

Neighbourhood Forum 5

Wollongong's Heartland



Coniston, Figtree,
Gwynneville, Keiraville,
Mangerton, Mount
Keira, Mount St
Thomas, North
Wollongong, West
Wollongong,
Wollongong City.

Agenda for e-meeting on Wed 3rd February 2021 by email

- | | | |
|----|------------------|--|
| 1 | Presentation | None possible |
| 2 | Apologies | None necessary |
| 3 | Minutes | of meeting of 2 nd December and matters arising; see pp. 13-15 |
| 4 | Comments | If you wish to object or comment on any of the recommendations in this agenda, please respond before the meeting date. |
| 5 | Responses | 5.1 Cycling Representatives: see p.2 |
| 6 | Reports | 6.1 Draft Regional Transport Strategy: see rec p.2
6.2 Works Design: see rec p.3
6.3 Reference Groups: see rec p.3
6.4 South Wollongong Flooding; see p.3 & see rec p.4
6.5 Australia Post Letterboxes: see rec p.4.
6.6 Food & Alcohol Van Adjacent Continental Pool: see p.4
6.7 Smith Street Pilot Cycling Route: see p5
6.8 Cliff Rd Cycleway enabling Foreshore Promenade: see rec p.5 |
| 7 | Key Issues | 7.1 City Centre: see p.5
7.2 High Rise Development: see 5.1 and p.5
7.3 Medium Density Development: see p.5
7.4 Keiraville/Gwynneville: see p.5 & rec p.6
7.5 South Wollongong: see 6.4 and p.6
7.6 Environment: see 5.1 and p.6 |
| 8 | Planning | 8.1 - 8.8 See DA recs pp. 6 - 10
8.9 DA determinations: see p.10 |
| 9 | General Business | |
| 10 | Snippets | see p.12 |

Next Meeting/Agenda: on Wed. 3rd March 2021.

Current active membership of Neighbourhood Forum 5 : 397 households

5 Responses 5.1 Cycling Representatives

We sought clarification on the framework for the various of groups and community representation on cycling matters.

“Council has established 3 groups to enable greater community representation and collaboration on Cycling matters across greater Wollongong:

- 1 The Walking, Cycling and mobility reference group;
- 2 Cycling Technical Advisory Community group;
- 3 2022 UCI RWC Cycling Champions Advisory Group.

Each group has its own intended objectives and outcomes, which will help in informing Council’s future actions. Council has also formed an internal Cycling Organisational Group (COG) to coordinate our response to improving Cycling.”

Senior Traffic Engineer

Comment

Council has a long-standing Walking Cycling & Mobility Reference Group and recently created two additional advisory Groups to assist re cycling matters. The three groups provide 15 places for community representatives re cycling. Co-ordination is by monthly meetings of the internal Cycling Organisational Group with 18 staff, mainly senior managers. Whilst this may seem to provide a complex structure it is hoped it will prove to be efficient and effective.

6 Reports 6.1 Draft Illawarra-Shoalhaven Regional Transport Strategy

29th January

A significant submission has been sent making the following points:

- i the current transport infrastructure is not adequate;
- ii priorities and indicative costs are needed for non-vehicular infrastructure to meet goals;
- iii recommendations for “faster rail” are needed;
- iv measures to reduce road freight are needed;
- v the Maldon to Dombarton Line should accommodate passenger trains as well as freight trains;
- vi request early start on some elements of the Mt Ousley interchange;
- vii need to address growing road traffic between CBD and the northern suburbs of Wollongong.

Recommendation

That the submission be endorsed.

6.2 Works Design

There have been a number of instances where appropriate works have been supported but details have not been publicly available until the day before construction starts. Too often design require obvious improvements from the community's perspective and need revision. Recent examples include: School Crossing in Berkley Road; Cycling on Foleys Road; Cycleway diversion through Robinson Park.

Recommendation

That Council be requested to ensure that details of the design of works be made available for comment well before works start particularly in the Keiraville-Gwynneville area where Council made a commitment to consult the community on such issues.

6.3 Reference Groups

In May 2018 Council adopted a report to eliminate many of the long standing Reference Groups (RG) and introduce other communication methods, including Register of Interest, Facilitated Forums and create various ways for stakeholders to provide input to projects.

