



# MINUTES

## **PLACES FOR PEOPLE STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP**

held in the Coastal Environment Centre, Narrabeen on

**THURSDAY 16 MAY 2019**

**Minutes of the Places for People  
Strategic Reference Group  
held on Thursday 16 May 2019  
in the Coastal Environment Centre, Narrabeen  
Commencing at 6:00pm**

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Committee Members**

Cr Ian White (Chair)

Cr Michael Regan

Cr Stuart Sprott

Stephen Pearse

Jim Koopman

Mark Lowe

Merinda Rose

Les Irwig

Miranda Korzy

Richard Michell

Kelvin Millsom

Manly, Warringah and Pittwater Historical Society

Northern Beaches Junior AFL Association, Manly Warringah

Pittwater Sporting Union

**Council Officer Contacts**

Louise Kerr

Andrew Pigott

Vicki Blaskett

Will Wrathall

Scott Hedge

Sherryn McPherson

Director Planning and Place

Executive Manager Strategic & Place Planning

Manager, Business Operations

Team Leader Community Development

Acting Executive Manager Parks & Recreation

Governance Coordinator

## 1.0 APOLOGIES

That:

- A. Apologies were received from Councillor Bingham, Steven Lawler, Sita Mason, Suzanne Cairns, Maryann Novakovic and Caroline Ghatt.
- B. The Chair introduced and welcomed Louise Kerr, Director Planning and Place.

### ACTION

That group acknowledged the loss and express our condolences to Caroline Ghatt.

## 2.0 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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

## 3.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

### 3.1 MINUTES OF PLACES FOR PEOPLE STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP MEETING HELD 13 FEBRUARY 2019

*Kelvin Milson / Miranda Rose*

That the Minutes of the Places for People Strategic Reference Group meeting held 13 February 2019, copies of which were previously circulated to all members, are hereby confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting with an administrative amendment to Attachment 2 - Workshop notes on “*Direction - Activate Centre During Winter*” to “*Direction - Activate Centre During Winter (for and against this item)*”.

## 4.0 UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

| ITEM NO. | ACTION   | NOTES  | RESPONSIBLE OFFICER     | DUE DATE               |
|----------|--|--|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 5.1      | <b>MY PLACE: AVALON</b><br>That this item be brought back to the Places for People SRG in May 2019                                   | Further traffic and urban design work to be completed prior to being presented.<br><br>This item will be brought back to the committee in August 2019. | A Newbery /<br>A Pigott | Updated to August 2019 |
| 5.2      | <b>Naming Northern Beaches Open Spaces and Facilities</b><br>That this item be brought back to the Places for People SRG in May 2019 | Item 5.1 on the Agenda   | V Blasket /<br>A Pigott | Complete               |

## 5.0 AGENDA ITEMS

### 5.1 NAMING OUR PLACES AND PROVIDING MEMORIAL BENCHES

*Note: R Michell left the meeting at 7:01pm.*

V Blaskett and W Wrathell provided an update to the group in regard to the implementation of a Council Naming Policy for parks, reserves (including the facilities within these) and buildings. Council is required to adhere to the Geographical Names Board (GNB) Place Naming Policy and process for the naming of reserves and facilities including buildings, gardens, pools and infrastructure i.e. grandstands, pavilions.

A copy of the presentation provided to the group is circulated in the Minutes Attachment Booklet at Attachment 1.

The group split into two groups to discuss the following:

1. Review the draft Naming Policy and record responses to the following:
  - a. **Direction:** Do you think the direction of this draft Policy is appropriate? Why / why not?
  - b. **Implementation:** Can you foresee any issues with the implementation or application of the draft Policy or the individual principles? What might not work?
  - c. **Community's view:** How do you think the community might receive this draft Policy?
  - d. **What is missing?:** Is there anything that has not been covered in the draft? Anything else you would like considered?
2. Report back key points to group.

The development of a new Policy for naming our places and facilities dictates that the Council also determines the direction it wishes to take for the provision of memorial plaques particularly on furniture. There are over 550 memorials in our open space and it is becoming increasingly difficult to provide locations for the numerous requests received.

