

**Manly Community Forum  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday 18 May 2020**

**Note: Meeting took place on Zoom**

- **MEETING OPENING:** Meeting started at 4:30 pm when most of the participants were let into the Zoom meeting.
- **ATTENDEES:** 22 online connections; including 26 residents' participated plus 3 Council members.
- **APOLOGIES:** 5 residents and friends signed up to join the meeting but had to send their apologies instead. Those who could not attend included Northern Beaches Councillors Candy Bingham, Sarah Grattan and Stuart Sprott; Doug and Lee Carruthers (Forum Treasurers), Kim Smee; Mike Wrenford
- **OPENING REMARKS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**
  - a. **THANK YOU..**( New email address registrations.-now have over 550 addresses; unfortunate max 30 restriction on participation; maybe some months before we can meet at the Yacht Club; simple rules for on-line participation and Minutes taken for Council follow-up; Responses forwarded over following month.)

Thank you to Kandy Tagg for organising this on line meeting.. zoom costs paid by the forum. and thank you to our new newsletter walkers.

Thank you again to Trish Chaney and Annie Lang from the CEO's office

Thank you to our sponsors Rowe & Partners and HPL Lawyer Group.

- **GUEST SPEAKER:** Sadiya King Team Leader Stormwater Design & Delivery

Sadiya provided updates on the following:

- Fairy Bower

The proposed works include:

- replacing the section of stormwater pipe with a new larger concrete box culvert
- matching the surface of the culvert with the existing ocean pool walkway
- finishing with a non-slip roughened surface
- installing a grate on the stormwater outlet to restrict access and eliminate the potential for entrapment
- replacing the existing stormwater pit (connecting the pipe running parallel to the sea wall) to the new culvert.

Construction is anticipated to commence after summer 2021. Council is consulting with Sydney Water over various aspects of the system in the area.

All the details will be published on the Your Say page 22nd May with comments closing 21 Jun. Additional notification to residents in the immediate area will also advise of the project.

Following from the **Manly to Seaforth Flood Study** which assessed flood risk in the area, we are now preparing a Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan to help reduce the impacts of flooding for residents and businesses. A letter with the survey link was sent to 5800 potentially flood affected residents.

The study area includes the suburbs of Clontarf and Balgowlah Heights and parts of Manly, Fairlight, Balgowlah and Seaforth. It excludes the Manly Lagoon Floodplain.

This project will investigate a range of options to reduce flood risk in the study area and develop a long term plan for the management of flood prone land.

- North Steyne GPT

Works will include the installation of a GPT near the outlet of the existing stormwater network. The proposed GPT will capture pollutants such as litter, sediments and oils from stormwater runoff before it has a chance to enter our ocean.

As part of the work, we will remove the current pipe outlet on the beach and replace it with a more efficient and less intrusive outlet hidden under the Manly Promenade.

The improvement to water quality in the area will benefit residents, beach goers and visitors alike for years to come.

Construction works are expected to start in late-2020 and should be completed within eight weeks, weather permitting.

- South Steyne GPT

A GPT is proposed to be constructed for the existing public stormwater drain discharging onto Manly Beach near Manly Surf Lifesaving Club.

The GPT will be a high performance Continuous Deflection Separation (CDS) Unit. It will reliably capture pollutants (e.g. bottles, cans, plastic bags, cigarette butts) improving the environment as a result. The GPT will be constructed below ground with only the lid visible. Due to the area being fairly restrictive including the presence of Norfolk Island Pine Trees, several utilities and other civil structures, Council is currently investigating a suitable location for the GPT.

The projects will be going up on Your Say this Friday, 22 May as well as notification letters to affected residents and the Forum.

**The Forum discussed the following:**

- Does the Catholic Church development cause any issues relating to Fairy Bower

**ACTION:** Sadiya to investigate any run off concerns relating to the Catholic Church Development that was initially withdrawn but expected to be re-submitted

- Little Manly stormwater outlet – Sadiya advised that this is cleaned every two month and was last cleaned in April. Residents had reported not seeing the cleaning process.

There is an existing GPT which was installed approximately 15 years ago, Rocla Cleansall 750 (SWS00013), along Craig Avenue at Little Manly Beach.

This unit is on a 2 month cleaning schedule and was last cleaned on 27/4/2020. Over the past financial year a total of 9.3 tonnes of waste has been removed with an approx. average of 2.3 tonnes removed per clean.

- East Esplanade Park stormwater outlet opposite Ashburner St. This stormwater drain runs directly into the most popular children’s swimming area. It often digs out a large channel and the rank contaminants and blown in debris gathers in the stormwater hole. Council team have told the Forum on a number of occasions that they are working on a rectification.

**ACTION:** Sadiya to investigate what has been done and what can be done with the East Esplanade issue.

- Shelly beach stormwater outlet – no work at this stage.
- Manly to Seaforth Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan on YourSay from 22 May 2020.

Manly to Seaforth Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan on YourSay from 22 May 2020.

