

Neighbourhood Forum 5

Wollongong's Heartland

*Collaborating with Council
on community aspirations,
visions, needs & concerns*



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

Agenda for meeting on 7th December 2022 by email

- 1 Presentation None possible
- 2 Apologies Harold Hanson
- 3 Minutes of meeting of 2nd November and matters arising included in the agenda: see pp. 13-16
- 4 Comments If you wish to comment on, or object to, any of the recommendations in this agenda, please respond before the meeting date.
- 5 Responses
 - 5.1 Bus layover Market Square: see p.2, **rec p.3**
 - 5.2 Mount Ousley Road: **see rec p.3**
 - 5.3 Outstanding responses; see p.3
- 6 Reports
 - 6.1 Health & Wellbeing Precinct, North W'gong: see p.3, **rec p.4**
 - 6.2 Housing Strategy: **see rec p.4**
 - 6.3 draft Tree Management Policy: see p.5, **rec p.6**
 - 6.4 Foley Street proposals: **see rec. p.6**
 - 6.5 Greenhouse Park Remediation; **see rec. p.7**
 - 6.6 University liaison; see p.7
 - 6.7 Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal: **see rec p.8**
 - 6.8 Public Spaces Public Life Implementation Plan: see p.8
- 7 Planning
 - 7.1 Planning see p.8
 - 7.2-5 DAs: **recs p.9**
 - 7.6 DA determinations: see p. 10
- 8 General Business see p.11
- 9 Snippets see p.12

Current active membership of Neighbourhood Forum 5 : 419 households

5 Responses

5.1 Bus terminus in Market Square

There has been considerable correspondence with Council, TfNSW and MP Paul Scully requesting urgent relocation of the temporary bus layovers due to the detrimental impacts on affected residents, students and businesses including re health, safety and congestion. At NF5 November meeting it was agreed to request that buses be relocated temporarily to a safe area within a month, and the community be involved in the investigation and selection of suitable permanent sites. Also to request TfNSW to comply with their layover Principles immediately, which include “Bus are permitted to idle for two minutes, after which they are required to turn off their engines.”

Paul Scully MP has responded including:

“I have been involved in a series of discussions with Transport for NSW, Wollongong City Council, Worker’s Union (TWU) and Premier Illawarra attempting to find a permanent resolution to this issue. It was my direct intervention that has led to the oversight of the consideration of future sites involve the Chief Transport Planner.

In my view there should be a time-limited return of the bus layover to Marine Drive while the identification of an alternative site, or sites, is completed and the facilities for drivers is constructed.”

Also TfNSW Southern Regional Director has advised they are continuing to work with WCC, bus operators and the TWU “to identify and establish a suitable bus layover location now the UCI Wollongong 2022 event has been held. Any permanent proposed changes will be subject to an engagement process which will include the opportunity for community feedback.”

Comments

In May 2022 TfNSW advised the buses would be temporarily relocated from 23 May “for up to nine months” (ie until late February 2023). This leaves 3 months (including the Christmas holiday period) to propose and engage on a suitable permanent site, design, procure and construct the area with facilities.

It is not understood why it has taken authorities many years deciding on a permanent site, given that in 2018 Council’s consultant was due to provide their report on a Foreshore Parking Strategy, and Wollongong was announced to hold the 2022 UCI Road Cycling World Championships. In June 2022 WCC website included a news item headed “Major boost to Wollongong’s foreshore parking” referring to “the introduction of more than 70 new car spaces along Marine Drive” in the bus layover area.

Recommendation

Paul Scully MP and TfNSW Regional Director be thanked for their his responses and be requested to advise the process (including community involvement) and timeframes for temporarily relocating the buses, then to a permanent site.

5.2 Mount Ousley Road

Ryan Park MP has forwarded a response from the Minister for Transport.

“Transport for NSW has carried out detailed geotechnical investigations and consulted with the community to inform the design of the Mount Ousley Interchange. They will provide an update on the project to the community at the end of this year. The tender for the construction of the project is underway and a successful contractor will be announced next year. As such, a construction start date is not yet confirmed.

