

RYDE HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE 02 / 06

DATE: Wednesday, 19 April 2006

TIME: 6.30 pm

LOCATION: Ryde Civic Centre – Room 2 Level 5

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: COUNCILLORS

Councillor Ivan Petch – Mayor - **Chair**
Representing City of Ryde
Councillor Terry Ryan
Representing City of Ryde

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Ms Jennifer Noble
Representing Brush Farm Historical Society
Ms Jennifer Minifie
Representing National Trust
Ms Margarita Grunberg
Representing Putney District Progress Association
Mr Kevin Shaw
Representing Ryde District Historical Society
Mr Peter Mitchell
Community Representative
Mr Phil Hunt
Representing Ryde Hunters Hill Flora and Fauna
Preservation Society
Mr Helge Sangkuhl
Representing Eastwood Community Association
Mr Greg Blaxell
Community Representative
Mr Patrick Sullivan
Representing Denistone Heritage & Environment
Preservation Group
Ms Joan Carson representing Mr Peter Bardos
Representing West Ryde–Meadowbank Progress Association

COUNCIL STAFF

Ms Sue Weatherley
Group Manager – Environment and Planning
Ms Kate Higgins
Strategic Planner – Heritage – City of Ryde

MIN NO. 01 APOLOGIES:

Councillor Terry Perram
Representing City of Ryde (Observer)
Councillor Vic Tagg
Representing City of Ryde
Councillor Nicole Campbell
Representing City of Ryde
Ms Jane Haydon
Representing Friends of the Hermitage
Mr Glenn Ford
Manager Strategic Planning and Client Management – City of
Ryde
Ms Angela Phippen
Local Studies Librarian, City of Ryde

MIN NO. 02 Consideration and adoption of Minutes 01 / 06

Minute No.05 should have been titled “Brush Farm Park Plan of Management” rather than “Brush Farm Plan of Management”. (Note: The title of the document is actually “Brush Farm Park and Lambert Park Plan of Management”.)

MIN NO. 03 Brush Farm – Brush Farm House conservation works update

An update on the progress of the Brush Farm House restoration works was provided by Roy Newsome, Group Manager Corporate Services. A copy of his memo was distributed at the meeting. It was recommended that the a progress report with photographs be placed on Council’s web page. It was noted that the Department of Corrective Services will occupy the first floor of the restored building.

Megan Jones of Howard Tanner and Associates presented the colour schemes for the house.

Margaret Betteridge presented the interpretation plan for the house and grounds.

MIN NO. 04 Brush Farm – Use of the front garden area by Riding for the Disabled

In response to a request to provide advice on this matter Geoffrey Britton, heritage consultant, recommended against the use of the front garden area by Riding for the Disabled, because of its impact on the garden, its impact on the setting of Brush Farm House, and the apparent inadequacy of the area to meet the needs of the riding group. Sue Weatherley advised that other places were being examined for possible use by Riding for the Disabled.

MIN NO. 05 Brush Farm – Heritage listing of items within the curtilage of Brush Farm Estate as recommended by Geoffrey Britton

This matter will be addressed in the report currently being prepared on the implementation of the Britton recommendations.

MIN NO. 06 Brush Farm – Brush Farm Park and Lambert Park Plan of Management

A stakeholder meeting was held on 27 February 2006 and the draft plan went to Council on the 19 April 2006. Council resolved that the draft Brush Farm Park and Lambert Park Plan of Management (POM) be referred to the key stakeholders for feedback and any significant issues be reported back to Council. If there are no significant changes the draft plan of management will be placed on public exhibition. A letter and a copy of the draft POM are being sent to key stakeholders.

Some Committee members raised concern about the consultation process for the POM, that the POM seems to have become a “light” version of the original draft, that submissions on the previous draft have not been addressed, and that the stakeholder meeting notes were not complete.

Options to address concerns raised by the Committee include:

- The Parks section holds a workshop with key stakeholders. (A smaller working party could be formed from the large number of stakeholders.) The workshop could be assisted by the prior preparation of a discussion paper or notes.
- Community representatives on the heritage advisory committee could make written submissions during the exhibition of the draft POM.
- The draft POM could be required to be “signed-off” by the HAC prior to its adoption by Council.

These options are to be referred to Council for its consideration.

MIN NO. 07 Gregory Blaxland Bicentenary Celebrations

Gregory Blaxell described the success of the events for the celebrations. The events included the unveiling of the Blaxland Plaque in Eastwood Mall which was attended by 16 schools, the book launch, and the dinner at Brush Farm in the evening.

