

# NAREMBURN PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

Founded 1901; Incorporated 2004

PO Box 393 St Leonards NSW 1590

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## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF 11 JUNE 2009

Meeting commenced at 7:30 pm

Naremburn Community Centre 7 Central Street Naremburn

Normal business was suspended to accommodate a question and answer session with Greg Woodhams, Environmental Services Director from Willoughby City Council. Greg was introduced by Kevin FitzPatrick, President.

### 1. PRESENTATION BY GREG WOODHAMS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DIRECTOR WCC NSW GOVERNMENT PLANNING REFORM LEGISLATION CHANGES 2009

These changes will have a direct effect on many people in the Willoughby community. They are developer oriented and give the NSW State Government more power over building development approvals and Local Government Councillors less. A major change is the creation of a new appeals process that bypasses the Land and Environment Court. The changes show a NSW Government pre-occupation with DA processing to the detriment of "big picture" issues such as sustainability. In the past NSW has been the second most litigious administration after California in the USA and the resulting delays to development approvals may at least partly explain these changes.

The major inclusions in the legislative changes are:

**Planning Assessment Panels:** Apply to major infrastructure projects such as RNSH.

**Joint Regional Planning Panels:** Start 1 July 2009 and cover any DA valued at over \$10M. There will be 2 panels for metropolitan Sydney. Councils may make submissions relating to proposed developments to the panels which will have 5 members on a variable 3 year term, 3 appointed by the Planning Minister, and 2 Council nominees (for WCC Steven Head, Environmental Services Director and Mayor Pat Reilly)

**Planning Arbitrators:** For DAs for projects valued at less than \$1M these arbitrators who are drawn from a list administered by the Director General of Planning NSW may adjudicate if the application is refused by Council or a decision delayed for more than 50 days. Possible local impact of this process may include decisions being made by an arbitrator who does not have local knowledge or understanding of WCC planning controls and what Council is trying to achieve.

**Changes to Developer Contributions:** These will now cover key community infrastructure such as local roads, parks, sporting facilities, drainage etc. The scope of inclusions has been reduced by omitting libraries and other community facilities. (Changes in the WCC area will be minimal)

**Complying Development:** Statewide standards have been developed for single and 2 storey houses on sites greater than 450 M<sup>2</sup>. If a proposal complies with the standard a private certifier can assess and approve the dwelling, demolition can occur and construction can commence without any further assessment. Since introduction in February 2009 there have been 2 developments processed this way in the WCC area. Willoughby City is not seen as a popular area for the Complying Development process. If a complying DA is submitted to a council it must be assessed and if complying, a council must issue a certificate within 10 days of lodgement. 90 % of DAs in WCC are processed by Council, 10% by private certifiers.

**Implications for Naremburn:** The changes do not apply to the two conservation areas. For a 500 M<sup>2</sup> block the allowable floor space increases by about 70 M<sup>2</sup> (about 3 reasonable rooms). Boundary setbacks have been increased (a good thing) and soft landscaping is reduced substantially from the WCC requirement of 190 M<sup>2</sup> to 100 M<sup>2</sup>. Sunlight access and view loss are not considered if a proposal complies with the standard. Each development is required to have 2 car spaces and garages must be at least 1 metre back from the house front alignment. The next code will be for land areas below 450 M<sup>2</sup>.

**Implications of a change of NSW Government:** A new Liberal NSW Government would probably not change the situation as they would have higher priorities so the current legislation would probably stay in effect for at least 5-6 years.

**Further Information:** PlanningNSW website [http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/planning\\_reforms/housing\\_code.asp](http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/planning_reforms/housing_code.asp)

### 2. OPEN FORUM

- (a) **Roger Promnitz (Merrenburn Avenue)** St Cuthbert's Church project is progressing well, practical completion anticipated August 2009; occupation September 2009.
- (b) **Elena Jeregni (Mitchell Street)** Requested clarification of WCC policy on issue of permits under the resident parking scheme; her household had changed, now only entitled to 1 permit; previously 2. Advised that current rules allow 1 street permit where a house has 1 on site parking spot.
- (c) **Trisha FitzPatrick (Central Street)** Naremburn Hill (opposite shops at freeway ramp) landscaping requires maintenance. NPA to write to WCC.
- (d) **Don Swonnell (Walter Street)** Reminder that the Henry Lawson event at Bicentennial Reserve is on 14 June.
- (e) **Kevin FitzPatrick (Central Street)** National Tree Day is 2 August 2009, meet 8.30 am at the corner of Northcote Street /Dalleys Road, tools and trees provided; wear appropriate clothing – long sleeves and a hat.

### 3. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

That the minutes of the General Meeting of 14 May 2009, as circulated, be confirmed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

Proposed: Trisha FitzPatrick; Seconded: Annaliese Appleton.

### 4. NOMINATION OF NEW MEMBERS –

Norman Jennings, Glen Johnston, Matthew Kishore.

