

Local Matters Forum – Marrickville/Midjuburi 22 November 2022

On Tuesday 22 November, 24 Midjuburi ward residents gathered at St Peters Town Hall to discuss local matters that were of key importance to them. The agenda for the group discussion was driven by residents.

Below is a summary of the discussion:

Subject/issue	Discussion and response from Council	Further action if required
Annette Kellerman Aquatic Centre		
Upgrade of facilities at AKAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resident noted that other pools in the LGA have been upgraded since amalgamation, including Ashfield Pool and Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre (LPAC). General Manager noted Ashfield Pool was at the end of its life and LPAC was upgraded slowly over time, and the main pool dates from the 1960s. Council has recently taken on management of AKAC and Fanny Durack Aquatic Centres, and will undertake heating upgrades at AKAC. The Development Contributions Plan identifies where we need additional aquatic spaces. We will need to do a study to identify where those spaces should go. AKAC is a well-used facility and will be investigated at this time. Encourage residents to be involved in engagement as it happens. 	No further action
Community centres		
St Peters neighbourhood centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resident asks whether the community would be interested in having a neighbourhood centre at St Peters, noting that there used to be a centre funded by the State Government. Council effectively has a neighbourhood centre available to the community at St Peters. The St Peters Town Hall houses a neighbourhood Library with free access to computers, internet and diverse library resources and programs. The Town Hall also has small to large rooms and spaces for community to hire (often for little or no fee). The spaces are available daily both on the ground and upper floor for diverse activities including group meetings, parties, exercise classes, dance and more. They can be easily booked via Council's website or by calling customer service. The facilities are accessible and only a short walk from Sydenham train station. 	Investigate whether any neighbourhood centres or similar community centres are proposed for the St Peters area.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additionally, as an action from the recent Arts and Music Summit, Council resolved to turn all eight Inner West Council Town Halls into arts and culture venues to help performers, artists and arts-based businesses find a way forward after two years of the pandemic. • Residents note that the old centre was community controlled and run rather than Council-run. The old neighbourhood centre had Council plans available, a Council contact, free photocopying, help for older people and served the St Peters, Sydenham and Tempe communities. • The community-run Newtown Neighbourhood Centre is moving closer to the south end of King St. • Council has a current focus on activating existing Town Halls. We also have a Contributions Plan to identify needs in specific areas – development funding is then used to meet these needs. 	
Development and planning		
Planning for future LEP engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resident queried how the announced stakeholder roundtable will work to reset the LEP process and share the building of additional housing more equitably across the LGA. • The LEP engagement process is on pause due to a Council resolution. We are in the process of ascertaining the right amount of housing and how to go forward with an LGA-wide approach. • Council officers are researching available options to reset the LEP process with the Department of Planning and Office of Local Government. Councillors will then determine which option should be followed. The details of the stakeholder engagement are still being developed as this is dependent upon the option chosen. • There is strong guidance from Councillors about the community engagement process. This will be scrutinised to ensure the community is brought along on the journey. • Councillor roundtables were part of the original plan and will be included in the next engagement. • Residents asked for the approximate timeline for the new LEP engagement process. • Nothing will commence in 2022; working on getting direction from the Department of Planning and Office of Local Government in order to commence in early in 2023. 	No further action

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Construction works on Council-approved development trespassing, leaving rubble and debris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resident described ongoing issue with construction works trespassing and leaving rubble and debris on their property. Appears that the development was approved reliant on access to private land that they did not have access to. Director Planning to attend this week to investigate conditions of compliance. Can't always resolve things quickly but Council will help to navigate the conditions, bureaucracy and next steps. 	Director Planning to organise site visit with compliance officer.
Environment and climate change		
Plan for Council collection and recycling of plastic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resident asked about Council's plan to collect used plastic for recycling, especially considering the breakdown of private businesses (ie. RedCycle) The breakdown of the "scrunchable plastics" recycling service by Redcycle is an emerging issue and Council intends to investigate ways to address it. We have previously provided access to plastics recycling to residents through RecycleSmart and we also allow some plastics to be recycled through our yellow lid bins. As part of its zero-waste strategy, Council conducts regular audits of its red-lidded bins and has identified Food Waste as the biggest opportunity to reduce our impact on recoverable waste going to landfill. That is why we are aiming to commence a FOGO service to all households in the Inner West next year and will be among the first metro Councils to do so. In addition to its current waste service, Council operates two community recycling centres where residents can dispose of problem waste such as paints, batteries and bulky items. Council is investigating other ways to address the gap in recycling services for soft plastics recycling. The importance of a zero-waste strategy means this will be a priority but right now we are in a holding pattern to see what happens with those private services. 	No further action
Parking and traffic		
Reducing parking permits in the M12 parking zone, especially St Peters triangle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resident asked if Council can address parking problems in the M12 parking zone by reducing parking permits to 1 per property. This would bring St Peters into line with Newtown and Enmore. 	No further action

