

Cooper Ward Residents Meeting 20 June 2023

Meeting Notes:

Topic	Response
Requesting answers to questions submitted by Mary Read in advance of the meeting.	A copy of the questions and responses are attached.
Queen Street Masterplan - where is it up to? Footpath works – can a map of proposed maintenance works be provided?	See response to question from Mary Read (attached) in relation to Queen Street Masterplan. The scope of footpath maintenance work is currently being expanded in light of additional funding being made available. When a revised list of sites is complete, a map can be distributed to interested parties. It is noted that proposed sites will also be made apparent through markings on the ground.
WMS of contractors to be made available on our website	A Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) is a document prepared by persons conducting high risk construction activities or operations to ensure that risks are appropriately managed. These are highly technical documents. Where such activities are conducted by contractors on behalf of Council, our professional staff review relevant documentation for appropriateness and ensure that activities are conducted in accordance with contract requirements. Council does not consider it appropriate to post these documents on our website. Should a member of the public feel that work performed by contractors is being done in an unsafe way, they should contact Council and the matter will be dealt with by professional staff.
Edgecliff Rd Footpath. Pavement works. Footpath sub optimal.	Council staff have sought to contact the questioner to ascertain specific details, without success. Council's Asset Inspection officers will inspect the entire street and program any works required.

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Trelawney St – right hand turn into Ocean St is dangerous, particularly in the mornings.	As this is a signalized intersection (with traffic lights), it is under the control of Transport for NSW TfNSW). Council's Traffic team will liaise with TfNSW to seek a review of safety of the right hand turn.
What is the status of the Edgecliff Commercial Centre Planning and Urban Design Strategy?	In response to the issues raised in submissions, staff commissioned a detailed heritage assessment of the Centre. Council staff will be briefing Councillors on the heritage study and updated Strategy in July 2023.
Pickering and Killminster Lanes used as walkways so could be a shared zone.	Council's Traffic team will review the site to consider whether pedestrian and vehicle volumes warrant the establishment of a Shared Zone.
Better lighting on Queen Street	There are currently no plans or available funding for installation of new street level lighting in Queen Street. This suggestion can be considered for inclusion in a future capital works program beyond FY 23/24. Council engineers will liaise with Ausgrid to review the efficacy of existing Ausgrid street lighting.
New DA – 364 Edgecliff Rd. Can Council please fight it?	Council will assess the development application in accordance with section s4.15 of the EP&A Act as it is required under legislation.
What is the status of the Plan of Management (POM) for Cooper Park?	Council's Open Space team are nearing completion of Plans of Management for all Crown Lands Reserves within the LGA. It is expected that these will be adopted in July. Following this, the team will turn their attention to developing POMs for Council's many Community Land Reserves, of which Cooper Park is one. Cooper Park will be prioritised in this process.
Suggested extending green corridors (street verge plantings) from Cooper Park to Centennial Park.	As noted at the meeting, discussions are underway with residents in Edgecliff Road regarding community led verge plantings, following the success of the plantings in Adelaide Street.

Topic	Response
Knox Street – concern over 6 storeys across whole of Double Bay commercial centre.	In response to the issues raised in submissions, Council staff have carried out a further block by block and site by site review of the proposed height controls for the Double Bay Centre and reviewed whether a six storey height control is appropriate. We are aiming to report this back to Council by September this year.
<p>Thanks Council for investment into Cooper Park Hall and surrounds including integrated bathroom. Looking forward to EV charger. Hall and playground getting lots of use.</p> <p>Can Cooper Park north be considered a separate park and have its own plan of management? Could Council look at opening up the slope e.g Streatfield Rd to steps.</p>	The suggestion regarding the separate Plan of Management (POM) for Cooper Park north has been referred to Council's Open Space and Trees team for consideration during the development of the of Cooper Park POM. Preliminary considerations suggest that the separation is unlikely to occur. The suggestion to open up the slope will also be considered as part of the development of the new POM.
Dog park revisions – what is the process from now?	The results of the community consultation are being collated by staff and are expected to be reported to Council in August/September.
Double Bay Strategy – when will the residents receive the context of the briefing Councillors had?	At the time of the meeting it was anticipated that a report would be progressed in mid July, however, due to a number of delays and as indicated above, we are aiming to report to Council by September this year
Can Council introduce a bond for settlement and disruption to adjoining buildings.	The EPA Act is quite clear that Council cannot require bonds on private land.

