
NOTES

HORNSBY SHIRE COUNCIL – COMMUNITY FORUM

When: 15 June 2019, 1.30 pm to 3.30pm

Where: Cherrybrook Community and Cultural Centre

Purpose: To provide an opportunity for members of the community to meet with Councillors and talk to them about any concerns they may have or questions they would like answered.

PARTICIPATION

Community members: Approx. 50 people

<p>Councillors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Clr Ruddock, Mayor● Clr Del Gallego, Deputy Mayor● Clr Heyde● Clr Marr● Clr McIntosh <p>Apologies - Councillors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Clr Tilbury● Clr Hutchence● Clr Waddell● Clr Browne● Clr Nicita	<p>Facilitators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● John O’Callaghan, JOC Consulting (facilitator)● Mette Kirk, JOC Consulting (note taker)
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SUMMARY AND SENTIMENT

There was a general sense of ‘team spirit’ and shared frustration with NSW Government in the room. Community members and Councillors are disappointed with the lack of communication regarding long term plans for Cherrybrook from the State Government and want to work together to maintain the unique place and quality of life. Participants also expressed strong views regarding the lack of provision of basic infrastructure – particularly regarding transport, traffic and road safety. While general levels of frustration were apparent, it was also clear from comments made throughout the Forum that residents value the efforts of their elected representatives to lobby the NSW Government.

ACTIONS

- Council to provide clarification regarding the relationship between the Local Environment Plan (LEP) and State Environmental Planning Policy 2008. Does the SEPP apply to Hornsby Shire LGA from 31 July?

Council response (following the meeting)

In 2018, the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 was amended to include new provisions that allow dual occupancies, terraces and manor houses to be completed as complying development, a fast track development

approval. The new provisions, referred to as the Low Rise Medium Density Housing Code, allow dual occupancies, terraces and manor houses under complying development only in zones where medium density housing is already permitted under a Council's Local Environmental Plan (LEP).

Unlike some Councils, the Hornsby Local Environmental Plan 2013 (HLEP) does not permit medium density housing in the R2 zone. It does permit medium density housing in the R3 Medium Density zone. The precincts zoned R3 Medium Density have mostly been redeveloped for townhouses and there is limited land remaining in these precincts for redevelopment.

Following the release of the Low Rise Medium Density Housing Code in July 2018, Council wrote to the Minister of Planning and Public Spaces to request an exemption from the Code and expressed a number of concerns with the Code, including inadequate setback and landscaping controls. Hornsby Council was one of 50 Councils to be granted a temporary deferral from the Code for 12 months, which is set to expire on 1 July 2019. Council has recently made further representations to the Minister of Planning and Public Spaces to request a permanent exemption from the Code. However, if this was to occur, Council would be required to address and provide supply of opportunities for medium density development within Hornsby Shire.

- Council to provide clarification regarding the Bushfire Prone Land Map and the removal of approximately 1,000 properties from the map (though neighbouring properties in Hills Shire LGA are still mapped as being bushfire prone).

Council response (following the meeting)

Council will provide clarification regarding bushfire prone land in a separate report

- Council to process the Customer Requests as listed at the end of this report.

Council response (following the meeting)

All customer requests have been addressed.

COUNCILLORS' INTRODUCTIONS

Mayor's welcome

- Acknowledgement of Country
- Personal connection to Cherrybrook; value the uniqueness of place
- Interested to hear particular issues attendees may have and explain that some matters are beyond the decision-making of Council, but Councillors will make sure that officers are made aware of such issues even if they may not be in a position to resolve or address them themselves.

Deputy Mayor's introduction

- Passionate about ensuring that quality of life is maintained in Cherrybrook
- It is not development as such that is the problem; it is inappropriate development and over-development that are the real problems
- Overall power is with the people; this (forum) is an example of what democracy can do

Clr Heyde introduction

- Passionate about protecting the environment
- Very strong supporter of forums such as these, where people turn up to have a say on matters that are important to our future

Clr McIntosh introduction

- Passionate about engaging with the community in a meaningful way
- Here to listen and take on board community concerns

Clr Marr introduction

- Keen to engage with the community and appreciate the dialogue



OVERVIEW OF ITEMS RAISED

The Mayor and Councillors opened the forum and then community were invited to raise issues as comments or questions. The notes on the following pages are structured by the items raised. Council's response at the meeting to the items are provided in italics below.

1. Traffic, transport and safety
2. Development
3. Governance
4. Bushfire-prone land
5. Customer requests (specific matters for follow up by Council staff)

1. Traffic, transport and road safety

Community members raised **road safety** issues – particularly related to Robert Road and near Cherrybrook Station (e.g. illegal parking, overcrowded parking, double lines on Robert Road)

- *Council is not the decision-maker on traffic; the Traffic Committee is. Community members are encouraged to make submissions to the Traffic Committee on these types of issues.*
- *Councillors will continue to lobby the NSW Government for overall improvements in traffic and transport.*
- *Council Planning staff are conscious about the works that have to be done; however, there are limits to Council's ability to fund infrastructure such as footpaths. Further funding from NSW Government funding is required for infrastructure provision.*
- *Councillors encouraged community members to write submissions to Council with their specific concerns.*

Community members expressed a wish for a **free bus service** (e.g. shuttlebus) to Cherrybrook Station – perhaps from Shepherds Street or Shopping Centre to the station? (This was also raised in the Hills Shire Times (article title 'Demand for Shuttle Bus'))

- *Council supports the idea of a shuttlebus, but this is an issue for state government and Council will raise it with them. Council cannot fund a private shuttlebus within its existing budget.*

Some community members wanted to see a **commuter car park** at Pennant Hills Station and suggested Hillcrest and Fisher avenue as ideal locations for 3 level car park. It was noted that it is particularly hard for retirees, who try to avoid peak hour, to find parking spaces as everything is at capacity by 7am.

