

RYDE HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE 03 / 06

DATE: Wednesday, 21 June 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 the National Trust of Australia (NSW)
Mr Kevin Shaw
Representing Ryde District Historical Society
Mr Greg Blaxell
Community Representative
Mr Patrick Sullivan
Representing Denistone Heritage & Environment
Preservation Group
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
Mr Glenn Ford
Manager Strategic Planning and Client Management – City of
Ryde
Ms Angela Phippen
Local Studies Librarian, 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 Helge Sangkuhl
Representing Eastwood Community Association
Mr Phil Hunt
Representing Ryde Hunters Hill Flora and Fauna
Preservation Society
Ms Margarita Grunberg
Representing Putney District Progress Association
Mr Peter Mitchell
Community Representative

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

The minutes of the meeting 02/06 were adopted.

MIN NO. 03 Congratulations to Peter Mitchell OAM

A letter of congratulations from the Committee is to be sent to Peter.

**MIN NO. 04 Presentation on proposed development at Northern Suburbs
Crematorium**

Mr Armen Mikaelian and Mr Damien Fitzpatrick made a presentation to the Committee on proposed development at the crematorium. The purpose of the development is to provide updated facilities for mourners. A conservation management plan has been prepared to guide decisions about the place. The work will include the reversal of some unsympathetic infill work previously undertaken on the chapels and the adaptive re-use of the gate keeper's cottage and garage. A masterplan has been provided to Council.

Relevant pre-lodgement documents will be circulated to members of the Committee.

MIN NO. 05 Brush Farm – Brush Farm House conservation works update

An update on the progress of the Brush Farm House restoration works was provided in a memo by Roy Newsome, Group Manager Corporate Services. A copy of his memo was distributed at the meeting.

It is anticipated that a progress report with photographs will be placed on Council's web page in July 2006 after a project Update has been reported to Council.

It was suggested by the Mayor that a site visit to the house be arranged for the Committee. Midday Saturday was preferred.

Councillor Ryan suggested that some of the building material, such as timber pieces, which was being discarded could be used for souvenirs. The Brush Farm Historical Society also expressed an interest in obtaining some discarded material. It was recommended that:

- the Brush Farm Historical Society write to Council with their request; and
- that a recommendation that some material be saved by Council for future commemorative uses, be put to Council.

The decision on the grant application for Federal funding for conservation works is pending.

MIN NO. 06 Brush Farm – Brush Farm House Interpretive Plan

It is a requirement of the conditions from the Heritage Office and of development consent that the implementation of the interpretation plan, which was presented at the last Committee meeting, is required prior to occupation of the building. The Committee has a key role to play in the implementation of the interpretation strategy and the Committee generally supported this role.

A memo regarding the input of the Committee into the implementation of the strategy will be forwarded to Committee members for their review and comment. Feedback is required prior to the next Committee meeting in order to meet the programme of the conservation work.

Gregory Blaxell noted that a dinner for Blaxland's descendents was planned. He also suggested that liaison with schools regarding the historical associations of Brush Farm House and potential for excursions there would be a good interpretative tool. A publication tracing the restoration of the house was also suggested.

MIN NO. 07 Brush Farm – Brush Farm Park and Lambert Park Plan of Management

Council resolved on the 13 June 2006

That the Brush farm Park Plan of Management be referred to the Heritage Advisory Committee prior to the plan being presented for consideration to Council.

A meeting was held on 22 June 2006 with representatives of the Brush Farm Historical Society (Jenny Noble and Gregory Blaxell), Jennie Minifie, Kate Higgins and Council's Parks section (Peter Hickman, Elizabeth Read, Adam Smith). The Mayor also attended the meeting. Parks (Peter

Hickman) agreed that many of the relevant recommendations would be inserted verbatim into the draft plan of management. There was some discussion about relevant recommendations that are currently only inserted in part and this will be reviewed when a revised draft POM is made available. It is intended that the implementation plan for the Britton Report would be reported to Council at the same time as the draft POM. It is also intended that both these documents be provided to the Brush Farm Historical Society for comment prior to the reports going to Council.

