

## **MINUTES of BRONTE BEACH PRECINCT**

The meeting was held Wednesday July 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Lugar Brae Church

Number Attending 14

Councillors: Paula Masselos, Lauren Townsend and Josh Spicer in attendance.

The meeting was chaired by Greg Vaughan who opened the meeting and welcomed all those in attendance.

Minutes from previous meeting were passed by John Batts and seconded by Rhonda.

### **Bronte Surf Club Update**

The recent budget for the Bronte Surf Life Saving Club has escalated to more than \$32 million due to independent design reviews and additional conditions. The council has taken out a loan to fund the shortfall. The club will have 60 days dedicated to community use.

Fundraising efforts and grants from various sources, include a \$2 million promise from Dave Sharma. The project includes a seawall to mitigate inundation.

There are plans to create a space for the surf riders.

One speaker expressed concerns for Waverley rate payers about the escalating costs, particularly due to the seawall and coastal engineers' recommendations.

The surf club is a community asset, and the Council is committed to ensuring it benefits the community, explained Paula Masselos.

### **The Loss of Local Businesses**

The meeting discussed the impact of rising rents on local businesses.

The landlords around Bronte are increasing the commercial rents to unsustainable levels. The Friendly Store on MacPherson Street, which had

been open for 22 years, had its annual rent increased by \$40,000 to \$150,000 pa plus other associated rental costs on top. The newsagency's rent went up to \$80,000 pa. Iggy's second shop where it sold pastries had its rent increased. Wholegreen, opposite Clovelly Public School, was paying \$17,000 per month in rent.

Some of the shops had living spaces above or behind that were also the homes of these tenants.

Now all those properties are empty, and the community is poorer without them and their important services. It also means that Woolworths has increased its monopoly in the area.

What typically happens is that the properties stay vacant for some time.

One speaker said that people couldn't afford the rent after such big rent increases. What sort of shops can? We don't need more real estate agents and bottle or tobacco shops.

Paula Masselos: "There's a bigger issue here about us losing our amenity, and this was something that we were fighting way back on when, you know the RSL was being fought over, and the fact that we get these sort of monopolies coming in and making it very hard for the businesses, and I think that this is going to increase.

Another speaker said: "The only role we have is, as a community is to shop locally, much more intensively."

Another: "We absolutely have to make an effort. I mean, like at Charing Cross. We've got to make sure that Charing Cross remains, who wants to keep going up to Bondi Junction all the time?"

## **Water Quality and Stormwater Management**

Speaker 3 raises concerns about the poor water quality at Bronte Beach and suggests moving the stormwater outlet. The stormwater at Bronte Beach contains petrochemical species and pollutants, affecting its quality.

The motion calls for the Council to request funding from the state government to address the issue.

## **Motion**

Background:

Bronte Beach is sometimes considered one of the "dirtiest" beaches in Sydney, particularly after rainfall, due to its susceptibility to stormwater pollution.

According to the State of the Beaches report the "poor" beaches – those susceptible to faecal pollution and not always suitable for swimming, especially after rain – were Shelly beach in Manly, Bronte, Coogee, Malabar and Boat Harbour beaches in Sydney, and Surf beach on the south coast.

A 'poor' rating means that the stormwater runoff, carrying animal faeces and other contaminants, can enter the beach and cause elevated bacteria levels, making it unsafe for swimming. It refers to faecal pollution and microbial water quality.

Bronte Beach has a stormwater drain that empties directly onto the beach, especially at the southern end. This drain was built to manage water from Bronte Park but can carry pollutants from the surrounding urban area.

Waverley has illegally connected stormwater to sewerage pipes which is causing a huge problem.

Due to the potential for stormwater pollution, swimming at Bronte Beach is generally discouraged for up to a day after heavy rainfall, and sometimes longer, depending on the severity of the rainfall.

Recently it was announced that Coogee Beach has received \$7 million in funding from the State Government, Sydney Water and Randwick Council to move its stormwater away from Coogee Beach to the north. The Bronte Beach Precinct believes that Waverley Council needs to negotiate with the State Government and Sydney Water to move Bronte Beach's stormwater outlets away from the beach too.

Currently petrochemicals, faeces, pollutants and gutter rubbish go into the beach. Bronte is a popular family beach and deserves a good beach rating, not a continual poor rating because it is highly polluted.

## **MOTION**

The BBP requests that Waverley Council ask for funding from the NSW Government to move Bronte's stormwater outlet to prevent the storm water flushing onto the beach.

Moved by Susan Hely and seconded by John Batts

## **Sub Depots**

The use of parks for sub depots and street parking is discussed, with a focus on returning them to their original state.