

RYDE HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE 04 / 08

DATE: Wednesday 20th. August 2008

TIME: 6.00 pm

LOCATION: Level 6 Civic Centre Ryde

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS

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

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Ms Jennifer Noble
Representing Brush Farm Historical Society
Mr Greg Blaxell
Community representative
Ms Margarita Grunberg
Representing Putney District Progress Association
Ms Eleanor Chaine
Community representative
Mr Patrick Sullivan
Representing Denistone Heritage & Environment
Preservation Group
Mr Kevin Shaw
Representing Ryde District Historical Society
Ms Jennifer Minifie
Representing the National Trust and the Hunters Hill
Flora and Fauna Preservation Society.

VISITOR

Joan Carson,
Representing Meadowbank West Ryde Progress
Association

COUNCIL STAFF

Ms Sue Weatherley
Group Manager – Environment and Planning-
City of Ryde.
Ms Meryl Bishop
Manager – Urban Planning – City of Ryde
Ms Angela Phippen
Local Studies Librarian – City of Ryde
Mr Garry Stanley
Heritage Advisor – City of Ryde

MIN NO. 01 Apologies

Councillor Terry Ryan
Representing City of Ryde
Mr John Hull
Representing Friends of the Hermitage
Mr Peter Bardos
Meadowbank West Ryde Progress Association

MIN NO. 02 Consideration and adoption of minutes 03/08

Amendments to minutes 02/08 item minute no. 6 were acknowledged.
The minutes of the meeting of 03/08 as amended were adopted.

MIN. No. 03 Brush Farm House Business Plan update.

Paul Graham has reported that: Compilation of the Business Plan for Brush Farm House by the consultants Root Projects Australia Pty. Ltd. is underway. The focus of the last four weeks has been information gathering and consultations. Information gathering has involved examining similar cultural and heritage facilities, and also function venues to determine elements including pricing structures, available markets and best practice examples. Brush Farm Historical Society, Department of Corrective Services, Ryde Art Society and staff within several Council Service Units including Finance, Urban Planning, Property and Community Relations and Events have been consulted.

A workshop will be held in late September with the working group for this project (Diane Openshaw or representative, Ian Cartwright, Jaclyn Fisk, Courtney Long, Peter Handley, Garry Stanley, Paul Graham) to present the findings, and a number of options. From this workshop the consultants will be given direction. A further presentation will be then made to the General Manager, and a draft business plan will then be presented to Council at the end of October 2008.

MIN NO. 04 St. Andrews Steeple

Various options were discussed by Committee members for the re-use of the steeple in response to Councils resolution of Council Meeting no. 12/08. Councillor Ryan in his Notice Motion conditioned that the steeple's future be in Eastwood. He Suggested five sites which included integrating it with the roof of the St. Andrews soccer clubhouse at Eastwood Oval.

Jennifer Minifie suggested that the steeple should be in an elevated position.

Greg Blaxland suggested that the steeple could be located adjacent to St. Andrews Field because of the church's social connection with this place. The steeple needs to be elevated and it is important also that a decision be made quickly.

Councillor Petch (Mayor) suggested that a shade structure or rotunda be associated with the steeple. Kevin Shaw suggested, that it could be located in the Field of Mars Cemetery in the Presbyterian section.

Garry Stanley suggested that church owners in Ryde and Eastwood in particular be approached for the possible relocation of the steeple to their properties.

Council will employ a consultant to prepare a report on the various options for the steeple.

MIN. NO. 05 Reports from Community Representatives

Hermitage:

John Hull, through Jennifer Minifie, requested an update on the Heritage Office's action on the Hermitage. In particular the Department of Planning's letter to the owners of the site dated 2 July 2008. Meryl Bishop replied that the Heritage Office staff and the owners met on the site in mid August. The Office required that the site be secured, openings be boarded, and basic maintenance such as lawn mowing be undertaken.

The Heritage Office accepted the owners commitment to undertake these works. The Heritage Office mentioned that there was no evidence of rain damage with the building.

Sue Weatherley reported that the issue of whether the DA has elapsed is a legal matter not yet resolved.

Brush Farm House Curtilage:

Garry Stanley reported that work is well under way on site, that earthworks including demolition of concrete slabs, excavation for circular driveway and paths and curb construction are complete. Minutes of weekly site meetings are forwarded to heritage advisor for information. Jennifer Noble enquired about roll of archaeologist and artefact finds in the construction process. Sue Weatherly reported that we would research this matter and provide details in the minutes.

