

MINUTES MANLY COMMUNITY FORUM ONLINE MEETING MONDAY 15TH June 2020.

(4.30 pm) Host Kandy Tagg (Executive Secretary) Chairman Ray Mathieson

Welcome. Which included control issues for the on line management. And a special welcome to Annie Laing, representing NBC in lieu of Trish Chaney.

Apologies: Trish Cheney, Sarah Grattan, Darryl Dobe, Ros and Mike Fitzpatrick, Jenny Foster

Participants: 43 people attending in total including 2 Council staff and 3 Northern Beaches Councillors. Depty Mayor Candy Bingham, Clr. Pat Daley and Clr. Stuart Sprott.(36 screens)

Guest Speaker: Phillip Devon on Traffic Management and Agenda Item #1

Agenda Issues

30 kph vehicle speed trial in Central Manly CBD (Speaker advised)

If you are hit by a car at 40 kph there is a 50% chance that you will die.

If you are hit at 30kph you have a 20% more chance of living

30 accidents in the CBD. None reported at the Wharf Intersection

Trial in CBD starting 19 June around Darley Road and Wentworth Street

New signage/ new markings gone in over the weekend

School zone goes from 40kph to 30 kph

Traffic at the Wharf - suggestion of a Scramble crossing and timer lights

Trail goes West to Eustace Street/West Esplanade, North to Raglan St and SE to Ashburner St

MCF comment.

Despite previously expressing concern about traffic delays residents happy with these new speed limits

ACTION. Council asked to please provide some prior notice to residents of the area under consideration for traffic changes for future traffic issues. Chairman suggested that given new signage was being installed that the 30KPH requirement was not just a trial and would go ahead. **Important.** A specific question was asked of our guest speaker, Phil Devon; does the new speed limit area include Eustace St, which has been the subject of much concern by local residents. He answered yes it does. It is noted that the latest announcement by Local State Member James Griffin does not include Eustace St...and some other minor differences in where the changes impact Ashburner St. Apparently the RMS map is incorrect and a new one will issue. **James Griffin please note.**

Stormwater Management (Fairy Bower, South Steyne, North Steyne)

The detail on the main new stormwater upgrades is covered in our May Minutes on the website. Your Say provided detail on the Fairy Bower Pool stormwater renewal plans and the North Steyne GPT upgrade and the stormwater renewal at the Manly LSC

N.Steyne GPT purchased . Contractor being assessed now. Work would start shortly.

FBower Pool.. Preparation ready in 2020. However, no work until after March 2021

East esplanade / Ashburner St Corner...Need new submission... Despite announcements at a 2019 meeting no additional work has been carried out and Council is not expected to gain approval from RMS for an extended pipe into the Cove to reduce the beach washout experienced at this popular Children's corner.

ACTION MCF has asked Sadiya King to review the issues for a design to stop erosion and the build up of debris and pollutants. MCF to take photographs after storm events and provide to NBC.

Progress on the rebuild of the Little Manly Harbour Pool. (Council advised)

The Little Manly Tidal pool is slightly behind Forty Baskets. Little Manly has been much more affected by the southerly swells that we have had encountered periodically over the last couple of weeks. Where Forty Baskets was slightly sheltered, Little Manly has been much more exposed.

This has affected the ability of the barge to remain steady. Unplanned movement of the barge could damage sensitive seagrasses and presents safety issues for the contractors. Despite this the piling at both Little Manly and Forty Baskets is expected to be completed this week or early next week.

Covid 19 Requirements

More dog walkers and there are dogs off leads around Fairy Bower on the rocks.

There needs to be a review of the signage at Marine Parade, especially at the rock platforms

Some of the businesses are getting creative with their approach to serving customers. Place Coordinator has advised that Council is working with businesses to provide proper signage and hand sanitising and control measures.

NBC Place Coordinator has advised that they have commenced a full review of all signage on Marine Parade. New signage will be installed covering heritage and visitor information, domestic animal control and environmental issues for both flora and fauna and particularly marine. Part of the problem they are encountering is related to the joint control issues (Council, RMS and NP&WLS).