A review of the provision of memorial plaques in public open space has identified three concerns regarding plaques on benches:

1. Saturation of memorial plaques on our open space which impacts on the amenity and natural values of the landscape.
2. Memorial plaques are a visual reminder of death.
3. Memorial plaques placed at location of death by suicide and subsequent risks of suicide contagion.

There is various alternatives to memorials in public spaces with a large amount of groups, organisations, cemeteries and charities leading the way in other innovative options in addition to plaques.

The group split into two groups to discuss the following:

1. Noting the recommendations of the Northern Beaches Suicide Prevention Working Group that:
  - a. Council permit applications for trees and benches, where space allows and plantings are appropriate.
  - b. Council should not permit new applications for memorial plaques.

- c. Council encourage alternatives, such as a donation to a local charity, a private memorial ceremony or a memorial plaque at Mona Vale cemetery.
2. Consider and record responses to the following:
    - a. How do you think the community will react if Council does not permit new memorial plaques?
    - b. What other options could be considered to commemorate individuals and how might these be managed?
    - c. What might need to be considered regarding the management of the existing plaques and benches?
  3. Report back key points to group.

A copy of the outcomes from the discussions formulated during the workshops are circulated in the minutes at Attachment 2.

## **5.2 LOCAL STRATEGIC PLANNING STATEMENT UPDATE**

A Pigott provided an update to the group on this item and gave an overview of the Local Government area and the future precincts. A copy of the presentation Towards 2040 was circulated in the agenda at Attachment 2.

The group discussed the following issues during the presentation:

- B-Line extensions direct to Manly / Chatswood.
- Education on connectivity to and from the Northern Beaches.
- East West bus route - The road will include two dedicated bus lanes with dedicated bus stops and pull in lanes. The inclusion of a T3 lane is also being investigated to assist in effectively moving people.
- Additional parking stations at new public transport hubs to cater for commuters parking vehicles in surrounding areas.
- Business and employment centres, hubs and opportunities.
- New buildings co-inhabiting business and residential spaces.
- Key recreation areas.
- Residents working from home and available hot-desking to reduce traffic congestion.

A copy of the Northern Beaches Structure Plan and Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement is circulated with the minutes at Attachment 3.

## **6.0 GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil.

## SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

| ITEM NO. | MEETING DATE | ACTION  | RESPONSIBLE OFFICER     | DUE DATE               |
|----------|--------------|---|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1.0      | 16 May 2019  | <b>APOLOGIES</b><br>That group acknowledged the loss and express our condolences to Caroline Ghatt. | A Pigott                | Completed              |
| 5.1      | 16 May 2019  | <b>MY PLACE: AVALON</b><br>That this item be brought back to the Places for People SRG in May 2019  | A Newbery /<br>A Pigott | Updated to August 2019 |

The meeting concluded at 8:14pm  
 This is the final page of the Minutes comprising 6 pages  
 numbered 1 to 6 of the Places for People Strategic Reference Group meeting  
 held on Thursday 16 May 2019 and confirmed on Thursday 15 August 2019



### **Purpose of workshop**

- Discuss draft Naming Policy and proposed direction
- Discuss provision of memorial plaques across the Northern Beaches

### **Agenda**

1. Naming Policy
  - Brief overview of draft
  - Small group discussion – then presenting back to main group
2. Memorial Plaques
  - Overview of current situation and requests
  - Overview of impact of memorials and others approaches to memorials
  - Recommendations of the Suicide Prevention Working Group
  - Small group discussion on memorial plaques and other commemorative options
3. What's next?



## Naming Policy – Overview

- Council resolved on December 2018 that:  
Council develop a Policy in relation to the naming of parks, reserves (including the facilities within these) and buildings and bring this back to Council for review.
- SRG Discussion 13 February 2019 - with a request from SRG to come back with a draft policy for consideration.
- Draft policy prepared taking SRG meeting comments into consideration.



