**Local Matters Forum – Balmain/Baludarri 24 October 2023**

On Tuesday 24 October, 59 Baludarri ward residents gathered at Balmain 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 |
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| Aquatics | | |
| When will the Dawn Fraser Pool be made fully disable compliant? People can drive to pool, park and get to the pool area on a semi-flat/accessible surface but they can't safely enter or exit the water. Massive oversight on the original DA and a massive oversight in this council not realising their legal responsibilities re: accessibility for all the community. | * The refurbishment of the DFB focused on a heritage restoration of the baths as the primary focus for the upgrade. The upgrade did make some significant improvements with accessible change rooms and amenities, however this did not include a broader additional project around accessibility for entrance to swimming areas. Acknowledging Council's responsibilities by way of our recently endorsed Disability Discrimination Action Plan, this requires Council to review all its facilities and identify accessibility gaps so remediation can be prioritised for all capital works.   We are currently working through the design criteria for the Callan Park Swim Site and design considerations includes all abilities access. |  |
| Customer Service Stall | | |
| Resident recently attended a “pop up” consultation at Leichhardt Pool Aquatic Centre 27 September 2023. It was by accident because it was not advertised or promoted. Also, she was told she would receive a follow up response to her concerns. No response has been received to date. | * This was one of the trial mobile customer service sessions we ran as we prepared for the implementation of the full outreach program in October.   Following commencement of the program, the mobile customer service schedule of dates, times and locations is promoted on our social media, on our website and on posters at our Aquatic Centres and Libraries each week.  Director Corporate noted that Council’s Customer Service team reached out to the resident regarding a follow-up response to some signage and maintenance matters in the aquatic centre. Feedback was also received on the readability of our banners and signage which was appreciated as Council is continually working on improving accessibility in all our activities. |  |
| Development and planning | | |
| Why is the Council wasting $38 million of ratepayer money on sprucing up a defunct, ugly industrial building when it could be spending the money on better and more sporting facilities, supporting local businesses by dropping parking rates (or abolishing them altogether) and repairing dangerously damaged footpaths? | * The White Bay Power Station is located in the Bays Precinct. The building and land are owned by the NSW State Government and consequently all remediation works and costs associated with any future adaptive reuse of the site is the responsibility of State government. Council rates are not being used. |  |
| Would Council consider connecting me to other IWC community volunteers in a program supporting the federal government’s commitment to a national skills passport? | * Director Community explained that this is a federal government initiative and that Council is happy to provide information on how to make a submission to the government. |  |
| When is next Council elections? | * The 2024 New South Wales local elections are scheduled to be held on 14 September 2024. |  |
| I think that we should be able to provide an image to council prior to the forum so that it can be shown on a screen at the meeting. Thus, the matter will make more sense to the attendees. They can see the subject being discussed | * Unfortunately, most of the venues in which we hold Local Matters Forums don’t have screens, so it’s not possible to implement this good suggestion without bringing in external audio-visual equipment. However, if residents did want to bring hard copy photos, they could give to staff or discuss photos after the meeting when Directors are available after the public session. |  |
| Install electric chargers in Balmain to encourage electric cars. | * Council is committed to this and we are currently progressing a request for quote (RfQ) for on street EV charging stations and an RfQ for car park EV charging stations. Council recently resolved to include Balmain Depot in the RfQ for car parks. Both RFQs will be undertaken this year with EV charging stations expected to be installed from mid 2024, subject to supplier availability. * Resident asked if this will involve third party companies. * Director of Infrastructure confirmed that this would * Resident asked what type of power will it be. * Director of Infrastructure advised different ones will be used with a mix between normal and fast. |  |
| What can council do to stop residential cars parking outside business driveways on Mansfield st, Rozelle while not inhibiting business operation? For example allowing deliveries without being a registered loading zone. | * Council doesn’t have the resources to do surveillance all the time so we need you to report them when it happens. When illegal parking is reported to council, we act on it within 3 hours 80% of the time, if you ring up we will come out as soon as we can * Resident was concerned that the no parking signs out the front were not legitimate. | Resident to report the issue with the Engagement Team |
| How will Council facilitate the charging of electric cars when so few homes have off-street parking? | * Council is committed to this and we are currently progressing a request for quote (RfQ) for on street EV charging stations and an RfQ for car park EV charging stations. Council recently resolved to include Balmain Depot in the RfQ for car parks. Both RFQs will be undertaken this year with EV charging stations expected to be installed from mid 2024, subject to supplier availability. |  |
| Thank you for the roundabout on the intersection of Elliott and Glassop Streets. It has made a most treacherous situation infinity safer. The next one to look at is Glassop and Carieville, as when cars park close to the corner there is no visibility | * Glassop Street at Carrieville Street has 10m No Stopping signs at the intersection to enable good driver visibility. In instances where vehicles are illegally parked, please call us and we will be out there in three hours 80% of the time |  |
| Crossing Balmain Road to Callan Park can be hazardous for pedestrians, with few opportunities to cross at traffic lights. What plans does Council have to add pedestrian crossings, particularly at Grove Street and The Boulevard? | * Balmain Road is a State Road managed by Transport for NSW. Council has previously requested TfNWS install pedestrian crossings on Balmain Road between The Boulevarde and Grove Street, Lilyfield. Currently, this section of state road near Callan Park has several pedestrian facilities including traffic signals at the intersection of Perry Street and Balmain Road, pedestrian refuge on Balmain Road at The Boulevarde and Grove Street and another set of signals on Balmain Road at Cecily Street. |  |