The RG charters include to undertake an annual review to ensure the purpose, membership and operation of the RG is effective and to make appropriate changes. It is not known if annual reviews have occurred, in particular for the Walking Cycling & Mobility RG.

Also a recent check of Council's website shows more than 2 years on average since availability of the most recent Minutes of four of the remaining RGs. Moreover, Council's website no longer includes a calendar of events, so residents are unaware of future meeting dates of RGs.

These concerns have previously been raised with relevant staff.

Recommendations

Council be requested to:

- 1 review the efficiency and effectiveness of community engagement methods adopted in May 2018 and advise residents re proposed improvements;
- 2 ensure that the Minutes of RGs are updated and posted on Council's website, with future draft Minutes posted within two weeks of the meeting to assist providing transparency and accountability.

6.4 South Wollongong Flooding

On 8 Dec a meeting was held at South Wollongong with representatives of Council's Flooding team and NF5, which had been arranged in accordance with a decision at the November NF5 meeting.

Discussions included re Wollongong City 2019 Flood Study (a review of the 2013 one), the 2015 Floodplain Risk Management Study & Plan, and Council's process for its review by consultant. In September 2019 Council adopted the 2019 Flood study and the next step is for consultants to revise the 2015 FRMS&Plan. Unfortunately delays have occurred including due to competing priorities and resources, so the review might take until the end of 2021.

For many years residents and landowners in the South Wollongong area (particularly in the vicinity of Swan St), have raised concerns with Council about disruption and damage caused by flooding, which they say has escalated in recent years. During this time Council's various consultants have carried out investigations and documentation. But concerns remain about the need to review historical activities that have influenced the current flooding situation, including perceived changes in flood flows said to have previously been detained within the Golf Club land.

Recommendation

Council be requested to prioritise and expedite a comprehensive review of the Wollongong City 2015 Floodplain Risk Management Study & Plan by consultants, including effective engagement with affected landowners, for consideration by Council in September 2021

6.5 Australia Post Letterboxes

The Road Rules appear to state that you may not stop within 3 metres of a letterbox except to drop off or pick up passengers or mail. Yet sometimes these are in areas of high demand and are signposted for parking (for example on Queen's Parade on the corner of Market Street).

Recommendation

Council, in collaboration with Australia Post, be requested to review to location of letterboxes and adjacent parking restrictions to try and increase on-street parking in areas of high demand.

6.6 Food & Alcohol Van Proposed Adjacent Continental Pool

At the December meeting it was decided to seek clarification from Council following media reports of a proposed licence for a caravan adjacent to the Continental Pool, including requiring a liquor licence and live music. Since then many residents have expressed concerns including the potential for disruption to beachgoers especially families at the popular, safe harbour beach. Main concerns include that the proposal appears to be contrary to relevant plans and policies, perceived lack of approvals, privatisation of public (Crown) land, near the high density residential area, encourages alcohol consumption beachside, and lack of public information or community engagement

Representations have been made to Council and their response will be advised.

6.7 Smith Street Pilot Cycling Route

In August 2020 NF5 considered an item on Pilot Cycling Routes following an article in the Mercury. On 2 Sep a skype meeting was held with Council's then Director and relevant staff, particularly re the need and logistics of cycleway proposals for Smith St which restricts vehicles to one-way eastbound, and for Kembla St with a carparking lane removed between Smith and Stewart. An alternative was suggested for Cliff Road rather than Smith St, but rejected. There are many aspects which require Council to provide effective community education and awareness for cyclists, pedestrians and drivers, including give-way responsibilities, parking and when cycleways change from one side of the street to the other (as will exist at Smith/Harbour, Smith/Keira and at Kembla/Crown intersections).

In late December Council's letter was received by residents in and near Smith St providing details of the proposal, advising the changes would be implemented by early March 2021 and there would be broader community engagement by mid 2021. The work was initiated in response to RMS grants as pilot schemes and residents are encouraged to provide feedback to Council on experiences and suggestions for improvement after installation.

