

Neighbourhood Forum 5

Wollongong's Heartland

*Collaborating with Council
on community aspirations,
visions, needs & concerns.*



**Coniston,
Figtree,
Gwynneville,
Keiraville,
Mangerton,
Mount Keira,
Mount St Thomas,
North Wollongong,
West Wollongong,
Wollongong City.**

AGENDA meeting 1st May 2024 at 7pm by open ZOOM Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88423139164>

Meeting ID: 884 2313 9164

- 1 Presentation None possible due to continuing meeting room problems: see p.2 & 3
- 2 Apologies Harold Hanson, Philip Laird
- 3 Minutes of meeting of 5th April and matters arising included in the agenda.
see pp.13-16
- 4 Comments If you wish to comment on, or object to, any of the recommendations
in this agenda please respond before the meeting date.
5. Caveats **See page 2**
- 6 Responses
 - 6.1 Meeting Venue: see p. 2
 - 6.2 Outstanding response: see p. 3
- 7 Reports
 - 7.1 Insurance Issues and the AGM: see **rec p.3**
 - 7.2 draft Delivery-Program & Operational-Plan: see p.4 **rec p.5**
 - 7.3 Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Regulations: see p.5
 - 7.4 Future Projects: see **rec p.6**
 - 7.5 Mobile Food Truck Trial: see **rec p.7**
 - 7.6 Mount Ousley Interchange: see p.7
 - 7.7 Integrated Transport Strategy: see p.8.
- 8 Planning
 - 8.1 Planning see p.8
 - 8.2-3 DAs: see p.8 **recs p. 9**
 - 8.11 DA determinations: see p.10
- 9 General Business see p.11
- 10 Snippets see p.12

Current active membership of Neighbourhood Forum 5 : 432 households

5 Caveats

Please note that whilst these reports and reviews, together with the recommendations and actions based on them, have been prepared with all due care and objectivity, no legal responsibility is accepted for errors, omissions or inadvertent misrepresentations, nor for any outcomes which might result from them.

6 Responses 6.1 NF 5 Meeting Venue

The most recent response from the Manager following NF5 representations, discussions and suggestions to amend Council's Agreement to help resolve the meetings venue impasse is:

“In response to your request for clarity from Council re clause 2 and 3 in the Conditions of Use document I can provide the following advice.

Clauses 2 and 3 are of a type that are regularly included within hire agreements relating to the booking of any space. The clauses seek to promote that the hirer is responsible for the arrangements they make of the space hired. They also have the effect of focussing the hirer's mind upon the general obligations they have to others in that space, as well as the limit of Council's obligations (ie Council is not setting up and packing up furniture).

In any event, the wording of a hire agreement wouldn't necessarily be determinative in any activity that injures another attendee. In other words, the duty the hirer owes to an attendee not to injure that attendee (through inadvertence, negligence or wilful act) is not dependent upon the wording (or its' absence) in a hire agreement. We are all under a duty of care towards other members of the public, be they pedestrians, persons shopping or persons in any other public space. In one sense, we are all exposed to “significant liabilities” if we behave in a manner found or accepted to be negligent.

Please note, these conditions of use are the same for all Council community facilities spaces. I hope this provides clarity for NF5 to enable the matter to be resolved, for you to sign the agreement to use the Library Theatre.”

Manager Community Culture and Engagement

Comment

It seems that Council is transferring its obligations to set up and pack up furniture, and therefore liabilities, to NF5. It is not clear why staff are requiring this now, when for at least the past 20 years Community Forums and Committees have been using Council and other facilities, including the Theatre, yet, to our knowledge, have not been required to sign agreements to do so.

6.2 Outstanding Response

Request for meeting with Ward Councillors on Planning Issues.

7 Reports

7.1 Meeting Venue and the AGM

Late in 2023 Council advised they had decided to move NF5 monthly meetings from the Old Town Hall to the Library Theatre, but required an Agreement to be signed. Legal views were that the Agreement included conditions exposing NF5 to potential liability for the safety of attendees, mainly because Council required us to be responsible for setting up and packing up furniture. Then it was discovered that in a 2014 Report staff had rejected requests by NFs for insurance coverage.

NF5 executive has been trying for almost six months to resolve the issues of meeting venue and Insurance cover for NFs, including many emails, meetings with Managers, suggested rewording of Council's agreement, and requests for intervention, without success. Apparently Council's current insurers will not cover NFs due to the wording of Council's Charter for NFs adopted in 2014, whereas similar groups are covered in other Councils including Shoalhaven, who have a different Insurer.

As noted in 6.1 above Council claim there is minimal risk to the Forum. It was suggested that NF 5 seek separate insurance but with Council paying the premium. This was rejected as too costly so presumably the risk is high. There has been no compromise achieved on the meeting venue Agreement.

Prior to Covid restrictions NF5 meetings were held in the Old Town Hall, but that has not been possible this year while negotiations have continued, and recent meetings have been by Zoom, which has reduced the numbers attending. Until a satisfactory meeting venue is found Zoom meetings will have to continue, but it is essential that AGMs be held in person.

