

**Manly Community Forum  
Formal Meeting Notes  
27 April 2020 on Zoom  
(Accepted as April 2020 Meeting Minutes)**

**NOTE:** These are the formal notes taken from the meeting by Council staff and members of the Manly Community Forum. Manly Community Responses are in italics.

**MEETING OPENING:** Meeting started at 4:30 pm on Zoom

**ATTENDEES:** Ray Mathieson (chair), Kandy Tagg (host), Kellie Marks, Janne Seletto, Cathy Griffin, Bill D'Anthes, Linda Williamson, Northern Beaches Council / Frenchs Forest - Councillor Stuart Sprott, Trish Chaney, Manager, Community Liaison Coordinator; Campbell Pfeiffer, Executive Manager, Property; Jeremy Smith, Manager Park Assets

**APOLOGIES:** Don Walker, Vivienne Walker, Northern Beaches Council / Manly Ward - Councillor Pat Daley, Deputy Mayor and Manly Ward Councillor Candy Bingham

**OPENING REMARKS:** Since our last communication, our April printed newsletter, we have organised several on-line meetings with Northern Beaches Council Executive and Project Management. We have included our Forum Committee members and other involved residents in these meetings, to spread the communication and to test the viability of on-line meeting success. In the main, it works well, especially when we have the right level of authority participating in our discussions. A brief summary of the matters discussed and the current concerns being addressed follows: (Council response is followed by a brief Forum comment in italics)

**GUEST ATTENDEES:** Campbell Pfeiffer, Executive Manager, Property and Jeremy Smith, Manager Park Assets attended the meeting and addressed questions throughout the discussion of the Ongoing Issues. The Chairman thanked them for their attendance and responses.

## **ONGOING ISSUES**

### **Manly CBD area & General.**

#### **Manly Town Hall**

Discussed at the last Councillor briefing prior to COVID19 for the future use of the Town Hall. Investigating options of what to put in the Town Hall and give some options to the community. It is already available to hire. We will investigate requirements for security due to building offices being accessible. **MCF Response:** *The Forum has always strongly supported the retention of our iconic Town Hall for Council and community use. Likewise, the iconic forecourt area is the gateway to our CBD and entertainment area.*

#### **52 Raglan St Manly Community Hub.**

Should be finished by end of May ready to be utilised by mid-June. Campbell Pfeiffer, Executive Manager, Infrastructure Build, Jeremy Smith, Manager Park Assets

**MCF Response:** *Community Northern Beaches has been supporting the disadvantaged in our community for ever. We are extremely grateful to this organisation and strongly support their requirement for suitable premises when they are required to move from Wentworth St*

#### **Car Parking Manly CBD area.**

Car parking in the CBD will be addressed as part of the current Manly Place Planning.

**MCF Response:** *Our Forum has expressed concern that there is no formal plan to increase public parking in the CBD area. We are yet to see the end of the legal wrangle over the decision to not proceed with the oval car park and the rebuild of the Whistler St car park site.*

#### **Manly Wharf Toilets.**

Council has made representations to RMS (State Govt) and the leaseholder, as we would like them improved. However, to date nothing has come from this. Will continue to follow up.

**MCF Response:** *This issue has also been addressed by the Forum through Council and the Local Member. The Manly wharf facilities are regarded as inadequate and poorly maintained.*

#### **Rate Increases.**

Clr. Spratt provided an update on the proposed rate increase and advised that there will be a discussion relating to this at the Council Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> April. **MCF Response:** *There was a highly charged discussion that suggested one group of Councillors without the majority clearly wanted no rate increase and a further commitment from Council to reduce Councillor and Executive salaries. The voting approved the Motion to increase rates.. Voting detail is available on the web.*

#### **30 KPH Speed Limits on some central area roads.**

At the December 2019 Council Meeting the Mayor (Mayoral Minute 25/2019) asked staff to investigate potential locations for a 30KPH trial and to brief Councillors before consulting with the community prior to proceeding to the Traffic Committee for approval. **MCF Response:** *At our Forum meetings there has been little support for this proposal. Most considered 30KPH too slow and would impact on traffic flow and not provide the required safety. Bike riders disagreed.*