- **PROGRESS ON PROJECTS AND ONGOING ISSUES**

**Local Works update**

- Little Manly and Forty Baskets harbour pools are currently being removed and construction to reconstruct the pools will commence soon.
- East Esplanade landscaping is continuing and preparation for construction of the toilet block has commenced.
- Two double height commuter cycle racks at Manly wharf have been moved to more appropriate location behind the Wharf Hotel. Two stacks remain behind the bus stop on West Esplanade.

Discussed moving all of them behind Manly Wharf Bar, Cr Bingham advised that they have been placed where there is demand and the concern is if they all moved to one area riders will go back to chaining bikes up against trees and tables etc.

Cathy Griffin raised the issue of no consultation or planning in relation the placement of the bike racks.

**ACTION:** Cr Daley enquired whether Council could investigate a type of warning sticker to put onto bikes illegally parked.

**ACTION:** Could Council provide a handout to educate riders.

**ACTION** A plan for bike racks should be published by Council, explaining where and where not to secure bikes in the area.

#### Toilet Block at Little Manly Point Park

- Discussion on the removal and relocation of the disabled access toilet attached to the heritage amenities block on West Esplanade. The Forum agreed that the installation of a new amenities block at Little Manly Point Park was a greater priority than the relocation of the disabled toilet. Concern was expressed by the community that the LM Point park, including the car park was being used inappropriately by some people who didn't know there were toilets at LM Beach or considered it too far to walk there. The area is heavily used by recreational fishermen who fish on both the eastern and western side of the park for long periods of time. Use of the park has increased during the COVID period also highlighting the need for amenities.

**ACTION** There is full support from the forum community to support Councillor Bingham Motion to reallocate the funding to a new toilet amenities block at LM Point Park.

- Parking in the Manly CDB will be considered when the NBC completes the Manly Place Plan.
- Eustace St traffic issues continue, and it is noted that the street is a regular 'rat run' used by taxis and other vehicles. Council Traffic Management has previously stated their intention to consider best alternatives to improve safety in this street.

**ACTION.** Council to review previous considerations and provide some action to support the dangerous situation for residents, keeping in mind that this is a tight resident area not a commercial or transport avenue.

**RESPONSE:** The Eustace Street issue will be included in the brief for the Manly Place Plan related traffic and transport study that will be conducted as part of the project. This area is included in the initial area for a 30km/h trial in Manly.

- The Former Manly Town Hall has been declared surplus to the requirements of the new NBC. Consultation had commenced on future uses but was halted due to COVID 19 and it is hoped that consideration for the reuse will continue. The public areas are available for the community to use however the cost of security is considered prohibitive to some groups. Consideration for the building to become an Arts and Cultural hub was well received by the forum and support was strong for ideas to be fully explored by Council.

**ACTION.** There was strong support for a Cinema to be considered for inclusion in the reuse of the Town Hall. Council consideration ?

- Call for EOIs for the Former Aquarium building owned by RMS on West Esplanade have been delayed. No date has been set for recommencing the process and Council is waiting for advice from RMS on what options re available for the area.
- The MEC has been closed temporarily. It is currently considered not fit for purpose and work is continuing to catalogue and digitise the collection within the MEC.

- Concern for safety on Manly Wharf leased area continue with the toilets closed. The Wharf manager advised that the toilets are closed as most of the shops on the wharf are closed due to COVID. The disabled toilets remain open but the area is considered disgusting.

**ACTION.** Forum asks that Council take strong action to support Local Member, James Griffin in his approach to Minister for RMS and the Premier with a view to gaining more control over the public facilities on the Manly Wharf. Lessee should not be allowed to close public facilities when they consider there is insufficient traffic to warrant their cleaning expense.

- Also, the short time free car parking for Aldi customers has been discontinued. Was this a grab for more revenue from the lessee? The impact is on local residents.

Community members are encouraged to write to RMS, the Minister Transport and the Local member about the poor state of affairs at Manly Wharf especially the disgusting toilets.

- Traffic Management and Safety at the Wharf Interchange

**ACTION** Overhead traffic lights are being installed at the Gilbert St and Belgrave St intersection, because of an apparent poor visibility. This Forum would much more appreciate the focus of Council and RMS on the dangerous wharf pedestrian interchange area, especially the lights to East and West Esplanade from Belgrave. [MCF Committee also asks that Council provide detail on exactly what was asked of RMS, when the matter of timing lights was previously raised with RMS and what their response was so that we can contribute to the discussion with the knowledge of what has occurred before.](#)

- MHSPSAC ( Manly Hospital Site Project Steering Advisory Group). The forum notes that respondents to the NSW Govt request for nominations back in 2019 have not been notified of their membership of the consultation group. Chairman noted that he had raised concern with the lack of action on outstanding issues, particularly the make-up of the group and stated that hopefully a timeline of tasks completed and actions required will be presented to the group when it meets, Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 8am Manly Town Hall.

**ACTION.** Chairman to follow, hopefully with the full support of the Council and report back to the June meeting and to the five nominees from this forum area.