Topic	Response
Adelaide Street – section under Syd Einfeld Drive needs attention. Can it be made available as a community asset?	It is proposed that Council arrange a site visit with interested community members to consider and potentially progress. This may also require liaison with TfNSW and Waverley Council, noting multiple land ownership.
Can the community assist with street cleaning of leaves?	Yes. Community member can arrange to sweep leaves from the gutters adjacent to their properties into the roadway prior to the sweeper truck visiting. A number of residents are currently doing this. Arrangements can be made by contacting Council's Civil Operations – Street Cleaning team on 9391 7986.
Pruning of trees for Solar Access.	Council's Tree Management Policy allows for pruning of public trees to provide solar access to private properties on a 'user pays' basis. A link to the Solar Prune application form on Council's website here .
Community street verge competition	Council has no plans to instigate a street verge competition at this time but will continue to support community members who wish to participate in planting and maintenance of verges.
Supported the street cleaning of leaves idea.	Refer to response above.
Congratulations to Council for work in Cooper Park. Commented on the tender for the Cooper Park tennis courts.	The tender process for the tennis court operation is ongoing with assessment of tenders currently being conducted by Council staff.
Illegal parking in Queen Street. Have Council thought about going digital?	Council is examining a number of approaches to automated and digital systems.

Responses to questions submitted by Mary Read prior to the meeting:

- **How much money does Woollahra Council allocate to Cooper Ward?**

Council does not allocate or record operational expenditure based on Wards, so major expenditure items such as footpath maintenance, street cleaning, tree pruning, rubbish collection etc. cannot be reported in this way.

The 2022/23 Capital Works program (for new works and upgrades) included 21 projects in the Cooper Ward with a value of just under \$2.8m. These are shown in the table below.

PROJECT	BUDGET
5.4.2.3 Queen Street corner Ocean Street, Woollahra - Stormwater pipe rehabilitation - Pipe relining and pit building works (01721)	200,000
5.1.2.1 Fletcher St Depot - Upgrade office areas (01782)	18,000
5.1.2.2 Fletcher St Depot - Upgrade all fire emergency plans (01783)	7,000
5.3.2.11 Cooper Park Creek Wall - Final stage of creek wall along Tennis Courts (01614)	6,202
5.3.2.12 Landscape improvements - Moncur Reserve, Plumb Reserve and Raoul Wallenburg Reserve (01677)	60,226
5.3.2.13 Figtree Reserve landscaping - Landscaping works due to flood damage to Figtree Reserve overlooking Cooper Park (01681)	321,614
5.3.2.14 Cooper Park amphitheatre stairs repair (01761)	18,500
5.3.2.15 Moncur Reserve landscaping and extension to basketball court (01763)	106,000
5.3.2.16 Harbourview Park basketball court relocation and improvement (01764)	57,000
5.1.2.4 Cooper Park Workshed (old toilet block) - Refurbish redundant toilet block for staff/volunteers (01779)	55,000
5.5.2.15 Glendon Road, Double Bay between Carlotta Road to the End - Road pavement kerb and gutter reconstruction and stormwater upgrade (01588)	277,083
5.5.2.16 6 Pringle Place - Stabilisation of a Council owned rock face as detailed in GHD geotechnical risk report (01664)	333,720
5.5.2.17 Ocean Street, Woollahra, Peaker Lane to Forth Street - Road pavement re-sheeting, asphalt footpath and gutter reconstruction (01669)	153
5.5.2.18 Yarwood Lane, Woollahra, Edgecliff Road to Fletcher Street - Road pavement resurfacing (01740)	33,609
5.5.2.19 Queen Street, Woollahra, Moncur Street to Holdworth Street - Road pavement reconstruction (01741)	110,474
5.5.2.20 Jersey Road, Woollahra, Ocean Street to Thorne Street - Road pavement reconstruction including footpath and kerb and gutter repairs (01744)	45,000
5.5.2.21 Small Street, Woollahra, Fletcher Street to End - Road pavement resurfacing (01755)	114,964
5.5.2.22 Raine Street Fletcher Street to End - Road pavement resurfacing (01756)	75,227
5.5.2.23 Chester Lane, Woollahra Stanley Street to Chester Street - Road pavement resurfacing (01757)	45,000
5.5.2.24 Jersey Road, Woollahra, Thorne Street to Trelawney Street - Road pavement resurfacing (01758)	96,985
5.1.2.18 Cooper Park Community Hall - Internal and external upgrades (01633)	796,088
Total:	2,777,845

- **What percentage of that is spent in the QSWWA area which covers Woollahra Village which is bounded by Ocean St Oxford St and Jersey Rd?**

See previous answer in relation to operational expenditure. Of the capital projects listed above, the following were in the 'QSWWA area'.