#### **Shelly Beach/Fairy Bower.**

Amenities. Shelly Beach. Feedback from consultation has been to reduce size of toilets and less architecturally present, currently reworking the design. Feedback on colour of the building. Will be sure to make it clear that it is not going to be all white. Proposed a rendered façade. **MCF Response:** *We also understand that this development has been budgeted and will be built during the winter period of 2021.*

#### **Fairy Bower Pool Renovations/Stormwater repair.**

**MCF Response:** *We await a response from the Stormwater Management Team at Council. Plans for the remediation at the Fairy Bower Pool and the new developments along the main beach front were covered at a previous Forum meeting, but our concern is that budget may now not be available and works delayed.*

## **COVID 19**

**MCF Response:** *The Forum has expressed a concern that, currently, the only testing site is at Northern Beaches Hospital. We understand that Mobile Testing sites are available and given the extent of the transient population in Manly; the number of resident backpackers and the huge visitor numbers, there should be a local testing site. The Forum also strongly encourages all residents to establish the COVID 19 App. On their mobile phone.*

## **Street Tree Management Plans.**

Council has advised that the plans for street trees and trees for parks and gardens have not been impacted by the budget restriction. They also advise that they have a full compliment of staff that is very active in the field, especially following the seasons of drought, storms and major tree damage incidents over the previous months. **MCF Response:** *The Forum is concerned that the plans prepared over many years are not being followed and the work of community groups like the MCF may be lost in the new order at Council. We are also very concerned with the shabby appearance of some streets in the Manly area, where iconic heritage trees are reaching end of life periods and in some cases where trees have been replaced there appears to be a miss-match of type and location. We have asked for further discussions.*

## **East Esplanade Park and surrounds.**

Council has commenced next stage of landscape work between the clubs and where the new amenities will be built. Construction of toilets has commenced, site fencing is in place and will be ready before Summer. Stage 2B works will commence once the toilets are finished. **MCF Response:** *Your Forum wishes to thank Council for the continuing work to upgrade this site. The poor visitor behaviour recently resulted in the site being declared alcohol free again, along with the required COVID 19 measures. The recommencement of alcohol allowed will depend upon how people behave in this park, but there are still many issues to consider at Council. The improvement to stormwater management right along the Manly Cove beachfront area is another factor under discussion with Council.*

## **Little Manly Masterplan**

Council advise that works are funded through the Development Control Plan. Funding hasn't changed/been affected by COVID 19. They have split projects into three building packages: 1= LM Point Playground; 2=All the works around the beach entry area ( landscaping, access ramp, footpath around the café, tiered steps to the beach and the demolition of No.40 Stuart St; 3=Craig avenue pedestrian improvements and the rebuild of the boat ramp. Aiming to commence works in March/April 2022 and will take 7-8 months to complete. The only project not funded yet is the toilets at LM Point Park. Property has put in a budget bid that will need to be adopted by Council. Council needs to find a funding source for the boat ramp re-build and are investigating funding through the State boating grants. The demolition of No.40 Stuart St will be accessed through the park. **MCF Response:** *This Forum is pleased with most of the decisions made and appreciates that the funding is approved. The advice on the start of works( early May 2020) for the rebuild of the harbour pool is more good news and we only now need to get clarification on the staged priorities; the availability of budget for the long anticipated toilet block at PM Point Park and a decision on the future of No.34 Stuart St.*

