



GREENWICH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING

Our next public meeting is on Wednesday, 16 October, in the Greenwich Community Centre, 46 Greenwich Rd, at 7.30 pm. It has taken a mammoth effort on our part to keep up with what's been happening on the planning and development front, and it has seemed sometimes that we were going around in circles with one hand tied behind our backs rather than making any sort of progress. One grass fire being put out in one corner while another was popping up in the other. Mixed metaphors aside, we think we are getting somewhere and we'll bring you up to speed on the night. Light refreshments will be available throughout the evening and everyone is warmly invited to attend.

THE BIGGEST FIRE OF ALL - ST LEONARDS SOUTH (SLS)

23 October will mark the **second anniversary of the Council vote to put SLS on exhibition**. Where is the Council report on the hundreds of submissions made in response to this exhibition?

And where are we now with SLS?

After the Independent Planning Commission's (IPC) scathing advice on the SLS Plan we expected that our Council would acknowledge that the community has been right all along – the SLS plan is overdevelopment and should be totally re-worked. However, Council's media release the day after release of the IPC report was curious: "Clearly there is a difference of opinion between the Department of Planning and the IPC which Minister Stokes will need to address".

In a letter of 1 August the DPIE extended an offer to Council to work with it on a review of the SLS Plan. "I would like to reiterate the Department is committed to working collaboratively with Council and the community to inform a planning framework and infrastructure plan for the area to facilitate its renewal as a highly liveable place.

I would like to offer the support of the Government Architect NSW and the Department to work with Council to

assist its review of the planning process in light of the Commission's (IPC) findings."

Given that control of the SLS process has been Council's mantra for at least two years, we expected Council to jump at this offer.

We were bemused by Council's response at its August meeting- it resolved to **make the review of the plan the responsibility of the DPIE**. While acknowledging that "it is appropriate for Council to participate" in the review, our Council was firm that the review "findings should be delivered by the Government".

The Mayor elaborated on Council's response at the September Council meeting: "the IPC advice was not specific about what would be an appropriate height, scale or enough open space. So, we will be asking the Department to tell us definitively what is required".

It looks like SLS is over to you, DPIE.

We have been assured that Council officers will work collaboratively with the DPIE in the review but we have little detail about how the review will be structured, its scope and who will attend.

And we certainly have no idea if and when community members will have their say in the review process despite the DPIE's letter talking about "working collaboratively with...the community."

The move to address the long-articulated community concerns about SLS is welcome but there are big unanswered questions:

- How long will it take for the DPIE to complete its review of SLS and release the recommendations Council is seeking?
- What happens if Council refuses to accept the DPIE's recommendations? The SLS Plan remains Council's Plan – it may choose to ignore the DPIE advice. It is only if and when Council passes a final vote on the design features of SLS that the DPIE will have the right to review the plan as part of the finalisation process.
- And, if the DPIE does tell Council what is required in SLS and Council accepts its advice, how long will it take to revise all the reports, plans and LEP documents needed to implement the changes?

We have written to the DPIE asking for answers to these questions. Discussions around the review are at such an early stage that the DPIE is not in a position to provide a detailed response.

COUNCIL VOTES TO PUSH FOR A BREATHER ON PLANNING (RE-ZONING) PROPOSALS WHILE SLS IS SORTED OUT

Council is waiting on the Minister for Planning's response to its September 2018 request for a Lane Cove wide moratorium on residential planning (re-zoning) proposals. Whilst the planning proposal window is still open in the SLS precinct, developers can lodge planning proposals for their individual sites. Top Spring and Greaton have already done this.

It is important that SLS be planned without the threat of developer-led proposals.

In August Councillor Zbik sought support for a motion to ask the Minister for a moratorium on residential planning proposals for SLS in advance of a decision on the rest of Lane Cove. The August motion was disallowed but it is pleasing that Councillors gave the motion unanimous support at the Council's September meeting.