| The bright lights in the park need to be modified to be wildlife friendly. They are far too bright & should also be directed downwards.  All the lights in Illoura reserve are round balls that are far too bright for wildlife to get proper rest. One light has been replaced- on the telegraph pole on the corner of William st & Edward street Balmain East. This light is directed down & seems more wildlife friendly. | * The park lights were installed to be consistent with the original designers intent and are owned and maintained by Ausgrid. Enquiries can be made to Ausgrid though there is a want via the plan of management to replace them in time however its dependent on funding.   For new Council park projects where lighting is required, the appropriate light shielding and light dimming features are included. |  |
| The wading pool in the Illura Reserve (Peacock Point) - sand needs to be redistributed here as the rocky bottom gets exposed & is dangerous. | * This area is a natural tidal pool which is subject to natural forces so it is generally considered to let mother nature take course. |  |
| The Inner West Council wrote to the Minister for Transport for NSW on the 15th November 2022 calling for the immediate removal of the huge floating dry dock and other redundant and unsightly items 'dumped' in between moorings by TfNSW in Snails Bay. What has Council done to follow up on this issue? and what has Council done about this issue to further support residents and visitors to streets and green spaces along the forsehore from Ballast Point Park to Yuralbin Point ? This is a long standing community and environmental issue and residents are sick of inaction and being fobbed off by TfNSW that the 'junk' left in Snails Bay is ok. It's liked someone has dumped a number of old cars in our green spaces and just left them there for years and years. | * Council can only take an advocacy role in the space, regarding the Masterplan approach - we have recently employed a senior environmental and catchments officer and over the next few months we are setting the priorities and directions for that new role. * Resident expressed concerns that they keep getting stonewalled by Council. * General Manager advised we will continue to advocate for this. | Council to continue advocacy with the Minister of Transport |
| Sporting ground conditions  Council received 22 questions regarding the condition of sporting grounds in this forum and the General manager introduced this topic. Topics of interest included:   * Field quality * Maintenance * Future field renovations * Future location of all-weather field * Comparisons to neighbouring LGA fields | Council recently held the biannual Sporting Forum and these concerns were addressed in a detailed presentation. Council is very open about the things we learnt particularly around the refurb and drainage install at both Easton Park and King George Park.  The issues are not a question of funding. It is a balance between use, maintenance and adequate rest period between seasons.  Council is committed to bring the grounds to standard.  Across the Inner West there are 28 sporting grounds. The national standard of usage is 25 hours per week. Our sporting grounds are being used in excess of this in a combination of both organised sport and community uses.  Council will be conducting a formal review of carrying capacity in line with industry standards and benchmark the management and use of our sporting grounds with neighbouring Councils. We will compare current expenditure, investment in renovations, maintenance regimes, the process around ground allocation and hours of use.  Council is inspecting King George Park and Easton Park twice weekly and Council is committed to a program of works which includes resurfacing parts of King George Park in November this year. In addition, the Parks Operations team is undertaking a spring renovation program that includes soil testing, a fertiliser program, verti drainage, aeration, scarification for dethatching and the employment of machinery to assist with leveling, draining, improvements and topdressing the fields with sand.  This year Council is upgrading the drainage at Mahoney Reserve and Tempe Reserve. Camdenville, Mackey Park and Blackmore Oval will be the following year.  Council has undertaken major works at Glover Street, Balmain Road, Birchgrove Oval, Blackmore Oval and Pratten Park.  Major maintenance for 2024/2025 is planned for Leichhardt no 2, Waterfront Drive, Ashfield Park, Algie Park and Centenary Park.  Overall, Council’s preference is for natural turf however Council recognises the need to provide all weather synthetic surfaces. Council acknowledges the need for managers of sporting grounds to develop ongoing strategies to manage recreation demand and ensure that facility provision is multipurpose in design and use.  Council is committed to delivering a future synthetic playing surface in the north of the Local Government Area. This will be assessed in 2024 as part of the adopted Recreation Strategy.   * Resident advised that there are several holes on King George Park that are dangerous. Resident wanted to know what can be done to make the ground safer. * General Manager advised that they were meeting with the Club the day after the Forum to investigate this. * Resident expressed further concerns of the risk of injury on these fields and asked for information on when this will be completed. * General Manager advised that he will speak with our Parks Maintenance team. He explained that the team have been maintaining the parks for over 20 years and have a lot of expertise and experience in this field. * Resident confirmed they are happy to help Council with improving the state of the fields and that they have done their own investigation comparing fields across the Inner West. * General Manager confirmed that they are happy to work together after Council conducts its own research. * Resident asked if the seeds have changed at Birchgrove Oval as the watering times have changed. * General Manager advised would investigate the sprinkler time. * Resident asked about why Council will not approve a colour run in Birchgrove Oval. * Director of Planning advised our current policy discourages colour runs however Council recently approved a colour run at another school and we are open to a discussion. The policy will be reviewed – noting that time and date for any events such as colour run need to be managed with sufficient time to clean up before sporting clubs use the field. * Resident expressed that the sporting fields have never been in the current state and that the media is reporting that 2 million dollars is going to the upgrade of Lambert Park. * General Manager advised that we signed a contract last year and had a project manager however there were issues with obtaining parts and therefore there has been a delay. * Resident asked when Rozelle Parklands will be opened and who will be managing it. * Director Planning advised we will be managing the allocation through an expression of interest which will go out to the community. There is no timing on this at this stage, | Engagement team to investigate sprinkler time and the information is below:  Sprinkler times vary depending on the need for water per site. On a general basis, irrigation stations are tuned on ten minute cycles over two hour periods. |
