**Local Matters Forum for the Stanmore-Damun Ward on Tuesday 28 March 2023**

On Tuesday 28 March, 26 Damun ward residents gathered at Newtown 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 | Discussion and response from Council | Further action if required |
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| Development and planning | | |
| Heritage losses to our built environment and subsequent changes to the nature and quality of our suburbs. | * Inner West Council is committed to protecting places of heritage significance across the Inner West. Currently, there are over 1,800 local or state-listed heritage items (that include buildings, streetscapes, Aboriginal sites, trees, parks and archaeology) and 107 Heritage Conservation Areas across the Inner West local government area. In total approximately 40% of the local government area has heritage protection. * Council has an ongoing program of reviewing additional heritage conservation areas and heritage items in accordance with the *Our Place Inner West Local Strategic Planning Statement* and *Our Inner West Housing Strategy*. This includes identifying potential new areas and items informed by independent expert heritage advice. Several draft ‘Planning Proposals’ are currently being prepared to amend the Inner West Local Environment Plan 2022 (IWLEP) to introduce new items and areas. Local landowners will have the opportunity to provide feedback on these projects as the year progresses. * Development on sites subject to heritage protections are typically considered by way of a development application, assessed against the IWLEP and the relevant Development Control Plan. Clause 5.10 of the IWLEP sets out requirements for proposed demolition, alteration, construction or subdivision of land on a property identified as containing a heritage item or located within a heritage conservation area. * Very limited and minor demolition work can be carried out without development consent on buildings in heritage conservation areas, under *State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008.* In all other circumstances demolition requiresdevelopment consent. Council is carrying out investigations of housing capacity in certain identified investigation areas, as outlined under Inner West’s LSPS and LHS. Council’s heritage review is occurring in tandem with these investigations. Any proposed changes to zoning or planning controls within the housing investigation areas will adequately reflect, and be sympathetic to, all identified heritage significance. | No further action |
| San Francisco has done the most wonderful heritage protection of residences | * Council has a strong approach to heritage. We are working to try and map all items and areas in the LGA which require protection. | No further action |
| Heritage -double fronted homes are being demolished to build town houses, yet in the same street residents in terrace houses are not allowed to put in a dormer windows. My land tax has gone up - is that because, my land is seen as a potential development site for town houses? | * Resident advised to call the Valuers General office re specific land tax question. Director of Planning provided general heritage advice in response to concerns about how heritage is applied through the assessment process, that is - very limited and minor demolition work can be carried out without development consent on buildings in heritage conservation areas, under *State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008.* In all other circumstances demolition requiresdevelopment consent, and the proposal is assessed on its merits. | No further action |
| Special Entertainment Precinct – Enmore Road | * Resident raised concerns about maintaining the cleanliness and safety on Enmore Road and shared an example of 17 bins being left outside a specific restaurant on this road. * Enmore Road cleansing is delivered on a daily basis. * We are currently monitoring the cleaning needs associated with this area. * The parking signs for the area (including Metropolitan Road) were installed following a parking study into the precinct (known as the Newtown/Enmore Parking Study). The parking study involved extensive consultation at the time with residents, businesses, other stakeholders such as the TAFE on Edgeware Road and internal Council Staff (including Rangers). * The study resulted in a mixture of parking zones and hours of operation being implemented aimed at balancing the needs of both residents and businesses within the Newtown/Enmore precinct. * The study also took into account practical issues such as enforcement of the parking areas. It is typical for operational hours of parking restrictions to end by 10pm at the latest and this fits in with the ability to enforce such signage. | No further action |
| Resident lives in a heritage listed item, surrounded by trees belonging to neighbours. Now the TDCP has been tightened, how can Council help them to look after our listed property or property in a heritage conservation area? |  | Council is following up this query |
| Parking and traffic | | |
| Illegal parking at Camden Lane | * Camden Lane is predominantly covered by No Parking restrictions and doesn't have a timed free parking component, as such it is not part of a regular proactive beat and is patrolled ad hoc or on request. The lane appears to be entirely composed of secondary accesses and driveways. * It is located off Camden Rd which is scheduled to be patrolled a minimum of twice per week during the day and may be included in night patrols around Enmore Theatre. * Additional patrols will be arranged to check signage and take enforcement as appropriate to investigate this complaint. When illegal parking is observed customers should report via customer service or via the online portal, Council has 1 request officer assigned to respond to customer calls on the south side at all times and we currently avg a two hour response time for these types of requests. * Director of Planning provided ranger contact details and asked resident to call for assistance if driveway is blocked. Council has a service level of two hrs from contact for this eventuality. | No further action |