## Draft Policy

- The draft policy endorses the adherence of Council to the Geographical Names Board (GNB) Place Naming Policy and process for the naming of reserves and facilities including buildings, gardens, pools and infrastructure i.e. grandstands, pavilions
- A set of principles (9) have been developed to support Council and staff in assessing and processing requests for naming or renaming of reserves and facilities.





## Small Group Discussion

1. In small groups review the draft Policy and record responses to the following:
  - a. **Direction:** Do you think the direction of this draft Policy is appropriate? Why/ why not?
  - b. **Implementation:** Can you foresee any issues with the implementation or application of the draft Policy or the individual principles? What might not work?
  - c. **Community's view:** How do you think the community might receive this draft Policy?
  - d. **What is missing?:** Is there anything that has not been covered in the draft? Anything else you would like considered?
2. Report back key points to group

Resources: Draft Policy and GNB summary sheet



## Memorial Plaques in open space

- Developing a Naming Policy requires rescinding all relevant policies - one former Council included the provision of memorial plaques with the Naming Policy.
- A review of the provision of memorial plaques in public open space has identified three concerns regarding plaques on benches:
  1. Saturation of memorial plaques on our open space which impacts on the amenity and natural values of the landscape;
  2. Memorial plaques are a visual reminder of death
  3. Memorial plaques placed at location of death by suicide and subsequent risks of suicide contagion.



## Saturation of open space

- Council has over 550 memorial plaques throughout the LGA.
- 36 of 54 requests were approved in 2017/ 18
- 26 of 48 requests approved so far in 2018/19
- Most popular area are headlands and foreshores. There is limited to no capacity for any more bench seats along these areas. E.g.
  - Mona Vale Headland - 9
  - Turrimetta Headland - 7
  - Marine Parade Walk (South Steyne to Shelly Beach) - 37



## Visual reminder of death

- Australian Government's *Mindframe* National Media Initiative - encourage responsible, accurate and sensitive representation of mental illness and suicide mass media – this includes avoiding any description of the method and location of suicide.
- Guidelines from *The Society for the Prevention of Teen Suicide* discourage public plaques
- As an ongoing visual reminder, a dedicated memorial can increase incidence of use of that location (*Headspace* 2015)
- Anniversaries of a person's death can also bring up old feelings of grief, sadness and loss and can be a time of increased risk for vulnerable young people.



## Memorial plaques - links to suicide

- Research suggests that creating a permanent memorial could lead to an increase in suicidal behaviour in others.
- Young people are over-represented in suicide figures.
- In 2016, 35.4% of deaths in the 15 – 24 year olds were attributed to suicide, compared to 1.8% for the overall population.
- There was an alarming increase of 20% in the rate of suicides for 15-24 year-olds from 2005 to 2015 and a further increase from 2016 to 2017
- Adolescents are more prone to suicide contagion – the spread of suicide from exposure to a suicidal event - the suicide of a friend being predictive of further incidences of suicide.



## Alternatives to memorials in public spaces

- Private memorial ceremony in a favourite location
- Donation to a local charity
- Participate in an event that raises awareness
- Request a memorial plaque in Manly or Mona Vale cemetery
- Have special areas in cemeteries:
  - Memorial for Missing People - Woronora Cemetery
  - Centre for Care & Wellbeing - Springvale Botanical Cemetery hosts support groups for widows, mothers who have lost children.
  - Hope and Sanctuary sculpture - Macquarie Park Cemetery and Crematorium providing a place for those who have lost loved ones to suicide.
  - "Ivy Vine" memorial - Waverly Cemetery. Cast bronze plaque shape of an ivy leaf. Can be used as individual settings or as a twin for two members of the family side by side.



## Others approach to memorials

- **Mosman Council (NSW)**

Aims to minimise the incidence of plaques and memorials in open space by only allowing a memorial plaque on benches for individuals who have contributed significantly to cultural, political or social aspects of the community.

- **Woollahra Council (NSW)**

Does not have a formal policy and does not allow memorial plaques. Community members can purchase a bench or a tree without a plaque.

- **Waverley Council (NSW)**

Do not allow memorial plaques nor do they accept donations for seats or trees.