| Roads and footpaths | | |
| When is the grass verge on Mullens Street between Smith Street and Rosser Lane going to be fixed. | * Senior Manager Operations will reach out and meet on site to discuss the final actions and scopes that can be delivered. Contact will be made week ending 27 October 2023. * Resident expressed the issue has been going on for two years. | Senior Manager of Operations has booked a site meeting with resident. |
| Could you please let me know how you intend to prevent Victoria Road becoming a wasteland, like Parramatta Road, after the Rozelle bypass tunnel opens? | * Council has prepared a Draft Rozelle Public Domain Masterplan but public exhibition has been deferred as the Masterplan is predicated on assertions made by TfNSW that Traffic volumes on Victoria Road would be reduced by 50% when Westconnex stage 3 was completed. No data has yet been made publicly available to demonstrate that this will be the case and Council has resolved to await this data before further considerations of the Masterplan are undertaken. * Resident asked when this would happen. * Director of Infrastructure advised that is difficult to confirm a date but Council is advocating with TfNSW. * Clr Shetty confirmed she is also advocating with TfNSW for this. |  |
| Since the release of the masterplan for the upgrade of the streetscape at the junction of Darling St and Victoria Road, what steps have been taken to advance the project? What is the process moving forward and what are the likely time frames for commencement and completion of the works? | * Council has been communicating with State Government agencies since the change of government particularly, and when the Masterplan was reported to Council, Council resolved to seek relevant information from TfNSW and to seek a response from the State Government firstly that:   1. The State Government provide details of the expected change in vehicle numbers post opening of the Iron Cove Link; and  2. The State Government explain why there was no budget to undertake any improvements to Victoria Road.  Council has not yet received a response on this. |  |
| Why did council plant inappropriate and destructive trees in Mullens Street? | * Council is committed to planting trees throughout the Inner West LGA to sustain and increase tree canopy cover. Each year we have a target to plant 1000 trees across the LGA. All sites are scoped by arborists. Council will continue to prune, maintain and explore mitigation strategies with services where appropriate. * Resident expressed their concerns that this tree species grows high and close to the properties, can cause damage and are invasive. * Director Infrastructure advised that in built environments the trees tend to not grow as much but welcomed further discussion with the resident if required. |  |
| Waste and recycling | | |
| FOGO | * Council received 11 questions regarding Food organics and garden organics (FOGO) in this forum which the General Manager addressed through an introductory summary as follows:   Since launching FOGO on 9 October 2023, Council has recycled 550 tonnes of food waste with hardly any contamination. The waste is being used for agricultural land with a company called Top Soil.  We have 35 different schedules for our bins to be serviced across the Inner West and we have had over 100,000 people visit the online calendar to check their bin days.  This is the biggest change for waste for the community and staff. To help with the change we have had staff working over the weekend and additional staff taking calls to support our call centre. We understand that change is challenging and we are committed to helping the community with this. We have had FOGO representatives at our festivals and customer service stalls.  We are less than three weeks into the roll out and enquiries are decreasing.  It is important to note that all of our Councillors support FOGO.   * Resident explained that they don’t have a big garden and feel that it is not an efficient way to collect waste. * General Manager explained that studies have shown that 50% of our general waste is food. * Resident expressed they live in an apartment and their collection day has changed since FOGO roll out and now all three bins are required to go out at the same time. Resident explained there are over 100 bins out at a time. * General Manager advised the Resource Recovery team could speak with the Strata Manager to look at this specific property. * Resident asked if it was normal for the bins to be serviced at 5.15am. * General Manager advised it is possible that run can be shifted and if there are any issues with noise to report it to Council. * Resident gave feedback that they didn’t receive any communication about the changes. * General Manager reiterated that communication was distributed and Council is continuously working on communicating the changes with the community. |  |

**Not all submitted questions were able to be addressed on the night due to time constraints. Responses to questions that were submitted but not discussed during the Forum are as follows:**

| Subject | Response from Council |
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| De-amalgamation | |
| What is happening with de-amalgamation after more than 60% residents voted in favour? | Following the referendum, the Inner West Council resolved to prepare a business case for de-amalgamation, and this was submitted to the Minister for Local Government in December 2022, and the Minister subsequently confirmed that the business case was sent to the NSW Boundaries Commission for assessment. The Mayor also wrote again to the Minister for Local Government reiterating Council concerns that costs need to be met by the government and the Elected Council need to be kept in place. So for clarity, Council now has to wait until the Boundaries Commission and Minister determine if Council will remain amalgamated. |
| Development and planning | |
| What support is being provided to Lilyfield residents who have suffered home damage and are still awaiting assessment results to help support the rectification caused by the Westconnex? Residents feel unsupported and have heard little from council and mayor in support for action. | You may recall that Council opposed WestConnex and has been advocating for better considerations to our community. There have also been town hall public meetings with ministers invited to hear the community. Council is however limited as it doesn’t have any legal or other formal role with WestConnex, nor does it have a role in the WestConnex property condition reporting process.  Council always recommends in the first instance that all potentially-affected property owners take up the free offer of pre and post property condition surveys. Council also recommends property owners lodge an appeal to the Transport for NSW (TfNSW) Independent Property Impact Assessment Panel if they are not satisfied with the outcome of a property damage claim. Further information is available at TfNSW on their "Your property and our major construction projects page" |
