

NAREMBURN PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Founded 1901; Incorporated 2004

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MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF 14 MAY 2009

Meeting commenced at 7:35 pm

Naremburn Community Centre 7 Central Street Naremburn

Normal business was suspended to accommodate a question and answer session with Steven Head, Infrastructure Services Director from Willoughby City Council. Steven was introduced by Frances O'Brien, Vice President who chaired the meeting in the absence of the President, Kevin FitzPatrick. It was noted that this was probably the first NPA meeting to be chaired by a woman.

1. PRESENTATION BY STEVEN HEAD INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES DIRECTOR WCC

(a) Temporary Closure and Reconstruction of the Ella Street Bridge.

Steven gave the background to the reconstruction of the bridge as part of a State Rail Authority (SRA) program to upgrade bridges and to provide safe pedestrian access and advised that there will be some inconvenience for local residents. It is expected that the period of closure will be about 6 months. The bridge upgrade has been a long term goal of Willoughby City Council (WCC).

The process includes preparatory work by SRA and the construction contractor Laing O'Rourke (LO) including a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) to address local issues arising from the closure. Included in this document are detours with signs at key intersections and temporary parking changes to Park and Station Streets and Waters Road.

There has been a large amount of community concern at how the process has been managed and the lack of information to and consultation with affected residents. The TMP appears to have been prepared without considering the views and concerns of locals or understanding the real local issues.

Feedback received by WCC on the proposed parking changes included no support for proposed parking restrictions in Park Rd, some support for changes in Station St and mainly negative comments about proposed parking changes in Waters Rd.

Initially the bridge reconstruction work was programmed to start in March 2009 but has now been delayed until September 2009 to enable consultation with residents and reworking of the TMP by WCC and LO.

The major points made by residents who attended the meeting were:

- (1) Is it essential that the Ella Street Bridge be closed for reconstruction?
- (2) The TMP had been prepared without community input and residents felt that the planned actions would result in dangerous and inconvenient traffic and parking conditions.
- (3) The approval process for the TMP is not understood.
- (4) Once the bridge is closed and the detours are in place the through traffic will "log jam" the detour route because of restricted access at the traffic lights at the Herbert/Cleg Streets intersection.
- (5) A resolution of the problems could be the closure of the Lambs Road Bridge for the duration of the Ella Street Bridge works.
- (6) What has become of the proposal was to close both Lambs Road and Ella Street bridges and relocate a traffic through route to a link between Chandos Street and the bridge from Herbert Street serving the apartment blocks?
- (7) The LO information phone line did not respond for a long period during the initial notification phase before the initial March construction start date.
- (8) Has a traffic count been done for the affected area and if so can the data be made available to residents?
- (9) It has been suggested that Station Street for the length of Naremburn Park and Waters Road be temporarily made alternate one way to ease traffic flow. This proposal was discussed with mixed views. Some thought it would increase the speed and hence danger of through traffic, others that it would aid flow.
- (10) Increased traffic is seen as dramatically increasing the danger to residents attempting to exit driveways and lanes particularly where all day parking by outsiders restricts sight lines. A solution for Station Street may be to allow parking to the west side only for the length of Naremburn Park.
- (11) Could the signage associated with the detours be located further away, for example at the Brook Street/Merrenburn Avenue intersection and the Chandos Street/Willoughby Road intersection to discourage motorists from entering the Naremburn west area?
- (12) What influence might residents have in changing the recommendations regarding traffic and parking changes?

Responses by Steven Head were:

- (1) The replacement of the bridge has been a long term goal of Council to provide safe pedestrian access and is a requirement of the SRA as it is considered to be a significant infrastructure upgrade.
- (2) Once complete the TMP will be submitted to the WCC traffic committee for comment. The final approval authority is the Roads & Traffic Authority (RTA).
- (3) Traffic flow is self regulating in a way as motorists who are confronted with excessive delays will seek alternate routes so initially the "log jam" scenario may occur but conditions could improve with time.

- (4) The traffic light sequencing at the Herbert/Cleg Streets intersection could be reprogrammed to increase Cleg Street flow but the priority will need to stay with Herbert Street.
- (5) The closure of both bridges, either temporarily or permanently, has been considered in the past. The link between Chandos Street and the apartment bridge will not go ahead as the apartment bridge does not comply with current standards for the volume and type of traffic it would need to carry. Also, the RTA is the approval authority for all road closures and it is not known if it would support any closure.
- (6) Residents and Council can have some say in changes to traffic and parking conditions in the affected area.
- (7) A meeting to discuss the traffic and parking issues is to be held on the morning of 15 May at Station Street.
- (8) Steven Head took notes of suggestions and discussion and will prepare a report of the meeting for discussion within Council and with the RTA and SRA.