There is no technology currently available to accurately measure engine brake noise. The noise camera at Mount Ousley was trialled however was not deemed reliable. Transport for NSW is working with the National Transport Commission and other road agencies to investigate better ways to detect engine brake noise and its source.”

Comment

TfNSW progress on the Mount Ousley Interchange is very encouraging and their update on the due in December will be most welcome. In September NF5 agreed to seek information from TfNSW on Traffic Volumes in 2022 for Mt Ousley and for Memorial Drive (former operative sites), but this has not yet been provided.

Recommendation

Ryan Park MP be thanked for his response, and that TfNSW be requested to provide traffic volumes in 2022 for Mt Ousley and for Memorial Drive.

5.3 Outstanding responses

- i Community Satisfaction Survey
- ii Manildra freight paths:
- iii Graffiti Removal

6 Reports

6.1 Health & Wellbeing Precinct, North W’gong

There have been further discussion with the University on this project, following the recent public exhibition of 33 amended documents.

These are primarily to resolve issues relating to a proposed new signalised pedestrian crossings on Squires Way about 250m south of the existing signalised intersections at the Puckey Ave. This contravenes Council's long-standing DCP Chapter D14 Wollongong Innovation Campus section 11 Transport and Access re intersections on Squires Way, and previous reports by traffic consultants.

Apparently, this was initiated by Council and NF5 has requested a meeting to clarify the purpose, need, effects and options for future management and improvements to traffic flows on Squires Way between Elliotts Rd and George Hanley Drive taking into account this project and the impacts of future developments.

Recommendation

That the submission of support for the revised Development Application for the Health & Wellbeing Precinct, North Wollongong be endorsed, subject to satisfactory resolution of traffic management at intersections on Squires Way.

6.2 Housing Strategy

A discussion paper was circulated with the October agenda and it would seem that all its conclusions and more detailed comments are generally accepted. They have been circulated to the other Neighbourhood Forums with no negative responses. The most urgent requirement is to change the Desired Future Character Statements in the DCP as the only way to counter State imposed as-of-right pro-development criteria even if controls can be changed – and can be easily done without State intervention;

Recommendation

That a submission, based on the Discussion Paper, be made which specifically includes;

- i giving top priority to amending the DCP suburban desired future character statements to preserve our unique character – starting with a requirement in all R2 Low Density Residential areas beyond 400m. from a commercial zone or major employer, for dwellings facing the street have the appearance of a detached house;
- ii giving next priority to amend the Local Environmental Plan to reduce the potential of large legacy sites, mostly on the escarpment;
- iii comments in the Discussion Paper on detailed proposals as submissions;

- iv requesting Council to be far more pro-active in working with communities on detailed changes in their areas.

6.3 draft Tree Management Policy

Council has endorsed the Urban Greening Strategy 2017 - 2037 to increase the tree canopy cover in priority suburbs to 35% by 2046 and to increase the quality and quantity of all vegetation and open green space in urban settings.

Trees and vegetation located on private and public lands are currently managed under three separate Council policies. A review has been conducted to simplify and consolidate these policies and to develop customer guidelines that are aligned with the principles of the Urban Greening Strategy 2017 – 2037.

The new Policy will guide the management of trees on both private and Council owned land consistently. It is supported by guidelines to help improve customer experience and understanding. It aims to address the tree management issues hindering greening programs across the Wollongong Local Government Area and to support the objectives defined in the Urban Greening Strategy. A concurrent review of the tree and vegetation chapters of Wollongong Development Control Plan 2009 will reflect contemporary legislative and policy amendments.

The draft Policy is to be welcomed. It addresses five issues of concern, the most contentious being trees under powerlines; public planting which interrupts private views; and ongoing management. However, it does not fully address the impact of climate change on the tree selection process.

