Address by Mayor John Wakefield

Mayor John Wakefield mentioned his initiative to refocus some of Council's resources to create local area monitors. Two staff will have responsibility for cleanliness - identifying dumped rubbish, vehicles and trolleys across the whole Waverley area. All issues arising from their travels will be logged. The Place Management division of Council will be expanded to all areas of Council.

A number of residents stated that graffiti is a huge problem in the Waverley Area and sometimes it wasn't removed from private property. Mayor Wakefield commented that graffiti removal from private property is "only free if it's offensive".

Report from the Bondi Junction Precinct hotel subcommittee by Danielle Ecuyer

Danielle Ecuyer attended a Liquor Accord meeting the previous night. 40 people attended.

During the holiday period there were no reported assaults in the Bondi Junction area. Hotels have initiated security training for staff and have increased security patrols. Party buses are not permitted to operate after 10 pm. Signs have been placed around hotels to inform patrons that they are in a residential area and should limit noise. Patrons who make noise are barred from the hotel. A dress code for patrons has been put in place. Anyone in high-visibility jackets must leave by 8 pm and no bike gang colours can be worn inside at any time. "Posturing OMCG" (Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs) have been evicted by police at Bondi Beach. These gangs have been sighted near brothels in Bondi Junction.

There have been a number of positive steps taken by the hotels recently: Improved management of patrons; Cleaning up outside; and moving patrons along when they are leaving.

A school education programme relating to underage drinking has commenced.

Danielle also stated that the 24 hour gym recently approved by Council will have no management around the clock.

Traffic report

Electrical work is continuing throughout the Waverley area. Some work is being carried out at night.

Chris Carter contacted the Precinct to alert us that a number of cars are travelling up Ruthven Street faster than 50 km/h. This poses a risk to people crossing the road at the top of the hill.

DA applications

The DA for a 24 hour gym on the corner of Gray and Ann Street Bondi Junction is still to be finalised. The longer hours are aimed at satisfying shift workers who would be unable to use the facilities during standard opening hours.

Theobroma had lodged a DA for a Chocolate Lounge Bar in Bronte Road Bondi Junction, however the premises is now for lease.

The Forum development in Oxford Street Bondi Junction is currently 12 stories high, however a DA is before Council to extend it to 14.

General business

There is an environmental issue at 95 - 99 Bronte Road relating to slurry in the gutter flowing towards Centennial Park.

A question was raised regarding a neighbour's tree dropping fruit and cracking walls. Could Council help in this matter? The first step would be to raise the issue with the neighbour. If they disregard the request to trim the tree, contact Council to organise an inspection of the tree on safety grounds.

The grass on nature strips is usually maintained by the owners or residents of the property. In Waverly, Council will undertake work on the nature strip when the resident can't due to age. Council will also perform this work in the CBD and areas with difficult terrain.

Rubbish is being dumped in the "dunny lane" off Walter Street.

In Oxford Street builders of the Forum have removed tiles and filled the holes with bitumen. Council is aware of this. It is a standard practice where the builder will provide a temporary fix. Council will eventually repair the footpath and back-charge the builder.

It was noted that a council worker was spotted using a lawnmower that kept stalling. The equipment obviously not suited for the job he was doing.

Outstanding motions and matters carried forward from previous meetings

18 May 2011

Shopping trolley address by Libby O'Neill

Libby O'Neill outlined the current situation regarding abandoned shopping trolleys around the Bondi Junction area. Problem areas being near bus stops, taxi ranks and fire exits.

Council has been working with major retailers to find a solution.

Fines for infringements and to recover impounded trolleys has resulted in retailers taking more of an interest in talking to Council.

Mark Taylor from Willoughby City Council was instrumental in their Council' success in eradicating abandoned shopping trolleys using magnetic wheel locks.

The effectiveness of wheel locks is demonstrated in this short video: <http://bit.ly/trlock>

Eric Scott said that until this technology is installed in our local shopping centres, phoning the 1800 number for Trolley Trackers is still an effective way of getting abandoned trolleys removed from the streets.

Response

Councillor Sally Betts stated that Westfield have agreed to install a system to restrict trolleys from exiting the building. Eastgate had already agreed to do this. Implementing this may take up to six months (as at November 2011).

18 May 2011

Motion

Amended motion to request a name change of residential areas of Bondi Junction to Mill Hill

Stephen B. Cohen submitted an amended motion to request a name change of residential areas of Bondi Junction to Mill Hill.

Since lodging the original motion to change the suburb name for part of Bondi Junction, it has been requested by people who have spoken to Stephen to extend the area of the proposed suburb to cover all the low density residential areas north of Queens Park, rather than just the area which is currently in the locality of Mill Hill.

The new suburb would be an effective way of defining the low density residential properties and would help to keep high density and commercial developments out of the suburb.

We request Council make provision for the change when allocating the 2012-2013 budget.

This is the motion:

That the official suburb name of the area that includes most of the western heritage residential section of BONDJUNCTION to be renamed MILL HILL, retaining the postcode 2022.

Mill Hill is the current locality name for the western part of this area, but it is proposed to extend the suburb eastwards as many similar residences of historical interest can be found there.

The proposed area of Mill Hill would be bounded by Oxford Street; York Road, Birrell Street & Bronte Road (or Brisbane Street). The suburb of Mill Hill would not include the commercial area bounded by Oxford Street, Denison Street, Ebley Street & Newland Street).

The motion was seconded by Eric Scott and carried.

Response

As reported in May to the Bondi Junction precinct Waverley Council Officers have investigated the process for renaming suburbs or areas with the Geographical Names Board.

The process involves many different steps including community consultation and reporting to a full Council meeting for endorsement of any recommended changes. Council would in any case need to have evidence of broad community acceptance of this proposal before considering name changes. The Precinct will need to demonstrate broad residents' support through community consultation.

The request will be referred for consideration in the 2012-13 Budget process however please note that Council will need to consider any new requests for increased service delivery that requires additional funding. Precincts would be aware that following the decision the rate increase which will deliver less revenue than anticipated, Council has now established a Service efficiency Committee to address the funding shortfall. More information about how Council proposes to manage this situation will be available and presented to the Precincts in November.

The motion requires clarification as its stated objective of "keeping high density" out of the suburb cannot be achieved by this proposed suburb change.

Meeting closed at 7.50 pm.

The next meeting (AGM) will be held at Waverley Library at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 16 May 2012