6.8 Cliff Road Cycleway enabling Foreshore Promenade

A Lord Mayoral Minute to Council meeting 1 Feb 2021 recommends Council investigate options for creating a dedicated cycleway along Cliff Road and a pedestrians only pathway along the Blue Mile

Recommendation

NF5 fully supports urgently needed safety improvements for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles along the Blue Mile foreshore walkway so that it becomes a world class promenade for pedestrians and prams only, after removal of cyclists, skate boarders and scooters. This will be achieved by providing a two-way cycleway on Cliff Road between Lang and Stuart parks adjoining the eastern footpath, eastern side angle parking, no western kerb parking and one-way traffic only between Bourke and Harbour Streets.

7 Key Issues

7.1 City Centre Planning Strategy

On 7 Dec Council considered a report on Wollongong City Centre draft planning documents, ie the Planning Strategy (for exhibition), the Planning Proposal (for referral to the NSW DoPIE requesting a Gateway Determination to enable exhibition) and a DCP Chapter D13 (for exhibition). Unfortunately Council deferred this indefinitely to enable further studies, which do not seem to be critical prior exhibition. This is most surprising given that Council's website shows Councillor Briefings on four occasions in the year to Oct 2020.

These draft City Centre planning documents follow on from previously adopted documents relevant to the City Centre including the 2016 Vision (A City for People), after which in 2018 work commenced on the City Centre Planning Review, and in 2020 Council adopted the related Urban Design Framework with its Economic Analysis to form a basis for the Planning Strategy.

As background, in 2007 the NSW Government imposed a Wollongong City Centre Revitalisation Strategy (including a Vision, LEP & DCP) to “fill a vacuum” re effective City Centre planning documents to provide for orderly planning of anticipated development of the City Centre, after extensive studies in the early 2000’s had been abandoned.

The 7 Dec report includes: “It is important to note that development activity in the City Centre will continue while proposed changes to planning requirements are progressed. Development Applications may continue to be lodged under current planning controls until such time as the Planning Proposal process is finalised and the LEP amendment made.” The three documents reported on 7 Dec are part of the agreed staged approach and are essential to be exhibited, reviewed and finalised as soon as possible

Comment

A report is prepared identifying elements and omissions in the documentation which are contrary to our policies or submissions.

7.2 High Rise Residential

There are some elements of this in the City Centre Review. See also 5.1 above.

7.3 Medium Density Development - nothing new – but we must take this up with vigour in this post Covid era.

7.4 Keiraville-Gwynneville.

We asked about the Keiraville-Gwynneville Access and Movement Strategy (see December minute 7.4 at the end of this agenda).

" The contribution by Neighbourhood Forum 5 in developing the Plan and providing feedback was greatly appreciated. A range of changes and additions were made to the draft study in response.

Reports to Council regarding adoption of a town or village centre study or an access and movement study do not include firm timeframes or the allocation of specific funding for implementation as these aspects are subject to the annual planning process which is reported separately and coordinated Council-wide across a range of plans, strategies and ongoing programs.

Council has completed various town centre planning studies and masterplans over a number of years. Each year actions from these plans are considered for inclusion in Council's four-year delivery

infrastructure delivery and operational programs. Steering committees have not been established to oversee any specific town or village studies or masterplans and Council does not plan to appoint a steering committee in this instance."

Traffic and Transport Unit Leader

Comment

It is very disappointing that Council staff have refused to appoint a steering committee to assist implementation of this strategy, given community initiatives supported by Council over the past 8 years involving scores of residents who have voluntarily contributed considerable time and expertise re planning matters for the Keiraville Gwynneville area.

Recommendation

That representations be made to the Lord Mayor and Ward 2 Councillors requesting support for a steering committee.

7.5 South Wollongong

See recommendation page 4.

7.6 Environment: nothing new

8 Planning

8.1 Please note that whilst these reviews, and the recommendations based on them, relating to each development application have been prepared with all due care and objectivity, no legal responsibility is accepted for errors, omissions or inadvertent misrepresentations, nor for any outcomes which might result from the assessments.

As these reviews are only made with the information available, members are encouraged to make their own submissions with any additional comments to the Secretary of NF5 before the closing date.

8.2 DA/2020/1458, 6 storey units 6-8 Dudley St Wollongong

25th January

This is a proposal for a six storey building, with 28 units, on a sloping site across the road from the hospital car park. There are minor infringement to one set-back and to building depth. More significantly it exceeds the 16m height limit by nearly 2m. However, this is at the rear of the site and the street frontage is dominated by the intrusive 6 level hospital car park.