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The parking permit system in Hutchinson Street, Lackey Street, Applebee Street and surrounding streets form part of the M12 parking permit area. In this area up to 2 resident parking permits are available for eligible properties. The number of permits decreases by one for every off-street parking space available to a property. This is a standard Resident Parking Scheme (RPS) allocation and was formed following consultation. With regard to apartment blocks, those apartments built in the last 20 years are generally not eligible for parking permits as per Council's Public Domain Parking Policy. Only those 20+ years old may have permits. Reducing the maximum number of permits available for residents is an impactful change and would only be considered in exceptional circumstances and would therefore require justification through a precinct parking study prior to community engagement on a proposal. Resident queried when the RPS was undertaken as the problem of parking has increased greatly in the last five years. Resident Parking Scheme consultation is done when the RPS is established, in this case over 10 years ago. Resident commented that parking is not patrolled enough and the RPS needs to be updated. Regular schedule of enforcement does exist. If residents want to review an RPS it requires 10 requests from different properties in the street. That will trigger an ad hoc request to review the Scheme. 	
Parks and sporting grounds		
Need for playgrounds and recreation activities that are weather proof	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resident asked about planning for playgrounds and recreation activities that respond to climate change, namely for hot and rainy weather. Council is in the process of completing a recreation strategy for the Inner West Local Government Area. The recreation strategy will highlight areas for further investigation in terms of the provision of indoor recreation spaces for local residents as well as the need for Council and its partners to provide a broad range of recreational opportunities for residents to participate in. The Strategy, once adopted will provide Council with the strategic framework to identify opportunities for future proofing recreation and sporting needs to 2030 and beyond. Council will also be completing a Children and Youth Strategy. Town Hall activations are currently planned across the LGA. 	No further action

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Depending on age of children there are play groups available in the LGA which provide indoor/outdoor play opportunities. Also libraries and splash pads at aquatic facilities. Council has also committed to delivering 4 large inclusive playgrounds across the LGA for delivery in the 23/24 financial year. It is a commitment for Council to continuously invest in playgrounds. Council has also just finished a shade sail strategy for adding shade sails where needed across the LGA. Resident asked for engagement on the Recreation Strategy and playgrounds to be in a different forum to the LMF as these forums are very privileged – you need time and education to attend. Council confirmed that we engage the community in many ways – we translate materials, go to playgrounds in person, run workshops directly with children, provide online and face to face options. 	
<p>Request for exercise machines at Simpson Park</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resident asked if exercise machines could be installed at Simpson Park. Any new infrastructure in Parks must go through the community engagement process. Simpson Park is included in the neighbourhood and pocket parks plan of management. The draft POM will go on exhibition in 2023 where residents will get their say on what they would like to see in the Park. Resident asked how they will be informed when this engagement opens. All those who live nearby will get a letter or a flyer delivered to them. The engagement will also be promoted on Council’s website, social media and Your Say website. Council has made a note of this specific request as a future submission. 	<p>No further action</p>
<p>Roads and footpaths</p>		
<p>Dangerous areas for pedestrians in Marrickville, especially at Jersey Street and Moncur Street</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resident described dangerous areas around Marrickville where near accidents have occurred, specifically at the corner of Jersey Street and Moyes Street in Marrickville. This corner has low visibility and should be turned into a low speed, pedestrianised, 10km/h shared zone. Council reviews road safety concerns during strategic plans such as the Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP), Local Area Traffic Management Investigations and through grant application processes such as the blackspot program. Previous investigations have resulted in traffic calming at the subject intersection consisting of linemarking and rumble 	<p>Infrastructure to investigate the intersection of Jersey and Moyes Streets for pedestrian safety and potential traffic calming measures.</p>