Minutes of NF5 meeting 3 April noted that due to delays in resolving the meeting venue issue it has not been possible to arrange for the AGM to take place in April as planned. The issue seems no closer to resolution and a May AGM in person is not possible.

Recommendation

Many options have been considered and it is recommended that Members endorse the decision by NF5 Executive that the AGM be deferred until at least 3 July, by which time it is hoped a suitable meeting arrangements have been made.

7.2 **Draft-Delivery-Program-2022-2026 and Operational-Plan-2024-2025.**

This exhausting document of 398 pages is on exhibition until 7th May. Whilst there is an incredible amount of information it fails to disclose how forecasts and target/desired trends set last year have or have not been achieved – presumably because these will be set out in the annual report.. However, since the base is not stated it is difficult to assess whether this year’s targets/desired trends are reasonable.

Moreover, whilst there are overall estimates of expenditure by various categories, estimates for individual projects are not disclosed. That makes it difficult to judge whether a particular project is worth the money or priority.

However, on the positive side the Director of Infrastructure and Works and her acting Manager of Infrastructure have provided us with an excerpt of projects in the Neighbourhood Forum area. That reflects the general direction of the budget – reconstruction/resurfacing of roads (incidentally the current trend to larger and heavier cars and trucks mean that the roads need attention more frequently), more footpaths and cycleways and more flood control measures.

New projects, as opposed to reconstruction, replacement, upgrade or refurbishment, in our area in the next 4 years are:

Public Transport:

Coniston	Heaslip St after Gladstone Ave; Mytle St at Union St stop;
W’gong	Public Transport – City Centre; Campbell Sr at Corrimal St.

Cycle/Shared Paths:

Gwynneville	Throsby Drive: Foley to Flinders;
N. W’gong	Bourke St: Virginia St to Cliff Rd; Bourke St: N. W’gong Stn to Virginia
Wollongong	Smith St: Harhour St railway to Cliff Rd; Church St: Swan St to Crown St; Kembla St: Crown St to Bank St.

Footpaths:

Coniston:	Coniston car park to station entrance;
Keiraville:	Rose St: Robsons Rd to William St;
N. W’gong:	Bode Ave: Virginia St to Blacket Str;
Wollongong:	Park St: Bourke St to Edward St; Market St: continuous treatments; Union St: Strathearn St to Gladstone Av; 80 Rowland Ave: to Mangerton Rd.

Car Parks:

Wollongong:	Swan St east of. Corrimal St.
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Traffic Facilities:

N. W’gong: Bourke St/Cliff Road intersection;
Wollongong: City Centre: Wayfinding signage.

Floodplain Structures:

Figtree: The Avenue: Debris control;
35 Uralba St: Channel works;
W, W’gong Byarong Creek: Princes Hwy bank;

Stormwater drainage:

Wollongong: Swan St: channel access;
Belmore Basin: Improvement device.

Leisure Centres:

Gwynneville: Beaton Park: Multipurpose facility.

Playgrounds:

N. W’gong: Stuart Park; northern amenities extn;

Sports Fields:

Gwynneville: Beaton Park: lighting;
Mount Keira: Sportsfield lighting;
Mount Kembla: Sportsfield lighting;
Wollongong: JJ Kelly Park: drainage.

Comment

Given the recent unprecedented flood event, and the prospect of worse to come, it is suggested that far more resources are needed to address the situation.

Recommendations

- 1 Council be advised that the Forum supports the general direction of priorities in the documents but seeks greater emphasis on improving the flood prevention and drainage infrastructure;
- 2 Council be requested to include in the documentation current achievements wherever targets/desired outcomes are set out;
- 3 The Director of Infrastructure and Works be thanked for providing details of works affecting the NF 5 area.

7.3 Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Regulations

The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is consulting on the proposed *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Amendment Regulations 2024*, until 12th May. The proposed Regulations support the *Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act 2021* and set out requirements for offshore wind projects once an offshore electricity infrastructure licence has been granted. They will assist in establishing an offshore wind industry in Australia.

Specifically, the proposed Regulations set out the requirements for: management plans; a design notification scheme; financial securities; safety and protection zones; work health and safety; record keeping; and fees.

7.4 Future Projects

Ever since COVID closed things down the executive has carried most of the weight of Forum affairs. We should now broaden involvement and get as many members as possible involved in projects of one kind or another, hopefully involving a wide range of other community or affected groups.

Some initial suggestions are:

- 1 review progress on the implementation of the Keiraville/Gwynneville Community Plan and pick up and follow through on outstanding issues;
- 2 likewise on our city centre proposals;
- 3 pick up and carry forward the ideas from our project on the liveability of the public realm near our home environment, which never really got going;
- 4 maybe have another go at the provision of a local open space in North Wollongong;
- 5 a programme of planting fruit trees in streets and parks and trying to initiate a community garden;
- 6 identify and develop a pedestrian/cyclist priority precinct;
- 7 have another look at walking trails on the Escarpment;
- 8 as a last resort maybe yet another plan for MacCabe Park getting the RSL, Rotary and the Youth Centre involved;
- 9 review our locality plans to increase densities near rail stations and local centres in an effort to work with Council and the State Government;
- 10 whatever else is bugging you and Council does not have the resources to do.