Apparent vandalism by Endeavour Energy as a cost cutting exercise is an issue that has been raised a number of times and the best that Council can achieve is to plant suitable species but not require more frequent pruning to allow smaller clearances and thus retains more of the benefit from mature trees. As we have argued Local Government across the State needs to get Government to act – individual Councils are powerless.

The second issue is more complex. Currently, proposed tree planting must be preceded by informing residents who might be adversely impacted and their opinions taken into consideration. Also the broader community benefit needs to be taken into account as well as considering the concerns of new residents moving in and others unaware of the situation by improving signage.

The third issue is the perception that wooded areas need to be better managed to reduce overgrowth and include succession planting. Finally, the policy proposes to reduce the “red tape” associated with trees on private land and to encourage new planting.

Council is arranging a briefing of NF5 Executive on 7 December re two draft policies currently on exhibition, ie re Tree Management (closing 16 Dec) and Climate Change Mitigation (closing 15 Dec).

Recommendations

That Council be advised that

- i the Intent and Goals of the draft Tree Management policy are supported;
- ii the impact of climate change should be included as a factor in the tree selection process;
- iii greater emphasis should be placed on environmental outcomes;
- iv the situation when views are affected should be reviewed;
- v Council be requested to redouble efforts to change the current “pruning“ practices by Endeavour Energy.

6.4 Foleys Street Gwynneville Improvements

A presentation was made to the executive on the revised proposals prior a wider community consultation process. This was most welcome. The new proposals are a significant improvement on those originally proposed, notably dropping the ban on a right turn out of Gipps Street into Foleys

However, the project is limited in area so the main objectives to reduce congestion and improve safety cannot be achieved. The principal congestion points on Foleys are at Throsby Drive and Gipps Road, both outside the area, and the principal safety measures are on the side roads on the east which presuppose a cycleway there, rather than on the west, and this has never been discussed.

Moreover, the overlapping responsibilities for strategy, design, consultation and implementation of traffic improvements seem to cause some confusion.

Recommendations

Council be:

- i thanked for consulting early with the Forum on the proposals for Foleys Street;

- ii requested to adopt an integrated approach to traffic and active transport matters on Foley St between Throsby Drive and Porter St
- iii advised that it seems that reduction in congestion will be minimal until restrictions at Throsby Drive and Gipps Road are resolved;
- iv requested to review and publicise proposals for cycleways in the vicinity before committing to that proposed in isolation;
- v requested to raise the issue of the continued use of Gipps Street/Crawford Avenue as a bus route with users, drivers and those responsible.

6.5 Greenhouse Park

Between 1948 and 1994 this site was firstly the city's municipal waste depot and then used as a landfill tip for builders. There were not the same environmental licence requirements or landfill standards in place as we have today. A Remedial Action Plan is being prepared ahead of the design and construction phase for the site in 2023-2025 to protect and rehabilitate essential wetlands and salt marshes that are home to endangered ecological communities. For many years Council has been requested to advise on progress re investigations and plans to address remediation of the impacts of contamination due to toxic effluent emanating from the old "Builders Tip" site

Recommendation

That Council be advised of support for their plan to voluntarily remediate the site and community representatives be given early opportunities for meaningful involvement, including sharing information, reviewing options and scheduling for implementing actions..

6.6 University Liaison

Most of the quarterly liaison meeting was taken up with a presentation and discussion on the revised proposals for the Health and Well being complex at Campus East. The main point of concern was the number and location of signalised intersections on Squires Way, as noted in item 6.1 in this Agenda. TfNSW progress on the Mount Ousley Interchange is very encouraging.

Despite the downturn in international students due to Covid, the Uni has near to full occupancy of its some 2,200 beds.

6.7 Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal

IPART is currently holding an inquiry into access to the NSW rail network, including for freight train paths onto the Sydney Rail network.