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	<p>bars. Council is also looking to roll out the high priority works identified in the PAMP over the next 4 years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resident stated that luck is a contributor to this area – near accidents don't cause changes. Feasibility study won't work because there haven't been actual accidents recently. What are our options? Council will have a detailed look at that intersection. 	
Ramp from Simpson Park onto Lackey Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resident asked if the ramp from Simpson Park onto Lackey Street and across the road to the footpath could be upgraded. The existing kerb ramp is not compliant with current standards and will be replaced in the next 4-6 weeks. 	Infrastructure team to confirm that the ramp is being upgraded on both sides of Lackey Street.
Resurfacing of Petersham Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resident requested for the section of Petersham Road in Marrickville between Sydenham Road and Centennial Street to be resurfaced. Council has recently done a condition assessment of every road and footpath in the LGA. Resurfacing is then arranged based on the calculated priority. In regards to potholes in general, Council has two dedicated crews that work on potholes full time. They rely on residents to report potholes, especially in hotspot areas. 	Infrastructure team to investigate the state of the identified section of Petersham Road for potential resurfacing.
Trees		
Trees on footpaths and the size of verge gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resident asked if Council could install smaller verge gardens around street trees as the gardens seem unnecessarily large and it inhibits access from car to footpath. All tree pits are installed with a minimum of 900mm from back of tree pit to property boundary. In these circumstances, most pits are backfilled with a porous rubber to extend the distance to 1000mm. Council is guided by the Street Tree Master Plan for Marrickville. Council does not approve verge gardens that inhibit this minimum distance. If you have any gardens of concern, please advise us of the address and we will send rangers to investigate. 	No further action
Request for tree planting at O'Hara Street Playground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resident noted that existing trees at the O'Hara Street Playground have been removed and asked for two small to medium trees to be re-planted. 	Ranger Services to investigate removal of trees.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council noted that a Review of DA consent shows that the property needs to plant 2 trees within their subject property. There are also conditions to ensure trees in the park are protected throughout the construction. • If park trees have been removed we can refer to Ranger Services to investigate. Council is happy to consider any additional tree planting request and trees can be provided if required. 	
<p>Loss of trees on Bryes Street and potential verge garden.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resident noted that tree planting on Bryes Street has had a very poor success rate, likely due to wide concrete footpath and small aperture in footpath. • Resident requested for trees to be re-planted and a section of footpath to be removed for a verge garden. • The street will be investigated to determine the cause of the tree planting loss and this street will be added to the 2023 planting list. • A new Verge Gardens Policy, which will apply to residential flat buildings, is currently on exhibition and the draft version can be found on the Your Say Inner West website. Council’s urban ecology team can answer more detailed questions about the new program and guidelines that apply to apartment buildings. 	<p>Council to investigate the cause of tree planting loss on Bryes Street. Bryes Street to be added to the 2023 planting list.</p>

Some people submitted questions but did not attend the Forum. Responses to those questions are below:

Subject	Response from Council
De-amalgamation	
<p>The Inner West community voted by a very healthy margin that the Council should de-amalgamate. Council provided a very negative response. Surely the Council is required to energetically proceed in accordance with the wishes of the voters. What is council doing to pursue this very important matter to its conclusion?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council has developed a de-amalgamation business case that has been presented to Council for consideration. • Council resolved in September to hold another workshop regarding the business case, which has been undertaken and to also write to the Minister reiterating the concerns around costs and administration and seeking specific commitment to paying the full cost should the Minister seek to demerge the Council and commit to not sacking the Council and installing an administrator. • Council has written to the Minister and on various occasions followed up seeking a response. Once the Minister has provided a response the Business Case will be considered by Council.
Development and planning	
<p>In the light of this year's flooding events, I would like to ask if the Cooks River Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan is now being effectively used in the process of development approvals. I ask this because in 2015 the development on the corner of Illawarra Rd and Wharf Street was approved with semi-underground car-parking, despite being the most flood-prone spot in the immediate area. I wrote to the council with photos to prove the point and received no acknowledgement. The garage under the building has subsequently flooded several times destroying everything stored within. Shouldn't scientific studies take precedence over anecdotal evidence when making planning decisions?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council officers reviewed the application and recommended refusal. In 2011 it was approved, modified 2015 by Council against the officer's recommendation with a pump out system with flood compatible materials. • The Cooks River Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan is Council officer's guiding document regarding floor levels in flood areas. All submissions were considered at the time during the assessment process and were included in the Council report.
Parking and traffic	
<p>Why is it that in Vincent St Marrickville, parking spaces are not clearly marked and no one can tell what is a public carspace, don't we have the right to know whether a carspot is legal or not?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been significant engagement between the businesses and Council regarding the availability of parking on Vincent Street throughout the course of this year. At the commencement of the year complaints around reduced availability of parking due to poor waste management practices and the way parking spaces were utilised by the businesses for loading and use of the street to stack vehicles have been addressed. • Angle parking restrictions allowing parking behind the kerb line in Vincent Street were installed circa 1998. Parking in this area is legal as long as property access is not obstructed.

