

Minutes

Chatswood West Ward Progress Association Inc.

Monthly Meeting Thursday 17th October 2013

1. **Welcome** to members and visitors
2. **Apologies:** Jim McCredie; Bob Lawrence, John Hayes, Geoff Kelly, Kay Freudenstein-Hayes
3. **Minutes** of Meeting of 19th September 2013 confirmed
4. **Correspondence** (list attached, file available)
5. **Matters arising** from Minutes and Correspondence (Handled below)
6. **Treasurer's Report** (Acting Treasure on leave overseas)
7. **Councillors' Report** – handle by Clr Saville as agenda items
8. **Open space Report**
 - **Chatswood Golf Course:** Public hearing on proposed categorisation of WCC community land: This took place at 5PM on 16 October, 2013. Chair Ms.Sandy Hoy and Open Spaces Manager Julie Whitfield explained the narrow focus to Ian Tanner and Cr.Lynne Saville. The green area of the draft Plan of Management [POM] is designated Sports Ground and as such embraces Golf and other sports. The green area seems sufficient to provide room for three playing fields for school children to play competitive games. Submissions can be received until **4 November 2013**. Is there a possibility of a multi-use arrangement?

After discussion of this matter, including with two representative from the Golf Club, the meeting voted in favour of the motion below (3 against).

“THAT this meeting endorses granting Chatswood Gold Club an interim lease whilst investigations are undertaken into the viability of alternative uses of the Council land including consideration of multi-use arrangements.”

The President of Chatswood Gold Club advised that they are currently in negotiation with Council regarding providing public access over part of their private lands to complete the missing link of the Rail to River walk.

9. **Traffic Report**
 - Fullers Rd – letter from Gladys Berejiklian dates 10 October advising that she has asked the Regional Manager of RMS to consider a speed camera as the best option to improve safety. Proposed motion - *'that the Association write to the Local Member advising her that in relation to Fullers Rd, the preference is for a speed camera supported by other appropriate traffic calming measures in both directions'.*
 - Mowbray Rd – no further update.
 - Minor works in the vicinity of the Beaconsfield lights
 - Proposed No Parking signs 8am-6:30pm Everday in Albert Avenue between the railway bridge and the Pacific Highway - on the southern/Artarmon side
10. **Police & Neighbourhood Watch**
11. **General Business**
 - **Meriton Proposal** for Albert Avenue Carpark residential development amendment refused outright by the Planning Assessment Commission. Reason given for refusal include:

1. Overshadowing of Chatswood Oval. The VPA does not offset the loss of sunlight
2. Entry/Exit points on Thomas St unacceptable
3. Design of Podium adversely affects through site access and amenity of the landscaped plaza
4. Inappropriate building height contravenes very recent planning provisions of WLEP 2012
5. Public benefit of 122 accessible units does not outweigh the environmental and amenity impacts of the proposal.

It appears THAT Meriton will have the right to appeal the PAC decision. Neither the Council nor the community will automatically be able to participate in the Court proceedings. They need to seek leave of the Court to appear in the proceedings. When/if the appeal is lodged then Council can consider it's position. Recall however, that more than half of the Council in the past have stated that they do not object to the Meriton proposal.

“The meeting voted unanimously to Council requesting advice as to how the conditions Mr Woodhams was suggesting in relation to any Mod 6 approval are to promulgated to the court, in the event of an appeal, if Council is not party to any appeal?”

- **Voluntary Planning Agreements**

Any person may make a written submission to the Council about the Draft Voluntary Planning Agreement Policy 2013 during the exhibition period. The Draft Policy is on exhibition until **Wednesday 30 October 2013**.

The meeting voted unanimously to submit to Council *“THAT this Association opposes the use of VPAs where LEP conditions are breached and that Council should uphold the conditions within their adopted LEPs”*

It was also the meetings view that the concept of VPAs be reconsidered in the context of any new Planning Legislation.

