



northern
beaches
council

Places for People
Strategic Reference Group

MINUTES

PLACES FOR PEOPLE STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP

held online via TEAMS on

THURSDAY 6 AUGUST 2020

Minutes of the Places for People

Strategic Reference Group

held online via TEAMS on Thursday 6 August 2020

Commencing at 6:05pm

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Cr Ian White (Chair)	Councillor
Cr Candy Bingham	Councillor
Cr Stuart Sprott	Councillor
Jim Koopman	Community Representative – Pittwater Ward
Mark Lowe	Community Representative – Pittwater Ward
Les Irwig	Community Representative – Frenchs Forest Ward
Miranda Korzy	Community Representative – Pittwater Ward
Maryann Novakovic	Community Representative – Manly Ward
Richard Michell	Manly, Warringah and Pittwater Historical Society
Kelvin Milsom	Northern Beaches Junior AFL Association, Manly Warringah Pittwater Sporting Union

Council Officer Contacts

Andrew Pigott	Executive Manager Strategic and Place Planning
Steven Lawler	Executive Manager Parks and Recreation
Lea Lennon	Urban Designer (<i>item 6.1</i>)
Andrew Grocott	Manager Community Engagement (<i>item 6.2</i>)
Phil Jemison	Manager Strategic and Place Planning (<i>item 6.2</i>)
Sarah Dunstan	Manager Governance (<i>item 6.3</i>)
Katie Kirwan	Governance Officer (<i>item 6.3</i>)
Damian Ham	Manager Open Space and Recreation Planning (<i>item 6.4</i>)
Jessica Currie	Coordinator Recreation Planning (<i>item 6.4</i>)
Ximena Von Oven	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 Mayor Michael Regan, Caroline Ghatt, Sita Mason, Merina Rose and Stephen Pearse.

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 PLACES FOR PEOPLE STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP MEETING HELD 7 MAY 2020

Cr Bingham / Cr White

That the Minutes of the Places for People Strategic Reference Group meeting held 7 May 2020, copies of which were previously circulated to all members, are hereby confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

5.0 UPDATE ON ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

The following action will be completed at a future Places for People Strategic Reference Group meeting:

That a report on the updated Urban Canopy Policy be brought back to the group in 2020.

6.0 AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 PUBLIC SPACE VISION AND DESIGN GUIDELINES

OVERVIEW OF UPDATE

L Lennon, Urban Designer introduced this item. N Bernuetz from Aspect Studios provided a presentation on this topic. A comprehensive review and consolidation of the three former Council's design guidelines was undertaken. This review identified some information gaps in line with directions contained within the Greater Sydney Commission's North District Plan and the NSW Government Architects Office suite of 'Better Placed' policy documents. As a result of the review the draft Public Space Vision and Design Guidelines has been drafted. This document incorporates new information identified in the gap analysis review process.

The purpose and background, role of the public space, vision and design guidelines, process to date, key challenges and objectives of the draft Public Space Vision and Design Guidelines were

discussed.

A copy of the presentation was circulated to the SRG members.

ITEMS DISCUSSED

The following points were discussed:

- The draft Public Space Vision and Design Guidelines were drafted in line with the increased expectations of the delivery of places for people and the creation of high quality places and spaces for people in the urban public realm.
- It will be a 20 year document with a review and opportunity to update every 5 years.
- This document provide guidelines to protect and enhance unique local character. It also provide guidelines to achieve environmental, social, health and economic outcomes through the introduction of best practice street and open space design and material selection.
- NSW Government guidelines establishes some targets with regards to greener public spaces and greening the city. It is the aim for the NSW Government to increase the proportion of homes in urban areas within 10 minutes walk of quality green, open and public space by 10% by 2023 and also increase the tree canopy and green cover across Greater Sydney by planting 1 million trees by 2022.
- First step when drafting the draft Public Space Vision and Design Guidelines was to understand where the Northern Beaches sits with regards to environmental pressures like urban heat, tree canopy, transport and climate conditions.