- *Council supports commuter carparks – they make it easier to use public transport and hence get cars off the road. Again, this is a matter for NSW Government. Councillors continue to lobby on behalf of their community on traffic, transport and parking issues.*

Since the opening of the Metro, community members have observed increase in **congestion**— particularly around parking and traffic at Robert Road and near the station (e.g. people park in streets surrounding the station as parking at the station is full by 7am)

- *Council is well aware of the problem and are looking at ways to balance needs from commuters, local residents, visitors and other people who may be impacted by the new station. Council is developing a parking strategy - and encourages community input regarding any locality specific issues.*

Are there any plans to **widen the New Line Road**?

- *Council has pursued NSW Government to widen the road, but it does not look likely to happen due to costs.*

2. Development plans for Cherrybrook

Six years ago, a **draft structure plan for Cherrybrook Station** was released (*North West Rail Link, Cherrybrook Station Draft Structure Plan – a Vision for Cherrybrook Station Surrounds*); this plan has not been endorsed or updated and there is no information available from NSW Government on when planning for the area will happen or be made available. One community member commented that many residents are literally worried sick.

- *Councillors are actively and continuously pursuing the NSW Government to get answers – but keep getting stonewalled. Councillors have taken the issues to the local member (twice) and to parliament but have still not received any answers.*
- *Despite the frustration, Councillors have by no means given up on the issue – on the contrary - and will continue to actively pursue the NSW Government to get clarity and certainty regarding long term planning for Cherrybrook.*
- *Councillors are actively lobbying for a limit to development in Cherrybrook.*

Is Hornsby Shire Council protected through its LEP by State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008?

- *Council has been given extension of time in how we deal with these issues. Here is the link to the statement by Planning Minister Rob Stokes in the Sydney Morning Herald. The Minister refers to a review of the Medium Density Housing Code, but is silent on whether the deferral will be extended while the review occurs: <https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/planning-minister-rob-stokes-flags-medium-density-housing-code-review-20190613-p51xil.html>*
- *There is a risk that if Council does not agree to provide more medium density housing, then the NSW Government will make the decisions about where the development goes.*
- *Council will need to accommodate more growth and will seek to find the most appropriate place for any growth to occur; this is preferable to being told [by the NSW Government] where the development should go. Preference is for this growth to happen in areas that already are medium to high density (e.g. Hornsby Town Centre), but nothing has been decided yet.*

ACTION: Council staff to provide clarification regarding relationship between the LEP and State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008. [Following the meeting, Council has provided clarification to this question – see pages 1 and 2 above]

IBM site and concern about LEP precedent – A community member asked if Hornsby Shire Council is planning to make amendments to its LEP to ensure that developments such as the medium density at the IBM site does not set an inappropriate precedent?

- *All development has to adhere to the precinct masterplan – it will be at this level that any debate about density (or precedents) should occur.*
- *Any changes to the LEP would have to go through the NSW Government.*

A community member raised concern about limited access to **housing that is more affordable to young people and first homebuyers** (e.g. medium density housing such as town houses) in the area.

- *This will be considered as part of the overall planning for Hornsby Shire and particularly part of the development of a precinct masterplan for the area.*

3. Governance

Many of the issues that matter to the community are the responsibility of the NSW Government. Community members expressed the view that the NSW Government is ignoring their concerns (for example in regard to health issues (air pollution) related to the Cherrybrook Station). A community member noted that their appreciation with the efforts of Councillors and stated that community members and Councillors need to work as a team to get heard because the NSW Government has taken the planning controls away from Council.

- *Council appreciates the continued support of the community and share their frustrations. It is important that the community and Council work together to find a voice with NSW Government.*
- *Council seeks to address the North District Plan in a collaborative way and Council planners are actively working with NSW Government planners to accommodate state as well as local issues in the best possible way*
- *Council is undertaking a very ambitious program of works to develop a visionary document that will set a twenty-year vision (called a Local Strategic Planning Statement – LSPS) and direction for land use planning across all of the Shire. Council’s LSPS will provide a greater integration of local and state level planning, hereby giving more certainty and transparency to the community.*
- *The community will be encouraged to get involved in the shaping of the LSPS. More information on the public engagement for the draft LSPS will be made available.*

4. Bushfire prone land

A community member raised concern that Hills Shire Council's Bushfire Prone Land Map and Hornsby Council's corresponding map appear to be inconsistent in places and that Council's recent map has removed more than 1,000 properties in Beecroft (within Hornsby Shire LGA).

ACTION: Council to look into this matter and provide clarification in a separate document.

CUSTOMER REQUESTS (Contact details emailed to Council separately).

- Request for streetlighting at Mark Place (towards Shepherds Drive)
- Drainage along northern and western side of Cherrybrook Oval needs to be cleaned out