

MINUTES

Chatswood West Ward Progress Association Meeting
Dougherty Centre, 7 Victor St, Chatswood
7:30 PM, Thursday 19th March 2020

Meeting to commenced at: 7:30 PM

Welcome: The President welcomed members and visitors to the meeting.

Acknowledgement to country: “*I wish to acknowledge the traditional custodians of these lands on which we gather and show our respect to their elders past and present*”.

Declarations of interest: Alan Hall-Watson re Chatswood Golf Club

Members Present: 10 members as recorded in the attendance book.

Apologies: Clr. Craig Campbell, Peter Hayes, Deidre & Malcolm Pudney, Lyn McCloskey and Basil Laszynski, John Greathead, John Hayes, Kathy Vern-Barnett, Diana Pryde

Items requested by members: Support for indigenous communities opposing fracking in the northern territory from Diana Pryde. Under general business.

Late items from the Secretary/Committee: Nil

Matters for General Business from members? Nil

Minutes: The Minutes of the February meeting having been distributed to members were moved, seconded and accepted.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer presented his report. Attached.

REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Just prior to the meeting we received a written report from Clr. Saville. The Chair read out the report. It is included as an attachment.

FEDERATION OF WILLOUGHBY PROGRESS ASSOCIATIONS & NSROC

Nil

GOVERNANCE

Nil

MAJOR LEGISLATION CHANGES

Nil

HERITAGE ITEMS

Nil

ENVIRONMENT & OPEN SPACE

Waste Levy: China has banned the import of Yellow-lid bin recyclables. The cost of processing/storing these in Australia has doubled. The question now is when and by how much will Council increase the waste levy? We have also posted a Council response about waste management generally at cwwpa.org

Chatswood Golf Club: The club is holding information sessions at the Club about its planned revitalisation. **Tuesdays: 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st March between 1pm–2pm and Thursdays: 12th, 19th, 26th March and 2nd April between 5pm–6pm.** There was a short report from a member from Colwell Crescent which is near the course. Basically, still not full details available at the moment. Waiting for DA. Later in the meeting Alan Hall-Watson from the Club gave a brief update and answered questions. The current plan is that the Club will close for approximately 2 years whilst construction takes place.

Brush turkeys in the CBD: Currey Park has been inundated with turkeys, around 20 or so, and in addition to digging up the garden beds in the Park, they are also digging up the garden beds of the surrounding units. During the summer, 2 (or perhaps 3) turkeys managed to build a large mound near the child care centre and in the past months out popped all these turkeys. We believe the Council is intending to remove the mound and also put up signs asking people to stop feeding the turkeys, which is discouraging them from dispersing to other areas. The turkeys are getting slightly intimidating as they now sometimes approach people expecting to be fed.

Chee Yin has proposed the following motion: That we ask the Council what action they will take to resolve this problem.

Diana Pryde independently raised this matter with Council contacts just prior to the meeting. I have received their response (in Appendix). Consequently, we did not forward our motion to Council.

TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT

Letter from Premier: Still awaiting a promised response from some months ago.

Intersection of Anderson St, Victoria Avenue, Chatswood Mall and Westfield crossing. This locations continue to be dangerous for pedestrians and problematic for buses and cars.

Pedestrian safety

Pedestrians waiting to cross Anderson St on the northern crossing at the side of the Westpac Bank are at risk of being struck by buses travelling west on Victoria Ave turning right into Anderson St. It looks like the temporary footpath barrier was installed incorrectly. **Action: pedestrian barrier on Anderson St (west side) needs to be extended to the entrance of the Mall.**

Pedestrians regularly cross against the pedestrian stop light on the southern Anderson St crossing: **Action: requires regular policing.**

Traffic regularly blocks the ‘scramble’ type crossing elements at Victoria/Anderson/The Mall. This puts pedestrians legally using the crossing at risk of being struck by an illegally positioned vehicle if it moves. The situation is compounded as there is a non-pedestrian area within the intersection.

