

MINUTES MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM MEETING 15TH MARCH 2021.

Meeting conducted by ZOOM, 4.30pm to 6pm

MINUTES MEETING 15TH FEB Reviewed and accepted. & now submitted to Council for response.

RESPONSES .. Responses received to some items as taken down by Council representatives. (attached)

NEWSLETTER DELIVERIES AND CONTROL. (Doug Carruthers) THANK YOU

Chairman thanked new deliverers and thanked Doug for reassuming the delivery control.

1. GUEST SPEAKER Stephen Watson Mgr. Transport & Civil Infrastructure Assets. Discussion On Footpath Audit Action. Plus brief Q&A session.

Background: Many residents raised issues with the state of our footpaths and access points. During 2020 Forum Chairman sought assistance in the preparation of an audit of footpaths through Little Manly. Resident Fiona Coulsen offered to complete a survey and over months prepared a 30 page summary of issues within the Little Manly area. This audit was tightened to only include those problems that were more severe and likely to cause a trip incident. A 4 page report was submitted in October and we have asked for a Council follow up.

Stephen offered a slide display of the works in hand and a summary of how these tasks would be handled by Council. Immediate works were underway where they load bitumen into a possible trip hazard, providing a smoother step, until they can either fully replace the concrete or asphalt, or grind the concrete down to remove the step.

As Stephen pointed out many of the problems have been created by utility companies upgrading or repairing paths dug out. (Telstra, Sydney Water, Energy Australia and particularly NBN) Council used to repair on behalf of the utility but now this is left to the various service companies, which often results in poorly repaired areas.

Stephen asked that residents and business owners report the problem directly to the service company, but also provide their concern to the Council

Customer Service No. 1300434434. Council do have direct contacts with service areas, but the two prong approach works much better.

A copy of Stephen's presentation is attached and will be shown on our website.

Q & A session followed

Cathy raised the deep concern with the East Esplanade footpath, especially the area from the corner of Osborne to the Skiff Club, NW side. This has been an ongoing problem for many years. Stephen promised to visit and address this problem as a priority.

Ian raised the immediate concern with the pedestrian access points and the inappropriate paving support and signage at the new works (Cliff and Darley). Chairman pointed out that trucks could not easily turn and as submitted to Council by Ian, their attention is not on pedestrians and a serious accident could occur through works that are designed to improve safety.

Overheads suggest that the only committed works are close to the CBD (Raglan St). The audit should highlight other areas, especially East Esplanade and the access ramp to the park at East Esplanade.

Q&A also highlighted what many residents consider an inappropriate pedestrian crossing at Ashburner and East Esplanade. This work is underway, despite this Forum pointing out numerous issues with safety and access. Councillor Bingham said that this was not a full pedestrian crossing, but later confirmed that it was the intention of Council to put a full crossing at this point. The crossing is only metres into the new 30KPH signage, on a downhill, bending access point with limited vision and competing traffic entry areas. Young mothers regularly cross here to the beach at EEPark. Often with the stroller in front and the phone in the ear. Pushbike riders are also common here, often without dismounting. This will be an ongoing problem, especially when they have the comfort of a pedestrian crossing, that seems to give them the right to cross without care.

Chairman thanked Stephen for his presentation and responses, but asked that could the future list of works to be completed provide a more detailed list of the areas of concern already addressed by the residents.

ACTION

- . More details from Council staff on the problems identified and when Action will be taken.
- . Communication on what and when the East Esplanade footpath can be improved.
- . Council staff to discuss the problems with the Cliff St pedestrian refuge. We would prefer to see it removed.
- . Whether the Place Management team is actively communicating with the Forums and with Infrastructure Management about other unsatisfactory pedestrian access points.
- . Forum to forward concerns with pedestrian access and inappropriate development to Trish Chaney .
- . Residents to report obvious utility company problems direct to the utility and also to Council with a report to the Forum if responses are not reasonable.
- . Copy of the audit for Little Manly area a copy of the latest memo from Ian Jones to be added to website.
- . Forum to continue promoting the need for audits in the CBD and Fairy Bower areas, seeking volunteers to complete.

ACTIVATE MANLY/ MANLY STREETS GET A LITTLE REFRESH

Chairman reminded residents that we had been advised that the plans, which included illustrations of the changes to be made to Darley, The Corso and Whistler St, were on hold, but Council had closed some parking areas and installed seating. Councillor Bingham said that the Activate Manly was not on hold and that Councillors had been advised that some works were going ahead. Chairman suggested that we (all residents) had not been advised of the new seating areas and what parking was being lost.

Councillor Bingham advised that because the money had been allocated by NSW Government the Council was completing some works that they believed would provide support for the businesses in the Manly CBD.

Without any “fanfare” the Council has erected curb side seating in three areas; Whistler St beside the entry to the car park. Three parking bays lost, especially the two loading style spots; 2-3 spots on the northern side of the Corso traffic area and 3 spots outside the two restaurants in Darley Road, opposite St Matthews’s church. The placement of these seats and the landscape boxes behind the seats make it difficult for bicycles to run inside the vehicles.