5.4.2.3 Queen Street corner Ocean Street, Woollahra - Stormwater pipe rehabilitation - Pipe relining and pit building works (01721)
5.5.2.17 Ocean Street, Woollahra, Peaker Lane to Forth Street - Road pavement re-sheeting, asphalt footpath and gutter reconstruction (01669)
5.5.2.19 Queen Street, Woollahra, Moncur Street to Holdworth Street - Road pavement reconstruction (01741)
5.5.2.20 Jersey Road, Woollahra, Ocean Street to Thorne Street - Road pavement reconstruction including footpath and kerb and gutter repairs (01744)
5.5.2.24 Jersey Road, Woollahra, Thorne Street to Trelawney Street - Road pavement resurfacing (01758)

Additionally, a significant footpath maintenance project in Queen Street is currently in the final stages of planning. Staff had identified and marked up a number of sites which were ready to be handed to a contractor for repair. In light of the recent attainment of a Special Rate Variation which includes additional funds for footpath maintenance, it has been decided to expand the scope of these works. Staff are currently re-visiting the area and identifying additional sites for repair and maintenance. A final package of works will be awarded to a contractor and undertaken in the coming months.

- **What has happened to the Queen St Masterplan which was approved in 2014?**

The Queen Street Masterplan remains on foot. Works undertaken since adoption include;

- Installation of new garden beds
- Replacement of concrete seats with new benches
- New street furniture
- Streetscape, traffic calming and drainage works at Victoria Ave intersection
- Removal of a (limited) number of trees

It is acknowledged that the proposed paving works in the Plan have been installed to only a limited extent, primarily as result of competition for scarce resources across the Woollahra LGA. Also, as noted at the community meeting, Council's engineers and arborists have expressed concern about the compatibility of the paving treatments proposed under the Plan with the existing street trees. These concerns are informed by the experience of the last 8 years. It is likely that a review of the proposed paving treatment will be required prior to any large scale footpath upgrades in the area.

Noting these concerns regarding paving and the issues with tree removal referenced below, consideration will be given to including funding for a review of the Masterplan in FY 2025/25.

- **What action has been taken on the Tree Management Plan?**

The Queen Street Masterplan is quite aggressive in relation to tree removal. Some trees were removed soon after adoption of the Plan and this caused considerable community disquiet. It is not intended at this stage to undertake any further tree removals, other than where trees are identified as unhealthy or unsafe. No such trees have been identified presently.

It is noted that significant pruning and property clearance work was undertaken in 2015, with general maintenance and upkeep undertaken since then.

- **What funds are allocated to this area in the next 2 year?**

Refer to earlier answer regarding operational expenditure. In regard to capital expenditure, the 2023/24 Capital Works Program includes 16 projects to a value of approx. \$3.7m as shown in the table below. (Note that numbers are approximate as the budget includes a

number of programs which are spread across the LGA, with some funding, as yet unallocated, to be spent in the Cooper Ward).

In addition, Council has recently resolved to include a further \$300K in the 2023/24 budget for maintenance and upgrades of footpaths in Queen Street and surrounds.

PROJECT	BUDGET
Queen Street, Woollahra, Oxford Street to Ocean Street - High Pedestrian Activity Area and Streetscape Upgrade Design	100,000
Bellevue Road Bellevue Hill, Kambala Road to Cooper Park Road – Road pavement resheeting; footpath reconstruction and stormwater system	220,000
Edward Street Woollahra, Bathurst Street to Suttie Road - Footpath and Kerb and Gutter Works and Road Patch	150,000
Jersey Road Woollahra, Trelawney Street to 113 Jersey Road - Road Pavement resheeting, and concrete footpath works	240,000
Edgecliff Road Woollahra, Adelaide Street to Magney Lane - Concrete slab Reconstruction and AC overlay as required	500,000
Bowden Street Woollahra, Dorhauer Lane to End and Bowden In Wallis st to Bowden St - Road Pavement resheeting and gutter Reconstruction	240,000
Fern Place Woollahra, Icasia Lane to End, and Icasia Lane to Old South Head Road - Road Pavement resheeting, KG and Footpath	280,000
Ocean St, Forth Street to Wellington Street - Road pavement resheeting, footpath and kerb and gutter reconstruction	250,000
Multi-use sports facilities - Lough Playing Fields multi-courts	708,000
Lower Cooper Park cricket nets - Upgrade and relocate Lower Cooper Park cricket nets	131,000
Cooper Park creek weirs renewal - Renewal of the historic sandstone weirs in Cooper Park Creek	187,000
Kiaora Place - External rendering of Building 2	350,000
Cooper Park Garage – Replace windows	15,000
Kiaora Place Library – Bench lamps	10,000
Recent Council resolution: maintenance and upgrades of footpaths in Queen Street and surrounds	300,000
Total:	3,681,000

