

MINUTES

MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM MEETING

MONDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2020

Minutes of the Manly Community Forum Meeting

held Monday 19th October 2020

Commencing at 4:30 pm via zoom

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Chair Cathy Griffin, Co-Chair Ray Mathieson, Executive Secretary Kandy Tagg, Minutes Secretary Janna Seletto, Doug and Lee Carruthers, Treasurer

Guests

Council staff: Trish Chaney, Annie Lang,

Council Guest Speakers: Michele Carter (Acting Transport Manager) Phil Devon (Acting Executive Manager, Transport and Traffic)

Councillors: Pat Daley, Candy Bingham

Attendance

31 residents

1.0 Welcome

Co Chair Cathy Griffin welcomed participants, introduced and thanked Council staff.

2.0 APOLOGIES

Cllr Sarah Gratton, Duncan Black,

3.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

That the Minutes of the Manly Community Forum meeting held 21st September 2020, confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

4.0 UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

How many parking permits have been issued	Council staff are looking to develop reports through the online system, however, they are not currently available. Additional questions were asked about the associations and how many permits they have been issued, however due to privacy this information can only be discussed with the applicants.
Stormwater work Fairy Bower – Could MCF have a timeline for the remedial work	Works are currently out to tender with expectation to appoint a Contractor by late November with Contracts to be signed by January 2021. Works to commence by early April 2021, post summer busy period.
Bins at Fairy Bower	<p>Recently, following a campaign for a bin to be installed, bins were unlawfully removed from residential premises on three occasions and placed in this location, where they attracted litter and illegal household and commercial dumping. Bins were subsequently removed and investigations were carried out by Council's Rangers with respect to the ongoing theft of bins as well as littering and dumping of waste. Until this, the area was not known for any littering and with the exception of these three incidents, its reputation for being generally free of litter continues.</p> <p>Marine Parade is adjacent to a fragile marine ecosystem, the value of which was recognised when it was gazetted as an Aquatic Reserve. Unfortunately, it is our experience that the installation of public place bins encourages antisocial behaviour, albeit from the minority, but with undesirable consequences for local amenity. It is considered that adequate litter bins are located at South Steyne and Shelly Beach, where there is demand and where public use and associated environmental impacts can be appropriately managed by Council.</p> <p>Council's cleansing team conduct daily patrols for this area and we will continue to monitor this location and the public demand for services in the tourist zones as we approach the busy holiday season.</p>
Bavarian Bier Café encroaching on Council land at Manly Wharf. Has Council been compensated	Property are continuing to investigate
Amenities – East Esplanade Reserve – want assurance it will be completed by November 2020	Campbell has advised that the contract is until 1 December Ray Mathieson has been advised by phone
Remove stickers from footpath around the Corso and replace inlaid plaques on Wharf forecourt	The Commercials Centres Team has tried a couple of techniques to remove the old cycling stencils however have not been successful. They are following up with a graffiti removal contractor to try and come up with a solution. Feedback is that they were first laid down with a lot of adhesives and may require some form of chemical

	removal. The area of the plaques in the wharf forecourt has been made safe/trip points addressed. We have not been able to locate the original designs for the plaques to date, to have them refabricated. The Local Studies Group in Manly Library are investigating for us.
Little Manly Point – trees to be removed to create view corridors and remove hazard barriers as this work is now completed	Working with Fenton to investigate this request
Alterations and additions to an existing restaurant known as Hugo's, to increase outdoor deck area and add additional external seating and modify windows	Submissions closed on 27 September; staff are currently reviewing these submissions.
Little Manly Pool – request for a ladder	Staff have previously advised that we don't want to encourage people to walk along the whalers by installing a ladder. Signage has been installed along with new rescue equipment following an audit by Surf Life Saving NSW to ensure the safety of the public using these facilities.

5.0 AGENDA ITEMS

5.1 ACTIVATE MANLY

DISCUSSED

Council received a grant and is now proposing that Whistler St, Darley Rd, Corso will be one way heading from the Eastern Hill with a new two way cycle path and outdoor dining areas replacing some parking. Its Traffic speed will be reduced to 10kph speed zone, this applies to cars and bikes. Access to the Whistler St carpark will remain unchanged.

Council hopes that this will encourage pedestrians, add vibrancy and use space will be used in a different way. Council stated that this is a trial which will begin in December 2020 using space/street in different way, so priority is not given to vehicles.

Approximately 20 short term (30min) parking will be lost, but some remaining parking will be converted to short stay (15minutes), to increase turnover.