On this matter, Jeff Dearden has advised that an archaeological investigation was made of the curtilage before work commenced on site that revealed nothing of significance. There were no conditions from the Heritage Office Section 60 approval recommending that an archaeologist be on site during construction excavations. Recent finds during excavation have been recorded by Matthew Taylor, landscape architect, and reported to the Heritage Office during July, without response.

Denistone Heritage and Environment:

Patrick Sullivan queried the status of Character Areas with regard to new legislation. Sue Weatherly reported that the State wide Codes will not apply to heritage items and Conservation Areas, but will apply to Character areas. Sue Weatherley indicated that this issue was raised in Council's submission on the draft code.

It was noted that the codes have not reduced the number of DAs submitted to Councils.

Patrick Sullivan reported that the Denistone Group no longer exists, in that it has served its agenda and come to its end. A new group with a different agenda will be formed in the future. The Mayor congratulated the group on its success and its common sense approach to its agenda.

Jennifer Minifie suggested that Council make a submission that Character Areas be recognised with some limitations. Council could have its own codes but must be streamlined as the State Code. Patrick said that the advisory group had discussed the implications of the Code, but concluded that the Code needed to be specific for

Denistone. Sue Weatherley advised that Council had already made such a submission.

Jennifer Minifie said that the Hunters Hill Flora and Fauna Preservation Society will have a stall at the Open day at Field of Mars, which would make available brochures, including walking trails.

Ryde Historical Society:

Kevin Shaw reported that Guide Training Sessions have been successfully completed and that guides were used during Heritage Week this year for the Ryde Village Tours. Other tours proposed were; Tour of City of Ryde, Tour of Field of Mars Cemetery and Tour of St. Charles Cemetery. On the 31st August 08 the Parramatta Historical Society will visit the St. Charles Cemetery.

Brush Farm Park Plan of Management:

Meryl Bishop reported that Peter Hickman had advised that the plan would be completed at end of this year.

Sue Weatherley advised that the appropriate Council procedures had been followed and that Council will decide if the draft plan is circulated to stakeholders before it is finally adopted. Greg Blaxell would like to see final draft requested that the Committee prior to its consideration and adoption by Council.

Gregory Blaxell also requested that the sign at the Brush Farm Park should state that it was formerly part of the Estate, and should address information about the vineyard. This information will be provided Council's Property Service Unit.

MIN NO. 06 General Business

Jennifer Noble expressed concern about the design of the footpath in Rutledge St. and Winbourne St. and the blind spot created on the corner of the two streets by the planting on Council's verge. Jennifer recommended that the heritage advisor be involved in the design as the path is within a Conservation Area and adjacent to 4 heritage items. Barry Hodge has reported that alternative designs are being prepared for the path, which will be assessed by the heritage advisor, and that residents will be contacted by mail to obtain their feedback on proposed works.

Jennifer Minifie expressed concern about the process of distribution of the HAC minutes, but agreed with the process to send draft by email with advice to send feedback within 2 days. Any disagreements are to be discussed with Council officers by phone and recommended that the minutes be distributed as quickly as possible.

Jennifer Minifie also raised the effectiveness of the Committee. Sue Weatherley suggested that members should consider their function and roles: either a passive sounding board or be active in initiating projects. Meryl Bishop indicated that the committee members will be involved with the heritage review as part of the Comprehensive LEP once the base information has been gathered.

Councillor Terry Perram confirmed that the Committee gives advice only, and Council will determine what it wants to do with the information it receives from the Committee.

Greg Blaxell expressed concern about the Parramatta Foreshores Report. Comments were made but he has heard nothing back from consultants. Meryl confirmed that we are waiting on the final draft to be lodged with Council.

As this meeting was the last under the term of the current Council, Councillor Petch (Mayor) thanked the Committee, which has served the Council over the last 4 years and thanked members for their efforts. He presented each member with a certificate in recognition for their contribution.

Patrick Sullivan gave a vote of thanks to Council staff for their professional attitude and their assistance in the course of the Committee's term.

MIN NO. 07 Next Meeting: To be advised

Meeting Closed: 7.25 pm.