

Minutes of the Bondi Junction Precinct Meeting held at Waverley Library on 15 August 2012

Chaired by Peter Lynch with Stephen B. Cohen taking minutes

The meeting opened at 6.30 pm

All current correspondence and notifications are available at the rear of the room.

Present

Mayor John Wakefield; Councillor Mora Main; Councillor Sally Betts; Councillor Joy Clayton ; Councillor Ingrid Strewé; and 23 residents & visitors were present, as per the attendance sheets.

Apologies

Tony Moses; Jennifer Lynch; Don White; Enid Hokin

Matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting on 16 May 2012

No matters arising.

Meet the candidates for the upcoming Council elections

A number of candidates for the 8 September 2012 Council elections introduced themselves and outlined some of their policies.

Councillor Mora Main [Greens]

The Greens represent the residents. Bondi Junction is at a crossroad with a new LEP gazetted, though under threat, with the community being taken out of the decision making process.

The Bondi Junction railway station entrance is being revamped to make access easier and safer.

There is still an over servicing of alcohol in the area. We need to portray the image to visitors that we are not like Kings Cross.

The Greens will not sell off working assets.

There is a long term vision for improved public transport; car share and cycling (with the resulting health benefits).

Angela Burrill and Andrew Cusack [Liberal]

The Liberals are unhappy with the state of roads, footpaths and parking. They will implement a full review of residential parking.

Light rail will be investigated with a possible extension from Randwick to Bondi Junction and Bondi Beach.

The Liquor Accord has had some success with a set of rules for hotels. An example being "lockouts" where patrons who leave a hotel after a certain hour are not able to re-enter.

CCTV cameras would be installed in alcohol troublespots. This has been costed at around \$600,000. It is hoped that the hotels would pay half of this amount. [Danielle Ecuyer countered that CCTV cameras are not effective in preventing antisocial behaviour, however the recent regular police presence in Bondi Junction has a positive effect].

Younger people and children would be encouraged to go to the beach and use our playgrounds.

Full support for the imminent relocation of the Bondi Junction cycleway from the mall to Spring Street.

Proceeds from asset sales (including Officeworks and Spotlight) [if sold] would be used to fund another community asset and not added to the working budget.

Paula Masselos [Labor]

Helped to save the Tamarama waterfall.

Will engage with the community to ensure it is livable at a human scale.

Create village squares where local residents can walk to for shopping and recreation. There would be a diversity of shopping so residents could shop locally in these village hubs.

Bondi Junction should become a residential area after dark. Improved public transport would help to disperse people from the area during the night.

Paula has committed to attend Precinct meetings and as she is a member of the Combined Precinct, she is aware of the importance of Precincts.

Would work with other ward Councilors collaboratively and cooperatively.

Mayor's address

Mayor John Wakefield outlined the proposed changes to Bondi Junction Railway Station in order to improve access and safety for commuters. Cyclone fencing in Rowe Street beside the ramp leading up to the interchange will be removed to allow direct access from the Oxford Street Mall to the station. Improved lighting, a CCTV camera and a reopened doorway into the station will be provided.

Plans are underway to create an underground arcade with shops linking the railway station to the mall. This would be funded by selling the air rights above and below the land adjacent to the railway station. Direct access to the railway station would be retained.

An agreement has been signed with Coles; Woolworths and Westfield to attach wheel locks to trolleys. This would prevent them from being taken past the taxi ranks.

Rumours that Council is in deficit are not true. The forecast is for a small deficit of \$17,000 (which out of a multi-million dollar budget is insignificant).

General business

At the next Precinct meeting in November, Council staff will address the meeting on the topics of garbage bins and public art.

Hollywood Avenue - Commercial bins are put out for collection every day. There is noise from three different trucks servicing each property early in the morning. Mark Woods is the Council officer who should be contacted to try and have bins collected at a later time.

Danielle Ecuyer our alcohol representative has requested that her email address be added to the Council's Precinct Committee contact page.

The footpaths near the corner of Oxford Street and Hollywood Avenue are in disrepair. A number of old paving bricks are loose and weeds are growing between the footpath and buildings. All streets in Waverley are on a maintenance schedule. Mary Shiner is to be contacted in order to obtain the schedule for streets in our area.

Outstanding motions and matters carried forward from previous meetings

18 May 2011

Shopping trolley address by Libby O'Neill

Libby O'Neill outlined the current situation regarding abandoned shopping trolleys around the Bondi Junction area. Problem areas being near bus stops, taxi ranks and fire exits.

Council has been working with major retailers to find a solution.

Fines for infringements and to recover impounded trolleys has resulted in retailers taking more of an interest in talking to Council.

Mark Taylor from Willoughby City Council was instrumental in their Council' success in eradicating abandoned shopping trolleys using magnetic wheel locks.

The effectiveness of wheel locks is demonstrated in this short video: <http://bit.ly/trlock>

Eric Scott said that until this technology is installed in our local shopping centres, phoning the 1800 number for Trolley Trackers is still an effective way of getting abandoned trolleys removed from the streets.

Response

Trolley locks should be implemented within the next few weeks.

18 May 2011

Motion

Amended motion to request a name change of residential areas of Bondi Junction to Mill Hill

Stephen B. Cohen submitted an amended motion to request a name change of residential areas of Bondi Junction to Mill Hill.

Since lodging the original motion to change the suburb name for part of Bondi Junction, it has been requested by people who have spoken to Stephen to extend the area of the proposed suburb to cover all the low density residential areas north of Queens Park, rather than just the area which is currently in the locality of Mill Hill.

The new suburb would be an effective way of defining the low density residential properties and would help to keep high density and commercial developments out of the suburb.

We request Council make provision for the change when allocating the 2012-2013 budget.

This is the motion:

That the official suburb name of the area that includes most of the western heritage residential section of BONDJUNCTION to be renamed MILL HILL, retaining the postcode 2022.

Mill Hill is the current locality name for the western part of this area, but it is proposed to extend the suburb eastwards as many similar residences of historical interest can be found there.

The proposed area of Mill Hill would be bounded by Oxford Street; York Road, Birrell Street & Bronte Road (or Brisbane Street). The suburb of Mill Hill would not include the commercial area bounded by Oxford Street, Denison Street, Ebley Street & Newland Street).

The motion was seconded by Eric Scott and carried.

Response

As reported in May to the Bondi Junction precinct Waverley Council Officers have investigated the process for renaming suburbs or areas with the Geographical Names Board.

The process involves many different steps including community consultation and reporting to a full Council meeting for endorsement of any recommended changes. Council would in any case need to have evidence of broad community acceptance of this proposal before considering name changes. The Precinct will need to demonstrate broad residents' support through community consultation.

The request will be referred for consideration in the 2012-13 Budget process however please note that Council will need to consider any new requests for increased service delivery that requires additional funding. Precincts would be aware that following the decision the rate increase which will deliver less revenue than anticipated, Council has now established a Service efficiency Committee to address the funding shortfall. More information about how Council proposes to manage this situation will be available and presented to the Precincts in November.

The motion requires clarification as its stated objective of "keeping high density" out of the suburb cannot be achieved by this proposed suburb change.

Meeting closed at 7.40 pm.

The next meeting will be held at Waverley Library at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 21 November 2012