So far 49 submissions to Council your say page, overall positive.

Q. Closing off N/S Steyne for events?

A. No events planned in future. Later on, this will be assessed.

Q. Garbage trucks accessing the area.

A. This is being considered.

Q. More bike parking?

A. Extra bike parking will be put in.

Q. Community consultation seems to be too late

A. Council staff had 2 weeks to turn around grant proposal, then it was necessary to get traffic committee approval before public consultation. This is one of two proposals - Bilgola & here. Govt grant is for \$875,000 total for two.

Q. There is a lack of parking, and people won't be able to exit from Whistler St car park and head south as they used to. Changing car parking to only 15 minutes is probably too short. Is this really a trial, as a lot of physical changes will have been put in place?

A. People will need to adjust. Wentworth St & Whistler St car parking will remain unchanged. The change to short stay 15 minutes will be on street parking.

Q. What is justification for this change.

A. We have had a lot of feedback from the walking plan and bike ride plan, which have been put forward for comment in the past. This is all on Your Say page.

Lots of people say they want a safe dedicated cycle way.

Q. What is feedback from businesses?

A. Business chamber is supportive. Also Council will not charge any extra fees for new areas of outdoor seating.

Q. If this becomes permanent, will fees for outdoor dining be charged later? It's public space.

A. We will start with a 12 month lease. We will check in every 3 months. If change becomes permanent, we need to look at DA, liquor license etc.

Q. What about leaving Whistler St car park. Now there will only be one way to exit - away from Manly CBD.

A. Turning left into Whistler St is not legal now anyway.

Q. How many times are people able to enter car park in one day?

ACTION. Trish to clarify this.

Chair asked people to email us with any issues. It's a live project, and we should get on board and make sure it works; or oppose it if it's no good.

Please enter comments on the Council Your say page.

ACTIONS

Council to clarify if cars can re-enter the car parks multiple times within the two hour free. That is if you enter in the morning and only spend 1 hour in the car park can you re enter later for 30 minutes free.

Council to respond to specific questions regarding the traffic data used and the impacts on the Wharf traffic lights.

Council also to reassess the decision to change remaining parking to 15 minutes. Response suggests that 15 minutes is insufficient to attend Chemist or Bank or get a coffee.

5.2 SAVE MANLY FERRIES CAMPAIGN

DISCUSSED

Cr Candy Bingham updated the forum on her campaign to save the manly ferries.

NSW Transport Minister Andrew Constance says large Freshwater-class (1100 pax) ferries will be replaced, with small Emerald-class (400 pax) ferries. Government seem to be focussing on commuters, forgetting heritage, and tourism.

Govt will save only \$6M a year and they are serviced every 5 years with next scheduled service in 2021. We are concerned they will be not be serviced and then withdrawn from then on.

The Manly ferries have history going back to 1850 and they are needed due to big tourist numbers coming to Manly - e.g. 80,000 people came to Manly on Australia Day by ferry.

Candy is putting motion to council meeting next Tuesday night, asking that council have urgent meeting with Andrew Constance, and NSW Transport minister.

ACTION

MCF to raise their concerns with Local Member, James Griffin. James has pledged strong support for the Freshwater Class ferries but community is concerned that they will disappear through "death of a thousand cuts".

5.3 MANLY WHARF UPDATE

DISCUSSED

James Griffin organised meeting with TMG Robert Magid and Cllr Candy Bingham and others.

Mr Magid was shocked by bad state of wharf. Apparently he is also under pressure as restaurants, including Hugo's, who are pushing for wharf to be improved and maintained in a much better state that it currently is.

Cllr Bingham advised that the next step is to establish who is responsible for what and make arrangements to better maintain the facilities on the wharf. Council could consider using Council cleaning contractors for improved and more frequent cleaning the toilets at TMG expense.

Q. Forecourt, who is responsible for what. Some assets cross the dividing line, such as the metal heritage inlay tiles.

A. That was discussed. There will be a walk around and formal audit of what needs to be done. Council should be involved.

Candy thanked Ray Mathieson for help.

ACTION

Council to provide detail on any further actions planned to improve the amenities on the Wharf and Council controlled areas. Suggestion was that the public toilets be returned to the main wharf area, along with staff amenities and that RMS be responsible for the maintenance of public toilets, not TMG.

5.4 FORMER MANLY TOWN HALL

DISCUSSED

The former Manly Town Hall has been declared surplus to council requirements so discussion is taking place about the future uses of the building. Some suggestions being discussed are for it to become a Performance space, environment centre, museum or cinema.