| Parks, sporting grounds and recreation facilities | | |
| Underwater Rugby the use of LPAC for this activity is impacted by the pool depth. The required depth for this sport is three to five meters. | * A Master Plan for LPAC was developed with community input and endorsed by Council. In this plan the new pool will have a variable depth floor. It will be 25m long with eight lanes, suitable for multi-purpose use and deep water activities up to maximum depth of 2.4 metres. * Read more information in the Engagement Outcomes Report for the development of the LPAC Master Plan [Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre Master Plan](https://yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/planning-for-leichhardt-park-aquatic-centre) | No further action |
| Care and maintenance of small parks and playgrounds | * Salmon playground is serviced twice a week. The crew remove all litter and debris from the park, with the playground high pressure cleaned on a quarterly program (every three months). There is also the ability to call customer service if there is a particular issue which needs to be cleaned. | No further action |
| Senior’s programs at LPAC | * LPAC survey- surveys are conducted to develop key insights into programs and services provided by the Aquatics facilities. These survey results are complimentary to information collected through general ongoing feedback, program attendances, staff feedback and with consideration given to opportunities for new community programs. A broad overview of survey results when completed will be issued to those who provided input. * LPAC provides 110 classes and 60% of these are aimed at Seniors. * Seasonal changes to the program occur four times a year, usually email this out a week before the change to the general member population, specific to seniors in addition we also share a draft timetable about two or three weeks prior the general member email seniors are specifically emailed, and we take on board and consider all suggestions. * Recently we had two back- to -back seniors’ classes in the gym studio, named Strong Seniors, and we swapped out the second one for a Total Bodies Seniors Class. That is the only recent change. * In addition, we hosted two dedicated face- to- face sessions to cover off on another timetable change regarding hybrid cycle HCT / Cycle HIIT / Cycle Core. * Seniors’ specific engagements occur twice a year. Likely to be May - before the winter timetable and the second one will be prior to the summer timetable. We seek feedback during those consultations. * Recently at Seniors Week in in early Feb we held a morning tea in celebration of our senior members 45 attended at LPAC. | The Engagement Strategies utilised by the Aquatics Team will be reviewed by Council’s specialist Engagement Team. |
| Wonderful parks in Stanmore, but there are not many facilities for seniors close to where I live. Could we add exercise equipment to local parks? | * We are reviewing our parks Plans of Management for all parks in the LGA. In that review process we engage with residents and park users to get an understanding of what improvements are required over the next ten years. | No further action |
| Roads and footpaths | | |
| Maintenance and cleaning of Trafalgar Street | * Council cleaning crews will clean this area of Trafalgar Street by Easter. | No further action |
| Road and street cleaning – Station Street | * Station street is serviced on our 40 working day cleaning program for all streets without grass verge. The crew will clean the street before Easter. We are currently monitoring the cleaning needs associated with the area. | The street has since been serviced and will be monitored moving forward. |
| Making Station St (between Holt and Camden Streets) a one way street? | * The introduction of one-way restrictions is usually considered as part of Local Area Traffic Management Studies. The introduction of one-way restrictions tends to lead to poorer access options for residents, increased traffic generation due to circulating traffic and greater traffic speeds. Hence the introduction of restrictions needs to be carefully considered and planned. * Under Council's policy, site specific investigations can be triggered if Council receives five requests or more from the residents in the street. | No further action |
| Can residents view the street cleaning schedule? | * This information is available on Council's website -   [Please view the street cleaning schedule](https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/12124/STREETSCAPE%20CLEANING%20DATES.xlsx.aspx) | No further action |
| Does Council have a water truck to clean streets by flushing? | * We do not have flushers - due to EPA regulations but we do have Main Streets cleansing program i.e. Enmore road brushed every day and high pressured cleaned every couple of months. We are also putting artwork on bins, cleaning the outside of the bins. We are working on this. We can’t high pressured clean the asphalt but can address the other footpath surfaces. In Newtown we have put in place a Main Street beautification program including Peace Park. | No further action |
| Crammond Park drainage issues from Crammond Park to the crossing area. | * Council's Streetscapes team will increase their monitoring of this location to help keep the gutter clean which will encourage water to drain away. Upgrade of the drainage system in Trafalgar Street is not currently feasible as funding has been allocated already for priority works across the LGA. | The site will be inspected this week to see what cost effective solutions may be possible. |
