

Diamond Bay Precinct Committee March 1.

**Chairman** David Spicer.

**Apologies:** Councillor Miriam Gutman-Jones and Laurence Yeung.

**Attendance:** 30 including Councillors Sally Betts, Leon Goltsman and Mayor John Wakefield.

**Minutes:** Were accepted although the Save Christison Park Action Group disputed a word attributed to them in the minutes.

Precinct noted the decision of Council to pull down the wall on Burge Street. Precinct was told that work is continuing on selecting the right sort of plants to replace the ones that have been pulled out.

**Agenda:**

**Sydney Water underground sewer pipe proposals.**

Ron Nothman and Councillor Sally Betts advised the Precinct that Sydney Water is again investigating solutions to the discharge of raw sewage at Diamond Bay. Various proposals for underground pipes have been mooted before but dropped after local opposition and lack of funding.

Ron Nothman has suggested that pipes built on the seabed is a good solution.

**Backpacker Hostels in residential areas.**

A lively and emotional debate was held about alleged use of 21 Clarke Street Vauclose.

Erica Van Aalst from The Save Christison Park Action Group claimed this premises is being used as a backpackers hostel when such an arrangement is not permitted by planning regulations and complaints of alleged backpacker type activity were discussed by several residents at the meeting.

The leaseholder of the premises – addressed the meeting. He identified himself as being the lease holder of the semi at 21 Clarke Street. He said it was a five bedroom house which had up to six people living in it. He said they stayed for stretches of six months or so and were "friends of his." He responded with noise complaints of his own from a dog, children and the bell being rung 20 to 30 times. He said he wanted to buy the semi he now leased and also wished to buy his neighbour's property.

The Mayor John Wakefield said backpacker hostels are not permitted in the residential area and if it is proved the full might of the council will come down to "get rid of the problem".

The following motion was moved.

**That Council thoroughly investigate whether the semi is being used as a backpacker's hostel.**

**Moved by Erica Van Aalst Seconded by Claudia Brock.**

**Passed unanimously. 21 – 0.**

**Traffic Complaints.**

The following motion was passed.

**That the Manager of Technical Services investigate the growing congestion problems at Isabel Avenue Vaucluse. Moved by John Joyce. Seconded by Denise Joyce.**

**Passed unanimously 21- 0.**

Reference was made to the congestion caused by parking and growing use of the road by patrons and users of the bowling club.

**Wine Bar Development Applications.**

Erica Van Aalst from the Save Christison Park Action Group raised concern about development application at the roundabout of Old South Head Road next to the Grumpy Baker. She said a wine bar is not a neighbourhood shop.

The meeting was advised that a DA had been withdrawn and the matter was now being determined by a private surveyor.

The owner of the Grumpy Baker and proponent of the DA Michael Cthurmer was in attendance. He said there have been only 4 complaints and no problems from the landlord. He said it was not a wine bar he wanted to develop – rather a Tapas restaurant that served alcohol. He said it was his advice that it was legal.

The issue at stake he said was the hours of operation. He said he anticipated that his clientele would be local residents not teenagers getting drunk. He also said that the matter has gone to a private surveyor because there was no council response after three months.

No motion was passed but the meeting acknowledged that the DA is being investigated by Council.

**Development Applications.**

A report was submitted by Suellen Bassetti

DA for a 5 storey residential flat building at Young Street and Chrisbang Avenue.

“My issues are with the change of hydrology –as the car park level will be mostly underground, the natural underground water flow down from the north – cemetery side, will have serious impact on the outflow into public drains, which flows directly into Rosa Gully.”

DA for 33 Eastern Avenue.

“There are serious issues of light and privacy for adjoining properties”

“This building appears to over extend to the rear, causing problems to neighbours”

**General Business**

A petition was presented thanking Council for the privacy screens constructed at 4 Young street.

**Meeting Finished: 8.40pm**