

Chatswood West Ward Progress Association Inc.

MINUTES

Monthly Meeting 17th July 2014.

The July monthly meeting will commence at 7:30 pm.

CHAIRMAN: Jim McCredie welcomed new Mayor Gail Giles-Gidney

ATTENDANCE: 20 persons as recorded in the attendance book

APOLOGIES: R. Lambert, C. Gowing, R. Wellings, J. Benn

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Nil

NEW MEMBERS/GUESTS:

The Chairman invited Mayor Giles-Gidney to address the meeting on the nine heads of consideration that had been requested by the Association

- 1. Traffic and Parking:** The Mayor outlined the Parking Strategy. What works is charging people for the right to park. It is understood that no one wants a parking metre in front of their house. There will be additional resident parking stickers available (up to 3 per house). Council is waiting for the RMS response re the Pacific Highway. It is felt that parking stations near transport nodes just encourage more traffic. Council supports the M2/F1 Connection. There is concern about overcrowding when the NorthWest Rail link will funnel more passengers onto Chatswood Station. Council is arguing that the Interchange is already beyond capacity. They are talking to the State Government about a second Interchange on the western side of the railway line.
- 2. Improve Services:** Work is progressing on a Master Plan for the Youth Centre
- 3. Shopping:** The ground floor of the Interchange is now fully leased. There is discussion about the 2nd floor becoming a casual dining area similar to Melbourne's laneways. Street food. About 15M people use the Interchange each year. The Woolworths Express store is proceeding but there is no short stay parking on the Interchange Precinct.
- 4. Sport and Recreation:** Our area hosts the largest numbers of bridge, football, netball clubs on the North Shore. Synthetic turf is being installed at Chatswood High Oval. The upgrade of the Leisure Centre is costed at \$45M. It is unlikely that there would be a small leisure centre west of the highway.
- 5. The Concourse:** Over 1M visits per annum to the Library. Over 2,500 performances. Need to book 2 years ahead. Schools are using the facilities. Community is finding that hiring costs can be expensive. Council is looking at methods of subsidising community organisations. Consideration is being

given to a VIVID experience. Mall is already lit with LID coloured lighting. The new entrance for Westfield has been approved. This includes an outdoor dining area.

6. **Protect natural and built heritage:** Our Natural Heritage is maintained via the eRestore programs. Built Heritage may be under threat of new Planning Laws. The State has a big appetite for development. Many of the recently State approved developments contravene our LEP.
7. **Financial Issues:** Rates increases will come under review shortly. This will likely be increases (levies) by category of work rather than an overall rate increase. The Services Efficiency Review is due to report in October.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS BY MAYOR

- Second Interchanged could be on corner of Railway St and Help Street (currently 2 blue buildings)
- 6,800 new dwellings could go on Ch. 9 site, Eastern Valley Way but probably most would be in CBD. Possibility that the target may rise to 10,000
- The Bridge between Westfield and Lemon Grove is owned by Lemon Grove and is unlikely to be re-opened.
- Services for new building are undertaken by the State Government
- Around \$20M is needed to upgrade Stormwater Infrastructure
- Need to discuss population policy
- Youth, children and daycare facilities could be provided on different floors rather than always at grade.
- With State approved buildings, there has been a significant loss job opportunities to retail and residential
- The Chatswood Chase request to reduce free parking refused by Council\\
- The Concourse Financials: The Performing Arts facilities are running at a loss; Retail and Parking are making around \$1M p.a so overall is cost neutral; debt is serviced by CBD rates and parking fee/fine revenue; approx. \$1M into reserve p.a for future maintenance; the Hotel next to Concourse starts next month (includes much needed break-out rooms).

COUNCILLOURS REPORT

- Mandarin Centre is redeveloping because it is not successful; hope to get a setback on the corner
- The Post Office application has gone to Department of Planning
- Proposed Development at Freeman and Oliver contravenes the LEP
- S96 variation to Help and Macintosh Sts to alter mix of units and to provide more car spaces
- Synthetic grass on Chatswood High Oval will result in an intensification of use
- Crown Land Review in progress
- Car Parking Strategy under consideration
- Public consultation on Urban Tree Policy
- No further news on Golf Course agreements – Clr. Saville to follow up
- It was expected that a report on Mowbray Rd would go to the Council Meeting of 24th July – this did not occur
- The CBD Traffic Plan will be on exhibition for 6 weeks starting 10th June

- Cllr Saville to investigate lighting in Currey Park

CORRESPONDENCE:

OUTWARD

Nil of significance or as otherwise included

INWARD

Nil

MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING were adopted

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES - incorporated below.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Provided by Acting Treasurer

COUNCILLOR'S REPORT: (if present)

OPEN SPACE REPORT

More Trees: Council is looking to spend \$30,000 to beautify the suburbs under the Urban Tree Management Policy. This would allow for the planting of 400 new trees. Open for consultation

The Golf Course lease: We need an update from our Ward Councillors on this matter.

TRAFFIC REPORT

Parking Strategy: There were a number of Council Workshops held regarding the proposed Parking Strategy

Chatswood Chase Parking: Proposal to limit parking to 2hrs. Trial validation period for 3rd hour if \$50 spent. 2 ½ hrs would cost \$3.00. 3 hrs would cost \$6.00. Refused by Council

Mowbray Road: We need an update from our Ward Councillors/Council as to when the public consultation will occur. It was promised for late June. Report yet to be tabled.

Road Funding: Mayor Giles-Gidney has expressed deep concern at the lack of adequate main road funding from the Federal Government. In particular there is concern re lack of funding for Pacific Highway intersections at Fullers Rd, Albert Ave and Mowbray Rd.

CBD Traffic Proposals: Council is considering a range of options to improve pedestrian amenity in the CBD. Many of these options are controversial. Currently on exhibition.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

Planning Proposals Process: Recently we asked Council for a summary diagram showing the various paths a planning proposal can take and the legal rights available to Council and the community to challenge inappropriate decisions. The various bodies involved include Council, Joint Regional Planning Panel (JRPP); Planning Assessment Commission (PAC); Department of Planning for Gateway Assessment. We still awaiting a comprehensive response.

Oliver & Freeman: Proposed development on the Pacific Highway between Oliver and Freeman Roads seeks to demolish the existing buildings and replace them with retail at street level with offices above and two residential towers (one 7 storeys – 28m and one 10 storeys = 35m). Under the adopted LEP the maximum allowable height is 18m (5/6 storeys). The developer is offering to 'buy' approval with a VPA.

Proposed Mandarin Centre Redevelopment: Go to JRPP?

Westfield: Proposal to redevelop its Victoria Avenue entrance to 5 stories currently 2) approved

Legacy Building: Recommended for refusal

GENERAL BUSINESS

Animated Billboards: Concerns have been expressed about the new animated billboard in front of Chatswood Public School. It appears such billboards may contravene RMS Guidelines. DA lodged for illegal board erected at Chatswood Primary School

Northern Metropolitan Council of Mayors: Not addressed

The meeting closed at 9:30 PM

The next meeting will be on Thursday 21st August 2014.