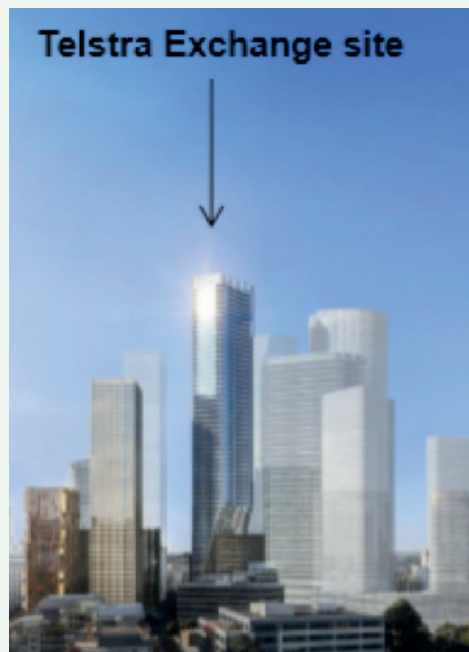
AND WHILST SLS IS STILL UNDER REVIEW, OTHER DEVELOPMENTS ARE IN THE WINGS

First, as outlined above, planning proposals by **Top Spring and Greaton** – Council voted to reject these proposals and they are now awaiting a review by the Sydney North Planning Panel in the developers' hope that they will be permitted to progress their proposals with DPIE.

Second, a revised plan for **HammondCare's** State Significant Development (SSD) application for **Greenwich Hospital**. The scale of the original proposal may have changed but the residential unit development remains an integral part of the plan. We are unclear as to exactly where the SSD is up to and our pleas to HammondCare for wider community consultation have met with little success.

Third, an SSD application by the **Trustee for Anglo Australian Christian and Charitable Trust for an 8-classroom International Chinese School** on the site of the current single-storey building owned by the **Northern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust** just near the entrance to Gore Hill Oval. This is in the Willoughby LGA. Submissions close 24 October: SSD 10260 <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/project/10611>

Fourth, a Planning Proposal from Ethos Urban for a **58-storey** mixed commercial and residential building on the **Pacific Highway** site currently occupied by the **Telstra exchange and Green Gourmet** – this is in the Lane Cove LGA. The proposal will be considered by Council's Local Planning Panel on 5 November.



COUNCIL'S DRAFT STRATEGIC PLANNING STATEMENT ON EXHIBITION TO 17 OCTOBER Please make a submission.

http://www.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/CouncilConsultations/Pages/Draft_Local_Strategic_Planning_Statement.aspx

Have a look at Planning Priority 5. SLS (the proposal under review!) is Council's one and only proposed solution to meeting the LGA's housing projections - "Council's 2014 St Leonards South Masterplan is designed to satisfy a 6-10 year {2022 – 2026} housing target".

Lane Cove is on track to exceed its 2021 target by 900 dwellings. Council has told us that 1624 dwellings are needed to 2026. On our calculations, Council needs 724 more dwellings to 2026, not the 2400 in SLS.

And SLS should not be seen as the dumping ground for all of Lane Cove's long-term dwelling targets.

NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL'S WARD FORUMS.

A GOOD IDEA FOR LANE COVE!

The public forum process at our Council meetings unfortunately allows no information exchange with our representatives. Ward forums sound like a great initiative – a chance to talk **with** our Councillors. An agenda item for our October meeting.

GREENWICH VILLAGE ARTS TRAIL

A record number of artists have signed up for this year's Greenwich Village Arts Trail. A fabulous collection of 29 artists and craftspeople, from Archibald finalists and award-winning professionals to talented first timers and skilled home hobbyists, will be displaying their art in their studios on the first weekend in November. The range of artists displaying their craft is immense, from well-established artists such as Susan Rothwell, an Archibald finalist, who donates all the proceeds from her Arts Trail sales to the charity **Youth in Search**, to Richard Towell, a Greenwich newcomer who will be putting out his shingle for the very first time showing his breathtaking landscape photographs.

Pick up a map from the local shops or online at www.greenwichvillageartstrail.com.au. Follow the walking trail suggested on the map or hop on-and-off the free local bus circling the suburb, generously supplied by Lane Cove Council.

Studios Open from **10am to 4pm Sat & Sun 2 & 3 November**

For further information, Amanda Harrison 0409 398 128

www.harrisonsculpture.net

STAY IN TOUCH

We encourage all residents to regularly visit our website and sign up to be kept up to date with what is happening. This is especially important now as there will be urgent updates, new information and often calls for immediate action.

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