Recommendations

That a submission of support be lodged.

8.3 DA/2020/1466, 23 units 42 Bourke St, N. Wollongong

25th January

This is a proposal for a 5 storey building over car parking on the corner of Bourke and Virginia Streets. The site is dominated by a heritage listed Magnolia tree on the corner which is to be retained. There are a number of relatively minor infringements of Council numeric standards for building separation, setback and floor plate size as a result of retaining the tree, which has also resulted in a significantly lower floor space ratio. However, it complies with our height streetscape policy.



Recommendation

That the submission of support be endorsed

8.4 DA/2020/1490, 14 storey hotel, 37-39 Burelli St Wollongong

25th January

This is a proposal for a 14 storey hotel over car parking on the corner of Burelli and Corrimal streets next to the Council building. It has 241 rooms/suites and a food and beverage area open to the public on the ground floor. It seems to comply with all Council requirements save, on a technicality, car parking. There is an inexplicable anomaly with the requirement in the commercial core being more than twice that elsewhere in the City Centre. The building will again cut the skyline view from Flagstaff Hill (to say nothing of blocking most ocean views from the Council building!) but this has been so compromised already by the State imposed height limits (supinely accepted by the then Council) that objection will have little weight.



Comment

It is a matter of regret and not a little irony that this site was owned by Council at the time of the construction of their new building and it was argued that it should be retained to allow a lower building with a much larger, more efficient, floor plate. It appears that this site was sold by Council in 1995 for \$0.8 million. A Mercury article says it was sold again in late 2020 for \$9.8m

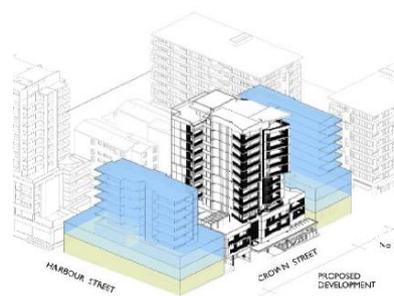
Recommendation

That the submission of support be endorsed

8.5 DA/2020/1465, 13 storey units, 15 – 19 Crown St Wollongong

25th January

This is a proposal for a high rise residential building just up from the WIN stadium with 38 residential and 27 social/affordable units, a child care centre on the ground floor (including 12 car parking spaces) and a 51 car park basement. There are minor setback infringements at the lower level and neither landscape area nor deep planting comply. Two isolated lots are caused, could not be bought and can be redeveloped.



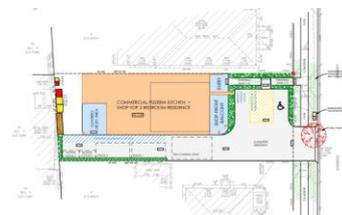
Recommendations

That the submission of support be endorsed.

8.6 DA/2021/58, Two storey, Mixed Use 130 Church St Wgong

10th February

This is a proposal for a take-away pizza bakery below a residence in a Business Enterprise zone. There are a number of complications. If this was a purely business or purely residential development it would not meet minimum site width requirement but as a mixed use it does. Then, if the proposal adjoined a residential zone, residential setbacks would be required. As it merely adjoins single storey houses this does not apply. Finally, the building is required to be in harmony with the street – virtually the whole street is of traditional single storey houses. It does not comply with our Locality Plan in terms of streetscape and specifically not with “non-residential development shall not be approved unless it is within two lots of an existing non-residential building.”



Recommendations

That a submission of objection be lodged

8.7 DA/2021/45, Boarding House, 12 Gwynne St, Gwynneville

4th February

This is a proposal for a 10 Bedroom single storey Boarding House to replace the recently approved 11 Bedroom 2 storey Boarding House at 8 Gwynne St which is not proceeding. The site runs through to Murphy's Avenue and seems to comply with all Council numeric standards. This means that whilst 10 bike parking spots are provided there are only two for cars.



However, the elevations to both streets are appalling and neither address the street nor fit the streetscape or neighbourhood.