- **Central Coast Council (NSW)**

Council will consider written applications for the placement of memorials on public reserves. Approval can only be given by Council resolution.



## Others approach to memorials

- **Holdfast Bay Council (SA)**

The Glenelg Seaside Memorial offers people a physical place to come to remember loved ones whose ashes have been scattered at Glenelg. Names will be added to the memorial four times a year and for a one-off \$1,500 payment to have a name permanently engraved on the memorial.

- **NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service**

- Memorials in Parks Policy - parks are areas set aside to conserve unspoiled landscapes, native plants and animals. Alternatives are encouraged to permanent monuments and plaques. Such alternatives include memorial donations, events and tree plantings.
- Consent will only be granted for "a commemorative plaque to mark a connection between a person and a park, or an event that is of national, State or National Park and Wildlife Service (NPWS) significance".

- **Black Dog Institute**

Does not recommend memorialising suicide in a public way.



## Northern Beaches Suicide Prevention Working Group

The following recommendations were made in July 2018:

1. Council permit applications for trees and benches, where space allows and plantings are appropriate.
2. Council not permit new applications for memorial plaques.
3. Council encourage alternatives, such as a donation to a local charity, a private memorial ceremony or a memorial plaque at Mona Vale cemetery.



### Small Group Discussion

Noting the recommendations of the Northern Beaches Suicide Prevention Working Group that:

1. *Council permit applications for trees and benches, where space allows and plantings are appropriate.*
2. *Council should not permit new applications for memorial plaques.*
3. *Council encourage alternatives, such as a donation to a local charity, a private memorial ceremony or a memorial plaque at Mona Vale cemetery.*

Consider and record responses to the following:

- a. How do you think the community will react if Council does not permit new memorial plaques?
- b. What other options could be considered to commemorate individuals and how might these be managed?
- c. What might need to be considered regarding the management of the existing plaques and benches?

Report back key points to group



Resources: Memorials in Open Space – Approaches and Alternatives Summary

## What next?

1. Draft Naming Policy - intending to present to Council in June 2019 for approval to be placed on public exhibition.
2. Intending to present a report regarding the future of memorial plaques to Council June 2019.



**Thank you**

**ATTACHMENT 2****Minutes from Naming Northern Beaches Council Open Spaces and Facilities Workshop 16 May 2019.**

Facilitated by Vicki Blaskett (Parks & Recreation) and Will Wrathall (Community, Arts & Culture)

**Activity 1.**

A draft policy position for the naming of reserves and facilities was presented to the meeting. The meeting broke into two groups and the following is a summary of the comments made regarding the proposed policy position:

**Question 1. Do you think the direction of this draft policy is appropriate? - Why/Why Not?**

- The names of individuals should only be approved if their contribution is exceptional
- Improve signage of how people contributed.
- People can be honoured by signage – while still alive too, rather than naming something after them.
- Clarity needed as Policy listed some of the GNB criteria in the policy but not all e.g. Two or more terms of office on governing local government council not listed. Which takes priority?
- All agree (in group) to policy position – especially for major locations
- Good that the Policy uses the GNB
- Gives good idea of geographic locations
- Respects current names
- Good common sense approach
- Problem with a large area or long beach – e.g. Manly where no official recognition of smaller parts e.g. Queenscliff, Nth Steyne, Sth Steyne.
- Requires a definition of what a Reserve is should

**Question 2: Can you foresee any issues with the implementation or application of the draft policy or the individual principles?**

- There is issues with naming places after people
- Need a strong policy and implementation process
- 20 years test / exceptional contribution for all naming after people
- There is a need for acknowledging community members in a new way? (other than place or facility name)
- Problem with a big areas – e.g. North Narrabeen Reserve known as “Rat Park” but that name not on Satellite Navigation e.g. Coaster’s Retreat – The Basin is part of it and is also part of National Park.

**Question 3: How do you think the Community might receive this draft policy?**

Some members of the community will not like not being able to put resident’s names forward – but just as many will prefer new guidelines.