Subject	Response from Council
<p>The public have the right to know where you are allowed to park and where you are not, the lack of signage is causing problems as parking spots are being used for storage and private use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further investigation is required to determine if linemarking is required.
<p>Why do council ignore resident requests for resident parking? 1. This was raised as part of review of expansion of Henson Park. Council announced big expansion plans after review to block my street more regularly, but doesn't mention resident parking. 2. My street is blocked off today by a film crew filming at the Henson Park hotel - why is this allowed? I live here and pay rates.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council's current policy regarding Resident Permit Parking Schemes requires that requests be received from at least 10 individual properties before consideration will be given to the introduction of new schemes or extension of existing schemes. This level of support from the residents in the subject street is required by Council to indicate that the proposal may get community support. There is a yearly administration fee attached to the provision of these residential parking permits. • It is necessary for any request for the introduction/extension of a Resident Parking Scheme (which meets Council's Policy) to be referred to the Traffic Committee, which meets on a monthly basis. • Currently, all Councils in NSW must abide by the NSW Filming Protocol which is state legislation. The Filming Protocol brought in legislative changes aimed to remove unnecessary red tape affecting the New South Wales film and television industry. • The legislation states: "Councils are to ensure that requests for location film productions are able to occur, unless there are exceptional circumstances or legislation requires the council to refuse to grant the approval". • Council could not find any reason under the legislation to refuse approval in this case.
<p>Can council address the dangerous driving in May Lane St Peters by 1. increasing the size/height of the speed humps to make them effective (currently almost level with the road and not raised high enough) and 2. improve the signage indicating it is a shared way, particularly so drivers turning in across the traffic can see that it is indeed a shared way 3. Possibly adding a more obviously differently coloured surface? Drivers frequently exceed the speed restriction and some are unaware of the shared way (I recently was screamed at by a woman speeding in a convertible telling me to get out of the F**** way as it is not a F***** pedestrian walkway. Nice. I have also seen a woman with a pram almost run over by someone turning in at speed across the traffic)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May Lane is an existing Shared Zone with a 10km/h limit. • The lane also has a red surface treatment with textured thresholds on entry points to highlight it as a shared zone. These devices cannot be raised higher as it will cause a trip-hazard in the lane. • The shared zone also includes two '10km/h Shared Zone' signs on entry and a repeater sign within the lane. These treatments provide good indication that a motorist is entering a low-speed environment. • Council will refer to NSW Police for enforcement.

Subject	Response from Council
Many residents have experience similar dangers.	
Parking availability in the Tempe area. Disabled driver needs to be able to park near home. Availability is getting worse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council considers applications for Mobility Parking spaces outside resident homes where no off-street parking is available. • Further information is available on Council's website: https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/live/information-for-residents/parking/accessible-parking
Roads and footpaths	
When will the Council start maintaining Campbell Street, St Peters? It is time for the Council to step up and have an interim maintenance plan in place until the handover from Westconnex is resolved. The current state of the street is appalling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council has been in discussions with TfNSW, seeking to have a number of issues and defects resolved before Council takes over maintenance responsibility. Council has offered to negotiate an interim agreement with TfNSW for maintenance of landscape/grassed areas but they have not shown interest in this approach. • A further review will be undertaken of this intersection.

Ten specific issues have been lodged through Council's Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system for staff to follow up.