- The NHSTPCRG ( North Head Sewage Treatment Plant Community Reference Group) meeting has been deferred for 3 months. Lots of work has been occurring to reduce odours and the amount of solids and therefore number of truck movements for the STP. There are outstanding issues that have been responded to by Plant Manager, NHSTP and we will detail on our website.

**ACTION.** Chairman to advise Sydney Water of the change in representation and follow up on works completed and actions required from previous NHSTPCRG meeting.

- **ADDITIONAL COUNCIL RESPONSES – ON MATTERS NOT FULLY COVERED DURING MEETING.**

Issue	Response
<p>Is Council aware of the proposed Telstra Tower on top of the Carillon building in Marshall St. Apparently their Body Corp. has agreed to this, but there are nearby residents who are concerned. Is there are process for DA or formal advice to Council?</p>	<p>They are not required to lodge a DA as it is being deployed under federal legislation (<i>Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities) Determination 2018</i>)</p> <p>Formal advice was sent to Council, Councillors, State and Federal reps and affected residents in April and closes today 18.5.20</p>
<p>Proposed Legislation (it might already have gone through State Parliament) to control/stop Council spending on administrative infrastructure. What impact will that have on the plans for the Raglan St Community Hub and any proposals for the Manly Town Hall?</p>	<p>Sent are unaware of any legislation, could you please send it through</p> <p>Raglan mid June</p> <p>Manly Town Hall no changes to staff workspaces and meeting rooms upstairs are for community use.</p>
<p>Who at Council is looking at the future of Manly CBD parking?</p>	<p>Not currently – will look at this as part of the Manly Place Plan.</p>
<p>Where are we with the court case over the cancelled contract for the Whistler St car park and library building?</p>	<p>Back in court in June. Ray will provide a further update at the August Manly Executive meeting.</p>
<p>Any further discussion on the future of the Hop Skip and Jump bus service?</p>	<p>This was a topic for our Councillors to discuss, around service levels. A workshop was planned on this topic but with COVID-19 it's been pushed back.</p>

- **NEW BUSINESS:**
- East Esplanade Park.. Chairman advised that the temporary alcohol ban had not been enacted and if the residents believe that Council should now revert to “NO ALCOHOL” in the park as it was for decades before the ban was lifted, then they should voice their opinion to

Council now. At the moment the Rangers do not have a legal right to fine people who will not comply with their requests.

**ACTION..** Forum should prepare a story for the next newsletter and seek views before a vote on the issue. General consensus is that come the warmer weather Council will have the same problems controlling drinking and unruly behaviour. No alcohol allows the Police to use discretion, but have a law should they require stronger policing.

- Noise complaints are now a Police Responsibility, NBC does not have the resources to ensure attendance and compliance with noise complaints. Residents are asked to call 000, not the local police station and make their complaint. Ensure the complaint is recorded and acted upon. If this does not occur residents are encouraged to get in touch with the Manly Community Forum and it will be raised at the next Safety Committee meeting which is attended by the local Police Commander.
- The Manly Liquor Accord has been extended to be the Northern Beaches Liquor Accord. The Community should be aware that the local pubs, including the Steyne Hotel and others on the Corso may seek to have their hours of trading increased post COVID 19 to recover from losses. It took years to get alcohol fuelled behaviour under control and it should not be relaxed.

**ACTION** Chairman to ensure that senior representation on the Community Safety Committee are aware of the community concern and will endeavour to gain the control that was evident with the previous Area Commander of Police.

- The community expressed disappointment at the lack lustre performance of the LM Beach Cafe. The cafe opening times have been random. Anyone with complaints would make a complaint to the NBC customer service phone line or online. The community looks forward to seeing the proposed renovations and reopening after winter.
- The footpath above the East Esp amenities block has deteriorated and has become dangerous as it is narrow and potholed. Residents are encouraged to take a photo and send this to NBC via the customer complaints online.
- The community congratulates the Council on the refurbishment of the Corso children's playground.
- Hop, Skip and Jump Bus..What is the future of this service? We understand that Council is considering whether they can continue. More information required and matter will be addressed at next meeting.
- Street ( and Park) Tree Management Plans.. We await an update of the plan and a copy of the Significant Tree Register. We also await action on the destroyed and severely damaged trees on Darley Road.

**ACTION..**Chairman to follow up with Fenton Beatty and Steve Lawler on progress and ACTION.

- Viralkindness Group. Following our article in the April newsletter this group has received numerous offers of assistance and the group has expanded their support across the

Northern Beaches and in fact throughout the Sydney area. They currently also support over 100 staff from Newmarch House who have been stood down and quarantined. Well done to local resident Samantha McCourt and her team

- **MEETING CLOSE:** Chairman Ray Mathieson thanked all those who attended. Kandy Tagg closed the meeting on Zoom at 6:00pm
- **NEXT MEETING:** Monday 15 June 2020 on Zoom. 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm. Online.