

Dover Heights Precinct (DHP) meeting August 24, 2021 – held via Zoom - Started at 7:05 PM

Attendance - There were a total of 23 people in attendance including :
Dov Frazer as Convenor of Dover Heights Precinct
Robert Harvey is our acting secretary.

Welcome to Hunter Ward Councillors - Councillors Sally Betts & Will Nemesh
Regrets from David Caldwell, Ron Nothman & Leesa Armstrong

Minutes of previous meeting

Do all agree the minutes are a fair and accurate representation of the meeting:

Moved - Richard Morris

Second -Robert Harvey

Accepted

Discussed Response Report to Previous Motions

Item: Dover Road Safety Slope

Facts

1 - The Dover Road Safety Slope consisted of grass and low growing shrubs less than 1 meter. Council terraced and replanted this area over 5 year ago. According to the planning doc - Biodiversity Action Plan Remnant Sites 2014 to 2020, The area Z7 has meant to be buffer revegetation - "consisting of 1000 meters of low growing buffer revegetation undertaken at 4 plants per meter squared. see Biodiversity Action Plans Remnant Sites November2014.pdf

I would propose that low growing means less than 1 meter tall. Instead, Council contractors have planted a forest with numerous trees over 2 meters blocking ocean views and now council officers state that this will not be fixed this before autumn of 2022 or beyond.

Motion 1

DHP requests the Councillors put forth a motion at full council demanding that council's own planning docs be adhered to and that the unobstructed pre-existing ocean views be restored at the location of the Rodney Reserve -Dover Road Safety Slope by no later than Dec 31, 2021.

Moved - Jenny Michelson

Seconded - Richard Morris

Approved

Item: Tree Policy

Sally requested that Dov send her recommended changes to the Tree Policy as the new policy will be changeable as Councillors can move amendments.

1 - DHP request that the tree Management policy be amended to require tree officers to NOT plant approved tree species that will likely grow to block resident's iconic views and that the consultation take place with residents prior to the planting or replacing of trees in a street or park.

2 - DHP requests that when a resident can provide photographic proof that any council planted tree is blocking their pre-existing iconic view then council will trim that tree to reinstate the pre-existing view.

3 - DHP requests the council view planting of trees in urban settings not as ecology but as a compliment to the build environment including amenity and view corridors from both private and public spaces.

Will Nemesh said the new tree policy would be voted on in November 2021 so can comment or requests for update would have to be done by then.

Many residents told stories about their own council planted tree issues and the consensus was that the policy should be changed to favor residents.

Item - Boat Parking at Caffyn Reserve

Discussed Council response and lack of future implementation

Motion 2

DHP requests that council provide a timeline regarding previously requested parking restriction on the west side Portland Street between Blake Street & 65 Portland Street

Moved - Robert Harvey

Seconded - Sandy Bassin

Approved

Agenda Item - Blake Street Traffic Calming Proposals

After much discussion that option most residents preferred was to do nothing.

Motion 3

DHP requests that no changes be made in relation to the Blake Street Traffic Calming Measures. Give Way To Descending Vehicles signage is preferred at the intersection of Old South Head Road & Blake Street.

Moved - Richard Morris

Seconded - Valerie Saffer

Approved

Agenda Item - Radio Telescope Viewing Platform

All were happy about the \$319,000 put aside from the VPA at 657 OSH Road. Great result. Sally said the 18-month quarantine was an issue and that it is important to actually get the money set aside PERIOD for this project.

Sally said that the heritage listing idea was approved by full Council, but the paperwork needs to be prepared and files as all of information about this is publicly available

Motion 4

DHP request that council create a project fund number for the Radio Telescope Viewing Platform project in order that funds can be irrevocably allocated.

Moved - Danielle Lewis

Seconded - Richard Morris

Approved

Agenda Item - Crowds at Dudley Page and Rodney Reserve

This was discussed but residents did not think that this was a problem, and no further action should be taken.

Agenda Item - VPA at 157-159 Military Road where there is an approved DA for ground level commercial and 2 levels above for 6 residential units.