Recommendations

That a submission of objection be lodged and that Council be requested to;

- 1 refer the proposal to the architectural advisory panel;
- 2 review again parking standards for boarding houses since the University survey found 60% of students (not 20%) had cars.

8.8 DA/2020/1465, Two lot subdivision, Sperry St Wollongong

4th February

This is a proposal by Council to subdivide a strip of land forming a watercourse behind lots in Northcote and Mathew Streets. One lot (red cross on plan) is to be sold to the owner of 19 Mathews Street at his request, and the other further subdivided and sold to adjoining owners in due course.



The subdivision does not comply with Council's minimum lot size requirements.

Recommendations

That a submission of support be lodged

8.9 DA determinations as notified from 1st July 2020

DA no. 20/...	Suburb	Address	Proposal	Forum Rec	Result Authority
19/874	Keiraville	6, Bulwarra St	4 town houses	Object	Approved Court.
19/1008	W'gong	1 Smith St	8 storey flats	Object	Refused Panel
Re- zoning	Figtree	Terrie Ave	Subdivision	Object	Withdrawn
15/1242	W'gong	16-18 Market Pl	4 storey units	Object	Refused Panel
20/645	W.W'gon g	39 Rosemount St	Dual Occupancy	Support	Approved Delegated
20/339	Figtree	103 Murray Pk rd	Dual Occupancy	Object	Approved Delegated
19/748	W'gong	264-268 Keira St & 23 Kenny Street	Mixed develop 15 stories	Object	Refused Regional P.
19/980	W'gong	82A Cliff Road	4 Storey Dual Occupancy	Object	Refused Panel
20/241	W'gong	93-95 Kembla St	7 storey residential	Object	Approved Panel

20/632	Gwynneville	14-16 Acacia Ave	8 townhouses	Object	Refused Panel
20/860	Figtree	6 Mallangong Close	Dual Occupancy	Support	Approved Delegated
20/4	Keiraville	14 Cosgrove Ave	Subdivision 47 dwellings	Object	Refused Regional P.
19/1356	W'gong	9-11 Park St	8 storey residential	Object	Approved Panel
20/913	West W'gong	11 Alkera Cc	Dual Occupancy	Support	Approved Panel
20/528	W'gong	359 Crown St	Storey hotel	Support concept Object details	Approved Regional P.

9 General Business

Next Meeting/Agenda: on Wed. 3rd March 2021

10 Snippets Caring

An uplifting feature of the way that communities have responded to the COVID-19 calamity has been the spectacular expansion of self-organising community groups working at neighbourhood or village level. Across the world we encounter heart-warming stories of how local communities have responded with great imagination to the disruption of local food supply chains, taken steps to protect the most vulnerable in society, and are continuing to engage in all manner of creative, community problem-solving activities.

The experience of living with, and responding to, the COVID-19, a brutal teacher, reminds us that, as our forebears of 30,000 years ago knew all too well, the central question confronting modern societies is not ‘What’s in it for me?’, but ‘How do we solve these problems together?’

We can build a useful measure of governmental performance by focusing on the concept of caring for others and for the planet. Care, not economics, should be the central concern of democratic life. Societies now face a caring deficit, as COVID-19 has shown. We can add to caring for ourselves, and for each other, the critical importance of caring for the natural environment on which we all depend.



<p style="text-align: center;">Neighbourhood Forum 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wollongong's Heartland</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">Coniston, Figtree, Gwynneville, Keiraville, Mangerton, Mount Keira, Mount St Thomas, North Wollongong, West Wollongong, Wollongong City.</p>
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Minutes of e-meeting on Wed 2nd December 2020 by email