Key Challenges

- Aligning visions, objectives and aspirations
- Appropriating better places objectives to inform the public space vision
- Retrofitting existing streets
- Achieving a unified vision and palette for the entire LGA: acknowledging uniqueness of the Northern Beaches
- Sustainability and climate resilience: existing material palettes vs sustainable materials
- Cost effective change: reusing/incorporating existing material palette where possible
- Changing the business as usual approach: improvement in the public road, B-line and impacts on the way that people move within the LGA, importance of community consultation in communicating change

Objectives

1. Enhance and protect the bush, beach and water character: protect the unique environment of the Northern Beaches as far as identity, maintaining the limits of the natural environment.
2. Encourage social activation through street design: people interact and meet with their neighbours in the street hence balancing the various demands of communities like function, climate, amenity and movement is key to achieving liveable streets and functioning neighbourhoods.
3. Inspiring healthy and active lifestyles through safe and inclusive footpath and cycleway networks.
4. Implement traffic calming interventions creating safe environments.

5. Integrate water sensitive urban design into streets and open spaces.
6. Increase tree canopy, green cover and landscaping on street: this promotes people to have a healthy lifestyle.
 - An analysis of the current construction materials in town centres, villages, local areas and light industrial zones was undertaken. The result of the analysis was that a wide range of materials was present including, a lack of consistency, wide range in quality dominated by grey tones was present in construction of buildings, town centres and villages in the Northern Beaches.
 - Proposed materials that suit the concepts of bush, beach, waterways and urban that represent the Northern Beaches was presented to the group. The chosen materials address the criteria of quality, durability and sustainability and suit the environment of the Northern Beaches.
 - Community members who participated in the engagement process were asked to answer several questions intended to provide information on what they like about living in the Northern Beaches and which areas do they identify as having a bush, beach or urban character.

Next steps

- Public exhibition of the final draft Public Space Vision and Design Guidelines (October)
- Finalisation of the Public Space Vision and Design Guidelines by the end of 2020.

Members raised questions with regards to Council's role in the selection of works related to maintenance and improvements in town centres and shopping precincts, Council's budget and program for footpath improvements and planting of native species. Concerns of losing the true character of some areas around the Northern Beaches was also raised.

6.2 NORTHERN BEACHES LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN AND DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

OVERVIEW OF UPDATE

A Pigott, Executive Manager Strategic Place and Planning provided a presentation on this topic. Northern Beaches Council has developed a new land use planning framework for the Northern Beaches. The first stage of this process was completed in March 2020 with the adoption and commencement of Council's first Local Strategic Planning Statement – Towards 2040. The next stage of the process is to bring together the four current Local Environmental Plans (LEPs) and Development Control Plans (DCPs) into a single Northern Beaches LEP and DCP which reflects the priorities and implements the actions in Towards 2040 and is consistent with the regional directions set by the Greater Sydney Commission in the North District Plan.

ITEMS DISCUSSED

- Reasons why Council needs to engage with community members
- Community engagement objectives
- Implementation timeline
- Draft engagement approach

A Grocott, Community Engagement Manager, facilitated a workshop. SRG members were invited

to participate and provided feedback regarding the following questions:

- What does the community need to know from us to make informed decisions?
- How do we help the community to better understand the issues?
- How do we best get the community to contribute?
- What are the reasonable expectations of us to engage?

The following feedback was provided:

- It is concerning that the majority of residents have no understanding of what is an LEP or DCP. More information should be provided regarding the role of these documents, what they mean.
- Council needs to explain to community members in plain English what is an LEP or DCP so community members understand what they are commenting about.
- In order to involve more community members in the engagement, a beginners and advanced guide should be drafted so community members understand the concept of an LEP and DCP.
- Jargon is difficult to understand, a clearer definition of what is an LEP and DCP should be provided without using jargon.
- Use bright colours when preparing the beginners and advance guide for community members as this will capture their attention and will help them understand the concept of each document (LEP and DCP).
- Question community members and ask them what keeps them living in a particular suburb and ask for their opinion with regards to the LEP and DCP.
- Send letters to all community members and let them know of Council's plans with regards to LEP and DCP. Advertise in magazines, Pittwater online to get more community attention and engagement.
- Advertisements should be done at the beginning of the process so more community members are involved.
- Concentrate on the areas where the LEP and DCP will impact them rather than in areas that will not be impacted.

