

Heritage Advisory Committee

Council at its meeting on Wednesday, 10 March 2015 considered a report on nominations for volunteers to participate on the Hornsby Council Heritage Advisory Committee and assist Council in the conservation and promotion of the Heritage of Hornsby Shire. Council resolved to fill four technical specialist positions and two community representative positions.

Council also adopted a revised Constitution and Procedures Manual which provides for an increased focus on strategic projects to assist the management of heritage matters at Council.

Planning Proposal for property number 2 - 4 Epping Road, Epping

A Planning Proposal to amend the Height of Building Map in the Hornsby Local Environmental Plan 2013 to increase the maximum permitted building height from 17.5 metres to 26.5 metres (8 storeys) is on public exhibition until Friday, 8 May 2015.

The public can view the Planning Proposal on Council's website, Administration Building and Epping Library.

Draft Active Living Hornsby Strategy. See the Trust report on the Strategy in this newsletter.

Proposed Traffic Signals - Intersection of Carlingford Road and Hepburn Avenue, Carlingford

Council has consulted with local residents in Carlingford Road and Hepburn Avenue, Carlingford about a proposal to construct traffic signals at the intersection of Carlingford Road and Hepburn Avenue in Carlingford. Submissions closed on Friday 3 April 2015 and the results of the consultation will be included in a report to the Local Traffic Committee for a recommendation.

Draft Community and Cultural Facilities Strategic Plan

Council is exhibiting a draft Community and Cultural Facilities Strategic Plan 2015-2025 until 13 June 2015.

The purpose of this plan is to provide clear strategic direction for the future planning and management of Hornsby Shire Council's community and cultural facilities. The plan builds on the previous Community and Cultural Facilities Strategic Plan, which was prepared in 2009, as well as Council's broader planning and policy framework.

Parramatta City Council *Councillor, Lorraine Wearne reports*

I am saddened to read in the paper that the recent storms have given rise again to the cry of "if there is a large tree on your block, cut it down". Of course we need to be sensible about where large gum trees are planted but remnant vegetation trees should be protected if possible. We have had a number of trees poisoned recently and council is determined to prosecute people that kill or remove trees without permission.

People who do not like or want trees should not buy property in areas where trees are a significant part of the areas attraction.

Developments

Last year I mentioned Granny Flats. We are seeing applications for a number of these. For example, 3 Victoria Street, Epping and 2A William Street, Epping.

Other applications this month are:

5-7 Grandview Parade, Epping for Demolition of existing structures, tree removal and construction of 11 in-fill self-care housing dwellings pursuant to State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing for Seniors or People with a Disability) 2004 with associated basement car parking.

145 Midson Road, Epping. Demolition, tree removal and

construction of an attached two storey dual occupancy development with Torrens title subdivision

85-87 Raimonde Road, Carlingford NSW 2118 - Demolition, tree removal, consolidation, re-subdivision to create 3 Torrens Title lots. Approval is also sought for the construction of 3 attached dual occupancies (total of 6 dwellings) with Torrens title subdivision.

35B Midson Road, Eastwood (Brick Pit site) Demolition of existing structures and construction of a multi dwelling housing development comprising of six town houses with associated basement car park and landscape works.

Works

The new master plan for Boronia Park identifies a number of areas for improvement including upgrading and extending the playground to include activities for older children, a defined walking track around the park, more picnic shelters and a BBQ. Council will be starting work on the park later this year.

Upgrades to the Mobbs Lane Village Shop footpaths and gardens will be carried out prior to June 2015.

Events 2015

Parramatta Winterlight 25th June to 12th July, Prince Alfred Park, Parramatta. Come and iceskate, eat, drink and have fun.



NEXT MEETING: ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Epping Civic Trust

will be held on **TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2015**

in the Church of Christ Hall, 31 Bridge Street, Epping at 7.30pm.

Kindly note that only financial members are eligible to vote.

AGENDA: ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

1. Guest speaker, the member for Epping, Damien Tudehope
2. Dence Park Pool
3. Councillors reports
4. General business

Epping facilities under threat

Vice president, Graham Medhurst reports

This story starts with information dribbled out from Hornsby Shire Council that the Library and Leisure Centre in the Pembroke / Chambers Court recreation zone may have to go to allow for redevelopment of the site. Then we learn that the Dence Park pool will have to go because it is too run down. Quickly following on this we hear that there is a proposal to close the Dence Park Creative Centre. The Epping Civic Trust does not usually subscribe to conspiracy theories but there appears to be more going on here than is apparent.

It now appears that the pool demolition notice may be just a red herring as the case for demolition is weak and unconvincing. The proposal for a Masterplan for Dence Park alone is also unconvincing. It is not appropriate for the Council to deal with community assets in such a piecemeal way. Council appears to have forgotten that Epping is on the cusp of a substantial population increase courtesy of the Epping town centre urban activation precinct plan (UAP).

