



northern
beaches
council

Community & Belonging
Strategic Reference Group

MINUTES

COMMUNITY AND BELONGING STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP

held online via Teams on

WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2020

**Minutes of the Community and Belonging
Strategic Reference Group
held on Wednesday 11 November 2020
Commencing at 5:30pm**

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Cr Kylie Ferguson (Chair)	Councillor
Cr Candy Bingham	Councillor
Cr Penny Philpott	Councillor
Cr Sarah Grattan	Councillor
Roslyn Marsh	Avalon Preservation Association, Arts & Culture
Simon Moriarty	Community Representative, Curl Curl Ward
Michelle Povah	Northern Beaches Child & Family Interagency
Samuel Wilkins	Community Representative - Forest Ward, Youth, Arts & Culture
Dan Giles	Easylink
Justene Gordon	Burdekin Association

Council Officer Contacts

Kylie Walshe	Executive Manager Community, Arts & Culture
David Kerr	Director Community and Belonging
Josephine Bennett	Manager, Arts and Culture
Russell Peake	Manager, Social Planning and Services
Briana Davis	Social Planning and Strategy Coordinator
Jasmine Evans	Governance Officer

1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

As a sign of respect, Northern Beaches Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of these lands on which we gather and pays respect to Elders past and present.

2.0 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cathy Hockey and Julie Williams.

K Walshe advised that Diane Robbins has resigned from the group and R Marsh advised she will also be stepping down after this meeting.

3.0 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary conflicts of interest.

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 MINUTES OF COMMUNITY AND BELONGING STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP MEETING HELD 12 AUGUST 2020

R Marsh / C Bingham

The Minutes of the Community and Belonging Strategic Reference Group meeting held 12 August 2020 were confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

6.0 AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 FUTURE USE OF MANLY TOWN HALL

DISCUSSION

D Kerr advised that the Council is seeking ideas from the community on how Manly Town Hall could be used in the future. Council has resolved to review the use of the building and started the community consultation process last week. The project has received a lot of interest already, with over 100 submissions received online.

The group was asked to discuss how Council can *reimagine*, *revitalise* and *activate* this iconic heritage site for future use.

Suggestions and feedback from the group included:

- Creating a space that can be used for different types of performance, cinema and theatre.
- Visitor Information Centre – it's in the ideal location to welcome visitors and showcase Northern Beaches attractions, indigenous history and environment information.
- The building is a land mark/focal point and its use needs to reflect that. Customs House was used as an example of a historical building that celebrates its space and has become a popular tourist destination.

- The building should continue to be used for community benefit and not for commercial use.
- Ensure the building is designed to be used during the day and at night.
- Active makerspace and creative workshop rooms.
- Environment education centre and business support hub with information for new local businesses about operating sustainably.
- A museum or art gallery.
- Council should be careful not to cater to too many users/uses in the one space.

D Kerr thanked the group for their feedback and asked that they submit any more suggestions online through the Your Say page on Council's website by 16 December.

Link: <https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/manly-town-hall>

6.2 UPDATE ON CREATIVE SPACES AND STUDIOS

DISCUSSION

J Bennett provided the group with an update on the Avalon Workshop and Mona Vale Creative Space projects.

Avalon Workshop

Works have commenced on the lower ground floor of Avalon Golf Club to build the new workshop. The plan for the space includes two workshops, a studio, a common area with a kitchenette and cupboards and lockable storage area. The workshop will also provide high speed internet and wifi, adjustable lighting and facilities to support media and messy arts.

Once complete the workshop will be able to cater for activities such as visual arts, textiles, writing, STEAM classes, film making and screen crafts.

The Workshop will open early 2021 and will be open for inspection for hirers late January/February. Council will be seeking expressions of interest for hirers in November and will seek to get a range of activities.

Mona Vale Creative Workshop

Council is in the planning stage on the reuse of the Mona Vale Civic Centre as a creative space. Community engagement for this project will commence in 2021.

The group were asked to provide ideas and feedback on potential uses for this space in the short term with 'pop-up' style activities to be scheduled whilst the long term planning is underway.