Council proposed to seek feedback from the community via a 'Your Say Page' in the next month or so.

Council is committed to the idea of adaptive re-use of town hall. We understand that staff presented a briefing paper to Councillors with a range of issues to be determined and excellent suggestions on future use. This paper should be made available to all residents and businesses for their information and possible direction.

ACTION

Council to provide information to the precinct on the proposal.

Suggestion is that Council provide residents with a suitable direction regarding their considerations about the retention of our much loved Manly Town Hall building. Residents should be also advised about what has been considered to date and what the Council has to consider in the reuse of this building.

5.5 EAST ESPLANADE

DISCUSSED

Toilets have not been finished but hopefully will be done by end of November. Port-a-loos have been installed. The steps adjacent to the new toilet leading to the corner of Osborne and East Esplanade will remain open.

More work is to be done on area around steps going up towards Skiff Club, including landscaping.

Q. Why is grass not being watered properly.

A. There is a sprinkler system but it may have been damaged by tent pegs.

Q. Surrounding gardens around the amenities block area and leading up to the steps approaching the club area upgraded and new plants/shrubs planted. But no watering and no maintenance since and area has become weed infested and bark and compost dragged or washed away. New plants are damaged and covered.

Area fenced off for builders could be reduced to allow skiff rigging.

Building contractors are occasionally seen working in the area. Is there any expediency?

ACTION.

MCF to follow up with council about the continued use of tent pegs which may be damaging the watering system. Is it fair to allow people to use large tents/shelters? The use of metal pegs to hold shelters was banned in other Councils.

Garden staff to address the damaged gardens, especially the gardens around the ramp.

Parks & Gardens staff committed to replace or repair the pathway light leading to the ramp. This has been outstanding for several years. Any action?

Park staff were to organise repairs to the stormwater retention tanks along the pathway. Broken

lids and damaged pipes are exposed and dangerous for young children.

5.6 LITTLE MANLY POINT

DISCUSSED

Cathy Griffin & stakeholder group met with staff responsible for playground. Cathy presented the staff with the results of the community run survey about the playground. Discussion around various issues raised in the survey including fixing existing fence, and the extent and type of landscaping around the immediate playground area to the fence and the state of the step leading from the area. The reinstatement of the tap/bubbler.

The project is moving on, and council is aware of what locals want.

Council has been requested to remove the hazard barriers near the harbour and remove the sprouting casuarina suckers.

ACTION

We are still waiting for details of toilet in car park.

5.7 WEST ESPLANADE AND AQUARIUM

State Govt will commit \$9M for RMS to strip back old aquarium building. This is to make it safe. Fix Internal walls, possible asbestos etc.

Then RMS call for EOI.

5.8 NORTH HEAD UPDATE

DISCUSSED

The 9 hectare hazard reduction burn on the north eastern side of the STP this weekend jumped containment lines and burned an additional 50 hectares of the National Park and some of the SHFT area. The community was alarmed at the intensity and extent of the fire. Staff from the Big Brother production and residents along Scenic drive along with visitors and staff from the Q station were evacuated. The fire continued into the evening, lighting up the skyline. NP&Ws continued to 'mop up' the area over Sunday and Monday with the NP&Ws helicopter drawing water from the dam in the Q station.

Residents are alarmed and concerned about the apparent high wind speeds and the wildlife that lost their habitats. The hanging swamp area suffered the most damage with some the metal tracks being damaged. The tracks

Tea trees which were razed to the ground are not endemic to this area, and not part of Eastern Suburbs Banksia Scrub. It is anticipated that the ESBS and headland heath will regenerate quickly.

NP&Ws staff reported that the echidnas were seen emerging the day after the fire, and looked ok.

No buildings lost, staff from NP&Ws and SHFT will assess the damage and a post fire report and a review will be written.

The burn commenced at 10.30 and additional resources were called in to assist when the fire first jumped containment lines later in the day when the fire spread to the Fairfax walk area through the

hanging swamp. This area was on the list for a hazard reduction burn this year. The winds blew the smoke away from Manly, and no buildings etc in danger.

The State Government has previously pledged \$4M to the area and plans are in progress for these works in the Fairfax walk area. Work will still go ahead after fire, although some tweaks may be made. Initially safety fencing will be installed while the stage 1 of the plans are finalised and the project team established to implement the project.