Recommendation

that a brief submission be made to IPART consistent with our submission to the NSW Dept of Planning regarding the Manildra application for a Port Kembla ethanol export facility (using ethanol produced at their Bomaderry plant) requesting further consideration be given to the option of rail freight rather than road freight using large road tankers (23 metre long B Doubles and the longer A Doubles)

6.8 Public Spaces Public Life Implementation Plan Progress

Council's response to our recent enquiry regarding the status of the Implementation Plan actions proposed over the 4 years to 2020 for A City For People, Public Spaces Public Life that Council adopted in mid 2016 includes that: As of November 2022, 18 (50%) of the Plan's 36 actions have been completed, 11 are in progress, 3 are yet to be commenced and 5 have been deemed to be no longer required.

Over the last year there have many achievements including activation in the city centre, infrastructure providing vibrant community places, development of the Illawarra Sports and Entertainment Precinct Report, listing of 15 additional local heritage items and construction of the Lower Crown Street Footpath renewal.

Initiatives yet to be commenced include the MacCabe Park Master Plan feasibility Investigations, Denison/Crown Streets Intersection upgrade and Crown Street Mall Stage Design Project. In December 2020 Council resolved to defer the progression of the draft Planning Strategy, draft Planning Proposal and draft DCP chapter to exhibition, requiring additional investigations to occur.

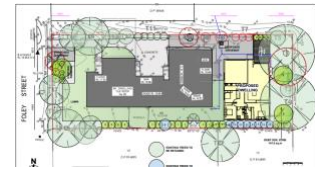
7 Planning

7.1 Please note that whilst this review, and the recommendation based on it has 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 this review has only been made with the information available, members are encouraged to make their own submissions with any additional comments to the Secretary well before the closing date.

7.2 DA.2022/1155 3 dwellings, 29 Foley St Gwynneville

21st November

This is a proposal to construct a single storey dwelling behind an existing dual occupancy backing to Beaton Park car park and accessed from the driveway to it.



It seems to comply with all Council requirements.,

Recommendation

That the submission of support be endorsed

7.3 DA.2022/1203 Community Facility 114 Church St W’gong

7th December

This is a proposal to construct a building for the Interchange Illawarra which provides services for persons who have intellectual, physical, or sensory disability. All activities at the premises are undertaken in a supervised environment where carers are provided on a dependency ratio which vary from 1:1 to 1:4 based on the participants individual needs. The business intends to provide support services to 12 participants at any one time.



Comment

Whilst this is in B6 Enterprise Corridor zone the area is dominated by single story houses. As such our Locality Plan suggests a re-zoning. The building is sited at the rear of the lot with no setback to south so that most of the garden on that side will be in constant shadow.

Recommendation

That a submission of objection be submitted

7.4 DA.2021/101 Health & Wellbeing Precinct, North W’gong

02 November

Recommendation

That the submission in support of the revised proposals, with a request for a review of the number and location of pedestrian crossing of Squires Way.

7.5 Cosgrove Avenue DA

As with the original proposal, both NF 5 and Council opposed the revised proposal which has been refused by the Southern Region Planning Panel. The applicant has now appealed to the Land and Environment Court.