- **How will Council fund the necessary actions required by the Woollahra Village community businesses & residents?**

Council gives consideration to funding works within the Woollahra Village along with other projects across the local government area through its annual budget process. Details of the draft listing of projects are incorporated into Council's draft annual "Operational Plan and Budget" which is open for community consultation usually around April/May of each year. This, together with continuing to advocate through your Ward Councillors, provides residents with the opportunity to make a submission to be considered by Council prior to finalisation of the budget.

- **Heritage properties are being damaged by the trees - currently there are several properties trying to resolve these issues - what are council plans to address the ever increasing damage to their properties? will a class action need to be undertaken to address this?**

Damage to private property from street trees is managed on a case by case basis and in accordance with Council's Tree Management Policy and with reference to Council's insurers and legal advisers.

As a general principle, where damage can be remedied while retaining the tree, that will occur. In some cases, where the property cannot be repaired while retaining the tree, consideration is given to removing the tree.

- **General maintenance such as cleaning the streets, tree maintenance and other standard works by council have dwindled in the area since Covid lockdowns- when will these be reinstated to satisfactory standards?**

This is refuted. Resourcing and maintenance standards have not declined since Covid.

- **When are we going to get our wires underground? Many electric poles are old and need replacing - what action can Council take to implement this?**

Council is not aware of any plans to underground the Ausgrid owned powerlines in Queen Street. Council can advocate to Ausgrid for replacement of infrastructure but this is typically done in accordance with Ausgrid asset management schedules.

- **Small sporadic hotchpotch work does not solve issues- when will council spend rate payers money in a useful manner rather than wasting limited funds on small projects that have no longevity**

This will be taken as a comment rather than a question. It is noted that Council allocates scarce resources based on the professional judgement of staff and with the endorsement of elected members. In some cases, the best use of resources is localised repairs or remediation and in other cases it is in broader scale upgrades.

Additional questions submitted by Mary Read in email following the meeting.

- **Traffic Calming Measures - investigating speed limits on Moncur St**

This matter has been referred to Council's Traffic Engineers, however due to current high workload and limited resources, the issue will not be investigated in the short term.

- **Impact of the Oxford Street East cycleway on our streets, traffic flow and pedestrian safety and the major intersection on Queen & Oxford Streets**

Consideration of impacts on local networks is a key consideration being investigated by TfNSW.

- **Reviewing the flow of traffic and the timing of traffic lights.**

Traffic signals are under the care and control of TfNSW, and are usually synced across multiple intersections to cater for wide-spread traffic movements. It is unclear what specific issue is being raised, but Council staff are happy to receive further information on this.

- **I would also like to comment on the place making Grant for Peaker Lane. It appears to me that \$30,000 allocated for this will not improve anything on Peaker Lane between Spicer & Holdsworth St. It would seem that if owners of dilapidated properties were to improve their properties this would go a long way to improving the lane. I am not interested and would not allow street art to be placed on my property fence let alone vertical landscaping. There are also some properties, 126 & 128 Queen St which could be improved.**

The upgrades to Peaker Lane were initiated by a Councillor Notice of Motion, where subsequently Council resolved to investigate and provide a report as to the estimated cost, timing and viability of upgrades in relation to improving the appearance and cleanliness of Peaker Lane between Spicer Street and Holdsworth Street, Woollahra. Subsequently on 27 March 2023, Council resolved to consider the inclusion of a sum of \$30,000 in the draft 2023/2024 Budget as Council's contribution to townscaping initiatives in Peaker Lane, noting that works or financial contributions will likely be required from affected property owners.

These funds have been included in the 2023/2024 Budget, and the main proposal is for an artistic treatment to enhance the ambience of the laneway.

Council staff will work in collaboration with the property owners to determine the best course of action and timing to deliver the proposed artistic upgrades. Pending a successful outcome of discussions with property owners, broader consultation with affected stakeholders will occur prior to selecting a preferred artistic treatment. However, an initial phase will require property owners to undertake general cleaning, upgrade and remediation works to prepare for the treatment.