Actions:

- Requires regular policing of vehicle movements.
- Consideration also be given to making the entire intersection a scramble crossing (similar to Victoria/Archer).
- Installation of ‘Do Not Block Intersection’ signs
- Road surface markings (yellow hatched or Do Not Block Intersection markings)

Traffic flow issues

If traffic blocks the intersection, traffic travelling south in Anderson are blocked from crossing the intersection to continue south in Anderson. Similar problems for traffic travelling west in Victoria turning right into Anderson. **Actions: the measures suggested above also address this issue.**

Westfield Pedestrian Crossing In Anderson St

A significant contribution to the vehicles being trapped in the Victoria Ave/Anderson St intersection (heading south on Anderson Street) is due to this pedestrian crossing (between each side of Westfield). If you look at the area on the weekend and on Thursday nights, there might be other times, it appears that a majority of activity at that crossing is pedestrian movements, which leaves the vehicles with few opportunities to proceed south towards Albert Ave, this in turn causes the traffic to bank back to the Victoria Ave/Anderson St intersection and vehicles to become trapped in the intersection when the lights are green (and they are still trapped there when the lights have gone red).

An investigation should be done to determine if this pedestrian crossing is a significant contribute to the problems of the Victoria Ave/Anderson St intersection. If it is found that the pedestrian is causing problems, I would suggest a traffic management measure be put in place like traffic lights to bring the pedestrian and car sharing of the area back to 50/50 and the pedestrian lights can be syncronised with the Victoria Ave/Anderson Street traffic lights to enable cars heading south through that intersection have a place to move to. **Action: Undertake investigation regarding installation of traffic lights,**

MOVE: That the Association write to Council and the Federation asking that consideration be given to addressing the above matters. Council and Federation have been sent a copy of background and motion.

Restricting Vehicles In Victoria Avenue Between Anderson And Archer

There has been a suggestion that this segment of road be restricted to public transport (buses) and emergency vehicles only. There has not been a rationale given for the proposal. The major implications of this proposal would be the need to construct a 'CBD Ring Road' or 'CBD By-pass Rout'. This could have major impact on residential street to the north of Victoria Ave.

Council officers recently responded to this suggestion saying that such a proposal would require a comprehensive investigation as to possible impacts and that Council has no plan to do so.

DEVELOPMENT

Pragmatic about development: The Artarmon Progress Association recently published an opinion that they would rather see Council step up and make hard decisions about development proposals rather than pander to Not In My Back Yard proponents opening the way for developers to put forward 'spot re-zonings' for determination by the Land & Environment Court. Article on cwwpa.org

Sydney North Planning Panel (SNPP): Charles Gowing advised that these matters are no longer reported to Council but go directly to the Panel. If you are advised of any proposed development near you should at least acknowledge that you have received information and request to be placed on the issuer's system so as to receive any updates.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Have your say: Council was required by the state government to prepare Local Strategic Planning Statement to link between existing state and local plans and to inform Council's new LEP. In reviewing the officer's report it became apparent that the way Have Your Say responses were handled was quite different to how emailed submissions were handled. The latter were considered and responded to point by point in a separate attachment. Councillors were not provided with a similar attachment for Have Your Say response. We asked and received a report but it was not detailed. We then requested Councilors that the item be deferred to allow a more detailed report of Have Your Say responses be prepared. This fell on deaf ears.

The Secretary moves: *That we write to the Federation of Willoughby Progress Associations seeking their support to write to Council expressing concern at how some Have Your Say responses are being handled and requesting that detailed reports (as are provided on email submissions) be given as attachment to Councillors where a Have Your Say survey has been undertaken.*

If you respond to Council surveys on the Have Your Say System, we suggest you email your comments to email@willoughby.nsw.gov.au. We have noted that comments from residents are not treated by council officers in the same way as comments emailed directly to Council.

Criticisms of Chatswood unwarranted (letters to NST)

Debra Just, CEO, Willoughby City Council

I write in response to the criticism put forward about Chatswood in a letter by Max Menzies (Your Say, Jan 23.) Willoughby City Council's most recent perception survey of 723 residents contradicts his statement that 'all agree' Chatswood is 'run down'.

