

<p>Neighbourhood Forum 5</p> <p>Wollongong's Heartland</p> <p><i>Collaborating with Council on community aspirations, visions, needs & concerns.</i></p>		<p>Coniston, Figtree, Gwynneville, Keiraville, Mangerton, Mount Keira, Mount St Thomas, North Wollongong, West Wollongong, Wollongong City.</p>
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MINUTES of meeting WEDNESDAY 5th March 2025 at 6.30pm

In the Library Theatrette

**Note: please send any correspondence to the temporary email address of:
neighbourhoodforum524@gmail.com**

20 attendees including Ward 2 Councillors Andrew Anthony and Kit Docker

- 1 **Presentation** Dr Emma Rooksby, Chair of Landcare Illawarra, was thanked for her presentation on urban greening and the benefits of local trees.

Of note in her presentation was the importance of trees in temperature regulation, noise reduction, air purification, water management, privacy and health. She advised that there were 21 endangered ecological communities locally, that a canopy cover of a minimum of 35% should be pursued and that implementation of WCC's 2017 Urban Green Strategy should be reviewed and progress expedited. It was agreed that NF5 would request an update on the implementation of this strategy.
- 2 **Apologies** were accepted from Harold Hanson, Felix Bronneberg, David Winterbottom, Mark North, Ron Knowles, John Dorahy and George Takacs.
- 3 **Minutes** of meeting of 5th February were accepted with no matters arising
- 4 **Comments** Noted
- 5 **Caveats** Noted
- 6 **Responses** **6.1 Strategic Integrated Transport Interchange:**
1. It was agreed that NF5 would refresh and resubmit to, <https://www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/sritp> an earlier 2021 submission on this matter with a copy to Council.

2. It was requested that members forward any comments to the NF5 executive via the temporary email address until the Secretary returns.

6.2 Wollongong station integrated public transport:

1. It was agreed that Transport for NSW be requested to expedite their planning and incorporate NF5 in the process.
2. It was also agreed that Transport NSW be requested to take into account the merits of a possible light rail system linking the railway station with the coastline/entertainment precinct.

6.3 Moving Bus Layover

It was noted that NF5 welcomes that Transport for NSW had advised Council that the bus layover site in Marine Drive would be relocated to the carpark site in Atchison Street before October 2025 in order to accommodate the 2025 World Triathlon Championships.

6.4 Scouts and Girl Guides Land, Gwynneville

It was noted these sites were rezoned to residential some years ago and it is understood that Council will not be pursuing the purchase of this site in the immediate future but would await the outcomes of the expressions of interest process (for purchase of the sites) which closed on 5 March.

6.5 Ken Ausburn Track Plan

- 1 It was agreed that National parks and Wildlife be contacted regarding the plans for revitalisation of the track;
- 2 It was agreed that Council be requested to respond to the suggestion of access to the track through 14 Cosgrove Avenue.

6.6 Issues awaiting responses:

Issues were noted without discussion.

7 Reports

7.1 DCP Ecological Sustainability

It was noted amendments to this chapter of the DCP 2009 were on exhibition until 3rd March, and that NF5 forwarded a submission of support which also suggested:

1. The enabling statement be strengthened to facilitate more effective development control; and
2. The application of ESD principles be extended to the neighbourhood/locality.

7.2 Regional Priorities

It was agreed that the Lord Mayor be advised of the Forum's strong support for her call for regional co-operation and of the Forum's priorities.

7.3 DCP Car Parking and Access

There was considerable discussion about the implications of reduced car parking requirements, especially in high density areas where there was competition between residential and commercial users, and in entertainment areas where again there was considerable competition for parking. The needs of people with mobility difficulties was also noted.

It was agreed that the executive lodge a submission reflecting this report, subject to consideration of comments by members to the secretary by 20th March. Members were encouraged to lodge comments through the temporary email address, and it was suggested that a workshop could be arranged by NF5.

7.4 Tourism Accommodation Review Strategy:

The report was noted.

7.5 Robinson Park, Gwynneville:

A delegation of Gwynneville residents opposed to the demolition of the amenities block within Robinson Park attended the meeting. They were distraught at having just received a letter from Council advising that the amenities block was now planned to be demolished during March (rather than June as previously expected).

The residents had prepared a "Save Robinson Park Toilets" flier which outlined the importance of the amenities block for a range of users. It was also noted that the area was earmarked for higher density redevelopment, making a parkland with amenities even more critical into the future.

It was agreed that Council be contacted by NF5 as a matter of urgency and that an on-site meeting with Ward 2 Councillors and residents be requested to occur as soon as possible.

7.6 Trial of e-scooters and Use of e-mobility devices

It was noted that interested residents can visit the following link to the parliamentary Committee's comprehensive report: [https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lcdocs/inquiries/3052/Report No 25 - Portfolio Committee No. 6 - Transport and the Arts - Use of e-scooters, e-bikes and related mobility options.pdf](https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lcdocs/inquiries/3052/Report%20No%2025%20-%20Portfolio%20Committee%20No.%206%20-%20Transport%20and%20the%20Arts%20-%20Use%20of%20e-scooters,%20e-bikes%20and%20related%20mobility%20options.pdf), and

that NF5 looks forward to the NSW Government's response to the report's 34 recommendations.

7.7 Certifiers

It was agreed that a meeting be sought with a representative of the NSW Building Commissioner to discuss issues and NF5 concerns about Certifiers further.

7.8 Wollongong Continental Pool

A number of users of the Continental Pool were in attendance at the meeting strongly voicing their requests for an extension of the pool opening hours during wintertime. It was noted that Council is recognised worldwide and greatly appreciated for its many ocean pools that provide users with significant physical, recreation, social and mental health benefits. The Continental Pool is Council's only patrolled saltwater pool open in winter, but the current 2 pm closure limits its availability for use. Also, as Wollongong's population steadily grows, Council's support for this much-loved and well-used facility becomes even more important for its positive contribution to the liveability of residents of all ages.

It was agreed that Council be requested to consider an extension of opening hours in wintertime to 6 pm to support Wollongong's growing population and increasing demand for swimming as an important health, recreation and social pursuit.

Other issues were also raised, and it was agreed that these could be considered at a later meeting.

8 Planning 8.1 Noted

8.2 DA-2025/79 Dual occ 35 Bulwarra St Keiraville
It was agreed that a submission of support be lodged subject to the retention of the street trees as recommended by the arborist.

8.3 DA Determinations and Not yet determined - noted

General Business

The meeting agreed to pass on sincere condolences to our NF5 Secretary, David Winterbottom, and family, after the sudden loss of David's wife, Elizabeth.

Elizabeth, herself, had been a valued member of the Forum who voluntarily contributed so much over many years, including legal expertise. Elizabeth will be very much missed by all.

The following funeral arrangements include a link to Livestreaming:
[Elizabeth Ann Cable Winterbottom - Funeral Announcement](#)

Next Meeting 6.30pm Wednesday 2nd April 2025 in the Library Theatrette

Current active membership of Neighbourhood Forum 5 : 451 households