| Asphalt is sometime a drainage issue, does Council have a regular team looking at where the areas where water pools? | * Council has investigated every street for issues such as this and is now working through a program to fix issues. | No further action |
| Section of footpath between intersection of Enmore/ Stanmore Road and Enmore parks is in poor condition -what can be done? |  | Council is following up this query |
| Enmore Road - difficult for pedestrians to navigate due to outdoor dining, People queuing on the footpath and too many bicycles on the footpath. | * Recently a report went to Council about the Enmore Road Special Entertainment Precinct. Amendments at the Council meeting by Ward Councillors put in place further action on pedestrian accessibility and more street cleansing | No further action |
| Issue with bikes riding across marked foot crossing - ignoring cyclists dismount signage | * We have a dual approach of education and enforcement. We have an extensive program of separated bike paths, the more we implement that program the less bike traffic there is on the footpath. Council meets regularly with NSW Police at Traffic Committee to address ongoing items of pedestrian safety. | No further action |
| Footpaths and pedestrian safety. Safe riding on shared paths. | * We take road safety seriously at Council and everyone has a role to play in the community. Council has and continues to run campaigns to educate cyclists on how to safely use shared paths and works closely with TfNSW and NSW Police on this. Council’s cycling strategy and action plan currently being prepared will also outline the need for education to continue and will outline other actions to improve cycling amenity. | No further action |
| Cyclists riding on footpaths is dangerous for pedestrians and especially people with disabilities/elderly people |  | Clr Lockie suggested an advocacy piece with Chambers of Commerce may assist to educate delivery riders about the dangers or cycling on footpaths |
| Waste and recycling | | |
| Illegal dumping in Camden Lane – What can Council do? | * IWC has waste inspectors that can investigate. There is a 15-day "hot spot cycle" in which the lane is cleaned though it is possible to report any dumped rubbish and action will be taken prior to the cycle. We find foot patrols more effective than cameras as this allows us to investigate what is in the pile of rubbish to help identify anyone dumping rubbish. | No further action |
| General | | |
| Beautification of our streets (Bedford St Newtown) and dealing with train noise on site | * Council can provide planting along the path, it can also advocate to State government agencies if it is recommended that a sound barrier is required | Council will investigate advocacy regarding the possibility of a barrier against train noise and investigate planting options |
| Privately owned electric scooters | * The management of electric scooters remains a state government matter. Personal e-scooters remain illegal on NSW roads and road-related areas, including footpaths, shared paths and bicycle lanes. They can only be used on private property. E-scooter trials are in operation in some parts of NSW, but this does not include the Inner West. | No further action |
| Managing graffiti and vandalism | * Damage to private property is a police matter and in the event that such a crime is being observed as it happens residents are encouraged to call police and make a report. Council Rangers don't have powers or penalties enabling them to deal with people damaging/graffitiing private property. Council runs a program called Perfect Match which matches a property that is targeted by taggers with mural artist to deter graffiti and tagging. | No further action |

**Not all submitted questions were addressed on the night. Responses to questions that were submitted but not discussed during the Forum have been prepared:**

| Subject | Response from Council |
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| Planning and development | |
| Housing affordability and continuous community diversity | * Council is interested in supporting housing affordability and has been proactive in this area. A report on renters’ rights has been drafted for the 11 April 2023 Council meeting and an updated Affordable housing policy was endorsed 2022. * Affordable housing can be achieved under Council’s Affordable Housing Policy via: - voluntary planning agreements - affordable housing contributions schemes * At the end of the 2021-22 financial year, Council owned 19 affordable housing units. These are in Lewisham (4 units), Dulwich Hill (2 units), Summer Hill (4 units) and Marrickville (9 units). All units are currently managed by Link Wentworth, a registered Community Housing Provider, under a Residential Property Management Agreement signed with Council. * Council’s Affordable Rental Housing Program is a 'key worker' program that provides housing assistance to lower income workers employed in essential jobs and emergency services in the Inner West local government area. Clause 6.33 of Inner West Local Environmental Plan 2022 requires developers to pay an affordable housing levy contribution equivalent to 7.5% of the relevant floor area of the building to Council. Similar schemes will be imposed where feasibility can be demonstrated when areas are being rezoned. * Council will generally require housing to be provided in kind rather than a monetary contribution. * Council is committed to reducing the number of people experiencing homelessness by helping to connect them with homelessness services. * Council’s role in this area focuses on advocacy, education and monitoring. |