7.6 DA Determinations

| DA no. 20../.... | Suburb | Address | Proposal | Forum Rec | Result Authority |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 21/890 | W'gong | 245 Gladstone Ave | 9 storey, 94 dw | Support | Approved Court |
| 21/1218 | Figtree | 107 Walang Ave | Dual Occ | Object | Refused |
| 21/1059 | Figtree | 5-7 Trusscott | 4 Town houses | Object | Withdrawn |
| 21/1405 | W'gong | 10 Gilmore St | Dual Occ | Support | Approved |
| 21/1273 | Keiraville | 12 Dallas St | 4 dwellings | Object | Approved |
| 21/1309 | Keiraville | 3 Keira Mine Road | 4 dwellings | Object | Approved |
| 21/1397 | Figtree | 115 Waling Ave | First floor pool | Object | Approved |
| 21/1508 | Figtree | 111 Bellevue Rd | Dual Occ | Object | Approved |
| 21/1426 | Gwn'ville | 12 Berkeley Rd | Dual Occ | Support | Withdrawn |
| 21/1310 | Gwn'ville | 14-16 Acacia Ave | 8 dwellings. | Object | Approved Panel |
| 21/1510 | W. 'gong | 55 Euroka St | Dual Occ | Object | Approved |
| 21/1344 | W. 'gong | 44 Euroka St | Dual Occ | Object | Withdrawn |
| 21/1231 | W'gong | 3-5 Ocean St | 10 stories, 9 dw | Object | Approved Panel |
| 22/417 | Figtree | 138 Jacaranda Ave | Dual Occ | Object | Approved |
| 21/1037 | Keiraville | 12-14 Gipps | 10 stories, 11 dw | Support | Approved |
| 21/1511 | Figtree | 54 Cordeaux Rd | Dual Occ | Object | Approved |
| 22/10 | W'gong | 487-491 Crown St | Medical Centre | Support | Approved |
| 22/311 | W.'gong | 1 Sheppard St | Dual Occ | Support | Approved |
| 21/1000 | W'gong | 23-43 Flinders | 9 stories, 201 dw | Support | Refused |
| 22/561 | W. 'gong | 15 Gundaren St | Dual Occ | Object | Approved |

Not yet determined

| | | | | | |
|---------|------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------|--|
| 21/1060 | W'gong | 2, Lexton Ave | Dual Occ | Object | |
| 21/957 | W'gong | WIN | Mixed | Support | |
| 21/1312 | W'gong | 300-2 Crown St | 11 stories, 48 dw | Support | |
| 21/1345 | W'gong | 11 Northcote St | Dual Occ | Support | |
| 19/284 | Keiraville | 58-60 Murphys Ave | 9 town houses | Object | |
| 21/344 | Keiraville | 328 Gipps Rd | 3 townhouses | Object | |
| 21/1346 | N W'gong | 10 Lysant St | Dual Occ | Object | |
| 21/1342 | W'gong | 46 Flinders St | 9 stories, 47 dw | Support | |
| 21/1343 | W'gong | 68, Gladstone Ave | Dual Occ | Object | |
| 21/1375 | W'gong | 43 Kembla St | 5 stories, 7 dw | Object | |
| 21/1508 | Figtree | 111 Bellevue Rd | Dual Occ | Object | |
| 22/61 | Figtree | 1 Malangong Close | Dual Occ | Support | |
| 21/101 | N W'gong | 3, Squires Way | UoW Health complex | Support | |
| 21/1492 | W. 'gong | 111 Robsons Rd | Dual Occ | Object | |
| 21/1344 | W. 'gong | 44 Euroka St | Dual Occ | Object | |
| 21/1467 | W'gong | 81-85 Keira St | 7 stories, 43 dw | Object | |
| 22/14 | W'gong | 24-30 Kenny St | 18 stories, 68 dw | Support | |
| 22/20 | W. 'gong | 38 Abercrombie St | Dual occ | None | |
| 22/146 | W'gong | 21 Jutland Ave | Dual occ | Object | |
| 22/123 | Figtree | 253 Mt Keira Rd, | Dual Occ | Object | |
| 22/221 | W'gong | 4 Auburn St, | 24 stories, hotel 59 dw | Support | |
| 22/169 | W'gong | 36 Flinders St | 9 stories, 119 units | Support | |
| 22/250 | Gwynville | 14A Foley St | 4 dwellings, | Support | |
| 22/254 | W'gong | 2A Denison St | Dual Occ | Object | |
| 22/512 | W. 'gong | 13 Rosemont St | Dual Occ | Object | |
| 22/542 | W'gong | 5 Greenacre Rd | Dual Occ | Support | |
| 22/938 | W'gong | 379-383 Crown St | 21 stories, 91 units | Support | |
| 22/320 | W'gong | 17-19 Gladstone Ave | 9 stories, 35 units | Object | |
| 22/952 | Keiraville | 54 Grey St | Dual Occ | Support | |
| 22/960 | W'gong | 116 Corrimal St | 12 stories, 83 units | Object | |
| 22/966 | W'gong | 46 Burelli St | Art Gallery & TH | Support | |

8 General Business

Date of next meeting
Wednesday 1st February 2023

Meanwhile have a happy, safe and healthy Christmas.

