

MINUTES OF MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM MEETING MONDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2020.

In Attendance 54 residents plus 10 guest speakers & support.

Apologies

Don and Vivienne Walker, Francie Rigg, Janne Seletto, Clr.Sarah Grafton, Doug Carruthers, Terry & Kay Childs, Sue & Rob Hartman

Minutes from December meeting accepted

Brief opening address and welcome to 2020. Request for additional walkers and consideration of involvement in the MCF Committee via our election in March 2020.

Welcome to our guest speakers from NBC, Eliza Halsey on the new Shelly Beach amenities, along with her Executive Manager, Campbell Pfeiffer. Also Sadiya King and Tony Martin from the Stormwater Management team, resident Greg Twemlow from SEVENMile Venture Lab. And Bronwen Regan, Head of Staff & Wendy Camelotti Grants Officer, Zali Steggall team

• **First presenters were Eliza Halsy and Campbell Pfeiffer on Shelly Beach amenities.** Council is proposing to upgrade the public amenities at Shelly Beach to meet the demands at this location, the upgraded amenities will provide;

- 7 women's toilets
- 5 men's toilets
- Internal showers (women's and men's)
- Change area (women's and men's)
- Accessible amenity with shower
- External showers

Community engagement will be undertaken during February and March to seek feedback on the proposed design.

Don Gibson also attended. Don Gibson representing Northern Beaches Council presented the new plans for Marine Parade /Shelly Beach toilet facilities. Don manages 110 toilets in the NBC area and advised the meeting as follows:

- Take away existing site and maximize the site
- Architects have taken into account that the toilets will last for at least 50 years
- Wheelchair accessibility including electric wheelchairs
- There will be shared wash basing
- Accessible toilets which can be opened any time with a key
- Need more accessibility because of the large number of visitors
- Need a rinsing station away as the salt water from all the Scuba divers kills the grass
- Residents were advised to use "Have Your Say" to submitted their questions/concerns/objections

ACTION.

Residents were concerned about

- The aesthetics – what is the inside going to look like. It needs to be resilient
- How long will the rebuild take –estimated over three months. How many portables?
- Not enough disabled toilets – only 2 with hand rails
- Not enough women's toilets
- Overall strong support for Council action. Diver support area needs to be established well a way from the grass areas.
- Council asked to provide further detail to the Forum.
- Coloured copies of the architects rendition were distributed to the residents at the meeting

- **New stormwater developments, Manly Cove, Manly Beach and Fairy Bower. Special Guests/speakers NBC Stormwater Management Team (Staff attending are Sadiya King, Team Leader Stormwater Design and Delivery and Tony Martin, Engineer Stormwater Delivery)**

Tony Martin, Engineer Stormwater Delivery, Northern Beaches Council presented the plans for the Stormwater Improvement Works as part of the Community Consultation process.

Project covers

1. Fairy Bower Ocean Pool
2. North Steyne
3. Encasement at North Steyne

Key Issues were

- Dilapidated Asset
- Water quality
- Amenities
- Maintenance of the beach
- Public Safety

Fairy Bower Pool

Existing

- Stormwater pipe damaged due to storms
- Need to remediate the outlet
- Second stage is the seawall

Proposed works

- Larger box culvert ideal for sitting and sunbaking asper Manly LSC outlet.
- Increasing outlet capacity
- Grate on outlet for safety issues
- Stormwater pit
- Living seawalls to increase biodiversity

How the works will impact residents

- Initial construction works to commence mid to late 2020 (tender to go out in March 2020)
- Notification 2 weeks prior to the works commencing
- Construction including pool closure – 12 weeks
- Impacts to pathway access will be minimised
- The works will start out of season
- Fisheries will provide some safeguards
- Minimal impact on the marine thoroughfare
- 2 stage construction of culvert

South Steyne Gross Pollutant Traps (GPT)

Proposed works:

- First construction is at South Steyne – the GPT within Manly Promenade

What will the works achieve?

- Cleaner stormwater runoff to our ocean
- Improved use of the beach

GPT at East Esplanade

- Old style units (2 ??)
- Cleaned every 6-8 weeks
- Need some sort of alert as to the overflow
- Odour problem at East Esplanade has to do with the showers. Drain is connected to sewerage pipes and the pumping station and odours appear to drift back to the open shower drain.

