

**Minutes  
Manly Community Forum**

**16<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**Commenced 4.30 via Zoom**

**Attendance**

**Committee members**

**Co chairs; Cathy Griffin, Ray Mathieson, Kandy King**

**Councillors**

**Cllr Candy Bingham, Cllr Pat Daley**

**Staff**

**Trish Chaney, Annie Laing**

**1.0 Welcome**

**Cathy Griffin chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending via zoom.**

**2.0 Apologies**

**Sarah Gratton, Ray Mathieson**

**3.0 Confirmation of minutes from October 2020 meeting**

**4.0 Update on Actions**

**See attached table.**

**5.0 AGENDA ITEMS**

**5.1 Activate Manly Darley Rd/Corso/Whistler St plans.**

Various members of the community including St Matthews Church and the developer for a major build on the Corso opposite the former Council chamber has raised significant issues with Council regarding the impacts of the council proposal.

St Matts expressed concerns about deliveries to retail outlets, funeral vehicles and processions accessing the church as well as clothing collection bins.

Garbage collection from commercial premises is considered to be a problem and there will be only a single lane of traffic available. The trucks will cause traffic jams as they go slowly down the single lane and regularly stopping.

A large construction will be starting in The Corso in the discount shop opposite the former Council chamber. This development will go through to east esplanade where it is likely that it will disrupt and slow down traffic even more.

*Candy Bingham.* All these issues have been submitted to council and they will be considered. We'll wait till we get a response.

Cllr Bingham advised that the project has now been postponed till the new year and it is unlikely anything will be implemented before "February 2021. The consultation period has also been extended. The extension of consultation with recommendations not be put to council until Dec council meeting.

The community is encouraged to go to council Your Say page to comment

## **5.2 Bower St Parking update.**

Anne updated the meeting of the changes to parking in Bower St. The suggestions from the community for the changes appears to have been adopted by the Council. No parking restrictions from 10-4 on weekends only in dec and jan has been adopted. 10-4. Previously it would have been weekends all year around.

Council has taken on board what the community wanted. Shows people can influence outcomes, and community groups should work with council and expect to get (reasonable) change.

## **5.3 Save Manly Ferry.**

Cllr Bingham advised that the Freshwater ferries are under threat and that Council unanimously backs a proposal to delay the decision. Council is asking the State Government to consider the economic and heritage value of big ferries as they bring huge numbers of people to Manly. On Australia Day this year = 80,000.

The Govt seems to be focussing on commuters and Cllr Bingham said they are already well served. But for most people, especially tourists, it is about the experience on the harbour in a stately Freshwater ferry.

New Emerald ferries are considered good to use during the off peak runs, but there are many difficulties with them, including space for bikes, prams.

Council is requesting a meeting with James Griffin the local MP and Andrew Constance the Minister for Transport.

A community campaign will be ongoing

Concern was expressed that the Emerald ferries are be introduced by stealth as they are already running on the Manly route during the day. People will start to use them, and not complain...But Freshwater ferries are needed because of their large carrying capacity during the weekends and public holidays.

Weekdays 11,000 tourist a day.

Weekends. 45,000 a day.

## **5.4 Manly Wharf.**

Cllr Bingham update the meeting on the initial meeting with Rober Magid the Manly Wharf lease holder - who has a further 70 years lease of Manly Wharf. He was apparently shocked

at the state of the Wharf. Another meeting planned with a walk around to inspect where the problems are, and what can be done to improve the amenity and condition of the wharf

### **5.5 Manly Town Hall.**

Cllr Bingham reminded the meeting that the Council is seeking ideas for the reuse of the Former Manly Town Hall and encourage the community to submit their ideas on the Your say page. All ideas will be considered by the council staff and then a report will be put to Council for final consideration. This process will take some time.

There is no set plan at this stage.

### **5.6 Resident Parking Scheme**

Council was challenged by Ray who thinks that Council has not been fairly considering the extenuating circumstances of some residents when they apply for a resident parking permit. feel that they have not been properly considered. Council responded by saying they are considering each of these cases.

Staff also indicated that the implementation going smoothly with the number of permits reduced dramatically. There appears to many more parking spaces available on the street. 3,000 currently issued. Previously 11,000.

A community member claimed that permits were observed to be on sale on line and asked if Council was aware of this and what action they were taking to ensure that permits were not sold.

### **5.7 Little Manly Cafe.**

Council is progressing the DA and there will be unlikely any changes to the current management of the café till well after summer.

The co chair suggested the community give new owners a fair go as they are now part of community. There's been a lot of sledging and people should be aware of the sensitivity of others when commenting on the situation.

### **5.8 COVID Marshalls/ambassadors.**

Ambassador plan will go to November council meeting.  
Apparently 50 application across whole peninsula.

### **5.9 East Esplanade**

New amenities block will be finished early December 2020  
Council doing good work.

The chair asked if there will be a formal opening? It's a great block and it's been a long process.

Other issue to be addressed by the Council. How does the Council propose to stop people accessing and sitting on roof and will there be regular cleaning to remove leaf litter from roof?

### **5.10 Demolition of 40 Stuart St**

Public exhibition on Council's your say page.

Proposal is to demolish entire building, and extend park into that space. Zig Zag ramp will be straightened out. This is not a public consultation process, it's a chance to comment on something that will go ahead, because it was passed in council.