5.9 SYDNEY HARBOUR FEDERATION TRUST / NORTH HEAD SANTUARY FOUNDATION

Fed Govt has committed \$40M to Sydney Harbour Fed Trust. Some of this money will be spent on North Head, in particular on Building 1 adjacent to the former parade ground. Funds will be used to fix up windows, make building safe and ready for leasing. The Trust will call for EOIs and hopefully lease out building. Funds are also intended for the tunnels to enable visiting.

Please go to Have Your Say page, on Sydney Harbour Federation Trust.

<https://www.harbourtrust.gov.au/en/our-news/join-the-conversation-on-north-head-sanctuary>

5.10 FORMER MANLY HOSPITAL UPDATE

DISCUSSED

Health Infrastructure, which is progressing the AYAH, has sent info letters to immediate neighbours advising them of the progress of the project and asking for comments. (Pic attached)

It says 'Comment to Michael Smytheman, Project Director, at hi-info@health.nsw.gov.au

The MCF notes that many people in Manly are keen to know what is happening on the former Manly Hospital site and many have donated funds to the AYAH project.

Property advised that the building plans were prepared by Health Infrastructure and they are responsible for community communication. Next October meeting of the MHSPSAC has been cancelled. Meeting has now been planned for Friday 27th November 2020. Matter should be discussed with Local member James Griffin.

ACTION

Ray Mathieson has asked NSW Property to provide the details of the Youth Hospice building to the Project Steering Group and to the general public.

5.11 LITTLE MANLY CAFÉ

DISCUSSED

DA exhibited on Council website and submissions have closed. Only about 4 received.

It's being assessed now. Some issues identified are

Wheeled access for prams and wheelchairs is currently through the café but it is not known when and if Council will relocate this access around the front of the café.

Council staff apparently are not going to relocate path before redevelopment.

New Takeaway facility is right next to men's toilet. Not ideal.

Glass windows being put in, but they look like fixed glass. This will be much too hot.

With only one toilet stall in the women's side this may not be adequate for busy days at the beach. This public toilet amenities block is being turned into a restaurant. The structure keeps extending. Built construction creep in a small area.

Has the masterplan for the area been resolved and adopted, including 40 Stuart St and more modern toilets facilities.

Cllr Bingham stated: Community was asked where cafe should be, and people have said this is the best place, as they can watch kids on beach and on swings etc. No 40 will be demolished in 2022. The Council has a committed to do that.

Also, envelope is no bigger than the previous operator set up years ago.

ACTION

Council to advise when the access path will be installed.

5.12 COVID AMBASSADORS

DISCUSSED

Cllr Bingham outlined the MCF on the COVID safety ambassadors – (not Marshalls). Council has received approximately 50 expressions of interest from the community. They will then participate in induction training and provided with a uniform. Life saving clubs have been invited to participate and assist in keeping the beaches COVID safe. The plan prescribes the capacity of each beach and park in the NBs

MCF execs to attend a briefing with the CEO on the 22nd October.

5.13 BOWER SREET PARKING PROPOSAL

DISCUSSED

Anne Cameron the Council proposal for the Bower St restricted parking. Council has recently exhibited this, and it's being evaluated now. It involves removing 11 out of 18 car park spaces on one side of Bower St every weekend. It's prompted by the genuine problems with traffic flow on summer weekends, on narrow Bower St.

The residents say these restrictions are only required in summer, not just on weekends.

Anne said there are only 5 signs and council should be able to manage installing these for the summer and then removing them for the remainder of the year.

ACTION: Forum resolved to strongly support Bower Street residents in their fight to have parking restrictions in place during summer only. This resolution is to be passed on to the CEO NBC.

5.14 MARINE PARADE STORMWATER AND SEWAGE PIPE

DISCUSSED

Local resident Bill D'Anthes explained that Sydney Water has advised that the main sewage line, running from Manly ocean beach is secure behind Fairy Bower seawall that was constructed 100 years ago. But the community believes that wall is actually crumbling and is concerned that there will be a spill into the Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve.

ACTION:

Forum has previously expressed their concern with the delay by Sydney Water in rectifying the clearly damaged pipeline. Matter should be addressed with Sydney Water at Executive level. The risk from storm damage is too great. We ask that the Northern Beaches Council Executives take a stronger stance with Sydney Water.

6. NEXT MEETING

Meeting ended 6pm.

Next meeting is Mon Nov 16, 4.30pm.on Zoom

This is the final page of the Minutes
of the Manly Community Forum meeting
held on Monday 19th October 2020