| Can we stop construction sites from being able to start work in residential areas at 7am on Saturday? It's too early and residents are not allowed to make noise at this time anyway. | Council's standard condition allows construction to commence at 7am on Saturdays and this is in line with the standards within the Protection of the Environment Operation Act. It is unlikely to change. Council officers are currently undertaking a review of the conditions in line with NSW Department of Planning's standard conditions, and a 7am Saturday start is within the Departments template. In the event that a site operates earlier than this Council may be able to take compliance action if it is reported to our after hours number. |
| Is there any plan to tax or fine owners of abandoned/ long term vacant properties? | Council has taken a strong advocacy position in this in the past and continues, We are working through the Main Streets Revitalisation program to work with landlords and businesses. There is currently no legislation that enables a tax or fine for abandoned or vacant properties. |
| Community gardens. Next to 5 Edward Street Balmain East where there used to be a basketball court would be ideal for this. | The Plan of Management for Illoura Reserve recommends planting this out in natives only. We have assessed it already and it's too shady for a community garden due to a combination of trees both on the site and surrounding and the neighbouring two houses.  Community gardens are community led projects that are enabled through Council's community gardens policy and guidelines. Inner West Council’s Community Gardens Policy provides the framework for Council to support community gardens. In the Inner West, community gardens are designed, built and maintained by independent groups made up of community members. Council can assist in putting you in touch with one nearby.  For more information about community gardening, contact Council’s Urban Sustainability team on 02 9335 2186 or email Sarah Chaplin at sarah.chaplin@innerwest.nsw.gov.au. See also <https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/explore/parks-sport-and-recreation/community-gardens>. |
| What is being done at Leichhardt Aquatic Centre diving boards and the back picnic/ BBQ areas? | The Leichhardt Park Aquatic Centre (LPAC) Masterplan outlines some key improvements and upgrades to the pools and outdoor areas. In relation to the dive pool, this is planned to be replaced by a 25m multipurpose swimming pool with a variable depth moving floor arrangement. The pool however will not be deep enough for the minimum 3.5metres required for diving and as a result, the dive board will not be replaced once the pool is upgraded. In relation to the BBQ picnic areas, there are some improvements planned for these areas as a later stage in a three staged construction plan. |
| Parking and traffic | |
| I'm very concerned about the increase in traffic in the Curtis road Mort Street area. Pedestrian and cyclist safety is a real issue. There is a playground here also .  What is Council planning to do to address these safety issues.  Pedestrian crossings?  Traffic calming? | An intersection upgrade was completed at this location in 2020, which comprised of kerb extensions at the intersection reducing crossing distances for pedestrians and narrowing of the travelling carriageway, Council also replaced the rubber speed hump with an asphalt speed hump. Inspection revealed that there is a section of missing edge lines outside No.48 Curtis Road that needs to be marked out and this will be scheduled. Traffic treatments along Curtis Road will be examined as part of the upcoming Balmain East LATM commencing in 2024. |
| Parking in Edward st Balmain East Carpark. This Carpark is congested & being used as a commuter Carpark. Could it be made a 4 hour max space except for local residents? It also needs to be sealed with a proper hard surface. The clay surface becomes a swamp in heavy rain, including wading pools complete with herons, making parking impossible. When it’s dry the north easterly winds blow dust all over the houses. A dinghy has been parked there now for about 5 years as there are no restrictions. | The subject carpark and surrounding streets were included in a parking study undertaken in 2020 and examined issues such as parking levels, turnover, and duration of stay during both weekdays and weekends. The study found that in general parking in Edward Street had a weekday peak occupancy level ranging 90% and higher in some sections, whilst the informal parking areas having a peak parking level of 70-90%. These levels were found to have ‘optimum’ parking utilisation levels and lower than the core parking area near Darling Street.  Parking levels were observed in November 2021 and another in September 2023 showing similar level of vacant spaces, corresponding to similar levels found in 2020. As such the provision of timing parking would not be supported. However, Council will continue to monitor parking levels and if suitable may consider the implementation of time limited parking such as 3P or 4P in the future if long-term parking continue in this area. The plan of management which was consulted on shows the surface maintained as current and the parking is for the use of the park. We will look into enforcement around the dinghy. |
| I have lived in Balmain for 55 years and have written to the Council a number of times regarding Wellington St Rozelle (Vic Rd lights exit). As you know there are 5 main exits from the Peninsular, Robert St, Evans St, Darling, Wellington & Terry. The excuses for no stopping signs in Wellington from Council are a lot of bull shit. The answer is to extend No Stopping sings a further 100 metres from existing signs, so drivers can form 3 lanes instead of one after only 50-60 metres, prevent a queue, in many instances to the roundabout at Terry St, 7 to 10am!? | Council has examined the possible change of kerb space to provide additional vehicle storage in Wellington Street, in hope of improving traffic flow during the peak hours. The investigation will be completed early to mid 2024 following consultation also noting the opening of WCX Rozelle Interchange at the end of 2023, there is an expectation of additional green time for Wellington Street during the peak hours. |
| With the next phase of the WestConnex upon us with the opening of the next section of tunnel from Haberfield to the Rozelle Interchange what efforts has council made in consulting with TfNSW to improve traffic and parking within my area of Lilyfield where we have been subjected to hundreds of vehicles including heavy vehicles using lilyfield road as a by pass to CWL? given the billions of dollars spent it is now time to return roads to local users but how will this be achieved? is there any kind of mechanism within Council to allow interested residents to contribute to precinct wide plans for traffic? | Council has asked the State Government to incorporate traffic calming in Lilyfield Road as part of the Rozelle Parklands traffic and parking impact assessment. This included a number of raised crossings, traffic calming elements, reduction of speed limit. There will be a masterplan process which will involve community engagement early next year. |