| DA's approval for construction work (excavation, demolition, and other construction noise) outside the approved regulation times. | * At the commencement of Covid the Minister - by Order - extended construction hours to be 7:00am to 5.00pm, Mondays to Saturdays (inclusive) with no works permitted on, Sundays or Public Holidays. By and large metropolitan councils have retained those as conditions of consent and have been encouraged to do through advocacy by the department of planning. * Councils are in the process of reviewing all conditions of consent imposed on Development Approvals in conjunction with DPE. This review will be finalised by July 2023. It is anticipated that all councils will have standardised conditions including construction hour conditions. * The EPA has been consulting on draft Construction Noise Guidelines - which do suggest construction should be limited from 8am - 1pm. There are many quiet activities which can occur on a development site and as we develop our new construction noise guidelines, we will have regard to these. |
| Council’s procedures and policies within heritage Conservation Areas to:  i. inform new owners of their responsibilities; ii. clarify the type and detail of documentation required to be submitted to Council; iii. consider the professional requirements of Council Officers who are making subjective design decisions in regard to Heritage Conservation; iv. explain how the working relationship between planning decisions and regulation of building and landscape projects are coordinated. | * IWC highly values its heritage conservation areas, and the retention of these areas is fundamental to the identity and rich history of the inner west.  1. IWC's website has a "Heritage & Conservation" section which provides useful information for building owners about how to look after their property. 2. IWC's website identifies the documentation required to be submitted with a DA in "development application lodgement checklist". 3. IWC has a dedicated team of heritage specialists who have extensive experience and qualifications in the heritage area. The team aims to provide consistent and best-practice heritage advice, in accordance with the relevant LEP & DCP. 4. In general, works proposed to any heritage item or building within a heritage conservation area are referred by the planning officer to the heritage team for review and feedback. This advice is incorporated into feedback to the applicant. |
| Costly ‘heritage’ rules that contribute to increased carbon emissions and limit density.  Affordable and accessible DA process. | * Retaining heritage buildings reinforces our local cultural identity, giving a sense of continuity and connection to the past. This also adds to the character of our local areas. * Studies have shown that retaining heritage buildings and heritage conservation areas enhances property values in these areas. Retaining heritage buildings and their fabric contributes to sustainable development by reducing carbon emissions due to the reduced amount of energy and resources required for new construction. * Heritage buildings have large amounts of embodied carbon in their construction materials when these buildings are preserved, this carbon is stored in the building rather than released into the atmosphere. * Council offers the opportunity to discuss design options through the pre-DA process, allowing for guidance at an early stage, in order to reduce the cost of preparing full DA documentation for a scheme which may not be supported due to conflict with the relevant planning controls (LEP & DCP) |
| Environment and Climate change | |
| Council’s use of petrol powered tools to keep our streets clean and the alignment to Council’s climate change agenda. | * Our Climate and Renewables Strategy has ambitious Council targets: * By 2025 – a carbon neutral council with 100% renewable electricity. Electricity was the greatest baseline source of Council emissions (around ¾) followed by transport and gas. It follows that Energy efficiency and switching to renewable electricity has been a priority for Council. * As of 1 July 2022, Inner West Council purchases 100% renewable electricity with Zen energy and three NSW solar farms (Moree, Hillston and Nevertire solar farms) so we have reached that target three years early. * We’ve had a massive roll out of solar across Council facilities. We are at approx. 800kW of solar across 40 Council facilities, including a 250 kilowatt system on the Ashfield Aquatic Centre. That’s triple what it was when Inner West Council first formed. * Council has also maintained a 100% fossil free investment portfolio since 2019 and was the first in NSW to do this. We’ve partnered with SSROC and Ausgrid to replace older inefficient lights on residential roads with highly efficient LED. This has reduced street lighting electricity consumption by 20% (or 9% of Council’s overall electricity consumption). * The result is that Council's carbon emissions are predicted to be 75% less this year than what they were in 2016. * Electrification of equipment like leaf blowers is also part of the solution. Leaf blowers are used for operational efficiency and staff WHS reasons. Inner West Council has introduced some battery powered hand tools such as blowers, hedgers, and chainsaws. These technologies are forever improving, and as further advances develop, we will explore rolling them out across all operations. Council operational staff blow leaf and minor tree droppings onto grass areas that they cut with mulching kits that breakdown the organic matter further and provide nutrients for grass and garden areas. All litter is collected by pickers and disposed of. |
| Parking and traffic | |