The seats are quickly constructed and can be removed, should this “trial” period suggest that they are inappropriate. They are attractive but will require considerable maintenance. They are a plus for the nearby restaurants and coffee shops in that there is no cost for the adjacent restaurants and the somewhat sparse use so far suggests that the takeaway food areas now have an attractive place for their customers to sit.

ACTION

. Council to advise when the landscaping of the planter boxes is to be completed and what is the maintenance program. How are they managing waste at these sites? INITIAL FEEDBACK FROM RESIDENTS & BUSINESSES SUGGESTS THAT THEY LIKE THE ADDED SEATING, BUT WORRY ABOUT MAINTENANCE.

EAST ESPLANADE PARK (responsible management of alcohol)

Chairman and a number of residents expressed their disappointment with the decision by Council/Councillors to continue with alcohol allowed at the park. Chairman said that only one Councillor voted for the change and that the decision made at Council to form a “stakeholder” group had already shown the lack of real intent through cancelling the initial meeting for weeks. Councillor Bingham didn’t think that was fair and said that the only one who could make the first meeting was the Forum Chairman. The Stakeholders meeting is now planned for Wednesday week , 24th March for a 5pm walk around of EEPark and a 6pm meeting at the Town Hall, Manly. Chairman said that it would be more appropriate to have a walk around in the evening and at the weekend, especially a warm night, so that the stakeholders could see the issues when they occur, anti-social behaviour, excessive drinking, problems finding a toilet, lack of signage and lighting. Chairman did provide evidence that currently the Rangers are working hard to remove the drinkers from the park after 8pm.

ACTION

- . Chairman and local resident and the two Manly Ward Councillors on the Stakeholder Group to report back to the Forum on decisions made from the group.
- . Council to provide details of Ranger action including tip outs, fines and number of “pushbacks” they encounter and when Police are called because of those incidents.
- . Weather has a lot to do with the problems at EEPark. We are experiencing a poor weather period and this reduces the number of visitors. Planning should be automatic for warm weather periods. Can Council advise that this is happening?
- . Forum to seek responses from local residents on the control measures and how this is impacting their amenity.

FRESHWATER CLASS FERRIES Vs EMERALD CLASS FERRIES.

Meeting was reminded of the rally to support the Freshwater Class Ferry this Saturday 20th March and the follow up action on the ferry via a trip to Circular Quay. The 22K petition is with Parliament and will be debated on Thursd 25th March, 4pm State Parliament. Details on Good for Manly website. Residents and Councillor Bingham reminded meeting of the supposed inadequate access for disabled and passengers with strollers and bikes. Also, the meeting was reminded of the video featuring Evelyn Shirvington on the ferry, after experiencing difficulties with his motorised chair. Doug and Chairman reiterated their concern with the financial viability of the large ferries with few passengers, except on the hot days and weekends. The two ferries planned to be kept may meet these requirements, but there are other factors, not in the least the iconic tourist and travel benefits of the Freshwater class and their ability to pack over 1000 in each vessel with double ended movement.

We are yet to see the new ferries and understand that there are some teething problems with the ferries that have been delivered. There is a strong push for the State Government to consider the bigger ferries with electric motors, as used overseas, either refitted or new larger ferries.

ACTION

- . Residents to attend the rally this weekend and consider how they support the speakers in Parliament. (refer to Good for Manly for detail)
- . Residents to review the reasons for the change outlined in newsletters and blogs by James Griffin and to consider whether the committed 2 Freshwater Class ferries is enough.
- . We need to better understand the reasoning behind the decision to replace the Freshwater class ferries. As we know it is a financial and an environmental consideration and the State Government believe that they can move the travellers on and off, with more , smaller ferries without creating problems at either end (manly or Circular Quay)

WESTERN HARBOUR TUNNEL AND BEACHES LINK

Chairman reminded residents that the community consultation period for the EIS for the Beaches Link aspect of this major project is closing soon. Councillor Bingham Chaired a recent meeting of mainly residents of the impacted areas at Balgowlah and Seaforth and many aspects of concern have been raised. The resident groups in those areas are particularly concerned with Traffic, Loss of Environment, Pollution from exhaust stacks and contamination of the natural waterways. It is important that residents understand the impact and give consideration to the possibility that a major traffic tunnel costing mega millions could open up access to the Northern Beaches and put pressure on the planned density of these areas and housing generally.

However, something must be done about traffic and transportation and no matter what is considered we cannot have it both ways. We either accept that we must utilise public transport and adjust our mode of transport, or accept the inevitability of grid locked peak periods, with the serious impact on access in and out of the Northern Beaches. The public transport could be markedly improved and we have seen an improvement through the BLine services. Or, we accept the inevitable impact on areas such as the Balgowlah Golf Course and surrounds. Increased traffic into this area should be better managed away from schools and the exhaust stacks must not be a potentilla hazard for residents. The “coffer dam” process of dropping a prep-built tunnel into

Middle Harbour must also come with guaranteed pollution guards and this aspect does not appear to have a lot of supporting material in the EIS report.

