

Dear Neighbours – below is a brief summary of the last MPC RAG meeting held on Tuesday 9 March 2021.

Walsh Bay Update – Pier 3-4 and Pier 2-3

- Brief presentation by representatives from Infrastructure NSW (the developers of the Walsh Bay Arts Precinct), Create NSW (the operators of the Walsh Bay Arts Precinct) and Richard Crookes, the building contractors for both piers.
- Pier 3-4 is effectively complete with the various tenants including Sydney Theatre Company now operational. The Bar at the End of the Wharf is also open. “Playing Beatie Bow” is now playing to 100% capacity audiences.
- Pier 2-3 should be completed by December 2021. New tenants will include Bell Shakespeare, Australian Chamber Orchestra and Australian Theatre for Young People.

Sydney Metro Project – John Holland/CPB/Ghella JV

- This contractor has been responsible for tunnelling works (completed), construction of the Barangaroo metro station structure and crossover cavern (underway) and the reinstatement of the foreshore walkway area (underway).
- The station structure and crossover cavern construction activity will continue until the middle of 2021.
- The reinstatement of the foreshore walkway will be complete by end of March 2021 (yes, in two weeks). This will allow complete pedestrian and cyclist foreshore access from Barangaroo Reserve to Barangaroo South and beyond. The opening of this foreshore area will hopefully be sometime in April (after the ribbon cutting ceremony).
- The “acoustic shed” on Hickson Road which towers into Windmill/Dalgety Streets will remain for some time apparently as the next contractor (mech/elect services, etc) will require it. We are investigating an actual removal date as some memories had the shed being removed by mid-2021 as that was when the heavy construction was to be completed (with the use of the large gantry crane inside).

Kent St Cyclist Diversion Proposal

- We attach the Lord Mayor’s letter confirming the conclusion of negotiations with the excellent result being the continuation of the existing cycleway up on Observatory Hill whilst Fort St Public School is being redeveloped. Clearly this is a win for the community and common sense and should never have been foisted upon us in the first place.
- Our formal thanks to those who ably represented us was adopted unanimously at the meeting – The Lord Mayor and her team including Philip Thalys and Kim Woodbury (COO), and the Member for Sydney, Alex Greenwich.
- A follow-up article in the Sydney Morning Herald was published on Wednesday outlining that agreement had been reached. You’ll love the comments - <https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/plans-to-divert-harbour-bridge-cycleway-set-to-be-dropped-after-outcry-20210308-p578sk.html#comments>
- School Infrastructure is now organising briefings to various groups who vented their opposition to the proposal to detail the nature of the agreement. Representatives of the MPC RAG (myself and Yasmina) will be receiving that briefing next Wednesday. We will promptly publish the detail on the community website – www.millerspoint.org.au by Thursday – watch that space!

Future Planning with the City of Sydney

- Following discussions with Councillor Philp Thalys (our appointed Precinct Manager), we outlined a number of traffic concerns to him in February for action. These included issues of speeding, noise, illegal heavy vehicle parking and daily occurrences of driving the wrong way down one way streets (my street). Various “hot spots” were identified including intersections outside the Garrison Church, Hero of Waterloo, Lord Nelson Hotel, etc. Just about every street has evidence of regular hooning, speeding and generally unsafe conditions for residents and visitors.
- Concurrently, the residents of Windmill St Association (1-63 Windmill St) had been engaging with Councillor Christine Forster (it’s a long story) on its particular traffic issues. Windmill St residents were successful in having a Notice of Motion passed unanimously at Council last week (see attached). The NoM directs the CEO and staff to take corrective action.
- Councillor Philp Thalys spoke in favour of the Motion and broadened the discussion to address traffic issues across the whole peninsula.
- These are not new issues and we believe pedestrian safety and improved residential amenity are paramount. We might live in the city, but we do not have to put up with dickheads.
- We will be working with Councillor Philp Thalys to ensure a similar Notice of Motion is passed to address the precinct-wide traffic issues and for corrective action to be taken.
- This all has to occur in our heritage context, which slows things down a tad.

Older Women’s Network Centre – 87 Lower Fort St

- A DA was lodged early last year to sub-divide, remediate the land and demolish the building by Property NSW (ie the NSW State Government) for the purposes of later selling the property.
- The DA has stalled and it now appears the Government will sell the property as is. This leaves considerable uncertainty for residents in the adjacent properties (Windmill St and Argyle Place) with concerns for loss of privacy with any new development potentially overlooking their homes and backyards.
- We will keep you posted.

Harry Jensen Centre Future

- There has been much speculation about the future of the HJC since the City advised last year that the Centre’s management may be “outsourced”. This does not impact Ling’s surgery, the Abe Mott Hall (which will continue to be a venue for hire) and the Abe Mott Community Space (behind the AMH).
- I am receiving an update from the City of Sydney next Tuesday on the status of the HJC from Sage and Chris (senior managers of the Venues team). An update will be published on the community website – www.millerspoint.org.au by Wednesday – watch that space!
- In the interim, the HJC is available for use on application.

Barangaroo Central

- This mega-project will soon be getting lift-off. And it will probably be the most impactful project of all that has occurred in this neighbourhood for the last five years.
- Aqualand, the developer, will soon be releasing details of what the project will look like (commercial, retail, residential, etc), the construction activity involved and the noise, dust, etc that follows, the duration and the visual amenity for nearby residents in particular High St and Kent St.

- I have asked Aqualand for a briefing for the community. Hopefully that will occur at the next RAG meeting on 9 April. Will advise when I know.
- With the potential workload involved for the MPC RAG in responding to what will be voluminous material in the DA (someone has to read it, summarise it for the rest of us, draft our response, attend meetings and discussions) a Working Group of interested residents will be established to share that workload and report to the RAG Committee. Further detail to come. Volunteers please contact me.

International Seafarers Plight

- With the advent of Covid, many international seafarers have been stuck on their ships for months, and for some over a year. Jazz Stephenson is coordinating the collection of books, magazines, DVDs and CDs for the entertainment of the men and women of the sea. No Netflix for them.
- Please get in contact with Jazz if you have the above materials that you wish to donate to the cause - jazisoze@icloud.com

Garrison Church – the bells, the bells

- The Church is getting a new bell. Actually an old bell, the original bell from the church when it was built, albeit a 2nd hand bell as it was made in 1755.
- No more Sunday morning sleep-ins....

As always, happy to hear suggestions, comments, advice, criticism.

Regards,

Bernard