Proposed: Barry Shaw; Seconded: Howard Townsend

### 5. CONFIRMATION OF NEW MEMBERS – John Bell, Rod Thompson, Alison Stevens, Donna Kessler

### 6. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- (a) **Ella Street Bridge closure traffic issues:** Covered by the previous meeting, awaiting Steven Head advice.
- (b) **Northcote Street south commuter parking** – Covered by the previous meeting, awaiting Steven Head advice.
- (c) **Naremburn School** – A meeting of the Working Party was held on Thursday 28 May. Department of Education & Training (DET) representatives reported on State and Federal government funding initiatives for surrounding schools and these will be presented to the public meeting on Thursday 2 July from 7:00 pm to 8.30 pm to be held in the St Leonard's Catholic Church Parish Hall. No more information has been received from the Catholic Education Office. DET rep advised that future work at Cammeray PS had moved further up the DET priority list. Nick Tobin, GM WCC and Gladys Berejiklian State Member attended the 28 May meeting and commented on the lack of discussion between the State Government and Council on future school populations in the Naremburn area.
- (d) **Oral History Program** – Ongoing, there have been interviews with some 80 year olds in the community.
- (e) **Naremburn Shops** –General tidiness could be improved. The issue of energy conservation is to be raised with the shop keepers.
- (f) **Dodds Street East** – A letter has been sent to WCC regarding street lighting, kerbing and guttering. A reply has been received from WCC, stating that kerb and guttering work has been completed to the southern side and the north side is to remain as is.
- (g) **Life Membership Guidelines** – in the process of development
- (h) **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.

### 3. CORRESPONDENCE

#### In

- (a) 19/05/2009 – letter – WCC – Kerb & Gutter – Eastern Section of Dodds Street, reply to NPA letter of 16/04/2009
- (b) 21/05/2009 – letter– WCC – Traffic & Parking in Naremburn, reply to NPA letter of 29/04/2009
- (c) 22/05/2009 – letter - WCC – Graffiti in Prentice Park and on Freeway wall, removed, reply to NPA letter of 03/02 2009
- (d) 04/05/2009 – letter – WCC - Naremburn Community Centre Upgrade, reply to NPA letter of 16/04/2009
- (e) 05/06/2009 – RTA Report – Northbridge Suspension Bridge safety barriers – proposals.

#### Out

- (a) 27/04/2009 – letter – WCC GM – Earth Hour Festival

### 7. ACCOUNTS

The Treasurer gave the following financial information.

Cash at Bank \$3,912.96

#### Expenditure Approvals Requested

Robin Phelan & Assocs - June NM \$1,957.28

FWPA (Federation) - annual sub \$20.00

NM Expenses (envelopes & photocopying) \$8.49

That these expenditures be approved

Proposed: David Lendrum, Seconded: Beryl Batterham

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

No Report to the meeting as no Councillors present and the next meeting of the FWPA was set down for 20 June.

### 9. SUB-COMMITTEES REPORTS

#### (a) DAs – 9 tabled

DA 2002/1488/A	17B Market St	S 96 Roof over deck, shutter to carport
DA 2004/1071/A	27 Grafton Ave	S96 Reduced deck, rear extension to roof
DA 2006/617/B	56 Market St	S96 Move garage wall addition of gable
DA 2008/948/A	1 Dawson St	S 96 Changes to swimming pool and decks
DA 2008/954	38 Northcote St	New dwelling carport & pool amended plans
DA 2009/12	29 Rhodes Ave	Alts & Adds amended plans
DA 2009/74	22 Grandview St	Alterations & Additions
DA 2009/244	30 Darvall St	Alterations & Additions
DA 2009/300	27 Olympia Rd	Alterations & additions

**Noted** that it would appear that WCC is no longer sending Artarmon DAs to Naremburn – abiding by the re-negotiated boundaries to the Naremburn Progress Association.

- (b) **Events** – Naremburn Community Centre Open Day is Saturday 5 September; WCC Spring Fair 12 September.
- (c) **Membership** – The number of members now stands at 118, one resignation due to move. The cut off date for annual membership fee payment to maintain financial status is 12 June 2009.
- (e) **Naremburn Matters** – Trisha FitzPatrick reported on preparation of the June edition. Two advertisers did not supply artwork on time, so the issue went to press without them. A 'rates and dates' sheet is now available for advertisers.
- (f) **Website** – Members can add news items by emailing to Trisha FitzPatrick who will edit content and forward to the webmaster.

(g) **Open Space** – Maintenance is required to Willoughby Rd frontage at Bicentennial Reserve. The Central Street trailer saga is now over with removal of the offending vehicle after 2 emails sent to Council.

**10 CIRCULATION OF THE ATTENDANCE BOOK** – 18 Members, 7 apologies from Members, 8 Visitors

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

**12. NEXT GENERAL MEETING:** - Thursday, 13 August 2009 at 7:30 pm, Naremburn Community Centre, Central Street.  
Please note that there is no July meeting.

**13. CLOSURE:** - The meeting concluded at 9:40 pm