Please Note:

Whether this meeting will be via e-mail or face-to-face will be advised later.

Current active membership of Neighbourhood Forum 5 : 427 households

9 Snippets

Get healthy, get a dog

Dog owners know that their furry friends offer unparalleled companionship. A growing body of research shows they also do much more. Owning a dog can prompt you to be more physically active—have leash, will walk. Having a dog can also reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness, help calm jagged nerves, and improve the lives of older individuals. Just petting a dog can lower the petter's blood pressure and heart rate (while having a positive effect on the dog as well).

The health connection is often a two-way street. People who are overweight and sedentary tend to have dogs that are overweight and sedentary. In fact, obesity has reached epidemic proportions in the canine community — affecting more than half of dogs — just as it has among humans. So if you have an unhealthy, overweight dog, that may be a red flag that you're unhealthy yourself.

Although dogs are wonderful motivators for getting moving, they are not just a means to a healthier end. Adopting a dog is a commitment that will last for many years, and you must be ready and willing to take on that responsibility. If you do, it's likely you will be richly rewarded with one of the most satisfying, loving, and active relationships you'll ever experience.



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| <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 on 2nd November 2022 by email

- | | | |
|---|--------------|---|
| 1 | Presentation | None possible |
| 2 | Apologies | Philip Laird, Cllr John Dorahy |
| 3 | Minutes | of meeting of 5 th October adopted with matters arising in the agenda |
| 4 | Comments | Included in these minutes |
| 5 | Responses | <p>5.1 2022 Cycle championships: noted</p> <p>5.2 Social Impact Statements: noted</p> <p>5.3 Faster Trains to Wollongong It was agreed to thank Paul Scully MP for the response and ask him to pass on our thanks to the Minister.</p> <p>5.4 Outstanding responses: noted</p> |
| 6 | Reports | <p>6.1 Stuart Park: It was agreed that:</p> <p>i a submission be lodged supporting in principle of the draft Landscape Plan for Stuart Park, subject to Council's advice on the one-page plan's role in relation to a Plan of Management required under the CLM Act, and a Master Plan, which are yet to be prepared, and satisfactory responses on matters raised by residents including lack of detail re commercial uses, access & parking, and management & maintenance responsibilities, particularly re drainage;</p> <p>ii Council be requested to advance the required Plan of Management which will determine uses in accordance with legislation and redress commercial uses in this public park for passive recreation;</p> |

- iii Council be requested to set up a working party to inform and contribute to the preparation of the Stuart Park Plan of Management, then a Master Plan.

6.2 Housing Strategy;

It was agreed to endorse a submission which specifically includes:

- i giving top priority to amending the DCP suburban desired future character statements to include a generic statement to preserve the character of most residential areas by requiring new housing to have the appearance from the street of a typical house on its own lot in that street.
- ii giving next priority to amend the Local Environmental Plan to reduce the potential of large legacy sites, mostly on the escarpment;
- iii then, in association with affected communities, re-write the Character Statements for each suburb to reflect their unique situations;
- iv comments in the Discussion Paper on detailed proposals as submissions;
- v requesting Council to be far more pro-active in working with communities on detailed changes in their areas.

6.3 Retail, Business Strategy;

It was agreed that a submission of support be lodged.

6.4 Old Boys Social Club: noted

7 Planning

7.1 Planning: noted

7.2 DA.2022/1016 dual Occupancy, 22 Hill St, Mt. St. Thomas

It was agreed that the submission of objection be endorsed.