- **Council Finances** Year on year Council's operating income has increased whilst operating expenses have decreased resulting in a positive net operating result of over \$8M. More importantly, Council's result before Capital Grants and Contributions has improved by almost \$3.4M. Council's Balance Sheet also shows improved outcomes. The various comparative ratio information are all within industry norms.
- **Acoustics Laboratory:** There will be a Joint regional Planning Panel Public Meeting to consider the latest proposed development of **126 Greville**. The meeting will be held on 23 Oct 2013, 10 am – 12pm at the Willoughby Council Chambers Level 6, 31 Victor Street, Chatswood . Any member of the public is permitted to speak at the Public Meeting, **provided they register** with the Regional Panels Secretariat **before 4pm on Monday 21 October 2013 on 02 9228 2060** or email angela.kenna@planning.nsw.gov.au.
- We have been advised about the **Chatswood Nursing Home** that the JRPP approved a development, which, according to Greg Woodhams may not proceed due to costs. Much money is required to bring the existing facility up to date, and meet today's standards for aged care.
- Proposed **50 place childcare** Centre at The Citadel, 700 Pacific Highway

- **New Deputy Mayor** – Councillor Gail Giles-Gidney (Sailors Bay Ward)
- **New Council Committee Structures**: Previously ‘Corporate & Transport’ and ‘Cultural and Environmental’. Now ‘Transport, Access & Environment’ and ‘Cultural & Civic’.
- The **Chatswood Motor Registry** closed for renovation on 5th October. During the renovation period a temporary registry will operate at 207 Pacific Highway, St Leonards (Cnr. Highway and Herbert St). A shuttle bus will operate between the two sites. More information: www.service.nsw.gov.au. Transport information www.131500.com.au. The reason for the renovation is to allow for the creation of a limited number new style Service Centre that will eventually cover around 300 of Service NSW transaction types.

A number of questions and issues come to mind.

- Why we people advised so late?(info pack received 9th October)
- How were individual households advised of the change?
- When will Chatswood re-open?
- How long will the queues be at the new centre?
- Are some registries being closed?

- **Federation of Progress Association meeting** on 12th October
 - It looks like that there will be no ticket dispensing machine at Railway Stations when the Opal Card fully implemented.
 - There was a claim by one delegate that double-deck trains would fit into the new, smaller tunnels of the NW Rail Link. Further research however does not seem to support this assertion.
 - There is a need to better understand the differences between Public Hearings of Public Meetings under the current planning legislation (as well as appeal rights in relation to JRPPs and PACs
 - There were a variety of views expressed regarding Voluntary Planning Agreements
 - There is a proposal going to the Traffic Committee to remove parking in Albert Avenue between the rail bridge and Pacific Highway.
 - Any Golf Club comments to Ted Wilson
 - Bob McKillop announced that he needs to step down as the Federation’s delegate to the Willoughby Traffic Committee. Terry Fogarty was endorsed as Bob’s replacement on the Committee.
- Advice from Council that existing **vegetation bins** (largely with dark green lids) will have the lid replaced with a bright green lid. It is believed that this is required by the State Government or else Council will lose their bins subsidy. Old bins must be placed outside each week until lid changed.

In relation to handling bins, Clr Saville reported that there is a device available from Council that can assist.

- There will be a **new train timetable** starting on 20th October
- **Swimming Pool Registration** closes 29 October 2013
- **Multi-language** inclusions for the printed version of the West Ward News were discussed briefly.

CORRESPONDENCE IN:

- DA-2013/394 50 place childcare Centre at The Citadel, 700 Pacific Highway
- Agenda Special Council Meeting (Deputy Mayor) 23 September 2013
- Agenda Council Meeting 23 September 2013
- Agenda Transport, Access & Environment Committee 8 October 2013
- Information Kit from Service NSW re Motor Registry
- Agenda Council Meeting 14th October.
- Letter from Gladys Berejiklian dated 10 October re Fullers RD

CORRESPONDENCE OUT:

- To Council webmaster to update our listing on Council website

Next meeting: 21st November at 7:30 PM, Dougherty Centre, Victor St