ACTION

- . Residents to read the extensive response by Council to the EIS report.
- . Terry asked that the Forum seek a “plain English” summary of the issues so that more people could understand the issues. Please read the Council response and then the North Harbour Forum concerns . (on their website)
- . This Forum to congratulate Council on the extent and detail in their response.
- . Residents to appreciate the value of a State Government willing to undertake an improvement to transport structure, such as this Beaches Link.
- . Residents to consult with their Local Member and gain some understanding of the need for the Beaches Link, as part of the new transport network that is the Western Harbour Tunnel, Gore Hill Link and Beaches Link Tunnel.

NORTH MANLY BOWLING CLUB (PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP)

Council is about to commence seeking Expressions of Interests for Public Private Partnership proposals for the repurposing of the recreation space at the former North Manly bowling club. As part of this process, Council would like to have an independent community representative as part of the Evaluation Panel and would like this representative to be nominated by the Manly Ward Executive.

This project has been progressing over a number of years, and the Expression of Interest (EOI) process is the culmination of these efforts. Submitters to the EOI will be asked to put forward concept ideas for the site for one or more of the following short listed uses:

- Combined BMX, skateboarding, surfing and snowboarding facilities;
- Tennis facilities;
- Indoor basketball facilities;
- Small sided soccer (synthetic) facilities; and

- Gymnastics facilities.

The independent panel member would be part of an Evaluation Panel that includes two Council staff members, a representative from the NSW Office of Sport, an independent third party probity adviser and a non-voting Council internal procurement advisor.

The background to this process is contained within the July 2020 Council report, Item 13.4 at the following link:

<https://files.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/meetings/edit-meeting/em-council-meeting-28-july-2020/agenda-councilmeeting-20200728.pdf#page=105>

A briefing on the matter for interested parties for more information prior to a nominee being set can be arranged should this be required.

In terms of time commitments, the Expression of Interest is due to close on 6 May 2021. Once submissions have been received it is expected that the evaluations would be completed over the following month both through panel meetings as well as presentations by submitting parties. The actual time commitments will depend on the number and complexity of the submissions received.

ACTION

. Council is looking for a nomination from somebody within the Manly Ward area to be the Community Representative on their evaluation Panel. Please consider whether you could be that one.

. This site is important for all residents. We will have a new Golf Club on the tennis court side. We will have a range of sporting facilities on the other side of the road and District Park is an extensive sporting area for many residents and their children. The applicant must have an interest in sports and the community and the environment and a balanced view on community infrastructure.

.. Discuss with the Chairman or a Committee Member.

OTHER GENERAL BUSINESS

LITTLE MANLY MASTERPLAN

Things are being pushed back a little mainly due to Council Budget allocation Council has taken a hit over the Covid period, which is understood, so some projects will have an amended implementation date. 40 Stuart St has had Council confirmation of the plan for demolition and re-establishment as parkland. Other aspects such as the new pathway around the kiosk; the rebuild of the seawall and stepped bleachers to the sand; the toilets at Little Manly point Park and the expansion of the public areas around Craig Avenue/parking area will be delayed. Other portions of the proposed change such as the rebuild of the boat ramp, will be required for safety reasons.

STORMWATER PROJECT

The Fairy Bower stormwater and pool redesign will go ahead as planned from April 2021. The stormwater rebuild in the middle of Manly Beach is now underway. The additional work on the stormwater projects at East Esplanade and the beach front will possibly be delayed pending budget. We are seeking a start on the stormwater problems in the SE corner.

NBC SERVICE REVIEW.

Council will shortly announce plans and communication methods for a complete review of their services provided and the method and priority of those services. Watch this space. It is very important that we be involved.

SAFETY ASPECTS OF BBQ AND HIRE BOATS AT LITTLE MANLY AND MANLY COVE.

Jack has raised many concerns about the safety of these boats, often moored for long periods on the beachfront, with swimmers in and out of the boat areas. The boats have inexperienced drivers with no license required. We are concerned that they often bring boats back without the owners supervision and the boats are often left there for long periods with only a small pick holding them to the sand. The owners appears to have only one commercial mooring in Little Manly Cove, but often three or four boats loosely anchored in the bay. They do have another commercial mooring at Seaforth Bluff.

ACTION.

. Chairman to discuss with BSO, RMS about safety aspects and the latest on who now owns the boats and exactly what they are allowed to do with the boats.

. Forum to write to RMS and explain that the concern with these craft is now much more public and many residents are expressing their concern.

.RMS to be asked why the owner couldn't consider caging the propeller, as is done at Surf Lifesaving Clubs. Also, why the owner shouldn't have a commercial mooring for all boats that are left in the two bays.

. Also RMS to explain what the safety requirements are for the owner who lets inexperienced drivers take the boats to any beach and bay and what is the requirement for embarking disembarking from the vessel.

MURALS ON WHISTLER ST CAR PARK AND BELOW AT THE ENTRY TO THE PENINSULA CAR PARK.

Cathy outlined the plans for both murals. The Whistler St mural created some curiosity, given the colours proposed and the difficult to see location. However, most agreed that whatever the Council does to brighten up Manly is worthy doing. Thank you Council.

MEETING CLOSED AT 6.04 PM NEXT MEETING 19TH APRIL 2021.