

BRONTE BEACH PRECINCT

The meeting of the Bronte Beach Precinct was held on Wednesday February 24th, It was on Zoom and was opened by Virginia Milson convenor at 6.30pm.

Apologies Sally Kendall

Number present 12

Business Arising

There was a response by Council over pollution incidents at Bronte Beach which had closed the Beach a number of times. The Council responded that the sewer leaks were caused by ageing infrastructure and undertook to write to Sydney Water seeking an explanation and possible solutions. The Mayor also undertook to contact Sydney Water about this.

The minutes of the last meeting were passed as being correct

Proposer; Susan Healy Seconder John Batts Passed unanimously

Problem Waste Removal

The Council has advised that on May 1st.7th.August 8th.November there will be problem waste drop off opportunities for residents of Waverley and Woollahra at 76a Bourke Rd. Alexandria. Residents may drop off batteries polystyrene,, old clothes ,xrays and textiles. Residents were advised to double check on the Council's website for any possible changes to the above dates.

Guest Speaker James Hutton

James writes for the Beast and gave a short presentation on the plans for the Bronte Surf Club. He advised the meeting that many residents and members Of the Surf Club are concerned about the plans, its size and the Club's intentions with the new development .It is feared the Surf Club's plans are to host many functions and parties. James said that following his article in The Beast he was inundated with letters of complaint over the Surf Club development.

Background:

The Bronte Beach Precinct notes that Bronte Surf Life Saving Club is due to submit to Waverley Council the plans they have had prepared for the rebuild of the Bronte Surf Life Saving Club clubhouse soon. The Bronte Beach Precinct is concerned that the approval for this project will be rushed through by Council, so that the rebuild issue is settled, and out of the way, before the next local government elections to be held in September 2021, thereby taking these plans off the agenda of the issues to be reviewed by the electorate of Waverley Municipal Council in the forthcoming election.

Motion 2: The Bronte Beach Precinct calls upon Waverley Council to allow the residents of Bronte and the public in general to be given ample time to review and comment upon the plans for the rebuilding of the Bronte Surf Life Saving Club when they are released.

Proposed Andrew Goffe seconder Julie green Passed unanimously

Background

Bronte Beach Precinct is concerned that the rebuild of the Bronte Surf Life Saving Club clubhouse will effectively result in the venue becoming more focused on Club's entertainment and function centre role than it has hitherto been. The Precinct believes that this aspect of the rebuild is one that is of critical importance to the residents of Bronte who live in close proximity to the Club, and it involves issues that have not been adequately reviewed and discussed. It is further noted that the plans for the rebuild made available to the public have not included those related to the interior of the building. The Precinct believes that the public's ability to assess how the rebuild will affect the potential change of use of the Clubhouse, is being unduly hampered by the Club and Council withholding the proposed interior plans from public scrutiny.

Motion 3. The Bronte Beach Precinct calls upon the Bronte Surf Life Saving Club and Waverley Council to release both the exterior and interior plans for the proposed clubhouse simultaneously and to facilitate public comment and discussion about them. Furthermore, the Precinct calls upon the Club and Waverley Council to address its concerns about how the rebuild is going to affect the usage of the clubhouse.

Proposer Andrew Goffe seconder John Batts Passed unanimously.

Motion 4. The Bronte Beach Precinct respectfully requests Mr Basil Scaffidi, the President of the Bronte Surf Life Saving Club, and/or other members of the Board or executive of the Club, to attend the 5 May 2021 meeting of the Bronte Beach Precinct to explain why the Club seeks to have the Club's clubhouse rebuilt much larger, and/or differently, than the present building. The Precinct is particularly interested to hear about any plans the Club has to change, enlarge or upgrade the function centre facilities offered by the Club.

Proposed Andrew Goffe seconder Stephen Lightfoot. Passed unanimously

St.Catherine's School Development

Chelsea Hunnisett reported to the meeting on the progress of the construction at St.Catherine's. She advised us that the public will not have access to the pools, the completion time had been put back from August to September. And the School was conducting two traffic surveys one in April and the other in September due to concerns over increased traffic congestion.

The pedestrian crossing at the western end of MacPherson St. was to be moved further east to where the old bus stop was located before being moved. Concern was expressed over the change to the crossing and it was advised that this was a strongly contested issue at previous Precinct meetings It was feared that pedestrians would not walk down from the bus stop in Albion St. and would be in considerable danger as a result of crossing MacPherson St. further west.

The Mayor undertook to take the issue up with the Traffic Committee and Chelsea advised that she would also report our concerns to the Committee. She was thanked for her presentation and time spent attending meetings.

Local Hero

Julie Buchanan suggested Brian Ellison as a possible local hero nomination. Julie undertook to speak with Brian to ensure that he was in agreement. She later contacted the Precinct to advise that Brian thanked her but was not interested.

The RSL/Woolworths Site

Stephen Lightfoot from Save Bronte reported that Woolworths plans to open their new Metro store on the Anzac Day weekend April 25th.

Motion

Background It has been noted that the metal fence separating the two eastbound lanes of Macpherson Street, Bronte, between St Thomas Street and Tipper Avenue, is in a poor state of repair and needs to be repainted.

Motion 1. The Bronte Beach Precinct respectfully requests that Waverley Council to repair and repaint this fence in the near future.
Proposer Andrew Goffe

The Mayor undertook to look into this with Council officers.

General Business

Bronte House was raised as late last year it was due for the lease to be renewed. .She advised the meeting that concern had been expressed over possible violation of the lease and to what extent the present lessees had reached out to the Bronte community to advise them of Open Days etc. at Bronte House. Those in attendance were asked if they had recently visited the House and what their impressions were. One respondent said that she enjoyed the visit and thought the House looked attractive and the Garden appealing while the other said that she had had a long association with the House from the time when Peter Muller was there. She was very disappointed with the presentation of the House, the furnishings which said did not conform to the history of the house, the garden and also the fact, that the lessees were using the House for their business advertising.

The following motion was proposed:

Concerns have been raised over the leasing of Bronte House, its history and conservation status and how effectively the House has been introduced to the community of Bronte who own it .

BBPrecinct requests that Waverley Council actively oversee the leasing of the House , supporting its conservation status both internally and externally in the Garden and enforce all the requirements of the lease ensuring the tenants abide by the lease and in addition ensure more connections are made with the Bronte community so that they are made fully aware of Open Days and other events when the House is open to the public.

Proposer Josephine Grieve, Seconder Julie Green. Passed unanimously.

The meeting closed at 8.35pm