ACTION. Council has previously committed to work with Sydney Water re the odour problem at East Espl. Park and as a solution connect the drain to beach runoff rather than sewer line. This was identified some years ago. Also stormwater drain from GPTs to Manly Cove. Council planned to add further collection points to reduce pollution to this corner...What happened?

North Steyne GPT

Proposed works

- Removal of a damaged outlet
- Replace the old collection pit with a GPT
- New GPT and associated works in the park
- Installation to be located behind the seawall

How the works will impact residents

- Initial construction works to commence prior to the end of the 2019/2020 Financial Year
- Notification 2 weeks prior to the works commencing
- Construction - 8 weeks for North and South Steyne
- Minimal impacts to pedestrian access

Will there be any environmental impacts?

- Council is aware that they have a failing asset
 - Main objective of these works is the environment
 - Environmental assessment has been undertaken
 - Council is working with Fisheries and SIMS
 - Control measures to be put in place during construction
 - Overall positive impact
 - Best practices in terms of design
 - Budgeted in this Financial Year
 - Permits from State Government needed to get the project underway
 - Coastal Team is having conversations with Sydney Water
 - Council is partnering with SIMS
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- **Brief presentation on parking & traffic & speed control in central CBD streets.**
Greg Twemlow, SEVENmile Venture Lab .

Rethinking How Traffic Flows in Manly Village

Vehicles dominate every street in Manly Village and for most of the northern beaches. This creates problems like:

Noise; dust and air pollution; safety of cyclists and pedestrians; congestion and associated frustrations; traffic jams; higher CO2 emissions.

In my small one-way street, Eustace St, traffic volumes are continually increasing. A new large apartment complex will add around 50 vehicle movements an hour.

According to Council, when I recently asked for some respite from traffic, they aren't concerned with volumes, more the average speed of the traffic.

A concept called "Superblocks" has been successfully trialled in Barcelona - detailed analysis and results reported

here: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0160412019315223?via%3Dihub>

What Are Superblocks? read more: <https://theconversation.com/superblocks-are-transforming-barcelona-they-might-work-in-australian-cities-too-123354>

"Large "superblocks" covering an area of around 400m by 400m are created from residential blocks of 150m by 150m. These residential blocks are currently surrounded by normal busy streets.

Outside the superblocks, the city's normal through traffic is accommodated on streets with a maximum speed of 50km/h. Within the superblocks, cars are banned or restricted to 20km/h, priority is given to walking and cycling, and open space is reclaimed or created from parking."

Promising Recent News

Recently it was reported that Northern Beaches Council will trial 30kmh zones in some parts of Manly.

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/trial-zone-speed-limits-drop-to-as-low-as-30km-h-in-pedestrian-areas-20200110-p53qhc.html>

Greg Twemlow Executive/Startup Coach, <https://www.gregtwemlow.com/>

Chairman and Greg sought resident support for an immediate review of speed in streets near the CBD. Little support forthcoming. Most residents believe that it is hard enough to get out of the eastern hill area now without slowing traffic even more. Most resident understand the concern in Eustace Street and believe that Council and RMS should be doing more to redirect the taxi and commercial vehicles back onto Belgrave and Sydney Road

ACTION.. Forum would ask that Council traffic engineers reconsider the Eustace St issue and determine ways to reduce the commercial and taxi flow and the “Rat Run” aspects of this street..

- **Bronwen Regan Chief of Staff and Wendy Camelotti Grants Officer as part of Zali Steggall team, spoke on current activities from Zali and major initiatives..**

- Apologies from Zali Steggall
- What are the current issues?
 - Climate Change
 - Bush Fire relief
 - Legislature
 - Superannuation
 - Petition to Zali – 6,000 people signed the petition by SAVE OUR COAST
 - Seismic testing to be done for off shore gas extraction.
 - Sydney Harbour Federation Trust Review
 - Federal Grants

Bush Fire Relief

- Residents were referred to Zali’s Facebook page
- Condolences for bush fire victims
- Special event for bush fire works – Christmas in July celebration
- What is the State doing for the volunteer firefighters? They will get paid up to \$300 per day

Sydney Harbour Federal Trust

- There is a review of this Federation
- All sites currently managed by SHFT are being reviewed
- Trust should be funded by the Federal Government
- Review qualifications of people who are setting up the Trust
- Public hearing on tomorrow.. Must book to attend.