| Since the buses changed to a private company, the service has declined and a lot of the times they don't show or are late. The service used to be a lot better.  Route 445 and 442 used to run down all the way to the water at the Ferry Terminal. At night these services no longer go there or terminates earlier at Gladestone Park. It becomes dangerous for someone to walk alone.  What can Council do to help improve the services? | TfNSW is the authority responsible for public transport operations in NSW. Council plays an advocacy role in this respect and is currently preparing a Public Transport Position Paper which will outline gaps in the network. This document is being drafted and we expect it to go to Council mid 2024 prior to public exhibition. |
| What can Council do to allow small well behaved dogs (on leashes) onto buses? | TfNSW is responsible for bus operations throughout the state, further information can be found here: <https://transportnsw.info/travel-info/using-public-transport/travelling-with-animals-pets>, |
| A box trailer filled with furniture and rubbish has been decaying on Brett Avenue, Balmain East for more than one year. It is an OH&S hazard and takes up two car parking spaces. It was reported in April 2023 and an orange 'notice to remove' sticker was affixed by council on 24 April 2023 (Ref 2023-044594). A green notice to remove sticker was affixed on 11 July 2023 (same reference number). On 3 October 2023 these stickers were peeled off and another orange sticker (Ref 113391) affixed. Question: why does it take more than six months (and more like a year) to remove abandoned property from a public street? | In this particular instance, the investigation was commenced by an Officer who subsequently left the role and the matter was left outstanding. Upon receipt of the most recent complaint, the matter has been reinvestigated and action has recommenced. Council has to be able to satisfy its "burden of proof" and that requires the investigating Officer knowing that the vehicle has not moved. As it stands, the vehicle owner has until 15 November to move the vehicle.  Council has and continues to receive a large number of customer requests in this space, and has completed in excess of 1100 investigations in the last three months. The Public Spaces Unattended Property Act has legislated times frames which for various situations which requires Council to monitor for up to 28 days prior to contacting the owner and providing them at a minimum another 15 days to move the vehicle before Council may commence taking possession of the vehicle. Council currently averages around 30 days to complete unattended vehicle requests. |
| Parks and sporting grounds | |
| This question relates to Rozelle Parklands:  Where exactly on Lilyfield Road will the 150 new car parking spots be made available? | There has been a lot of activity by Council to advocate to TfNSW that the parking demand associated with the Rozelle Parkland be well considered and doesn’t impact our community. There has been a number of resolutions by Council on the matter along with having a parkland that meets the needs of the community. TfNSW has recently accepted through our advocacy to undertake a masterplan which will consider the parking aspect further. |
| This question relates to Rozelle Parklands:  When will Lilyfield Road stop being used as a heavy vehicle haulage route? | HVs are associated with the development of the Rozelle Parklands as these movements could not be made directly onto the City West Link due to a level difference. These movements will cease when the Parklands are completed. The former load limit (Veh over 7.5m, 4t load limit) will apply after this. Rozelle parklands work including capping and reinstated surface is expected to be completed at the end of the year which should reduce HV numbers. |
| I attended the last Local Matters Forum at the Hannaford Centre. During that meeting I asked for some assistance with heavier tasks involved in caring for a native garden in the Fitzroy Reserve opposite no 10 Fitzroy Avenue where I live. I'm 82 and I can't manage some of the heavier tasks. At the meeting I was informed that assistance would be available. I haven't heard from anyone on the council since that last Local Matters Forum.  At the moment a broken hose section in the watering system needs repairing and some old grevillea plants need removing.  I will endeavour to get to the meeting but if I don't manage to be there I'm hoping this matter will be mentioned and I will receive some feedback. | Council’s Coordinator Urban Ecology has contacted the resident directly. Advice was provided on native plants best suited to the area. They also discussed what assistance was required, including repair of the irrigation system, mulch for the area and replacement planting. Team Leader Area Base and Streetscapes, and Coordinator of Urban Ecology are scheduled to meet with the resident on a Thursday in late October to mulch the area and further discuss. |
| Can we get Pickleball going in Balmain? I've noticed there is a bouquet Pickleball court at Balmain fitness which I have not yet been able to attend as it is at capacity even when joining the waitlist. Other councils have it at basketball venues and it would also work at the tennis courts at punch park.  Australia recently held the Australian National Pickleball championships in Blacktown which had the most attendees of any in the world.  I currently travel to Putney, Pyrmont, Meadowbank, Eastwood to play. Boronia park is currently under renovation to include more courts. This Sunday my husband and I are going to Eastwood to join over 50 pickle ballers to play. | Council has recently adopted its Recreation Strategy which includes opportunities for emerging sports including pickleball. Council's Office of Sport will be investigating Pickle Ball opportunities on existing multi purpose courts and this research is expected to be completed early next year. |
| When will the Elliott Street Wharf be upgraded and reopened? - an election commitment. | The Elliott Street Wharf is not a Council asset but is managed by TfNSW. We want to encourage as much public transport as possible and we continue to advocate for this. |
| When will KGO athletics track be fixed? The state of this facility is atrocious, and there will be injuries sustained. We have one of the largest little athletics clubs in the state competing on this, and children who are representing in NSW all schools. We possibly have the worse facilities in the city, with the largest representation using them. | Council is actively undertaking physical inspections of King George Park twice weekly and has committed to a program of works which includes returfing parts of King George Park in November of this year. In addition the Parks Operations team is undertaking a spring renovation program that includes soil testing, a fertiliser program, Verti drainage, aeration , scarification for dethatching and the employment of machinery to assist with leveling, drainage improvements and topdressing the athletics track with sand. |