ACTION. MCF asks that the place Coordinator attends as a Guest Speaker at the July meeting and provide an update on current control measures and new signage and policing.

Roast Office Coffee Shop and now Liquor Outlet

Further concerns with potential infringements with Covid 19 requirements. One resident asked that Council explain how a small coffee business could be allocated a liquor license and operate in a residential area.

The Roast Office on Darley Road has a Happy Hour on Friday night serving takeaway cocktails on the footpath.

While the Roast office has a liquor licence the neighbours are concerned with the drinking and the trading hours. The people around Darley Road and Cliff Street want an explanation of how the licence was approved. There is a big concern about the drinking.

Residents are advised to report any incidents to the Police.

ACTION. MCF asks Council to provide an explanation for the allocated liquor license, and how they are policing the Covid 19 restrictions at a small location such as this.

Corso/CBD Area.

Place Coordinators are working with developers and property owners to improve access around development sites, such as St Mathews Church/commercial redevelopment. Builder has gone bust . Council is relaying paving, but hording will remain until new developer completes the work. Whistler St has seen a number of new developments that are impacting pedestrian and vehicle traffic. Telstra site is now complete but paving must be relayed to new standard.

27 Sydney Road and laneway is nearing completion and the laneway to Library will be greatly improved. Some aspects of the development have hit a hurdle. A new development is about to start between Short St/Manly Plaza and Whistler St. More congestion and traffic problems.

ACTION. MCF wishes to congratulate Council on the upgraded Corso Children's playground. MCF asks that Council provide a speaker on the issues around the Corso at a future meeting.

Manly Place Plan

The Corso is a strip that caters to tourists. The back streets and alleys is where the locals shop. Council is looking at a refurbishment of the whole CBD area. Councillor Spratt advised that he had previously put a Motion to Council to have more outside seating in the Corso to reduce the alcohol fuelled behaviour. Councillor Bingham is also proposing plans for a further revamp of the laneways and access areas.

ACTION.. MCF would like Council to include a member of this Forum in any future discussions on the Manly Place Plan. Having Councillor Bingham involved is always a positive for this community but it is also important to have a committed resident not involved with Council politics as part of any planning discussions.

Street Tree Management

Council executive advised that the trimming along Addison Road for the heritage figs that suffered the root damage and were nearly lost is only to remove the dead limbs where there is a danger to residents. He also advised that Jemena Gas has committed to replace the dead/dying trees on Darley Road where they were poisoned and / or burnt from gas leakage. One tree has been replaced two or three to go.

Council also advised that they had finally completed the whole clean up from the early 2020 storms and now they can concentrate on tree maintenance.

Council has also announced that they will provide mature trees for residents who have no trees or trees needing replacement on their nature strip, free of charge, as long as the resident commits to maintaining the watering and care for the trees.

ACTION. MCF to include an article in the newsletter seeking resident nominations for tree planting, with the appropriate resident commitment for watering and care. Advice to be forwarded to Fenton Beatty.

Covid 19 Memorial /Artwork

This issue has created a storm of angry comment and it is clear that many residents do not fully understand the commitment made by Council and two of the Manly Ward Councillors.

Clr.Candy Bingham and Clr. Pat Daley have agreed to discuss this issue with a 2-3 minute summary of the for and against arguments.

Pros – by Candy Bingham

The Council is not going to spend \$150,000 for a Covid 19 memorial, the proposal is to fund up to for an art piece as part of grand walkway.

Not a memorial to Covid 19 but a piece of artwork as part of the Manly to Palm Beach walk. Other areas considered for such an art piece are the Freshwater Headland and the Mona Vale Headland

Money was set aside in 2016 by the then Administrator Dick Persson to assist with the ongoing development of art on the Northern Beaches. Of those funds there is still \$1,700,000 unspent

Although it was proposed by Clr. Philpott as a memorial theme The theme will not be Covid 19, but hopefully the resilience of NB residents to cope over the virus period.