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|---|--------------|---|
| 1 | Presentation | None possible |
| 2 | Apologies | None necessary |
| 3 | Minutes | of meeting of 4th November were adopted with no matters arising; |
| 4 | Comments | received have been incorporated into the minutes. |
| 5 | Responses | 5.1 Construction Noise: noted |
| 6 | Reports | 6.1 Wollongong South beach access:
It was agreed that Council be requested to investigate and advise on how the public can resume the longstanding practice of being able to access by road and pathways to the southern end of South Wollongong Beach and to the adjacent Breakwater. |
| | | 6.2 Mt Ousley Road / Princes Motorway interchange;
It was noted that funds have been included in the NSW budget for the next phase of this proposal, which is most necessary and encouraging. It was agreed to thank local MPs for their ongoing representations on behalf of Illawarra residents. |
| | | 6.3 Food & Garden Organics:
It was agreed to congratulate Council on progress with introducing weekly collections of green lid bins to include Food Organics with the Garden Organics (FOGO service). Collections will start soon after Council delivers to affected households a kitchen caddy, compostable bags and useful information. Details are available on the website:
www.wollongongwaste.com.au |
| | | 6.4 Food van adjacent Continental Pool:
Media reports highlighted Council's proposed licence for a caravan adjacent to the Continental Pool and beach, including requiring a liquor licence and live music. |

It was agreed again to request Council to provide adequate relevant information to help the community understand what is proposed, the benefits, implications, desired outcomes and process, including opportunities for community engagement.

6.5 Pilot CBD cycleways

It was agreed again to request Council's traffic section to advise the current process and timing for implementation of the CBD pilot cycling facilities, including for community education

6.6 Cycling Strategy 2030:

It was noted that Council has adopted the Cycling Strategy 2030 and it was agreed to request that Council staff collaborate with NF 5 representatives on prioritising and implementing relevant projects.

6.7 Cycling Representation and Groups: see rec p.5

It was agreed the Council be requested to clarify the framework for the varieties of groups and community representation on cycling matters,

- 1 including the strategic intent, structure, purpose, objectives, charter, roles,
- 2 responsibilities, representation, procedures, desired outcomes and
- 3 other relevant matters.

6.8 Infrastructure & Works Management:

It was agreed that the Forum congratulate the recently appointed Manager Works Mr Cory Stoneham and the Manager I S & P Ms Trish McClure, and looks forward to communicating with each to develop and maintain effective working relationships that are mutually beneficial for Council and for the community.

7 Key Issues

7.1 City Centre

At its meeting on 7th December Council is expected to adopt for exhibition for at least 60 days drafts of the Wollongong City Centre Planning Strategy, the Wollongong City Centre Planning Proposal and the Wollongong DCP 2009 – Chapter D13 Wollongong City Centre, An assessment and recommendations will be on the next agenda – February 2021 – however, if it becomes necessary and expedient to take interim action, a report will be circulated for comment. In the meantime comments from members would be welcome.

7.2 High Rise Residential: noted

7.3 Medium Density development: noted

- 7.4 **Keiraville-Gwynneville.**
At its meeting on 7th December Council is expected to adopt the Keiraville-Gwynneville Access and Movement Strategy, which is welcome
It was agreed that Council
- 1 be advised that the Forum is most disappointed that minimal changes were made for the final Strategy, despite many constructive community suggestions for improvement, and that there are no firm funding, priorities or timeframes in the Implementation Plan for works estimated at over \$10m., and
 - 2 be requested urgently to appoint a Steering Committee to include representatives of UoW, WCC, Transport for NSW and NF5, to support and review implementation of the Strategy which arose from NF5 community workshops 7 years ago.
 - 3
- 7.5 **South Wollongong:** noted
- 7.6 **Environment**
The roll out of the Food Organics with the Garden Organics Service was noted as in item 6.3
- 8 Planning 8.2 - **DA 2020/307 4 townhouses 5-7 Truscott Place Figtree**
It was agreed that a submission of objection be lodged.
- 8.3 **DA 2020/1174 Dual Occ, 12 Indigo Way Figtree**
It was agreed that
- 1 a submission of objection be lodged;
 - 2 that Council be requested to adopt a policy that, when new subdivisions are proposed, a condition of consent restricts dual occupancies and/or multi unit developments to nominated sites.
- 8.4 **DA 2020/1159 Regent Theatre changes, Keira St W'gong**
It was agreed that a submission of support be lodged
- 9 General Business **Agenda Preparation**
The Convener and co-Convener resolved to thank and commend the Secretary on the effort made, and expertise required, to produce the agenda under very difficult personal circumstances.
- 10 Snippets noted

Next Meeting/Agenda: on Wed.3rd February 2021.
(whether this is face-to-face or via email is yet to be determined)

Current active membership of Neighbourhood Forum 5 : 397 households