7.3 DA.2022/1087 strata title 147 lots Young/Belmore Sts W’gong

It was agreed that a submission of support be lodged.

7.4 DA.2021/101 Health & Wellbeing Precinct, North W’gong

Further information has been provided to us by the University – see general Business item 8.2

7.5 Cosgrove Avenue DA

KRAG have agreed, when making a presentation to the Regional Panel, to advise them of our support for their submission.

7.8 DA determinations: noted

8.1 Graffiti

In June 2018 we advised Council that many fences where the free gong shuttle bus shelters are located are covered in graffiti, eg: Gwynneville, Fairy Meadow or Mercury Street just to name a couple, and resolved to request Council to remove graffiti in locations, such as bus stops, where it has maximum exposure, despite the provision removal kits to residents. Despite Council's efforts the problem continues.

It was agreed that Council be requested to increase inspection of sites, such as near bus stops, which are habitually defaced by graffiti and remove it as soon as possible.

8.2 DA.2021/101 Health & Wellbeing Precinct, North W’gong

02 Nov

A number of significant improvements have been made to the proposal although there remain some queries notably the impact of access arrangements to Squires Way. As noted in the agenda a meeting with the University is scheduled for 8th November which should clarify outstanding issues.



It was agreed to endorse the request that Council extend the exhibition period until 11th November so that an informed submission then be made.

8.3 Response on Smith St cycleway

A response has been received from our submission of November 2021 regarding Smith Street intersection improvements for Cyclists.

“Council sincerely apologises for the delay in responding to your enquiry. Bicycle detection upgrades have been completed at the Smith-Corrimal Street and Smith-Church Street intersections allowing cyclists to stay on road passing through these intersections. Council will be designing enhancements to the Smith-Kembla Street and Smith-Harbour Street intersections to separate bicycle and pedestrian flows this financial year (2022/2023) and TfNSW has indicated they will investigate the potential for bicycle phasing at the Keira-Smith intersection.

As part of Council’s commitment to monitor and evaluate the pop-up cycleways, data is being captured along the Smith Street Cycleways and a second round of User Surveys be sent out in due course. Staff from the Transport Team will be in touch with the Neighbourhood Forum to seek their input through this process.”

Traffic + Transport Unit Leader (Acting)

8.4 Response on Bus Layover in Market Square

“Please be advised that Transport for NSW (TfNSW) are the responsible authority for public transport, including bus layovers, in NSW. We have provided previous communications by TfNSW dated May 2022 on the bus layover. The documents explained why the bus layover was relocated from Marine Drive/Lang Park and how the temporary locations were chosen.

We are working with TfNSW at the present time looking at alternatives for bus layover parking in the city. This piece of work includes consultation with bus operators and the Transport Workers Union.

While these discussions and negotiations continue, the temporary bus layover locations remain in operation. To minimise impact on residents and the environment, we regularly ask TfNSW and bus operators to minimise the amount of time the bus are left idling. Any permanent proposed changes will be subject to a consultative process that will include the opportunity for community feedback.”

Transport Assets and Stormwater Manager

It was agreed that Council, TfNSW and Paul Scully MP be advised that many complaints have been received from affected residents about bus layover areas at Market Square and lower Crown St including detrimental effects on health, amenity, traffic hazards and safety. Therefore the Forum requests that the use of Market Square and lower Crown for bus layovers cease within a month and buses be relocated temporarily to a safe area and we seek community involvement in the investigation and selection of suitable permanent sites. Also it is noted that TfNSW 2018 Strategic Principles for bus layovers includes “*Bus are permitted to idle for two minutes, after which they are required to turn off their engines*”, so TfNSW be requested to comply with their layover Principles immediately.

9 Snippets noted

Date of next meeting
Wednesday 7th December 2022

Please Note:

As high levels of covid infections continue in Wollongong this meeting will be via e-mail.
It is hoped to resume face-to-face meetings in 2023

Current active membership of Neighbourhood Forum 5 : 419 households