The Coastal Walk is managed by a separate arts committee. And a selection panel of artists.

Cons – presented by Pat Daley

There has been insufficient community consultation and the Council wasn't going to offer more consultation.

This takes up a large percentage of the arts budget

Need an open and broad consideration taking in all of the shortfalls in community needs and a better due process than what is currently available.

Clr. Stuart Sprott was then asked to comment by Clr. Bingham. Clr. Sprott said:

Doesn't want to stop the artwork on the Coastal Walk, however, there has been no debate at Council.

\$2.0 million was reserved in the original budget, \$200,000 has been spent and another half of the residual has been committed on the first 4 sculptures.

He has previously raised concerns with the extent of local artists within the committee and panel.

There are 18 pieces of art to be installed No future funding model

Wants this debated in Council as to how, when and where this money is to be spent.

ACTION. MCF residents have raised many concerns with the spending of these funds and want a proper community consideration of the funds allocated and in particular what the art represents. They pointed out that this was an allocation from an Administrator who had total control and now we have an elected Council acting as a democracy. The fact that the residents are relying upon elected representatives to work in their interest is not lost on most residents.

Manly Wharf Plan of Management

The Manly Community requests that the lease for the Manly Wharf be reviewed to determine if the current lessee is operating in accordance with the lease. The community continues to express concern regarding the state of the public toilets and the car park and how it is managed.

MCF and Clr. Bingham have raised concerns about this "gateway" site before and what appears to be a poorly managed transport hub. Local Member James Griffin has been asked to help reform a project group to oversee a site steering group. To date there have been many issues:

No toilets on the main ramp area is a big problem. Toilets in the basement are often unclean and unsafe

The wharf is owned by RMS and leased to a private company.

To date there has been substantial increased development of the licensed restaurants and hotel with little parking and few added conveniences.

The wharf public access area has been whittled down to a tight central area and a restricted public access on the western side and an embarrassing pass through public bars on the eastern side.

Candy Bingham has a copy of the lease and plans to put together a team to review the wharf operation and service areas as they impact residents and visitors.

This group should include the Local Member (State) the wharf lease holder, NBC management, Manly Ward Councillors, Business Council reps. and community representatives.

Offers of help from

Bill Ricci who has legal background and Terry Murphy who has business and community interest background.

ACTION. MCF believes that this group should be directed by our State Member, given the importance of this facility to NSW and Manly. The group should have the backing of the State Government and the commitment from NBC, with a strong representation from the residents of Manly.

Little Manly Point Park Toilets

The Forum was pleased that the Council has responded to the request to transfer the budget priority for the relocation of the public disabled toilet at West Esplanade to the installation of toilets at Little Manly Point. Councillors appear committed to accepting this change to budget allocation when the budget will be voted on and is adopted. Clr. Bingham had previously advised that the monies allocated to an upgrade of the heritage toilets at the previous aquarium site has been reallocated to the construction of the toilets at LM P Park. CEO NBC has also confirmed this with the MCF.

ACTION. MCF now asks that Council acknowledge the budget reallocation and confirm the commitment for the build in the 2021/2 year. We also assume that the design and EOI documents will be underway in the 2020/1 year.

Spring Cove estate (Catholic Church Development)

Concern has been expressed regarding the enforcement of conditions of consent for the Spring Cove Development. No one appears to be taking responsibility for this since the developer has finalised the buildings and left the area. Conditions included no domestic animals, cats or dogs, in the residences or on the public road and path areas. In addition, there were also conditions regarding plantings and the maintenance of view lines as well as the requirement to meet bushfire regulations. There is no signage displayed at the entry points or within the estate. Council has been made aware of these conditions and the Forum is waiting for a response on what actions they will be taking to ensure conditions re complied with. It should be noted that there is considerable community concern regarding this as there is a lot of confusion, including people ignoring requests not to walk their dogs

through the area and Real estate agents advising tenants and prospective buyers not to be worry about these conditions even though it is included in contracts. There is an issue with separate conditions for house allotments and the unit complex.