## Activity 2

The Northern Beaches Suicide Prevention Working Group has recommended that Council no longer permit any new memorial plaques on benches in our open spaces. A series of slides related to this recommendation was presented. The two groups made the following comments:

***Question 1: How do you think the Community will react if Council does not permit new memorial plaques?***

- Some will dismiss it as ridiculous without understanding the reasons
- Trees and benches even without a plaque can still be a focus for friends of young person – is it also a trigger?
- Memorial plaques should be for contributors to the community. Consider range of criteria for applicants to be measured against.

***Question 2: What other options could be considered to commemorate individuals and how might these be managed?***

- Trees, Council select sites.
- No plaques
- Consider a memorial sculpture like at other councils
- Plaques or leaves added to create sculpture
- Scholarship / memorial fund set up by Council – accumulate for young people, Arts, Science, Sport, Music
- Donate to pieces of equipment e.g. defibrillator, fitness equipment
- Hero wall - memorial for those who have contributed to our community.
- Develop book/ publications - collect stories about those who have contributed to our community

***Question 3: What might need to be considered regarding the management of the existing plaques and benches?***

- 10-year life for benches (+ plaque) after which the family can have them back or Council can chose to replace.















Northern Beaches Structure Plan



Northern Beaches Council – Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement – Plan on a page

| Environment   | Resilience   | Efficiency  | Infrastructure  | Collaboration  | People  | Housing   | Great Places  | Connectivity   | Jobs and Skills   |   |                       |
|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|--|---|---|-----------------------|
| <br>P1 – Healthy and valued coast and waterways<br>P2 – Protect and enhance bushland and biodiversity<br>P3 – Protected scenic and cultural landscapes<br>P4 – Protected rural and remote communities<br>P5 – Greener, more resilient urban environments<br>P6 – A range of high quality open space for recreation | <br>P7 – A high level of resilience to natural hazards and climate change | <br>P8 – A low carbon, water wise council and community<br>P9 – A sustainable built environment<br>P10 – Low plastic consumption and waste | <br>P11 – Infrastructure delivered together with jobs and housing growth | <br>P12 – Strong partnerships with state agencies, councils, the community and other stakeholders to achieve better outcomes for the community | <br>P13 – World class education facilities, including a university campus<br>P14 – Community services and facilities that meet our changing needs<br>P15 – An inclusive, healthy, safe and socially connected community<br>P16 – Genuine engagement and co-operation with the Aboriginal Community<br>P17 – A strong artistic, creative and innovative culture | <br>P18 – Housing supply, choice and affordability in the right locations<br>P19 – Increased social and affordable housing supply<br>P20 – A clear direction for the future of Ingleside | <br>P21 – Well designed centres and neighbourhoods that reflect our unique local character and lifestyle<br>P22 – Heritage that is protected, conserved and celebrated | <br>P23 – Frequent and efficient east / west public transport to Chatswood and Macquarie Park<br>P24 – Frequent and efficient north / south public transport to North Sydney, and Sydney CBD including via the Beaches Link Tunnel<br>P25 – Safe and convenient walking, cycling and local transport networks<br>P26 – Repurposed road space to meet our changing needs<br>P27 – An efficient urban freight network<br>P28 – Embraced innovative and emerging technologies<br>P29 – Safeguarded future transport corridors for mass transit | <br>P30 – Jobs that match the skills and needs of our community<br>P31 – Frenchs Forest as a sustainable health and education precinct<br>P32 – Brookvale as a lifestyle and innovation hub<br>P33 – Dee Why as a thriving cosmopolitan centre by the sea<br>P34 – Manly as Sydney's premier seaside destination<br>P35 – Mona Vale as a contemporary, urban heart of the north<br>P36 – Safeguarded industrial and urban services land<br>P37 – Innovative industry clusters<br>P38 – A thriving, sustainable tourism economy<br>P39 – A diverse evening and night-time economy |   |                       |
| Protection of the Environment   |  | Environmental Sustainability  |   | Partnership and Participation  |   | Community and Belonging   |   | Places for People  |   | Transport Infrastructure and Connectivity | Vibrant Local Economy |
| Good Governance   |  |   |   |  |   |   |   |  |   |   |                       |