(b) Traffic & parking generally in Naremburn

The major points made by residents who attended the meeting were:

- (1) All day commuter parking is a major problem in parts of Naremburn. Resident parking schemes are a strategy to deter all day commuter parking in residential streets.
- (2) Where resident parking schemes are already in place they tend not to be inadequately policed and are therefore of limited benefit.
- (3) What avenues apart from Council do residents have to get their concerns heard?
- (4) A report by a Park Road resident stated that street parking was difficult at times as apartment residents appeared to be parking their vehicles in the street rather than using garaging provided in the developments.
- (5) Cars being test driven from workshops in the Artarmon industrial area drive around Naremburn streets at excessive speed.

Responses by Steven Head were:

- (1) Resident parking schemes are controlled by the RTA and rules exist. There has been some latitude with the rules in the past but application of them is being tightened up. The number of on site car spaces that a residence has impacts on the occupants' eligibility for street permits. For example a property with 2 off street spaces is not entitled to any street permits; a residence with one off street space is entitled to one street permit; no on site parking, two permits. Schemes have benefits but also disadvantages as the parking limitations, say two hours for non permit holders, means that visitors, tradesmen and others are restricted to the 2 hour limit. Extensions to existing schemes are currently being investigated.
- (2) The overall Willoughby City Local Area Traffic Management Plan is being reviewed but given the issues in Naremburn this area needs to be focussed on.
- (3) Apart from WCC residents can take up their problems with Gladys Berejiklian the local Member of Parliament or with the RTA direct. Contact details will be provided through the NPA.
- (4) Routes for test driving motor vehicles are registered and if residents believe that drivers are breaking the road rules the police can be contacted.

What happens next? Steven Head advised that all submissions will be responded to. A report of this meeting will be prepared by Steven Head and issued to the WCC Traffic Committee.

(c) Willoughby Leisure Centre/Bicentennial Reserve.

Steven Head advised that aquatic facilities throughout Willoughby City, including the Small Street Leisure Centre, are being assessed and a feasibility study for the use of pools is being prepared.

Frances O'Brien stated that the car parking situation at Bicentennial Reserve is a major problem and needs urgent attention.

Steven Head reported that Council is looking at the Small Street/Willoughby Road intersection to increase traffic flow and that a new Council officer had recently been appointed to work on the Bicentennial Reserve traffic and parking problems.

Motion put to the meeting: That the Naremburn Progress Association thanks Steven Head for attending the meeting.

Put: Trisha FitzPatrick, seconded: David Lendrum. Carried.

2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

That the minutes of the General Meeting of 16 April 2009, as circulated, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Proposed: Margaret Stewart; Seconded: Trisha FitzPatrick.

3. NOMINATION OF NEW MEMBERS – John Bell, Rod Thompson, Alison Stevens, Donna Kessler

4. CONFIRMATION OF NEW MEMBERS – Graham Mills, Jane Townsend, Andrew Egan, Rodney Daly, Colin Bradley, Alanna Thompson.

Proposed: Kate Lamb, Seconded: Trisha FitzPatrick

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- (a) **Northcote Street south commuter parking** – Steven Head advised that a resident parking scheme is being developed for this area including Dargan Street.
- (b) **Naremburn School** – The next meeting of the Working Party is to be held on Thursday 28 May to be followed by a public meeting on Thursday 2 July from 7:00 pm to 8.30 pm in the St Leonard's Catholic Church Parish Hall
- (c) **Oral History Program** – Kevin FitzPatrick has been in Qld for two weeks; there have been no further interviews.
- (d) **Naremburn Shops** – Eucalypt has been removed from Rohan St footpath. General tidiness could be improved. The issue of energy conservation is to be raised with the shop keepers.
- (e) **Dodds Street East** – A letter has been sent to WCC regarding street lighting, kerbing and guttering.
- (f) **Life Membership Guidelines** – in the process of development
- (g) **The Roles of Office Bearers and Committee Members** – a description of the work of a committee member was prepared ahead of the NPA 2009 Elections as means of attracting candidates for election; revision ongoing.