6.3 SUMMARY OF STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP MID-TERM REVIEW

OVERVIEW OF UPDATE

S Dunstan, Governance Manager provided a presentation on this topic. The purpose of the presentation was to provide results from the survey of Strategic Reference Groups (SRGs), update the SRG members on the proposed interim improvements and seek feedback from current SRG members on the role of an SRG member and their experience to assist Council in setting up for the next term of SRGs.

ITEMS DISCUSSED

The following topics were discussed:

- Survey feedback
- Continual and additional improvements
- Challenges
- Key milestones
- Role of the SRG members

SRG members were invited to participate in a workshop aiming to provide insight into the role of an SRG member from their perspective. The following feedback was provided:

- Length of discussion time should be considered as the agenda can go overtime. Meetings can be dominated by few members and not all members have the opportunity to have their opinions heard.
- Providing opportunities for SRG members to be actively involved in subjects brought to the SRGs are a key element.
- Clearer guidance is needed for new SRG members to know what to do with the information provided at the meeting and confidentiality.
- View of residents is not really represented by the SRG members but their own personal views that come through experience.
- Contribution from community SRG members is informed by talking to the family, kids, at dinner parties etc.
- It is great to have a mix of people to bring diversity to the SRG.
- More workshops should be included in the SRG agenda.

6.4 PARKS AND RECREATION - KEY PROJECT UPDATES

OVERVIEW OF UPDATE

S Lawler, Executive Manager Parks and Recreation and J Currie, Coordinator Recreation Planning briefed SRG members on this item and provided a presentation.

Crown Land Categories

Northern Beaches Council is the Crown Land Manager for 269 former reserve trust lands. The original process for assigning land categories required Council to nominate one initial category per reserve, with additional categories to be added via a public hearing related to the development of a Plan of Management (PoM). The process changed and the NSW Government now consider assigning multiple categories to a trust land where they reflect the current use of it. Consequently, Council has been asked to reconsider some of the original requested categories for 35 crown reserves. Community consultation will be undertaken.

NSW Parks for People Program Country Road and Nandi Reserves

Council, undertook an agreement with the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment and the Planning Ministerial Corporation for the design and delivery of landscape embellishment works to Nandi Reserve, Frenchs Forest and County Road Reserve, Belrose and the transfer of land to Council through the New South Wales Parks for People Program. SRG members provided feedback on proposals arising from this agreement.

A copy of the presentations was circulated to the SRG members.

ITEMS DISCUSSED

Crown Land Categories

- Background
- Proposed categorisation for:
 - Manly Dam and Aquatic Reserve
 - East Esplanade to Skiff Club
 - Manly Wharf to North Harbour Reserve
 - Clontarf Foreshore
 - Griffith Park
 - Governor Phillip Park
 - Mckillop Park
- Next Steps

NSW Parks for People Program County Road and Nandi Reserves

- Background

County Road Reserve

Possible projects for community engagement:

- Upgrade of playing surface
- New sports field lights, amenity building and car park
- Restoration works to bushland (tree planting)

Nandi Reserve

Possible projects for community engagement:

- Conversion of informal trails to walking trails
- Riparian corridor, creek line and bushland improvements
- Timeline
 - Community Engagement – September/October 2020
 - Report back to Council – December 2020
 - Works completed – December 2021

7.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
	That a report on the updated Urban Canopy Policy be brought back to the group in 2020.	Steve Lawler	Future SRG Meeting

The meeting concluded at 8:30pm

This is the final page of the Minutes comprising 9 pages numbered 1 to 9 of the Places for People Strategic Reference Group meeting held on Thursday 6 August 2020 and confirmed on Thursday 5 November 2020