Dov noted this DA was approved 5 years ago. The VPA is for additional floor space. Many suggestions about possible use of these funds in local parks and reserves

Motion 5

DHP endorses using the VPA funds for 157-159 Military Road for shade cloth at the Dudley Page playground or additional playground equipment at the Dudley Page Reserve Playground or addition fitness equipment at the Dudley Page Reserve Gym

Move - Danielle Lewis

Seconded - Jenni Michelson

Approved

Agenda Item Defib in Dover Heights. No volunteers but residents happy for Dov to liaise with Sophie Mills about the possibility of using her organization and finding funding.

Agenda Item - Bulga Road Verge Trees blocking resident views. Amenity should trump ecology where view corridors are concerned.

General Business

Peter Cappe brought up the issue of over development at 17 Loombah Street and 57B Military Road. It seems that there was little open space and landscaping and the entry stairs are on the boundary. Peter asked how these were approved. Peter asked Sally and Will to get an answer as to how these DA were approved.

Motion 6

DHP requests that the staged removal of the Buddleja in Weonga Reserve on the cliff side of the wire fence begin immediately so that this noxious shrub can be removed over time. Note this removal was specifically mandated by the 2014 Biodiversity Action Plan but never done.

Moved - Valeris Safrer

Seconded - Jenni Michelson

Approved

Motion 7

DHP requests that all of the wrong signage in Weonga, Rodney & Raleigh Reserves be finally replaced with signage showing the new pathway that directs walkers through Weonga Reserve to Weonga Road to Military Road - (See image at end of the minutes)

Moved - Jenni Michelson

Seconded - Rod Donoso

Approved

Good News Story - New Bubbler in Raleigh Reserve at Liverpool Street is currently being installed. This took less than 2 years. Congrats to Richard Morris for this worthy cause and great that it finally is happening. Note the bubbler has a dog bowl and is made of quality steel.

Motion 8

DHP requests that Council institute Commercial Dog Walking Licensing in consultation with residents. This was requested in August 2019 with no follow through. (Note local commercial dog walkers are in favor of this to prevent illegal operators walking more than 4 dogs per person).

Moved - Peter Cappe

Seconded - Richard Morris

Approved

RECOMMENDATION - DHP requests that Council install permanent directional signage along the Bondi To Manly walk within Council boundaries possibly attached to existing street signs.

Motion 9

DHP requests a new public bin be installed at the beginning of the Diamond Bay Cliff Walk at 33 Kimberley Street next to the existing bench.

Moved - Valerie Saffer

Seconded - Olga Reti

Approved

Motion 10

DHP requests that Council plant more New Zealand Christmas Bush (*Metrosideros excelsa*) along Military Road.

Moved - Peter Cappe

Second - Rod Donoso

Approved

Motion 11

DHP requests council install Children Crossing signage at 211 Military Road to alert motorists of children and families crossing to access the Children Bike Track.

(Note this is NOT a request for a pedestrian crossing. It is a request for signage only)

Moved - Danielle Lewis

Second - Valerie Saffer

Approved

Motion 12

DHP again requests that council repair the cracked and damaged traffic calming bumps between the SW and SE corners of Blake Street and Military Road

(Note - Our previous motion making the same request was not acted upon)

Moved - Robert Harvey

Second - Peter Cappe Approved

Picture of Dover Road safety slope in new turf and unobstructed views - 2012

Next photos of Dover Road Safety Slope as it looked shortly after terracing and planting with unobstructed Ocean Views still present





The



images below are of the Dover Road Safety Slope as it looks on Aug 26, 2021





Image below is the Buddleja in Weonga Reserve. We do not want council to keep trimming this back to the fence line. We DO want council to remove this in a staged manner as was mandated in the 2014 Biodiversity Action Plan



Image below is an example of one of the many signs in Weonga, Rodney and Raleigh Reserve which show the OLD now wrong pathway up Blake Street. These were wrong when installed and should be corrected. Our request is several years old already..