| What steps will council take to ensure playing fields can be used on the increasing number of very hot days we can expect with climate change Eg resisting pressure from interest groups agitating for synthetic playing fields which are terrible for the environment and reach unsafe temperatures on hot days. | Councils over all preference is for natural turf, however Council recognises the need to provide all weather synthetic surfaces where facilities become overused or where sporting demand for training and competition exceed the carrying capacity of existing turf sporting grounds. This goes hand in hand also with the need for managers of sporting grounds to develop ongoing strategies to manage recreation demand and ensure that facility provision is multipurpose in design and use. It is recognised by Council that synthetic turf has the potential to improve individual and community health as such facilities are designed to be inclusive and also provide sporting access in range of weather conditions. |
| How do we keep spending so much money and keeping playing fields closed for so long only for them to open and immediately go back to a worse condition. Do the Playing Field Contractors actually come with Accreditation? | Council is taking steps to address its procurement methods with regards to the problems which have been highlighted with the recent refurbishment program at King george Park and Easton Park, specifically around the drainage sub-contracting. Lessons have been learnt and Council will be applying these in future contracts. |
| When will Birchgrove oval be open again? | The grounds are currently open. Grounds staff are in the process of manually changing over the signs after the recent maintenance rest period. |
| Why can’t Birchgrove primary hold a colour run at the oval? Hunters Hill & city of Sydney support & allow colour runs for their local public schools. | Colour runs are “discouraged” under Council's adopted Events in Parks Policy. Council acknowledges that we do need to loop back and update the policy. Recently there was one approved for another school and Council is able to discuss with you or your school about holding a colour run. |
| Confused as to why Council is spending money on upgrading grass football pitches [without success] when what’s really needed is access to multiple playing fields, somewhere in the local area, with all-weather playing surfaces & floodlights? | Council is committed to delivering a future synthetic playing surface in the north of the LGA. This will be assessed in 2024 as part of the adopted recreation strategy work which council is committed to. |
| I note that the Masterplan for Leichhardt Oval was recently adopted by Council however we were not notified (despite being assured by Council that we were). On the face of it the redevelopment is positive however there doesn’t appear to be anything within the MP about traffic and parking other than some sweeping statements from the design architect. Given that there is a proposal within Callan Park for the closure of the waterside road/parking area and a more formalised carpark being developed at the end Wharf Rd to service the sporting fields, some streets being pedestrianised during sporting events as part of the MP, changes being made to local roads once west connex is finalised etc, could there please be some kind of consideration of a precinct plan so that some sensible traffic planning is achieved instead of ad hoc decisions being made and our streets being placed into grid lock and not a park anywhere for residents every time a major event is on? We all want a positive outcome. | Greater Sydney Parklands is a NSW government agency that has responsibility for the management and development of Callan Park.  In 2021 they released a Landscape Structure Plan that provides proposed strategies, including traffic / pedestrian access and car parking for the enhancement of the park within its boundaries. This includes the relocation of parking to the proposed Wharf Road car park within Callan Park accessed from Balmain Road.  In the preparation of Council’s Leichhardt Oval Masterplan, movement and access were considered from a regional perspective, from a greater precinct perspective, right down to the local access via Mary Street and Glover Street, and surveys were undertaken with attendees on game days to established how they arrived and what their experience was like.  Further investigations and engagement with the community and Greater Sydney Parkland will occur in future stages when specific scopes of work are being considered, so that appropriate Traffic Management Plans can be developed accordingly, looking to achieve a positive experience for all users of the precinct. |
| Roads and footpaths | |
| What is plan to resume cleaning footpaths Darling Street? | Council Streetscape's program services Darling Street daily all year round. Further to the daily cleaning service, the streetscape program consists of a high pressure cleaning service for all of the main street shopping centres within the LGA including Darling Street every 3 months |
| The leaf blowers are extremely noisy, especially when there are two of them operating side by side. In addition the leaves are then just blown back by the wind. Can council consider purchasing the vacuum machines as used in Europe? They are much quieter, small for our little narrow streets & remove the leaves (to be composted?). Leaf blowers do nothing but assault our ears! Terrible noise pollution. | We are passionate to look after our streets that’s why we are the only Council that hand mows and sweeps their streets. This is really difficult with the amount of on street parking and the current process is the most efficient to get around the whole LGA. We are in the process of phasing in Electric power tools and we have already introduced electric blowers, hedgers, chainsaws and brush cutters. |
| Power lines, can they be buried? | The power lines are the responsibility of Ausgrid so the undergrounding lies with them. We do underground when possible as part of town centre upgrades though it is very expensive. We also ask new larger developments to underground power outside their frontage |
| The intersection of Gallimore Avenue and Brett Avenue, Balmain East is a high-volume pedestrian thoroughfare. It is a pathway to Nicholson Street School, as well as for residents and visitors accessing their homes and Balmain East wharf. There are no footpaths and people must walk on the roadway (not always safely as cars may drive at up to 40kmh) . It is perfectly suited to be a 10kmh shared zone. When will the council implement safety measures there including a 10kmh shared zone? | Council considers requests for traffic facilities as part of Local Area Traffic Management studies so that works can be appropriately identified, assessed and prioritised.  The provision of a 10km/h Shared Zone in Brett Avenue will be considered in the Balmain East LATM study, expected to be undertaken in 2024/25. Council will be consulting with residents when this study is underway and we encourage residents to make a submission. |