On the contrary, more than nine in 10 respondents indicated that Willoughby is an appealing place to live. In fact, 84% of respondents said the appearance of public spaces in the Chatswood shopping precinct were either good or very good. I invite you to visit Chatswood to see for yourself

– take in a show at The Concourse, enjoy a meal at one of the many amazing restaurants or bring your family and friends to a festival.

Superannuation for councilors? The state government is considering this issue that has been raised by Mayors and Councillors. One of the arguments being used is that many Company Directors receive superannuation. Details at cwwpa.org or olg.nsw.gov.au.

Has electioneering started? Council elections will be held in September. We have put two stories up on cwwpa.org. One Councillor has moved a motion that Council NOTE information he has provided about placing electricity supply cables underground/ Another has asked for a report on library hours.

Pay phone ads: Telstra has won a federal court action that allows them to install new pay phones with interactive advertisements without Council approval. However, the advertisements can only be for Telstra products. Commercials ads would require Council approval.

Anti-terrorist training: The Australian Defence Forces are engaged with training exercises across Sydney during February and March. This involves military helicopters flying low over houses on the North Shore, even at night.

Support for indigenous communities opposing fracking in the northern territory: Diana Pryde asked for this matter to be listed on the agenda. I suggested we leave it until next month as there of aspects to the motion and outcome to be considered. Unfortunately, I have only just been able to access the Council Webcast and am have not had the opportunity to consider the matter.

Annual General Meeting: The AGM will be held during next month's (April) meeting. If you are interested in joining the committee, let the Secretary know at Secretaryccwpa@gmail.com

Correspondence OUT/IN – Letter from a non-member criticising our decision to hold this meeting.

The next scheduled meeting and AGM may be on the Thursday 16th April at 7:30 PM. – subject to COVID-19 situation.

Meeting closed: 8:30 PM

APPENDICES

Brush Turkeys

We notice the unusually high number of Australian brush turkey in Currey Park and have been looking at this issue and considering how to address it.

The much maligned Australian brush turkey is of course a protected species and not to be harmed in any way. Therefore physical removal of any birds or their eggs is not only prohibited it would be unethical.

Instead we will be looking at modifying the environment to reduce activity where possible and stopping hand feeding of the young Australian brush turkey which has been going on for several months and seems to have discouraged them from dispersing which is what the young would normally do.

Action to modify environment:

- Removal of old nesting material – control future nesting
- Under pruning of garden parks plantings - control future nesting and discourage young to seek harbour in park
- Removal or minimising mulch in and around gardens – reduce foraging areas

Action to reduce artificial feeding

- Information distributed to nearby residents
- Temporary sign discouraging feeding (attached) was installed last week but torn down/vandalised- will be replaced with a permanent sign next week
- Rangers will be asked to walk through and talk to feeders
- Seed left in park is regularly removed by maintenance teams

We welcome any suggestions or feedback.