(h) **Earth Hour** – NPA to write to WCC – congratulations on a successful event.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

In

- (a) 29/04/2009 – email – Barry Thompson – Traffic & parking in Naremburn, response to NPA letter of 29/04/2009
- (b) 29/04/2009 – letter– WCC – Ruth & Northcote Streets Traffic Concern
- (c) 30/04/2009 – letter - WCC – Graffiti in Prentice Park and on Freeway wall
- (d) 30/04/2009 – letter- WCC – Draft Management Plan and Budget 2009-2014
- (e) 04/05/2009 – email – WCC Julie Whitfield – Gaza Road access to Bicentennial Reserve and reserve near Pyalla St
- (f) 04/05/2009 – letter – WCC – Exhibition of Proposed amendments to Willoughby DCP
- (g) 12/05/2009 – email – Helen Herfurth – Parking problems in Park Rd

Out

- (a) 20/04/2009 – email – John Dale – Cricketers in Naremburn Park 1939-1942
- (b) 29/04/2009 – letter– WCC – Naremburn Community Centre upgrade NPA involvement
- (c) 29/04/2009 – letter– WCC – Traffic & Parking in Naremburn

7. ACCOUNTS

The Treasurer gave the following financial information.

Cash at Bank \$3,826.26

Income

Naremburn Matters \$1,260.00

Membership subs \$135.00

Expenditure

WCC - Centre photocopying \$52.00

Supper expenses – David Lendrum \$6.20

8. FEDERATION OF WILLOUGHBY PROGRESS ASSOCIATIONS AND WARD COUNCILLORS' REPORT

FEDERATION

Notes from the Federation of Progress Association meeting held 9 May 2009.

Chatswood Railway Station Council involvement in this project is now over, unfortunately work on the shopping centre component has stopped as the contractor is in receivership.

Civic Place Construction expenditure is up due to accelerated progress on site with progress well ahead of schedule. A site tour will be held on 23 May.

Traffic Committee Bob McKillop (Castlecrag PA) has written a Traffic & Parking Update for Willoughby City (published in the April 09 issue of The Crag) covering such issues as commuter parking in the city's car parks and residential streets plus parking on nature strips (which is not permitted).

Environment & Heritage A report is forthcoming on the site visit to Cheyne Walk and Clive Park.

COUNCILLORS

Councillor Kate Lamb. Observed and was pleased to see no graffiti on the Prentice Park sign. WCC staff are doing a good job in this area.

Councillor Barry Thompson. Agreed with issues raised about traffic and graffiti.

Councillor Stuart Coppock. Also agrees with Cr Lamb on graffiti and noted that removal usually occurs within a couple of days of being reported. The Willoughby City draft Local Environment Plan has been completed and sent to the State Government. To date not much of a response has been received. He agrees that traffic and parking problems are a major issue in Naremburn and that a radical approach that breaks the habits of commuter parkers and "rat run" through traffic is needed. The local community and its representatives need a solution from "outside the square". Civic Place finances are being reviewed by Council and meetings are ongoing to resolve detail planning matters.

9. SUB-COMMITTEES REPORTS

(a) DAs – 9 tabled

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|---------------|------------------------|--|
| DA 2007/775/A | 10 Rhodes Ave | S 96 Increase paving, reduce landscaping |
| DA 2008/137/B | 2 Adolphus St | S96 Modify setback to garage |
| DA 2008/955 | 132 Northcote St | Alts & adds to existing dwelling amended plans |
| DA 2009/170 | 7 Donnelly Rd | 72 place child care centre |
| DA 2009/203 | 1 Francis St | Alterations & additions to existing dwelling |
| DA 2009/205 | 15 Talus St | New brick wall to replace timber fence |
| DA 2009/215 | 24 Herbert St Artarmon | Erection of illuminated signs |
| DA 2009/225 | 49 Garland Rd | Alterations to existing dwelling |
| DA 2009/229 | 6 Darvall St | Alterations to garage |

(b) **Events** – Don Swonnell commented that Earth Hour Festival is proposed to be repeated in March 2010 with a possible venue change with improved transport for access.

(c) **Membership** – The number of members now stands at 117 with 4 new members in the last month and one resignation. The cut off date for annual membership fee payment to maintain financial status is 12 June 2009.

(e) **Naremburn Matters** – Trisha stated that half the content has gone to Robin Phelan for layout. In the March issue we ran a request for a young reporter and we had an applicant who has written a story on the Earth Hour Festival to be included in the June issue. It is likely that she will have an article in each issue as well on the website. The excellent article by Cr Coppock covers traffic and commuter parking issues in Naremburn.

(f) **Website** – Nigel Smith has redesigned 'Latest News' section to make it easier for visitors to the site to see at a glance the topics covered; the articles are written by NM Editorial Committee and Nigel handles layout/format on the website.

10 **CIRCULATION OF THE ATTENDANCE BOOK** – 22 Members, 9 apologies from Members, 24 Visitors

11. **MOTIONS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN** – none for this meeting

12. **NEXT GENERAL MEETING:** - Thursday, 11 June 2009 at 7:30 pm, Naremburn Community Centre, Central Street.

13. **CLOSURE:** - The meeting concluded at 9:05 pm