The Committee and the Brush Farm Historical Society congratulated and thanked Gregory Blaxell and the Brush Farm Historical Society for their commitment and hard work with regard to the celebration events.

Formal letters of thanks are to be written to Gregory Blaxell and the Brush Farm Historical Society.

MIN NO. 08 Heritage listed properties

Curzon Hall

Council's refusal of the development application is currently being appealed by the applicant in the Land and Environment Court.

The Hermitage

The Mayor has spoken to the owners and indicated that the restoration work is a priority and needs to be done prior to any development work.

Council has written to the NSW Heritage Office seeking action on the lack of maintenance of the building.

The owner has also spoken to the NSW Heritage Office and said that they would like to start work soon. No indication was given of the nature of this work other than that it may include sub-division. If building work is soon to commence then the maintenance and repair could be part of this work. Council staff will follow up with the Heritage Office.

MIN NO. 09 Ryde Rehabilitation Centre

The demolition of all the buildings on the site, including the historic buildings, has been approved by the Minister for Planning.

MIN NO. 10 Denistone Character Area

Council resolved on the 4 April 2006 to make the Denistone Character Area (rather than the area being a heritage conservation area). The draft planning controls are currently on exhibition.

The Heritage Advisory Committee has considered the proposal for the creation of the Denistone Character Area and wishes to inform Council that it strongly supports action by Council to preserve and maintain the essential features of the Character Area. The area represents a diverse architecture that is indicative of suburban development during the first half of the 20th Century. Long-term preservation of the area's identity is an important and worthwhile objective.

The Committee recognises that housing standards change over time and that allowance needs to be made to allow residents to alter premises to bring them to contemporary standards. In this regard, the Committee notes that the Development Control Plan for the Denistone Character Area is the outcome of considerable community consultation; and, that the DCP is judged, by the community representatives who were involved in its preparation, to be an appropriate tool for achieving the desired balance between change and preservation.

MIN NO. 11 War Memorial project

The creation of an electronic searchable database of the war memorials will proceed if there is money in next year's Council budget for this work. It is anticipated that the information will be placed in the library catalogue.

Three quotes for the restoration work have been obtained:

▪ Peter Mcnamara	\$3,630
▪ International Conservation Services	\$10,780
▪ Stan Bailey	\$14,800

The quote from International Conservation Services is considered the most acceptable due to their experience in this type of work. It is also recommended that an application be made for funding for this project. However, the first step is to find a permanent location for the plaques. Places suggested were the RSL sub-branch, the Civic Hall, and West Ryde Library. A report on this is to be provided to the next HAC meeting.

MIN NO. 12 Harold Meggitt – Linseed Factory

It was suggested that the historical interpretation of the place through the name change of the wharf and the installation of an information panel be incorporated into a larger interpretation project. It was suggested that this project would be the interpretation of the river front, possibly associated with the new cycle path.

MIN NO. 13 HAC Projects for 2006

A possible project is a development control plan for heritage items. Jennifer Noble and Kevin Shaw volunteered to be part of the working group.

MIN NO. 14 Northern Sydney Health Oral History Project

The Executive Unit of the Macquarie Hospital has been advised that, Council does not have IT resources to assist with their project, and that the HAC committee does not have a budget and so cannot provide grants.

MIN NO. 15 Reports from Community representatives

The Ryde Hunters Hill Flora and Fauna Preservation Society advised that they have had question from a member about his recommendation of heritage listing of Buffalo Creek from Council. The issue of how is Council reviewing the community recommendations, and how are they responding to applicants, was raised.

Sue Weatherley advised that currently the heritage significance of properties is assessed if they come under threat from unsympathetic development. It was also noted that some places may have high natural values but not necessarily heritage values.

MIN NO. 16 Other business

Heritage Advisory Committee Minutes

Council's web page is to be updated with regard to meeting minutes.

Heritage properties

It was suggested that Council could write to the owners of heritage listed properties advising them of the possibility of rate reductions available through the Valuer-General's office.

Other plaques in Eastwood mall

Council could prepare a rationale and guidelines for the installation of other plaques in Eastwood Mall.

Closer association with schools

Council could examine ways of achieving a closer association with schools in order to increase the understanding of the history of the local area.

MIN NO. 17 Next Meeting: Wednesday 21 June 2006 at 6.30pm.

Meeting Closed: 8.45pm