

CHARING CROSS VILLAGE PRECINCT

17th FEBRUARY 2016

Held at: 45A Victoria Street, Charing Cross

CHAIR (and co-convenor) – Julie McAlpin

Co-convenor – Danny Caretti

Minutes – Mora Main

Meeting Started: 7.35 pm

Present: see attendance list

Apologies: Tony Kay, Bill Mouroukas, Ingrid Strewe, Angela Burrill

Item 1: adoption of minutes of previous meeting – unanimous

Item 2: Matters arising:

1. Request for council to send sustainable transport officer to speak to the precinct – no action to date;
2. request for seat to be relocated at bus stop, west side near pedestrian crossing – new seat provided (existing seat remains)
3. matters relating to St Catherines – see under Item
4. Vision for Charing Cross – see under Item 6 ; note Parklet outside Sorelle following consultation with Precinct (Susan Farr). Proposals for more planter boxes and murals dating from 2015 – Precinct has asked to be kept informed
5. Amalgamations: extra-ordinary council meeting to be held at council Sunday 21st February 2016 at 9.30 am, notification received by Cr Masselos today 17th February, looking at options of how wards should be broken down, popularly elected mayor, 5 wards of 3 or 7 wards of 3. Interim operating Governance structure under discussion. Very controversial, meeting to be held at short notice, big issue, difficult time for people to attend. Consultation for naming once amalgamation, no community consultation, scandalous. Very important for Precinct to understand implications for future of community consultation.
6. 440 bus: comes from Leichhardt. Maybe that fewer buses overnight at Waverley depot could result in sale of all or part of land. Sydney Bus regional bus & service manager NSW wanted precinct to provide hard data about problems. Two issues 1) number of bus – no longer the 378, and 2) have services declined (or improved)?

MOTION: this precinct asks Council to request that the STA investigates any change to frequency in real time (and compared with timetable) and impact on reliability of buses originating from Rozelle and/or Leichhardt, and whether passenger numbers have been tracked?

Moved Robert McDonnell, seconded Norma Holmes carried unanimously

Item 4: Police Safety meeting: Next meeting to be held at Waverley Police Station on 8th March 2016, will report to next Precinct meeting. Note Wentworth Courier summary (Crimewatch) provides useful information.

Item 5: St Catherine's School Master Plan. submissions received by DoP were 220 against, 18 for – decision went to PAC determination board, 27th January 2016 hearing. 700 posters put up to inform community (many were pulled down). . 17 speakers, at PAC hearing, large crowd. Headmistress of St Catherines Julie Townsend addressed the meeting with a sales pitch. No mention of any impacts on residents. Resident speeches were co-ordinated, very few overlapped. Peter Boxall spoke as a concerned parent, Chair of St Cats Foundation, IPART and Amalgamations process. Traffic has been just as bad at the beginning of this school term. Two Council Rangers giving adults "leeway". Letter sent to Rachel Jenkins, Council's parking manager, Officers using discretionary powers! At some stage Waverley Council removed support for 200 space on site carpark. No one from Waverley Council spoke at PAC meeting. Randwick Cr Kathy Neilsen re-affirmed Randwick's request for 200 car space carpark. Too hard for police, rangers, etc. Decision to be handed down in 4 to 6 weeks (around Easter). When PAC determination handed down will review and plan future strategies

MOTION: Vote of thanks to Kathy and subcommittee for their hard work and note disappointment that no one from Waverley Council attended PAC hearing though Cr Kathy Neilsen, from Randwick did attend and make a presentation.

Moved: Julie McAlpin, seconded Mora Main: adopted unanimously

ACTION: Cr Massellos to arrange meeting with Council's parking manager, Rachel Jenkins to follow up on various strategies which were discussed at meeting in December at Council's Spring Street offices. Minutes of meeting to be sourced.

Item 6: Vision for Charing Cross Village

Parklet is first outcome – 6 month trial period

Vacant shop former Gertrude and Petunia. Precinct involvement opportunities?

Precinct recommends that a representative of the group meets with council's leasing officers to discuss appropriateness of future tenant/s and to discuss how council may facilitate a sustainable community based enterprise, explore a co-operative, provide a social benefit. Suggestions for space include social enterprise/s where profit motive is reduced, a social space for people to meet that isn't a pub; or could be another service centre outreach for Council. Community run eg co-operative, free wi fi, local artist space, rotate local artists and artisans, pop ups, coffee and books, meeting spaces, hot desks; (note new shop next to bank). Charing Cross is developing a coffee culture.

MOTION: Precinct reps nominated to meet Council's leasing officers – Robert & Frances McDonnell, Robyn Brown, Julie McAlpin, Susan Farr, Norma Holmes, Mora Main. moved Janet Boyd, seconded Frances McDonnell, carried unanimously

ACTION: Suggest precinct rep (Susan Farr) speaks to Sorelle about opening on Sundays.

Item 8. Pubs and clubs sub committee: no anti social behaviour recently.

Robin Hood put in a DA for a coffee cart caravan in drive through bottle shop – going ahead with it, original plan amended regarding operational matters raised by J McA who opposed it regarding management, noise, traffic, hours, etc; They are losing money following lock out laws, competition from Dan Murphys, internet etc, looking at innovative ways of doing business.

Making structural changes to L1 in the hotel, haven't been actioned yet – more plans into council, open up space, issues with roof to open up facing Bronte Road, licensee is also owner, 25 years in the family, good to work with and take concerns into account.

Charing Cross hotel: 8 accommodation rooms on 1st floor, not making any money out of it, airBnB and other services competing; no one wants to stay above a pub; \$135 / night

Item 9: council amalgamation up date – reminder 9.30 am meeting on Sunday 21st Feb
Waverley Historical Society meeting attended by Robert McDonnell – have put in recommendation that if council chambers are not to be used, that they be made available as a museum

Item 10: DAs in Charing Cross (Steve Brajak)

Robin Hood hotel coffee cart

34 Carrington Road

Waverley College – antennae mast for east side radio

121 Henrietta Street

Waverley College – alts and ads to existing buildings incl new library

43 Henrietta Street

Compost bins and worm farms – 80% reduction in price – contact Council via website

Item 11: General Business

1. Status of precincts when / if amalgamation goes through. Bronte Beach and Bondi Beach wanted to send in a letter, J McA wants factual evidence; Best practice throughout the world requires community involvement. We are a proactive precinct, don't antagonise people and generally raise serious issues. Suggests an approach to the Mayor asking what is her vision for community engagement? alternatively a motion to the combined precincts; suggestion coming from council may be for community boards run by council officers,

MOTION: That Charing Cross Village precinct writes to Bronte Beach Precinct to inform them that this precinct supports the final paragraph of their letter only, as follows:

“We the undersigned strongly object to any moves to abolish our Precincts. They represent one of the last bastions of active community involvement in the issues concerning their neighbourhoods. If precincts are abolished another chip out of public involvement and democracy in our municipality will have been summarily removed with no consultation whatsoever”.

Moved Danny Caretti, seconded Norma Holmes. carried unanimously (12 for 0 against)

MOTION: Charing Cross Village Precinct reaffirms its commitment to the precinct system in any future amalgamated entity. Moved Danny Caretti, seconded Julie McAlpin. motion carried unanimously

2. General amenity: Planter boxes looking sad. ask council to replant those where plants are missing or dead. suggest herbs. Objection to planters – can’t get out on passenger side of car, promote hanging baskets instead. Already lots of clutter. With our social enterprise we can all volunteer to help!

MEETING CLOSED: 9.15 PM