

Minutes of the Mill Hill Bondi Junction Precinct Meeting held at Waverley Library on Monday 27 November 2023



Chaired by Simon Rowell with Stephen B. Cohen taking minutes.
The meeting opened at 6.36 pm

Present

Mayor Paula Masselos and 8 others.

Apologies

Councillor Angela Burrill.

Acknowledgement of Indigenous heritage

Waverley Council acknowledges the Bidjigal and Gadigal people who traditionally occupied the Sydney coast.

We acknowledge all elders past and present and extend this respect to all Aboriginal people living, working or visiting Waverley.

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting on 23 August 2023

The Mill Hill Bondi Junction Precinct calls on Waverley Council to launch an awareness campaign against the growing presence of off-leash dogs in Bondi Junction's streets and parks, particularly in zones frequented by children near day care centres and schools. The motion also calls for enhanced signage to clarify where off-leash areas are and stricter enforcement by rangers to ensure dogs are leashed where necessary.

This campaign is being investigated. Further updates to come.

Mayor Paula Masselos will contact rangers to carry out more patrols in the area.

Request to have the crossings at the intersection of Bronte Road / Grosvenor Street and Oxford Street Bondi Junction made more pedestrian friendly.

At present there are only short phases of the traffic lights in favour of pedestrians and there is a barricade at the south-eastern corner in front of Kathmandu which prevents pedestrians from walking diagonally across the intersection which is the quickest way when heading towards the interchange. All traffic is stopped when pedestrians have right-of-way so there is no reason why the intersection couldn't be converted to a scramble crossing and this barricade removed.

Also at this crossing, cyclists often fail to stop when they face a red light and are a danger to pedestrians crossing during the "walk" phase. This dangerous behaviour is rarely policed.

There are a number of technical reasons why the intersection constructed and programmed without a scramble crossing, with the Cycleway being a key consideration in the phasing.

Council Officers will make representation to TfNSW for a review of the pedestrian timing and if able to extend, will request so.

The fencing outside Kathmandu must remain in place.

Mayor Paula Masselos will look into the crossing to see if education of cyclists could improve conditions for pedestrians.

Mayors Address

The Boot Factory

Substandard work on The Boot Factory by the original builder has been rectified and handover is expected to be in April 2024.

Safe Routes to School

The Safe Routes to School Program aims to make walking safer and easier, and encourage parents and children to choose walking, scooting, or riding to school.

Council may improve footpaths, install raised crossings, and identify alternate routes that bypass main roads.

Walking routes may bypass main roads.

Bus Taskforce

The NSW Government has created a Bus Industry Taskforce to make recommendations to improve the reliability, quality and effectiveness of bus services across NSW; bringing together bus operators, industry experts, the workforce, and community representatives to determine how to deliver more efficient and reliable services.

Waverley War Memorial Hospital Redevelopment

The Waverley War Memorial Hospital is currently only locally heritage listed. Council is trying to secure State Government heritage listing.

28 Significant trees have been identified on the site which cannot be removed.

Light Up Waverley

Waverley Council has launched Light Up Waverley, a festive lights competition for community members to be part of. Residents, businesses and schools are encouraged to get into the festive spirit by decorating their outdoor space: front yard; balcony; window; school fence or store front. There is also an environmentally sustainable display category.

Rocket Ship

A new rocket ship has been installed in Waverley Park as part of a major upgrade of the park.

Birrell Street Bondi Junction

Drivers turning right out of MacKenzie Street into Birrell Street are having difficulty seeing oncoming traffic on Birrell Street and a mirror has been requested at this intersection.

Drivers turning left or right out of Ruthven Street into Birrell Street have difficulty seeing oncoming traffic when vehicles are parked illegally in the no stopping zone on the corner of the two streets in front of the Centennial Park Delicatessen. A raingarden installed on Birrell Street at the corner of Ruthven Street would improve this situation.

Street Parties

Waverley Council allows residents to close parts of streets in order to hold street parties where neighbours can hold a small gathering of up to 100 people. Information on road closures is available at:

https://www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/190861/Small_community_events_involving_road_closures_-_notes_for_applicants_Rev_6.pdf

E-bikes on Footpaths

Electric bikes (e-bikes) are out of control in Bondi Junction with many left in the middle of footpaths or at crossings. These e-bikes impede people with prams or mobility aides. Council has very little control of e-bikes and is also fighting against e-scooters which would end up being an additional hazard to pedestrians.

Motion

Simon Rowell moved the following motion:

That Council take immediate action to address the safety hazards posed by e-bikes parked illegally and ridden on footpaths in Bondi Junction, particularly for vulnerable pedestrians like those with prams or mobility aids. This action should include:

- Increased enforcement of existing e-bike parking and riding regulations.
- Targeted education campaigns for e-bike riders on footpath safety.
- Investigation and implementation of additional safety measures, such as designated parking areas and signage.
- Collaboration with e-bike rental companies to implement responsible parking and riding practices.

The motion was seconded by Alana Lessi.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Short Term Rentals / Affordable Housing

Short term rentals including Airbnb are limiting the availability of rental properties in the Eastern Suburbs. Waverley Council and the police are monitoring the situation. There are over 4,000 short term rental properties in Waverley along with many empty investment properties. The Community Planning Advocate – Alana Novak can be contacted for more information on short term rentals along with affordable housing. Developers can increase the floor space ratio of a new building by 30% if they provide some affordable housing for 15 years.

DA updates

14 Botany Street Bondi Junction. A DA has been submitted for the modification of an existing boarding house including the front entrance, gates, balustrades, privacy screens, a new rear deck and a BBQ area.

Osmund Lane Bondi Junction has been sold by Waverley Council to Stargate so it can be turned into a plaza between the twin towers at 194 Oxford Street Bondi Junction.

The NSW Government has established Greater Sydney Parklands. Future developments will not be allowed to overshadow significant parklands which means if any developments eventuate on the Waverley Bus Depot site along York Road Bondi Junction, the maximum height would be around four stories so as not to overshadow Centennial Park.

General business

There is a new design competition to make Bondi Junction a destination. This includes the Rowe Street ramp to the Bondi Junction Interchange. It would result in increased accessibility to the railway station along with more dining options at night which would liven up the area and improve safety.

The meeting closed at 7.48 pm.

The next meeting will be held at 6.30 pm on Monday 4 March 2024.