It is anticipated that the draft plans would be presented to the August Committee meeting.

MIN NO. 08 Heritage listed properties

Curzon Hall

The Land and Environment Court upheld the applicant's Appeal, with the result that the proposed building work will proceed. The owners have appealed Council's order for the removal of the fountain. Council may not pursue this matter given the Court's decision.

The Hermitage

Council staff have been in contact with the NSW Heritage Office to monitor the likelihood of development on the site, as this would mean that the conservation work would be undertaken in accordance with the covenants and restrictions attached to the land title. However, it appears that development work is not imminent.

It is therefore recommended that Council resolve to write to the NSW Heritage Office regarding concerns about the lack of maintenance and security for the building, and to seek appropriate rectification of these matters.

MIN NO. 09 Royal Rehabilitation Centre

It is recommended that Council resolve to write to the NSW Minister for Planning expressing concern about the demolition of all the heritage significant buildings and landscapes on the site.

The buildings on the site were not proposed for heritage listing in the review undertaken by Jennifer Hill in 2001 and the proposed listing of the rural landscape was not proceeded with as there was insufficient support.

The recent reports undertaken by the heritage consultant for the proposed new development made evident the heritage significance of the buildings and of some landscape elements.

MIN NO. 10 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. This matter is yet to be resolved.

A report on possible locations for the memorial boards was circulated prior to the meeting and discussed at the meeting. The preferred location is Ryde Civic Hall, the next preferred location is the Council Chambers. The locations will be discussed with Council's Property and Facilities sections and a recommendation made to Council.

MIN NO. 11 Heritage interpretation

It is proposed that the public domain manual currently being prepared would include a section on heritage interpretation signage, information panels and the like. This would ensure that these elements are co-ordinated in their design and materials.

Concern was raised about leaving the interpretation of the Meggitt's site until the public domain plan was complete, given that the interpretation of the history of the site has been discussed for some time. It was suggested that the interpretation would be completed for opening in Heritage Week 2007. However this deadline may not be achievable given that this matter needs to be reviewed and discussed by the relevant sections of Council and State Government authorities (eg for renaming of the wharf), a report to Council is required, Council needs to resolve to undertake this project, the signage for Brush Farm House needs to have been designed (so that the Meggitt's signage if it goes ahead is consistent), agreement needs to be reached on the information for the panels, contract drawings need to be prepared, and the signs/panels need to be made and installed .

MIN NO. 12 Controls for heritage

A preliminary paper on possible development control plan for heritage items has been prepared and given to Jennifer Noble and Kevin Shaw for their review and comment. It is anticipated that the heritage controls working party would meet in August.

MIN NO. 13 Reports from Community representatives

The National Trust suggested that Council obtain copies of inventory sheets from the Section 170 Registers from relevant State Government Departments for properties located within the City of Ryde.

No reports form other community members.

MIN NO. 14 Other business

Heritage Advisory Committee Minutes

Council's web page has been 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

Gregory Blaxell volunteered to prepare preliminary draft guidelines for plaques in Eastwood Mall. It is anticipated that this matter would be incorporated into the public domain manual currently being prepared.

Stone found at Ball Avenue behind the Scout Hall

A stone about 23inches high by 15 inches wide with a curved top has been found and removed. Gregory Blaxell has been asked to comment.

Talks during History Week

The Local Studies Library is hosting 2 talks during History Week.

Tuesday 19 September - Wallumedegal : an Aboriginal history of Ryde - Keith Vincent Smith

Thursday 21 September - The early settlers of Ryde - Angela Phippen

Both at West Ryde Library 10.30am - 12 noon

MIN NO. 15 Next Meeting: Wednesday 9 August 2006 at 6.30pm.

Meeting Closed: 8.40pm