ACTION.. Council to clarify and respond with when and how they are going to respond to ensure compliance. This issue is also a concern at other Church developed estates (Cerruti and Montpelior) Residents attending this meeting spoke of difficulties in getting owners to comply.

Former Manly Hospital Site (PSAC) Project Steering Advisory Committee

The chair confirmed disappointment that no nominations from the Forum were selected to participate in the committee, despite their excellent credentials and that they met the selection criteria.. NSW Property failed to even acknowledge these nominations. Hopefully a meeting will be held soon. Funding has been secured for the Youth Hospice however there may be a risk to the area if there is a change of Government at the next election. We are expecting a Master Plan to issue shortly. Apparently Covid 19 workloads have delayed the implementation.?? Chair also advised that Senior Govt members advised the Committee that some delay had occurred due to delays in response from NBC.

ACTION The chair writes to NSW Property and the local State Member expressing the community's disappointment at the lack of acknowledgment for those who nominated for inclusion in the committee and the concern with the ongoing delay in development milestones. Community is now awaiting the issue of EOIs for prospective site users and the commencement of actual site building for the Youth Hospice.

Little Manly Beach Kiosk

As advised in the newsletter the agreement for the new lease holder was completed before public consultation. Lease holder is now ready to submit a DA for the redevelopment of the kiosk. Council has advised that they can only build within the agreed footprint, advised in previous illustrations and design documents and the lease. Council has advised that the new plans are within the agreed area and that the previously agreed operating hours will not be extended. At the site the present operators are telling customers that they will have a kiosk for some daylight hours and a restaurant for meals and into the evening. Council has advised that they would not support a liquor license and a BYO arrangement would have to be agreed with Council with community consultation.

ACTION. Council to provide details of DA when submitted and note that there is still a very strong concern that the operators will move to night time trading and a substantial increase in parking and evening noise concerns. This facility was never intended to be a restaurant. Also, residents and committed users of the kiosk style facilities say it is disappointing that to date a regular daily opening has not been maintained. Covid 19 is only partly responsible.

Cabbage Tree Bay Dangerous Activities

Residents expressed grave concern regarding the increasing number of Fliteboards in Cabbage Tree Bay Aquatic Reserve. These motorised craft are a danger to swimmers, divers

and snorkellers in the area. It is hope that some controls will be in place before summer and the number of people in the water will increase.

ACTION. The Chairman will be attending a safety Committee meeting next week and will raise the issue there. In addition a request should be made to DPI to amend the Aquatic Reserve Regulation to including the prohibition of motorised craft in the Reserve.

North Head Sewage (Wastewater) Treatment Plant CRG (Community Reference Group)

Due to Covid 19 restrictions the May meeting was cancelled. The next meeting is planned for August 6th 2020 at the North Head plant.

There are ongoing concerns to be addressed including odour management and emergency releases. Also, we have asked for an update on the new developments at Vaucluse. This area has untreated sewage releases off the cliff face that are blown back into the harbour in certain conditions.

The current management of the North Head Plant have put measures in place to reduce odours and reduce solid cartage. Full details will be on our website.

Manly Community Forum Future

As advised in the newsletter our Forum is looking to the future of community consultation and wishes to upgrade their website, improve the newsletter management and incorporate other communication channels. With this in mind a committee of five committed residents with various communication skills has been formed and they will determine an approach for the MCF and then submit to a future meeting for approval. The forum is looking to incorporate as it allows us to apply for grants. It also limits liability for our Executive Committee; however, we must always be aware of the risk of negligence with a public forum like ours. There is a cost and a commitment with incorporation and this will be considered by the current and the newly elected committee. We have asked for nominations in previous newsletters, but have only received nominees from the current committee; therefore the committee will elect a 2020 group.

The next step is to re-elect a Forum Committee and appoint guardians for our communication channels. You will hear more at the July on line meeting.

Next Meeting Monday 20th July 2020. On line 4.30 pm.