Clearly, Council needs to deal with these community asset issues in an overarching plan for Epping. Council is well aware that this is the correct approach as it has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Parramatta City Council for the Epping town centre UAP which has as an objective that a 'Whole of Centre' approach be taken to revitalising the public domain, creating an active town centre and delivering community programs and services.



Following protests from the Save the Epping Pool Group (SEPG) and the Trust, Hornsby Shire Council deferred a decision on its proposal to demolish the Dence Park pool until its meeting in June. In the interim, it is suggested that the Trust provide support to the SEPG in their efforts to keep the pool open and in particular provide assistance for the group to print a leaflet and undertake a letterbox drop prior to the Council meeting in June.

For more information go to the SEPG website at www.saveeppingpool.com.au

It is also suggested that the Trust should lodge a submission with Council requesting that the Dence Park pool remain open until a plan is prepared and exhibited detailing the future of all the assets referred to above (also see Brian Berry's article on Council's draft Active Living Strategy page 2).



- Tuesday, MAY 19th
- Tuesday, August 18th
- Tuesday, November 17th

Boronia Park and Duncan Park - Masterplan

Executive member, Ruth Evans reports



Parramatta City Council held a public consultation session together with a free sausage sizzle barbeque (run by the Epping / Eastwood Lions Club) in Boronia Park Epping on the 5th March 2015.

It was well attended by many interested residents. Council's aim was to collect ideas from the locals on how best to improve Boronia Park and Duncan Park. From these ideas and with the assistance of a landscape design team, Council will be formulating a new Masterplan for both parks. The Boronia Park and Duncan Park committees, in conjunction with Council are in the process of finalising these plans. The plans will then be placed formally on public exhibition. After taking community feedback into account the plans will be presented to Council for adoption. This project is being funded through the NSW Government Precinct Support Scheme.



Draft Active Living Hornsby Strategy

Member, Brian Berry reports

Hornsby Shire Council is undertaking a strategic review of recreation opportunities and the development and management of open space in the Shire. The Council engaged consultants, Clouston Associates to undertake this review. The review has now been completed in draft form and Council has placed it on public exhibition. Written comments on the draft strategy will be accepted by Council up to Friday 22 May 2015.

The Trust will have to consider making a submission on this strategy as all the open space in our area of the Shire is being considered in the draft including Forest park and Dence Park. It is somewhat alarming to see that Council appears to be pre-empting the review with their current proposal to demolish the Dence Park pool.

Essex Street Heritage Conservation Area

Executive member, Ruth Evans reports

The Trust has received a letter from Hornsby Council in response to our submission regarding the Essex Street Heritage Conservation Area (HCA). Last year Council resolved to adopt amendments to the Heritage Section of Hornsby's Development Control Plan to provide additional design guidance for residential flat buildings adjoining HCAs. Council has reiterated this decision, but also resolved to review the heritage significance of the Essex Street and Rosebank Avenue HCAs in a future stage of Council's Heritage Review but not until the impact of the adjoining developments can be seen. Any future processes by Council would involve specialist heritage input and public consultation.

5-7 Grandview Parade, Epping

Vice President, Graham Medhurst reports

DA/124/2015 (5-7 Grandview Parade, Epping)

Parramatta City Council is currently considering a development proposal to demolish the existing two houses at 5-7 Grandview Parade Epping and build eleven self-care housing dwellings under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing for Seniors or People with a Disability). The Trust understands that this type of development cannot be refused for this site if the application satisfies the planning controls in the policy. However this proposal appears to be an overdevelopment of the site with issues around bulk and scale, overshadowing, tree retention and access to specified facilities. The Trust has raised these issues with Council in a submission and is waiting for a response.



Epping bus chaos

Executive member, Graeme Wyber reports

In recent years Epping, Nth Epping and Carlingford residents have experienced peak time problems with public bus transportation, including delays, gross overcrowding and full buses skipping stops.

The delays are notorious. For instance it is common for the morning peak M54 bus service to take up to 25 minutes to travel to Epping Station along Carlingford Rd from the Midson Rd intersection (a distance of less than 1 kilometre) and for evening peak bus services travelling to Epping Station along Epping Road to come to a virtual standstill when the designated bus lane on Epping Rd ends at Terrys Creek.

With regard to overcrowding, on occasions the evening peak M54 bus service travelling from Macquarie Park to Parramatta is full by the time it reaches Epping Station. It then bypasses large numbers of passengers waiting at the Epping Station and Rawson Street bus stops.

In March 2014 Trust President Graham Lovell and Committee member Graeme Wyber met at Parliament House with senior executives of Transport for NSW, to discuss the major bus problems that currently exist and at the same time provide viable options for their consideration. Unfortunately the

personnel at that meeting failed to respond and have since moved on.

The Trust is now seeking a meeting with the new Transport Minister or his nominee, in order to progress this issue and obtain a favourable outcome for the many frustrated bus commuters in the Epping area.



Flat developments 32-34 Essex Street and 29-30 Cliff Road