Climate Change Bill

- Member has been working on this bill since August 2019
- National framework based on the UK experience
- 4 key issues
 - Zero emissions by 2050
 - Establish an Independent Climate Change Commission
 - Ministerial Report annually
 - Budget put in place

Website: ClimateActNow.com.au

Federal Grants

- Federal member wants to get as much Federal funding into Warringah
 - Members Office is identifying groups who need Federal funding
 - Each electorate will be given a specific amount of funding
 - Types of grants
 - Business
 - Environment
 - Arts /Veterans/ Sports
 - Women's' Crisis Accommodation
 - Grants review will be a 6 member committee
- **Candy Bingham provided a brief update on the following matters:**

Manly Surf Club

- \$5 million dollars in Federal funding
- \$5 million dollars in Council funding
- Need \$ 5 from State government
- Public toilets are a concern
- Toilets will be separate from the Club

Old Aquarium Site

- Owned by the RMS
- Expression of Interest delayed
- Council wants the building gone
- Decision may have to wait until October 2020
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Residential Parking Scheme

- New scheme will be put into place next month but what of the future for parking generally in the Manly CBD area? Councillors and this Forum have submitted on the substantial increase in resident parking scheme fees, especially the initial permit \$47...

ACTION Council to immediately reconsider the extent of increased fees.

Residents should not have to pay \$47 to park in their own street. At least a reduction to \$25 may be acceptable to most.

2nd ACTION point is what is the future plans for central area parking now that the "under oval scheme" is "kaput".

Bins in Tourist areas

- There is concern about insufficient bins in the tourist areas and illegal bins looking unsightly.
- Bins on Marine Parade in question.
- Council has been made aware of the bins and the need to keep them clean and tidy.
- The bins in the tourist areas are the Council's responsibility. Cleaning does not appear to be keeping up with demand and odours.

ACTION. Forum asks that this be discussed at Council and additional cleaning established.

Development Applications

Chairman advised that there is a growing concern with NBC engagement and follow up in regard to DAs submitted and others subsequently approved with conditions.

- **Manly Wharf** application for 438 more seats has been withdrawn. There is concern that this may not be the end of this application despite the strong opposition from residents, businesses, commercial and community groups, as well as the NBC Councillors. We have asked NBC to provide some indication of what has been discussed with the applicant and where are the community concerns, as compared to Council concerns.

ACTION. We await a response to our December Minutes.

- **Catholic Church application withdrawn**

Again this application is probably going to be again submitted with variations. NBC should keep the community advised of what discussions are taking place.

- **Spring Cove development** – is anyone watching what is happening in this area? Nearby residents and residents of the estate are concerned that there appears to be little follow up of the conditions established by the Church and those that Council established as part of the approval. For instances, many properties with cats and dogs, trees planted in vista areas, trees planted in fire protection zones.

ACTION. We are advised by nearby and estate residents that NBC cannot find the files detailing approval conditions. Please confirm that files are available or some action is being taken to locate the missing documentation. Also, what follow up is planned by NBC on the lack of compliance.

- **Manly Lodge Hotel** – We have been advised by numerous residents that the DA proposal submitted again for this development breaches numerous requirements of the LEP and DCP.

redevelopment of this site is in breach of height limitations. Neighbours are concerned with the overdevelopment of this site, total lack of parking, noise and implications with the major primary school opposite.. Council also notified people in the summer break when all of the Forum meeting are not held. There needs to be an extension of times for

submission. Residents want Council to force commitment to the basic planning conditions.

ACTION. Many submissions have been entered and this Forum and the nearby residents are concerned that NBC is moving towards an approval without fair consideration of the concerns raised. We ask that senior Council staff provide a response to the Forum and some acknowledgement of the discussions had with nearby residents.

Councillor Pat Daley & reported Federal election contestant Sasha Brebe announced proposed initiatives re recycling at Kimbriki.

Clr. Daley did not discuss this issue as it will be part of a re-election initiative later in the year. However he did speak on his ongoing concern with excessive drinking in public areas and the growth of licensed premises.

- **Summer rain may save our parks, gardens and trees. Update by Chairman from NBC staff.**

Senior Tree Management Staff advised MCF that teams had been working prior to the heavy rain event to save trees seriously impacted by drought conditions. Beach front pines and heritage figs have received hormone treatment as well as watering from a special recycled water cart. Recent storms have created severe damage across the Northern Beaches. Clean up teams will take weeks to complete all clean ups. Many contractors have been hired to complete the tasks. Council teams have also worked with Ausgrid to get areas clear for repair.