Feedback included:

- A performance space where events such as youth acoustic nights could be held.
- Council should keep the community use aspect and not convert this into a commercial space.
- Ensure that the space does not compete with local businesses, eg creative markets may compete with retail shops.
- Council should consider how the space can use creativity and art to enrich the lives of people living with dementia or other disabilities.

- Council needs to ensure there is a balance between long term and short term programs using the space.
- Can Council partner with local schools to share the space and/or resources?

Note: Councillor Philpott left the meeting at 6:20pm.

6.3 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS JUDGING PANEL

DISCUSSION

R Peake presented on the Australia Day Awards judging panel nomination process.

Council is seeking nominations from the Community and Belonging SRG and Partnership and Participation SRG to sit on the judging panel for next year's Australia Day Awards. Information about the awards, process and timeline was provided to the group.

Nominations were received from S Wilkins, J Gordon and S Moriarty.

The group advised that they had not seen much promotion or advertising for the awards. Council needs to think about other avenues for sharing this information, eg placing a copy of the paper in libraries, doctors surgeries and community centres. R Peake advised that they had received a slightly higher than average number of nominations this year however would consider advertising the awards longer in future.

6.4 SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

DISCUSSION

R Peake and B Davis provided the group with an update on the Social Sustainability Strategy development. The group was provided with an overview of the Phase 2 engagement approach.

1. Better Together (broader community)
2. Openness not aloneness (lived experience)
3. Collaborative partnerships

The six core engagement activities proposed were:

- Creative Challenge
- Virtual whiteboard activity
- Story sharing via YourSay widget
- Survey
- Workshop in a box
- Co-design workshops.

Engagement update

The group were provided with information about the engagement strategies, the approach proposed for the project and how different stakeholders will be reached. Strategies included:

- A *Workshop in a Box* for engaging local social and community service groups.
- Surveys for the broader community.
- Combined SRG meeting / workshop with other groups.

Feedback from group included:

- The interagency work in the engagement is good and should be very valuable.
- Can resilience be elevated as a key concept? It comes across in the plan but isn't highlighted enough.
- Council strategies are usually very long and the community doesn't have the time or knowledge to understand the documents properly. Writing in Plain English, providing executive summaries and condensed documents to complement the strategy would help increase engagement.

Discussion paper

The group participated in a workshop on the draft Social Sustainability Discussion Paper 2020 (provided in the agenda). They were asked to think about the *strengths* and *challenges* discussed in the paper and next steps.

General feedback on the discussion paper included:

- The paper may come under public scrutiny as it uses data from the 2016 census, which is outdated now. This may be mitigated by acknowledging this and discussing changes since the last Census in the paper. R Peake agreed and added a lot of the information/data has also come from recent Council surveys, this will be highlighted in the paper.
- The paper should be summarised to make it easier to understand.
- The general community isn't aware of the strategy and it needs to be advertised and promoted better.

Strengths

- Generally the Northern Beaches is supported by really good social organisations, however is lacking in some categories, eg domestic violence services.
- Northern Beaches has some of the best in class services, eg disabilities services in Allambie.
- There is a relatively high level of community trust in the area compared to other areas of the city, eg honesty boxes are popular in some suburbs.

Challenges

- The Northern Beaches has an ageing population and trouble retaining young people.
- House affordability and suitability.
- Social services funding – challenge to attract funding for the pockets of disadvantage on the Northern Beaches as it is generally a more affluent area.
- The gap in information sharing and access to media due to the loss of the Manly Daily.

The final discussion paper should be available early December. K Walshe asked the group if there was value in adding notes/reference to where comments come from in the paper. It was agreed that this would give the document credibility.

If anyone would like to contribute further they can contact Briana Davis on briana.davis@northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au or register through <https://yoursay.northernbeaches.nsw.gov.au/better-together>

The meeting concluded at 7:07pm

This is the final page of the Minutes comprising 7 pages numbered 1 to 7 of the Community and Belonging Strategic Reference Group meeting held on Wednesday 11 November 2020