| Improve cycling paths and education about them. | * We take road safety seriously at Council and everyone has a role to play in the community. * Council has and continues to run campaigns to educate cyclists on how to safely use shared paths. * Council's draft Cycling Strategy was placed on public exhibition last year and staff are currently working through the feedback received to revise the strategy. This strategy will lead to an action plan to deliver high quality cycling infrastructure. |
| Fair parking in the Inner West - long term parking of trailers and caravans on our streets. | * There is new legislation under the Unattended Property Act that gives greater powers to Council on long term vehicles stay which effect amenity and or are deemed unsafe. If further investigation is required, please contact Council with address details. |
| Parks, sporting grounds and recreation facilities | |
| Shade cloth at Crammond Park | * The Crammond Park shade cloth is listed in next year’s playground renewal and upgrade program. The project is in its planning phase, and we are aiming for completion by Christmas. |
| Roads and footpaths | |
| Maintenance and replacement of footpaths – Augustus Street, Enmore | * Footpath renewal is prioritised based on condition, informed by customer requests and condition assessment across the whole LGA * Council will investigate Augustus Street, Enmore and provide a separate response to the customer.. |
| Maintenance of Trafalgar Street and improving the street after TfNSW has completed the station upgrade | * We understand from TfNSW that the Stanmore Train Station works will be completed sometime in 2023. The speed humps will be co-ordinated to follow the TfNSW works. |
| Maintenance and cleaning of Trafalgar Street | * Council cleaning crews will clean this area of Trafalgar Street by Easter. |
| Cleaning our streets -Station St, Newtown off Enmore Road.  Increasing street sweeping needs to be increased | * The street is currently serviced on the 40 working day cleaning program for all streets without grass verge and is planned to be cleaned before Easter. * Council is currently monitoring the cleaning needs associated with the area. |
| Street Lighting in the Stanmore Shopping Centre area on the Trafalgar St side of station, Trafalgar Street from the shopping centre area to Crammond Park. | * The street lighting is traffic route level street lighting, quite a high standard of street lighting. This is in addition to flood lighting at the zebra crossing. * There is a plan by AUSGRID to replace the existing streetlights with LED streetlights. This program will occur over the next two years with AUSGRID. This will further improve the level of street lighting. * A draft rollout plan will be provided to Council in the second half of this year and AUSGRID will keep Council updated throughout the program. |
| Crammond Park drainage issues from Crammond Park to the crossing area. | * Council's Streetscapes team will increase their monitoring of this location to help keep the gutter clean which will encourage water to drain away. Upgrade of the drainage system in Trafalgar Street is not currently feasible with funding prioritised across the whole LGA. * The site will be inspected this week to see what cost effective solutions may be possible. |
| Service charter | |
| Meeting basic services - regularly collect the garbage, reliably collect a booked waste collection and mowing the verge | * Council is currently developing a Service Charter to further refine its promises to the community in terms of service delivery. The charter will outline the operational standard of service our community can expect from staff delivering Council services. Follow this project at yoursay.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/inner-west-service-charter. * The next stage will be development of a Customer Experience Strategy encompassing all objectives and initiatives Council will make to ensure it delivers a positive, high-quality experience in line with community needs and expectations. We will be undertaking community consultation on this in May. |
| Street art | |
| Heritage Wall Mural at Stanmore Station. | * Council’s Community and Infrastructure teams continue collaborating with Transport for NSW (TfNSW) on constructive solutions to improve amenity at and around Stanmore Train Station. * Tagging and graffiti on the Trafalgar Street wall entrance to Stanmore Station does require attention and Council is working with TfNSW towards a creative solution as part of the [State Government’s Stanmore Station upgrade](https://www.transport.nsw.gov.au/projects/current-projects/stanmore-station-upgrade). These works are managed by TfNSW * Due to the change in Government in NSW, TfNSW has temporarily paused community engagement on the project. We expect further clarification post-election. |
| Waste and recycling | |
| Bins left on footpaths after collection. This is a potential liability waiting to happen if it has not already occurred. | * IWC has a waste presentation officer that provides education to residents around their responsibilities to store their bin on their property between collections. This is the first step on report of an issue. * Education is supported by the waste inspectors who can enforce where bins are not compliant with DA conditions, commercial, abandoned or blocking access. Report bins out and illegal dumps via our customer service number or submit your report online. |
| Are there plans to install public recycling bins? | * Recycling bins currently do not sit aside garbage bins due to the high level of contamination and comixing by the public, and as such we encourage the community to take their items home to recycle though we are commencing a trial at events for container recycling and planning spaces for garbage and recycling bins in public places. |

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