| During the beautification works around the Victoria Road/Darling Street Junction, can the power lines be ‚undergrounded‘? It would vastly improve the visual openness of the space. | This is certainly a goal of the Rozelle Public Domain Masterplan, it does come at a significant cost and Council would need to seek a partnership with State agencies such as Transport for NSW and Ausgrid. |
| What can the council do about the disgusting frequency of dog poo left on our footpaths?  When you walk in the Inner West you have to be continually vigilant to avoid walking on dog poo; some owners let their dogs run free in on-leash areas and don't even know if their dog has done its business. What can the council do to address this disgusting problem? | The legislation in regard to a person not removing their dogs’ faeces only provides for action to be taken against the person if an authorised officer actually witnesses the offence being committed. When receiving reports of dog owners not removing their dogs faeces from public places, Councils Companion Animal team will target their patrols to this location. To assist the Companion Animal team and to increase the likelihood of a more positive outcome, it is advised that community members reporting such matters provide the time/s and location where these issues are repeatedly occurring using one of the reporting methods listed on [Council’s website](https://www.innerwest.nsw.gov.au/about/get-in-touch/report-an-issue-request-a-service) and this will be marked on the Companion Animal team patrol schedule. |
| Trees | |
| Why is council creating such a red tape form to fill in to take 10% off one of two trees in my small garden. I have to pay to have someone come here every year and fill out a long form which repeats my details over and over. I will have to do this every year. You also show distrust in the person I will employ to do this job even though it will be the same person as last year. Pruning this tree is necessary as it is causing blocked drains consistently. | In March this year Council endorsed a new Tree Development Control Plan which is aimed to help minimise red tape for small pruning. This includes canopy lifting 2.5m above ground level, pruning of branches with a diameter of less than 100mm to a maximum of 10% of the canopy annually and the pruning of deadwood that does not have hollows or provide habitat for native fauna. Should you wish to undertake tree pruning works in excess of the above listed exempt works, a Tree Permit Application or Development Application (if your property is located in a heritage conservation area) would be required. |
| Can Council trim large trees on public property that obscure sunlight from private properties, especially in winter? | Council does not generally trim large trees however we are happy to hear your circumstances. |
| RE: Edward Street Balmain East - the Huge Casuarina that blocks sun from many houses and William Street other side of 5 Edward Street - Huge Melaleuca Treets  Look into planting appropriate trees for the space, currently many very tall trees have been planted which do not belong next to houses, smaller trees would have been more appropriate. Can we look at this for the future. In winter our sun is now almost completely obscured. | Council does not remove trees due to lack of, or impact on solar access to property. The Conservation Management (CMP) 2005 identifies that Illoura Reserve designed by NSW landscape architect Bruce Mackenzie is of state significance as it is a landmark in the evolution of Australian Landscape Design for public parklands. Any changes to proposed replacement tree species will be in accordance with Bruce Mackenzie's approved landscape plan. |
| This is Balmain with homes on reasonably small areas. Why must we find space for more rubbish bins and have the most important bin, ie the one with the rubbish, collected fortnightly rather than weekly. We don't have room for a Green bin as well as the others!! | Council has introduced a single stream recycling system (yellow lidded bin only) and removed the need to separate paper. This has created more space for the FOGO bin. You should now have a yellow lidded, green lidded and red lidded bin. |
| Why has FOGO been implemented before residents had received all necessary equipment such as bins with compostable bags causing widespread annoyance and frustration? | Council will complete the delivery of the caddies and compostable liners within the next two weeks. It is unfortunate that they did not all arrive for the start of the service, but you are still able to FOGO with any other receptacle such as a tupperware container or ice cream container. |
| What the IWC planning to do to sort out the complete shambles that is the rollout of a to-landfill reduction initiatives? The council have to admit - this is a shambles, but, luckily, a fixable shambles. | Council continues to promote the change in collection cycle via the calendar as well as offering additional collections via our booking system to ease the transition. Council has available our Waste Busters team to educate residents in the use of FOGO bins as well as minimising waste in the red-lidded bin. As we adjust to the new calendar we anticipate delays and missed bin collections to be minimised. |
| The change in rubbish collection has been extremely poorly handled. I already have a worm farm, so an additional small green bin will not change my Red bin by 50%. Will Council commit to reviewing this decision after say 3 x months, with a view to returning to Weekly depending on success/otherwise? | We know that 50% of what is in your bin is either food or recycling. You have the options now to book an extra red bin collection or putting your name down for a larger bin. The research tells us that a 120L red bin being picked up fortnightly minimise food and recycling going to waste. |
| Garbage. I’m very disappointed there was no consultation with residents about the garbage collection. Replacing smaller bins with larger ones simply does not suit many of the properties in particular small terraces. Also the streets are narrow so the large bins are not viable in these situations. I found out our red bins are now only collected every 2 weeks but I do not have a green bin nor a composting bin. How is that a good decision for residents? Apparently I have to book any additional pick ups. I’m delighted Council is looking at reducing waste, but this has to work for everyone. We already have a load of dry garbage dumped by the side of the road, I hope red bin garbage doesn’t start to appear! | Council announced the October commencement of the service in our June printed newsletter to all households, supported by information on our website, on socials, public posters and then printed letter, a postcard and starter kit delivered directly to houses.    The NSW EPA has mandated food recycling across NSW and research/audits on 26 Councils with FOGO they identified best practice bin configurations and collection frequency, identifying 120 litre garbage collected fortnightly and weekly 240 litre FOGO as optimal to maximise food recovery for recycling into compost. Council received grant funding from the NSW EPA to roll out of this service.    **Need more red bin capacity or extra collections?**  We understand that this may not be optimal for all households and therefore have support in place if your fortnightly red bin collections are not sufficient:  • **Bigger bin**. Households can request a large 240L red lid garbage bin. We prioritised households with medical needs for larger bins first and now working through those with excess nappies as a priority. Please lodge a request here: [Report an issue/Request a service - Inner West Council (nsw.gov.au)](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.innerwest.nsw.gov.au%2Fabout%2Fget-in-touch%2Freport-an-issue-request-a-service&data=05%7C01%7Ckim.pitt%40innerwest.nsw.gov.au%7C9b8feeb3800f4692613608dbda69d5e6%7C90217c2436c74569a52e3273d8a0b460%7C0%7C0%7C638343920324843996%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ui1NADtQ71TrZU1NbHylipUW3JjESthAk91yWFWg9%2BU%3D&reserved=0) Select ‘Bins – Changes to garbage service (Red bin only)    • **Extra collections** you can book extra red bin collections using the booked clean ups portal for the alternate week to your scheduled collections. You may only need to use this service occasionally. Find out more: [Council clean-up and extra red-lid bin collection - Inner West Council (nsw.gov.au)](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.innerwest.nsw.gov.au%2Flive%2Fwaste-and-recycling%2Fcouncil-clean-up&data=05%7C01%7Ckim.pitt%40innerwest.nsw.gov.au%7C9b8feeb3800f4692613608dbda69d5e6%7C90217c2436c74569a52e3273d8a0b460%7C0%7C0%7C638343920324843996%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=su0Aq3ziVrUFBzxkVZSln%2F9ozkMiuNvxoNvjAsvInlg%3D&reserved=0)    • **Tailored support**. We have an outreach team called the Waste Busters who can come to your home to talk about what’s in your bin, conduct a waste audit to see what's being thrown out and provide tailored feedback based on the findings of the audit and conversations. You can ask the Waste Busters any other waste-related questions you may have. Find out more and book in here: [Waste Busters - Inner West Council (nsw.gov.au)](https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.innerwest.nsw.gov.au%2Flive%2Fwaste-and-recycling%2Fwastebusters&data=05%7C01%7Ckim.pitt%40innerwest.nsw.gov.au%7C9b8feeb3800f4692613608dbda69d5e6%7C90217c2436c74569a52e3273d8a0b460%7C0%7C0%7C638343920324843996%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=x4AGEW%2FXXZljxgwCCArFiFxcLrh8x6x5%2FESw8K1OslY%3D&reserved=0) |
| Where and how is the green waste collected in this council area being recycled and what happens to the final product? I would like to know the process. There is a useful video on the internet but it applies to Western Australia. | The product is transferred to soil company in Forbes and they use it for agricultural use We will publishing some footage to show the quality of the FOGO food product which is taken from our waste stream, it’s been really good quality. |
| Re garbage collection – we live in an apartment at the end of a cul-de-sac where there are a few stratas. Council recently altered the collection of bins from two separate days to being collected all on a Monday morning. The result is that we have around 60 bins kerbside which interferes with people being able to negotiate the bins when alighting to/from vehicles. Council is now saying that red top bins will only be collected fortnightly. This presents two problems, one being that those weeks we would have anywhere up to 100 bins kerbside and secondly we don’t have anywhere to store full bins for up to 2 weeks let alone the smell and possible vermin they would attract. 5 Wulumay Close, Rozelle | Staff have emailed the resident to discuss these concerns and options. |
| The FOGO scheme so far has been a failure: bins with food organics including proteins are left uncollected for weeks, posing a public health risk. What is the Council doing to get on top of this? | Council recognises there have been delays with bin collections. Green lidded bins are collected weekly and missed services have reduced in numbers . |
| I would like to get an understanding of how the reduction of red bin collections is meant to work practically for the residents of the inner west. We are family of 2 and we fill the red bin on a weekly basis, we have no idea how a much bigger family will cope. We can’t afford to eat out regularly due to cost of living pressures therefore cook each night which creates waste that can’t be composted. We also note that council rates are increasing, given services such as this are decreasing we expect to see a reduction in rates. Please advise when this will occur? | Waste collection services are not decreasing, the green (FOGO) bin collection service is now being provided every week to residents, and allows for all food scraps from cooking, meal preparation, leftovers, and food waste including bones and shells. By using the FOGO bin as intended there is a proportionate decrease in the amount of landfill waste to go in the red bin.  Council’s domestic waste service collection charges are independent of the residential rate charges, which are calculated each year using the rate peg issued by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribuanl (IPART).  Council has resolved that any resident wishing to upgrade their 120L red garbage bin to a 240L red garbage bin following the implementation of the FOGO collection service, will not be charged for this larger service. |
| Feels like our council serves are diminishing. No more half yearly council cleanup (and self requested pickup took 3months to resolve) and now our red bins are being picked up fortnightly. Our roads have increased potholes, especially around Lilyfield Road. Services need to be bought back, to support the community, especially weekly red bin pick up given some waste (baby diapers, pet waste) is unhygienic and disease spreading to sit in bin for two weeks. When will we get our services back? | Council clean ups are available to be booked on a weekly basis. The increase in service to include the weekly collection of mattresses, bundled garden waste and metal and whitegoods has been designed to ensure that the clean ups are available at the resident’s convenience and also maximise the recycling potential with picking up the goods in singular stream trucks. The FOGO service sees the introduction of a new service which is weekly FOGO, resulting in the need for waste to only be collected fortnightly. This is not seen by Council as a reduction of services  Council maintenance team has been advised to frequently patrol the area and repair potholes around Lilyfield Road. |
| As a widowed resident I have experienced neighbours or others putting their garbage in my bin. How do I control this and what is put in my bin. Council now only collects once a fortnight and I am concerned this will only increase for me. | It is anticipated that as residents adjust to the new calendar and FOGO bin that these practices will occur less. |

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

Ends.