### **Little Manly Beach Kiosk.**

Council advise that under the Council's Support Package due to COVID 19 all businesses will have their outdoor dining fees waived for 6 months from April 1st. This includes the Little Manly Kiosk. Councillor Sprott advised that they were awarded the tender because they will be spending \$500K on their renovations, which are due to commence shortly. **MCF Response:** *Your Forum has raised concerns with a number of issues in relation to the tender approval and the subsequent operation of the kiosk. A discussion with the owner of the kiosk at our meeting suggested that the owner would only be spending what was necessary, not necessarily \$500K. We ask why is it necessary to spend such an amount and what is the owner expecting to get for this outlay? We are also concerned with the operating hours. Before the COVID 19 restrictions the kiosk was not open on many occasions and usually closed early in the afternoon. The common response from residents and visitors was; are they committed to an operating facility for basic food and services? Also, we have seen a basic architectural design of the proposed structure but will there be a DA with detail? The community made it very clear that they didn't want extended trading hours into the evening and didn't want or need a liquor licence, nor an expansion of the kiosk premises?)*

### **Council Budget**

Council is now considering the budget for 2019/20 and it is important for residents to understand the impacts of the COVID 19 on the Council budget. Please read the detailed report that explains the financial impacts on Council revenue. Read how the Council proposes to adjust the budget to deal with these constraints imposed by falling revenue and also how the Council is assisting ratepayers and residents under financial stress.

#### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The 2020/21 budget projects a total expenditure of \$433 million, including a capital works program of \$92 million. Our financial result will be temporarily impacted by the financial implications of the COVID-19 pandemic, with a projected operating deficit before capital grants and contributions of \$6.8 million. With a forecast deficit position, the Council will not achieve the OLG's benchmark Operating Performance Ratio of greater than 0% in 2020/21. The 2020/21 budget anticipates the financial impacts of COVID-19 to be \$12.3m, comprising \$5.7m in losses due to closed or impacted services and a \$6.6m support package for small businesses and the community. **This report proposes to provide a ratepayer subsidy of 50% of the increase in rates and domestic waste charges (\$4.3 million) and to defer the implementation of the 2020/21 fees to 1 Oct 2020 (\$0.7 million).** Should the Council not proceed with these options, the projected deficit would decrease to \$1.8 million. Additionally, if the Council take up the option to delay issuing rates notices to ratepayers until 1 September 2020, and the due date of the first quarter rates instalment until 30 September 2020 it will defer the collection of the first instalment by approximately \$62 million. This will require Council to utilise funds collected in the fourth instalment of the 2019/20 Rates & Annual Charges in May 2020 to cover this one month deferral. This will have a significant impact on Council's Cash & Investment balances and it is unlikely Council will achieve the OLG's benchmark Current Ratio of 1.5x at this point in time. The delivery of Council's \$92.3 million capital works program will provide ongoing financial stimulus for our economy and opportunities for local employment on the Northern Beaches as we recover from the pandemic. This includes investing \$41.5 million in asset renewal to improve the overall condition of our assets and a further \$50.8 million in delivering high priority new assets to the community. The Council is anticipated to meet the OLG's benchmark Buildings and Infrastructure Renewals Ratio of greater than or equal to 100% of depreciation.

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**NEW BUSINESS:**

A number of other matters were discussed during our meeting, and will now be part of future ongoing discussions with Council, including:

- A relocation of the new double-decker bike racks at and around Manly Wharf area.
- The renewal of focus on community safety matters through the Council run Northern Beaches Community Safety Committee.
- The appointment of our new Area Commander of Police. We are now aware that they have appointed Pat Sharkey, but await details of our new Police leader and how he will communicate to residents.
- The renewal of discussions with NSW Property (State Government) on the future use of the Manly Hospital site ( Darley Road)
- Further discussions with Traffic Management at Council over restrictions on traffic through Eustace Avenue. (refer to previous concerns)
- Ranger policing of the legislation controlling dogs on beaches and rock platforms. Good news the Council Ordinances have been clarified and Rangers will be taking action.
- Noxious weed growth along heavy resident and visitor access areas such as Marine Parade.
- Future of the Manly Environment Centre.

**MEETING CLOSE:** Chairman Ray Mathieson thanked all those who attended. Kandy Tagg closed the meeting on Zoom at 6:00pm