

Bondi Precinct Minutes

Wednesday, 7 July, 2021

By Zoom

Meeting opened at 7.05pm

Councillors in attendance: Cr John Wakefield, Cr Dominic Wy Kanak, Cr Leon Goltsman

Council Representatives: Mary Shiner, Community Liaison Co-Ordinator

Co-Conveners: Gabi Tobias, Di Robinson

Apologies:

Present: 22 participants

Agenda

Convener Gabi Tobias notified that chair duties would be taken over by Di Robinson for the meeting, as whilst Gabi would be present at the meeting, she needed to attend to some matters which may distract her.

Welcome to Country: Di Robinson

Council's Community and Engagement Co ordinator, Libby McKenzie, addressed the meeting on Council's engagement policy and strategy.

Council has recently updated its engagement policy and it can be viewed at https://www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/185971/Community_Engagement_Policy2021.pdf

Ms McKenzie said there was no one-size fits-all approach to community engagement. The level of influence the community would have would depend on the nature of the matter being considered.

When asked about the radius used in consultations (how close residents had to be before they were notified of issues such as street closures), Ms McKenzie said the guidelines for that component of the community engagement strategy were still under review and she would report back to Precinct once that review had been concluded. One resident noted the bare minimum should be adjoining streets.

The Convener thanked Ms McKenzie for her time, and her presentation.

Acceptance of Minutes

Moved: Gabi Tobias

Seconded: Lynne Cossar Carried

Update on Barracluff Avenue

In response to Precinct's motion (12/5/2021) officers reported back that traffic volumes and speeds had been surveyed on Barracluff Avenue and Francis Street north and south of Barracluff Avenue. Traffic volumes and speeds would be surveyed at the same locations prior to completion of the trial. Officers reported that the measures to be trialled were not expected to result in funnelling to other streets.

Discussion at Precinct centred on the need for conducting traffic counts in streets surrounding Barracluff Avenue so that a proper assessment could be made of the impact of the traffic calming measures to be introduced in Barracluff Avenue in October-November 2021.

Motion 1

Bondi Precinct writes to all Councillors requesting support for traffic counts in the following streets; Francis Street, Wellington Street, O'Brien Street, Lamrock Street and Sir Thomas Mitchell Road.

Bondi Precinct requests that traffic counts in those streets be conducted before and during the traffic calming trial in Barracluff Avenue, so the impact of funneling on surrounding streets can be properly assessed.

Move: Di Robinson

Seconded: Amanda Spirit- Jones

Carried

Castlefield St park community proposal

A petition of 71 signatures was presented to the Council's Operations and Community Services Committee on 6 July 2021 calling for the creation of a Park in Castlefield Street between Bondi Road and Castlefield Lane.

The park would result in the closure of Castlefield Street at Bondi Road to Castlefield Lane. The Committee referred the petition to the relevant Officers for consideration, who will report back to Council.

Officers had reported to Precinct there were no proposals to undertake any more changes to streets, including Castlefield Street, until the completion of any area-wide traffic study.

Motion 2

Bond Precinct supports the undertaking of no changes to any streets, including Castlefield Street, until there is an area-wide traffic study and master plan.

Moved: Jen Arnold

Seconded: Lynne Cossar Carried

Rickard Avenue – angle parking?

The Bondi Precinct had requested Rickard Avenue be re-opened until an area-wide-traffic study had been developed to ensure a cohesive and integrated approach to traffic in the Bondi Basin. In the meantime, Bondi Precinct requested that angle parking be introduced in Rickard Avenue to relieve parking stress.

Officers reported that reopening Rickard Avenue was not a matter for council officers. Council had determined that Rickard Avenue be closed permanently. Changing this decision would require a motion by 2 Councillors and majority support by Councillors.

Officers support an investigation of angle parking, but reported this would be a matter for consideration in the area-wide-traffic study.

Residents present at the meeting felt there was no need to wait for the area-wide-traffic study to introduce angle parking, and it should be introduced immediately.

Concerns were also raised about children playing and riding their scooters on Rickard Avenue and barbecues being held on the street while it is still a public road.

One resident witnessed an incident involving a motorist driving down Rickard Avenue and becoming frustrated at the street closure. As he was turning the vehicle around, he was stopped by a group of Rickard Avenue residents, annoyed because they felt the motorist had driven down the street too fast, narrowly missing some children who were playing on the street.

Some residents present at the meeting felt Rickard Avenue's status as a public road needs clarification by Council. If it is not a public road, it should be opened up as a public park, for the amenity of all residents.

Motion 3

Bondi Precinct believes that given Council's decision to permanently close Rickard Avenue, the introduction of angle parking should not have to wait for the area-wide-traffic study, and it is requested it be introduced as a matter of urgency.

Bondi Precinct agrees to write to all Waverley Councillors about the reopening of Rickard Avenue and looks forward to the opportunity to ask candidates' their views on this issue before the Council elections.

Moved: Jen Arnold

Seconded: Jacqui Feeney

Carried

Update on Amalfi

Motion 4

Bondi Precinct reiterates its opposition to private developments on public assets.

Moved: Jen Arnold

Seconded: Gabi Tobias

Carried

Progress on major DA's in the Precinct.

It was reported that the multi-storey, multi-apartment block proposal for 81-103 Wellington Street (DA-268/2020) had been lodged and the closing date for objections had recently passed. The DA is for the demolition of several single-storey terrace houses and the construction of two four-storey residential flat buildings containing 56 apartments and two-level basement parking for 59 vehicles.

It was reported that members of the community could still lodge an objection, and ask that it be accepted.

Motion 5

Bondi Precinct objects to DA-268/2020 (Wellington Street) on the grounds it is an overdevelopment of the site, lacks infrastructure additions, will have a negative social impact on the area and will put excessive pressure on already overstretched infrastructure and traffic.

Moved: Lynne Cossar

Seconded: Gabi Tobias

Carried

There was also a report to Precinct on DA-109/2020, which was for a three-level apartment block in Sir Thomas Mitchell Rd with underground car parking. The developer appealed against Council's decision in relation to this DA and the matter was referred to the Land & Environment Court. The Land & Environment Court handed down its ruling on 6 July, and dismissed the developer's appeal. The developer has 28 days to appeal.

Motion 6

Bondi Precinct acknowledges and thanks council officers in opposing DA-109/2020 through the Land & Environment Court.

Moved: Lynne Cossar

Seconded: Gab Tobias

Carried

General Business

Discussion on leasing arrangements for Council premises, and availability of premises in Bondi.

Meeting closed 9.58pm

Date for next meeting: 1 September 2021