### **5.11 Whistler St Car park settlement.**

A settlement has been agreed. Both parties have signed confidentiality agreements so the only aspect that can be discussed publicly is the amount of \$6.4mil agreed to.

### **5.12 Footpaths**

The community discussed the poor condition of many of the footpaths and ramps in the area. Specifically noting that there were a number of problem ramps. Many of the new footpath to road ramps have been installed that are too steep. For example the one at cnr of Wood St and East Esplanade is too steep and poorly located, however there are at least 6 others in our area which are poorly constructed or located. It's a problem for people with walkers, prams, wheelchairs. A wheelchair bound community member says there can also be a problem with difference in levels of road surface (eg after tarmac replaced) and ramp, and this can cause wheels to get stuck or tip over. They said footpath and road crews need to work together to get these access ramps right.

In addition the Est Esplanade footpath from Ashburner to Wood St is steep and uneven and in very poor condition after it had been patched several times. There is also pot holes, loose gravel and debris covering the footpath making it difficult to navigate. It has not been fully paved for over 35 years.

At Little Manly Park the access ramps for the carpark area are inadequate and dangerous for wheelchair access to get into park from car park.

Here's the link to the Walking Plan which sets out how Council prioritises footpaths. <https://files.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/policies-register/active-travel-strategies/active-travel/northern-beaches-walking-plan-april19.pdf> and the current program of works is here [https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/new-footpath-program?utm\\_source=northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au&utm\\_medium=301&utm\\_campaign=Website](https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/new-footpath-program?utm_source=northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au&utm_medium=301&utm_campaign=Website)

Council has been requested for the full list for the LM area so that we can see what is planned.

Council staff noted those 3 areas of concern and will send a request to council and let you know what action will be taken. She also accepted Evelyn's offer to help with assessment of problem areas and will convey offer to appropriate council staff.

If people see problems on footpath etc, please take a photo and log it at CRM or send an email to

Council [https://help.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/s/?utm\\_campaign=Website&utm\\_medium=Homepage+Icon&utm\\_source=northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au](https://help.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/s/?utm_campaign=Website&utm_medium=Homepage+Icon&utm_source=northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au)

### **5.13 Little Manly Point**

The chair asked rhetorically 'What's the plan for Little Manly Point landscaping'. Currently the tree and other plantings have been haphazard. Trees were planted, then pulled out, now different trees have been planted. And great piles of wood chips have been dumped which the the bush turkeys just scatter everywhere.

Is there a landscape plan? There seem to be a lot of people/contractors/council staff taking care of the park, but there appears to be no coordination. There are lots of weed, casuarinas trees which are self-seeded and need to be removed and rabbit warrens remain along the foreshore.

Trish stated that the Landscape plan has specific view corridors. Problems with trees might be to do with this. There is a master plan. I'm following it up. Staff member responsible for LM Point has been away but is now back at work.

### **5.14 North Head Update.**

It's a month since we had the fires. Lots of people, local and others as well as different groups, including AWC, the Australia Wildlife Conservancy are working to mitigate the damage cause to the wildlife habitat by the recent hazard reduction burn. They lost important research equipment in the fire, which monitors the wildlife and well as any feral animals. There's a risk that feral animals will come back before the others.

The grass trees are exposed now, as they are part of the ESBS ecological community that benefits from fire. They are coming back strongly, and the banksias will come back too.

The Sydney Harbour Federation Trust recommended in their recent review that they improve consultation with community, and how the community input will be considered by the board, for project such as leasing buildings etc.

So please take a look at their website page and comment.

Some comments from the meeting.

The temporary signs indicating the Fairfax lookout is closed along with some tracks is confusing.

Chair to raise this with NP&Ws in a meeting this week. Note NP&WS agree that the sign should be replaced or removed and will action the request.

Disabled access has been overlooked, by all the land managers on North Head.

Suggest you send a submission to James Griffin (State) and Zali Steggall (Federal).

### **5.15 Former Manly Hospital site**

There is now a COVID testing site in hospital car park.

Zoning and DA for site has been submitted to council. There will announcement about Young Adult Hospice by the end of the week. Something will be happening within the next 12 months.

### **5.16 Beaches Link Tunnel**

EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) will be released before the end of the year.  
Community groups, including one led by Terry le Roux, have lots of concerns, but they can't do anything until they see what's in EIS.

#### **5.17 Marine Parade Stormwater Update.**

It's a critical piece of infrastructure next to a critical environment reserve - Cabbage Tree Bay.

It's disintegrating in front of our eyes.

We need to keep on the case, so Council keeps on to Sydney Water to finally get something done.

#### **5.18 DAs**

The DA for Manly Lodge, 22 Victoria Parade, was submitted several years ago and again re submitted recently with some changes.

It represents a major re development on 5 levels, 22 car spaces underneath, 49 accommodation rooms, rooftop amenities that will be open air. Retail shops at street level. 62 submissions were received opposing it.

Last week council refused application saying it was too bulky etc.

It's likely to go to Land and Environment.

#### **5.19 Take-aways from Meeting.**

Residents should check out the Council's Your Say page and comment on the projects that interest them. – currently important information is on the page about the following projects. Activate Manly, Town hall reuse, Little Manly MasterPlan

#### **6.0 Next meeting Monday Dec 21**

Hopefully the Christmas meeting will be in person at the Manly Yacht club, or somewhere else in the open air.

Council Footpath manager has been invited to attend.

#### **7.0 Meeting closed at 6.30**