Thanks

Simon Brown - Wildlife Officer
WILLOUGHBY CITY COUNCIL

Clr. Report

Chatswood West Ward Progress Assn Report March 2020

- March extraordinary meeting supported Chinese International School modified proposal for Sextons cottage at St. Leonards, adjacent to council car park. Modifications include, reduced student numbers from 210 to 165, for 5 years.
- Concourse: Key tenant Terraza move to Chatswood Place. Babylon, developer with coffee space now upstairs. Guzman Y Gomez at street level, glaring yellow signage. . Issues of shop vacancies and loss of income to council. The water conservation infrastructure problems are under review. Solar panels to be installed at northern side of Concourse in future.
- Public performances at Concourse, WSO, Choir, Vivid, and other public events cancelled due to need to reduce risk communicable disease – Covid-19.
- National Local Government Assembly to be held in Canberra June 2020.
- Motions: My motion, supported by WCC to support CAHA National Strategy and Framework for Climate Change and Health to be submitted to the National Assembly LG in June.
- Nic Wrights motion re undergrounding power lines supported and to go to National Assembly.
- Motion re Power purchase agreement from Origin lost. Concerns that WCC will be sourcing energy from Origin which is fracking in NT against wishes of traditional owners, and which causes extreme environmental damage. Many believe fracking is in conflict with Climate emergency declaration. At least 10 members of the community spoke eloquently and in an informed way in support of the motion. Motion to be re-submitted.
- Motion from west ward councillors for traffic Committee to investigate the introduction of speed limiting solutions for Reid Drive and The Fairway, due to high volume of traffic associated with sports at OH Reid Memorial Park supported.
- OH Reid: No further updates with regards to OH Reid community consultation group – have requested up-date.
- Overhead bridge across Pacific Highway to Chatswood primary School is managed by Citadel Towers, day to day operation and maintenance representative is Jones Lang LaSalle. The lease makes council responsible for major structural repairs of the bridge. Numerous breakdowns and repairs have been underway for many months. To encourage safe usage by students, a Road Safety Officer may be employed. Representations to be made to RMS for possible education.
- Draft Integrated Transport Strategy 2036 on display until 23 March. Encourage community to comment.
- WCC: financial budgets. Local resident, with financial expertise has analysed WCC financial statements compared with Lane Cove. Concerns expressed re performance measures and that WCC needs to spend more on community services.
- We are effectively in recession and critical period related to Covid 19 which will mean that WCC will receive less in interest, fees, charges, rentals etc. WCC will continually monitor its budget, and review its works programme aligned with income, and recession.
- I remain concerned about council investment in financial institutions aligned with investment in fossil fuels with risks of stranded assets, and have raised this on many occasions: WCC purchased Green Bond (Westpac) to \$1m (May 19).
- Tree branches, fallen trees (including a mature Angophora in Ferndale, and several Blue Gum trees in the grounds of Chatswood High School) and vegetation debris is evident throughout west ward, mainly due to a combination of effects from prolonged drought, followed heavy rain. Encourage residents to report to councillors and or council.
- Defence Force counter-terrorism training in NSW 10.3.2020 – many noisy helicopters flew low over Chatswood, some without lights over an hour in the evening.
- Seniors Week was very successful, the Seniors concert was excellent, fully booked . The harbour cruise and lunch was very popular and a great success.

- Climate Emergency Declaration supported by majority of councillors. As a result, WCC officers are accelerating the WCC Green city Plan; improving energy efficiency generally including streetlights; promoting and enabling improved energy efficiency in community through education; improved energy efficiency and use renewable energy generally including roof top in industrial areas; planning a 'sustainable building award'. WCC is spending \$1.2M annually on water improvements including accelerating stormwater reuse, GPT program and water monitoring; undertaking Annual Waterway Health Card, aiming for no reduction water quality by 2028;
- General issues reported by residents and forwarded to council for attention and improvement:
 - Access to Ferndale at the end of Centennial Avenue needs clearer sign-posting, safer walkways and interpretive signage.
 - I have requested that the local history librarian investigates/researches the detailed stonework evident at the end of Centennial, which may have been a 'depression project'.
 - Interchange functionality and signage, and general inadequacies identified
 - Waste, litter throughout CBD and surrounding areas..
 - Feral shopping trolleys in west ward, particularly in streets closer to CBD.
 - Mall cleaning needed.
 - New parking restrictions in Lone Pine, Eddy have been introduced supposedly to facilitate access for bus 255. However, unrestricted parking continues on both sides of Carr Street, which has created the long term pinch point for the 255 bus. Again, last week the 255 was again unable to pass due to large vehicles parked on both sides of Carr street. I have been assured that the necessary parking restrictions will eventually be applied in Carr Street this year.
 - Water gushing down DeVilliers from CHS – concern re drainage problems, water wastage and slippery conditions for pedestrians and traffic,
- Local traffic issued I have requested be placed on next Traffic agenda:
 - Frequent gridlock conditions , running red lights, queueing across intersection, cars travelling wrong direction in Oliver and danger to pedestrians at Pacific Highway, Albert, Oliver and Centennial Ave.
 - DeVilliers, just west of Chatswood High School entrance, and Dardanelles blind spot where there is parking for 4 cars. Residents have reported dangerous blindspot to on-coming traffic.

Question submitted for council papers:

Waste management

Lynne Saville