ACTION. This Forum completely understands the pressure NBC staff are under to maintain our tree canopy. However, there are trees that require attention, or we will lose them and trees that require trimming before the storm seasons. Residents are concerned with the heritage figs around East Esplanade and the 16' Skiff Club. Forum asks could Tree Management at NBC please stay in touch and provide an update on works in this area. Residents ask..”where are we with the program prepared in 2017/2018 for Street Tree Management.

- **Application for major expansion of the licensed premises on the roof of Manly Wharf.**

ACTION. We have asked NBC to provide some information on the reason for the DA withdrawal and what issues Council raised with the applicant before the decision to withdraw the DA. Response before the March meeting please.

- **Western Harbour Tunnel & Beaches Link & Transport update from our Local Member James Griffin’s office. (Chairman) (refer to notes provided & included on the manlycommunityforum website)**

Notes on website cover the following developments:

Western Harbour Tunnel, Beaches Link, Balgowlah Connection, Seaforth Connection, Blin & Turn Up & Go., and Region 8 Bus Service Tender. James Griffin will attend our March meeting and report on all issues.

- **NBC Open Space & Recreational Strategy.. Submissions to close 16th Feb. Extended to 21st Feb..Get yours in..**
- Manly Community Forum Officer Holder election in March 2020 - seeking nominations for positions .

Little Manly Point Reserve Contamination Concerns



We have previously advised you of the minor concern with potential contamination from the soil at LM Point. Following the closure of the Gas Works more than fifty years ago, State Government conducted partial remediation and then controlled sealing of the ground before depositing top soil and plantings and opening the site to the public. Later on this Forum and the previous Little Manly Precinct pushed for investigation of runoff and control measures to ensure that Little Manly Cove did not contain serious pollutants. Minor traces were found in the rock platform and a drain established to capture any pollutants before entering harbour waters.

Some problems were experienced in the maintenance of the drain and pumping facility (pumped to NHSTP). This has now been rectified and NBC recently reported that:

“At Monday night’s meeting the issue of signs was raised and in particular the sign at Little Manly Point. I’ve checked with staff to see if the sign could be removed and have been advised that:

The Restricted Area signage at Little Manly Point rock platform is still in place. Council has engaged a consultant to complete a comprehensive human health and aquatic ecology risk assessment and this is ongoing. The investigation includes monitoring after a significant rain event so the assessment cannot be finalised until we get some rain. The signage will be removed once Council has received a final report from the consultant confirming there is no risk to the public in that area.

In the meantime Council continues to manage the groundwater containment system at Little Manly Point. At present (17 Dec – 20 Dec) there are contractors onsite conducting routine maintenance and certification works. In addition they are installing a number of upgrades to ensure the system continues to utilise the best technology available. Council will contact Manly Community Forum as soon as the risk assessment has been completed.”

We have had the rain and we now await a positive response.

ACTION. NBC to provide an advice on outcome from risk assessment before March 2020 meeting. We assume all signage will be removed.

Independent review of the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust

The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust (the Harbour Trust) was established in 2001. Its role is to rehabilitate prominent former Defence sites on Sydney Harbour and open them for public access as per the *Sydney Harbour Federation Trust Act 2001*.

The sites managed by the Harbour Trust are North Head Sanctuary in Manly, Headland Park in Mosman, Sub Base Platypus in Neutral Bay, Woolwich Dock and Parklands, Cockatoo Island, the former Marine Biological Station at Watsons Bay, and Macquarie Light station in Vaucluse. These sites are unique places, each possessing extraordinary natural beauty, rich heritage values and stories which need to be protected and preserved for future generations.

The Australian Government is conducting an independent review of the Harbour Trust and its legislative, financial and governance arrangements. With the Harbour Trust now approaching 20 years old, the review is an opportunity to take stock and ensure that arrangements are fit for the future.

Public forums

As part of the review, the independent reviewers have held three public forums:

The independent reviewers will hold a fourth public forum from 6pm to 8pm on Tuesday 18 February 2020. The public forum will be held at the SMC Conference & Function Centre, 66 Goulburn St, Sydney - [register your interest to participate](#).

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/independent-review-of-the-sydney-harbour-federation-trust-public-forum-tickets-86618176297>

Thank you to Council - Councillor Sprott publicly thanked Council staff for all the great work done in attending to all the disasters during the storm. Residents and Forum members agreed that the Council has done an excellent job, which is ongoing.

NEXT MEETING MONDAY 16th MARCH 2020