

MINUTES

WOLLONGONG HERITAGE REFERENCE GROUP

5.15PM ON WEDNESDAY 26 AUGUST 2020



PRESENT

Councillor Ann Martin	Fiona Reynolds
Meredith Hutton	John Shipp
Martin Gorrick	Georgina Element
Doug Boleyn	

IN ATTENDANCE

David Green – Land Use Planning Manager WCC	Carly Boag – Heritage Officer WCC
Joel Thompson – Coordinator Heritage WCC	Linda Davis – Director Environment and Planning WCC
Chris Stuart – Manager Land Use Planning WCC	

1 WELCOME

Councillor Martin opened the meeting at 5:15 pm and welcomed all present remotely via Skype, due to the Covid19 Pandemic social distancing requirements.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted on behalf of Lorraine Neate and Sharralyn Robinson.

INTRODUCTION

Councillor Martin requested that all present adhere to the Skype Meeting ground rules.

3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Councillor Martin provided an Acknowledgement of Country.

4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest.

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24 JUNE 2020

The Reference Group resolved that *the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 June 2020 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.*

Moved by Meredith Hutton and moved by Councillor Martin

6 WOLLONGONG HERITAGE GRAND FUND PROGRAM 2020/21

The membership discussed possible options for expending the approximately \$3280 in grand funding, that has not yet been allocated. The following sites are being considered:

- Daisybank Homestead Dapto: Letter has been sent and Council's Heritage Staff are awaiting a response.
- St Clement's Church in Mt Kembla: It was noted that Council' Heritage Staff met with the owner on site in January to discuss a possible project nothing was submitted

- Uniting Church Bulli: Possibility to fund ongoing stabilisation works

The Reference Group noted the information.

7 BULLI MINERS COTTAGE ADAPTIVE REUSE

Joel Thompson gave a presentation on the progression of the concept plans for the adaptive reuse of the Bulli Miners Cottage as an Artist in Residence facility.

The membership discussed the constraints of the site and expressed their concerns on the required change to the setting of the cottage to facilitate the use and the redevelopment of the adjacent Denmark Hotel site.

Landscaping softened and made clear that driveway finish should limit the use of concrete and hardstand as much as possible, recognising the NSW Roads and Transport requirements for the site to accommodate increased traffic.

The membership also discussed the potential impacts to the Miners Cottage, proposed to be utilised as a Gallery Space. It was noted that any changes to accommodate the 'Gallery' should be reversible and low key, through solutions such as the use of removable easels and low impact lighting solutions. It was noted by Council Heritage Staff, that this level of internal detail has not been resolved as part of the concept design process and can be further developed and discussed through the progression of the project.

It was noted the next step is to obtain costing from the design and seeking funding from Council to progress to, a detailed design phase that the Membership will continue to be involved in.

The Reference Group noted the information.

8 HERITAGE SCHEDULE REVIEW STAGE 1 UPDATE

The membership noted the update.

9 GARRAWARRA UPDATE

This item was requested by the Heritage Reference Group and an update was provided by Council's Property Division on the status of the access arrangements to the Cemetery.

Joel Thompson noted that negotiations with various State Government Agencies including NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and Water NSW were progressing positively.

Once access is formally obtained, Council will progress a Development Application to formalise the access to the Cemetery and allow supervised visitation for groups and ongoing vegetation management programs.

The membership noted the update.

10 STREAM HILL UPDATE

This is a regular item requested by the Heritage Reference Group.

The membership noted the update.

11 UPDATES FROM LOCAL HERITAGE INTEREST GROUPS

John Ship: Illawarra Museum & Historical Society

John noted that the Museum has been closed due to Covid19 and would likely reopen in 2021.

Martin Gorrick: Thirroul Village Committee

Martin advised that since the Thirroul Plaza Development, the Thirroul Village Committee has experienced a positive uplift to its membership.

Council's Planning Director Linda Davis noted that additional information had been requested for the Thirroul Plaza Development that was being awaited by Development Planning staff to continue their assessment of the application.

Martin also noted that he had been in contact with the owners of 'Rathane' who are interested in exploring a community garden at Moore Street within the Austinmer Heritage Conservation Area.

Fiona Reynolds: Illawarra/Shoalhaven Branch National Trust

Fiona noted that the local branch of the National Trust has commented on various planning projects and development applications including:

- Market Place Residential Flat Building
- Helensburgh Town Centre Plan

Meredith Hutton: NSW National Trust

Meredith advised that Graham Quint Director of Conservation at the National Trust retired in August. David Burdon has been appointed the new Director and has begun duties.

The 75th Anniversary celebration of the National Trust has also been postponed until 2021, with some virtual events being held in the coming months.

12 HERITAGE STAFF REPORT

Council staff provided a brief overview of the information contained within the Heritage Staff report including the following items:

12.1 Corrimal Coke Works Updated

The update provided in the business paper was noted.

12.2 Hill 60 Update

The update provided in the business paper was noted.

12.3 Former Coach House Flinders Street, Wollongong

Meredith noted that the National Trust has also been undertaking historical research, which may support the suggestion that the building has been misidentified as a coach house.

13 OTHER MATTERS

Red Point Studios, Port Kembla – Cr Martin advised that Red Point Studios in Port Kembla is for sale and there is community concern regarding the future of the arcade.

Blue Mile Walking Tours – Cr Martin gave an update on the progress of the Blue Mile Walking Tours being developed in partnership with Inside Industry and Destination Wollongong. Councillors have given approval for Tours of the Blue Mile and seeking additional funding for story telling projects.

It was also discussed that Destination Wollongong and Inside Industry may be interested in developing walking tours for Mt Kembla.

Keeravale Update – Meredith Hutton requested an update on Keeravale House, West Wollongong. This item will be added to the November Agenda.

Mt Kembla – Georgina Elements requested that the condition of the Pioneer Kerosene Retort on Cordeaux Road be looked into the Council's Heritage Staff.

Cr Martin requested that Georgina give a presentation on the history and significance of Mt Kembla for the benefit of the membership at the next meeting. An item will be added to the Agenda.

Figtree 6-8 Grandview Parade – Joel Thompson gave an update on the proposed sale of the heritage listed Figtree at Lake Illawarra and noted that the sale has been put on hold and negotiations had commenced between Council and NSW Department of Housing regarding the future management of the site.

Final Meeting Date – the 25th of November 2020 was suggested as a suitable date for the final Heritage Reference Group Meeting. A calendar invitation has been sent to the membership by Cr Martin.

The Reference Group received and noted the information.

Councillor Ann Martin thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 6:51 pm.

Minutes to be confirmed at the next meeting on 28 October 2020.

ACTION SUMMARY

Item	Action	Who	Status
1	Site visit to the former Corrimal Coke Works be organised for the Reference Group Members.	Heritage Staff	Carried over – on hold due to Covid19
2	Council's Heritage Staff to reschedule meeting on site at Garrawarra with NSW Department of Infrastructure	Heritage Staff	Carried over – on hold due to Covid19
5	Council's Heritage Staff to proposed date for December meeting	Heritage Staff	Complete – Meeting Planner sent 25 November 2020