

Minutes
MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM ONLINE MEETING
May 2021

Welcome and thank you to the team who worked on the Newsletter and the delivery team and if anyone can help with deliveries please let us know.

Minutes – Doug and Lee Carruthers confirmed the April minutes.

Apologies

Ray Mathieson, Candy Bingham, Sarah Grattan, Pat Daley

Council Staff Attendees

Trish Chaney, Claudia ?

General Business – Council Responses

Council staff had agreed that the footpath at East Esplanade is in poor condition and will look at including that in next financial year's 22/23 program and replacing that section. Council also have a meeting on Wednesday with Cathy, Susan Terry and staff to have a look at the maintenance of the trees at Little Manly with regard to the casuarinas suckers that are coming up.

The Forum had also requested that Council work with Maritime and the Water Police about the safety of the barbecue boats in Little Manly Cove. This could wait till next month as there are currently discussions in general about boat safety that Candy is having with various people and the Council staff. We're also asking them to look at the boats and swimmer safety in Cabbage Tree Bay.

Council reported that staff had looked at the stormwater pipe in East Esplanade and were looking at a duck bill valve over the pipe. Cathy had discussed this with Ray Mathieson and they felt that it was quite a big protrusion and there is little enough beach as it is and it would get covered up with sand, so there needs to be further discussion with staff.

Little Manly Point Reserve – Toilets and Playground

People are happy with the position of the toilets. They are hidden by the trees, easily accessible, you can see them when you are walking up the footpath and they are very obvious from the carpark, and they are not that far from the fishermen or anyone having an event. If anyone has any issues or ideas go on the Your Say page and make a comment. There have been four or five proposed sights and this is the best location. We'd like to thank Council for listening and for that location.

Apparently there have been a lot of positive comments about the playground. The main feedback has been to get rid of the lomandra and suckling trees surrounding the area and to have the surrounds properly landscape. Some of the benches will be replaced and there will be a picnic table. Another suggestion was to move the bike rack to the path to the playground and also to install some children's bike racks. There will be a large playground fence that will go around the periphery of the area. The circular pathway will remain.

Echidnas

There are three echidnas in the local Little Manly area - one in Wood Street, another in Little Manly park and a third in Carey Street. There is also one at Shelley Beach and one in the College grounds. Their breeding season is June until September. Their main food is ants, termites and some beetles. They survived the fires at North Head. They are protected.

North Head Makeover

There are several stakeholders.

The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust which is funded by the Federal Government have released some plans of the North Fort Precinct for discussion. Please go online and complete their survey and also participate in their face-to-face focus groups.

The National Parks and Wildlife are upgrading Scenic Drive and the Fairfax Lookout. They have funding and are going to start the work shortly. They will create additional parking at the bus stop, putting in a stone wall and improving the viewing platforms, moving the car park slightly back and renewing the Fairfax walk area.

Shelley Beach

Candy has a Notice of Motion going up for Council on 25 May about the boats anchoring in Cabbage Tree Bay and is specifically requesting that a survey be done of the sea grass meadows, a survey of the uses of the bay and a review of the boat usages.

James Griffin has a petition with about 2,000 signatures, but a large number of the signatories are not in the electorate. The petition is on Jame's website – https://www.jamesgriffinmp.com/further_protect_cabbage_tree_bay.

The sign review at Shelley Beach is almost finished and there will be further discussions about the signs, including the possibility of digital signs. It was raised that the hoop sign needed to be replaced.

Jeremy will look at the landscaping and there are works to do at the top near the car park where the water has scoured out the dirt. Work on the pool is progressing and construction of the toilets should start in the new financial year.

Shark Nets

Council agreed to write to the Department of Primary Industries and say that we are not keen on shark nets in our beaches. The nets have actually been removed for the whale migratory season.

Adult Hospice North Head

The first sod for the Hospice was turned on 10 May.

The Forum acknowledged local philanthropic residents Kay Van Norton Poache and Greg Poache for their generous donation of \$6m towards the construction of the adult hospice. The project cost will be \$19m, with the Federal Govt providing \$5m and the State Govt \$8m.

Safety Committee – East Esplanade

The Safety Committee continues to meet. The season has moved on. Hopefully by next Spring the Safety Committee and Council will have worked out how to manage the area.

Other Business

Council have given a Delivery Plan update for projects that are funded in our area, which can be seen on their website. They include stormwater, the toilets and playground and Little Manly Beach.

At the last Council meeting the Manly CBD business rate levy was pushed off to the August meeting. The Business Chamber is meeting next week to decide how they are going to further negotiate this special business levy for the Manly CBD area. It was originally for doing all the improvements in the Corso – new paving, new seats and to fund the Manly 2015 project, including Sydney Road and Henrietta Lane, and to fix up the Manly Wharf forecourt. The new Council have been using that money to fund recurrent work such as cleaning, emptying the rubbish bins and paying for the staff place managers. The business community says they should be getting that anyway because they're paying business rates. The special levy was meant for other things to keep the place attractive. No other business area has a special levy.

The returfing of the grassed area on South Steyne was always paid for by the revenue from surfing and other events, but now that money just goes to general revenue. The fees and charges are all going up a little bit. Previously, there was no fee for motor bike parking in the parking stations. They are now going to be charged in Council car parks.

The Business Chamber is ambivalent about the new dining areas. There are no plants in the boxes and no lights. It looks a bit unfinished. Some tables are a bit uneven.

The Manly Place Plan Working Group is going start. You can write to Council if you are interested in participating. Cathy and Ray will be on the Committee representing the Community Forum and feed back information from the group. There are fears that Manly is gradually losing its identity as Manly. Our furniture has all been painted over, the flags all say Northern Beaches - the Taste of the Beaches, we've lost our festival.

Movies at Manly – there are three movies a day and six at the weekend at St Matthews Church. Kandy reported that she attended last Saturday and it was very good and very well done, but there were only five people in attendance. It needs further promotion. It needs to go in the Newsletter.

The new crossing on the corner of East Esplanade and Ashburner Street - when driving from Manly at night it is very hard to see someone coming from the park because there is no space between the crossing and the first parked car and the lighting is poor and there is also a Norfolk Pine tree. A lot of crossings have a space to the first parked car, but cars are parked right up to this crossing. The traffic people need to look at it.

Trish said there are set distances for cars to park on either side of a crossing. Trish was informed that on the beach side of that crossing there is parking all along. The parking goes right up to the crossing. Trish said she will follow that up with Phil Gavin.

Next Meeting

It will be a face-to-face meeting next month. We need help. We need a secretary; we need someone to put the Newsletter in the two public bulletin boards; help to deliver the Newsletter; help to set up the chairs for the meeting. If you want to contribute to the Newsletter or a subject you'd like covered, let us know.

The next meeting will be a face-to-face meeting on 21 June at 6pm.

Meeting closed at 5.40pm.