Don't be shy, it is your city and your opportunity to help make it an even better place to live in. Let the secretary know of any project which takes your fancy and you would like to be part of, and we will try to set things in motion.

Recommendations

- 1 members wishing to participate in any future projects advise the secretary of any they are interested in;
- 2 in the hopeful event that there are many projects, the relevant Council Director be approached to advise on which projects would be of most help to Council.

7.5 Mobile Food Truck Trial

1st May

Council has been trialing mobile food trucks in various locations across the city including Roy Johanson Park in Euroka St, West Wollongong and Neville McKinnion Park in Strathearn Ave, Wollongong. They are currently seeking feedback from operators and customers.

It will be interesting to see the results. Casual observation is that they are not well used presumably because they are situated in back streets and the core business is likely to be passing traffic which can turn off the road to patronise the outlet making it viable for local residents.

Recommendation

In the event that Council decides not to continue with the mobile food truck trialled in the Wollongong area consideration be given to alternative locations such as JJ Kelly Park at Swan St. and ensuring that seating is available nearby.

7.6 Mount Ousley Interchange

It is most welcome that the long-overdue Mount Ousley Road intersection project funded by the Australian and NSW governments is underway, as reported to NF5 meeting 3 April. Also a positive is that a meeting is due on 30 April with representatives of NF5, TfNSW and the Contractor Fulton Hogan, which will enable a report to be considered at NF5 meeting 1 May.

In 2016 after many years consultation and consideration by RMS, a preferred option was adopted and a Concept Map was finalised. The project's key benefits included "Improved amenity for pedestrians and cyclists, with a new pedestrian and cyclist bridge, widening of an existing pedestrian bridge and improved connectivity on existing shared paths."

On 18 Jan 2024 a TfNSW media release advised a contract had been awarded and quoted local MPs, but no Map was provided. In late March a TfNSW project update stated that in 2023 the project team made "refinements" to the "scope and design" to "achieve a value for money solution which delivers core project objectives." The update included a revised Map that showed changes including removal of a pedestrian bridge across Mt Ousley Road and replacement of a roundabout with 2 sets of traffic lights. Yet TfNSW Project features still include "Improved pedestrian and cyclist connectivity." NF5 has requested TfNSW to provide a list of the "core project objectives," which hopefully align with those adopted in 2016.

Community furore erupted and on 8 April Council resolved to call on TfNSW to reinstate the active transport bridge over Mount Ousley Road to ensure safe pedestrian and cycle access and it is understood that political representations are. But NF5 hopes to reinstate effective communication channels with TfNSW which existed up to 2016, to discuss feedback from residents and suggested improvements to the project scope and design.

7.7 **Integrated Transport Strategy**

This long awaited document is not so much a strategy as essentially an assessment of the current situation and then a series of principles and guidelines leading to 42, no less, projects many or most of which one would have expected the strategy to have spelled out.

So, whilst this is a sumptuously illustrated document with good background information and restatements of many well accepted principles, it is not helpful in the short term. It does not review or propose transport essentials such as the road hierarchy, the cycleway system, footpath priorities, public transport routes or parking regimes. Therefore, it cannot influence the works programme until many of the “projects” have been completed, some over the next 10 year period.

8 **Planning.** 8.1

As these reviews have only been made with the information available, members are encouraged to make their own submissions with any additional comments to the Secretary well before the closing date.

8.2 **DA-2024/207 12 houses 26-30 Ajax Ave N. W’gong**

26th April

This is a proposal for 11 single storey townhouses and a two storey house on the north-east corner of the Princes Highway and Ajax Ave. It seems to comply with all Council requirements except for a couple of minor, mainly internal, infringements.

However, there is a concern that the access is close to the intersection with the Princes Highway and that it might prove dangerous with trucks turning downhill off the highway and it might also compromise the major cycleway between the University and the Innovation Campus.



Recommendation:

That the submission of support, subject to access and design concerns, be endorsed.

8.3 DA-2024/207 17 stories, 75 units 41-47 Denison St W'gong
2nd May

This is a proposal for a 17 storey building with commercial ground floor, 75 units above and 3 levels of basement parking between Denison St and the South Coast railway. Half the site is zoned Commercial Centre and the rest Mixed Use resulting in a rather lopsided building with Heritage listed old Berlie House façade preserved in front.

There are insignificant variations in the height limits and the combined site floor space ratio (0.03%). There are also marginal variations in the side and rear setbacks of taller element but these comply with the State Design Guidelines. It seems to comply with all other requirements save a deep planting zone which is not unreasonable in this location.



Recommendation:

That a submission of support be lodged

8.4 DA Determinations

22/966	W'gong	46 Burelli St	Art Gallery & Town Hall	Support	Approved
22/1203	W'gong	114 Church St	Community facility	Object	Approved
22/1247	Figtree	7 Govett Crescent	Dual Occ	Object	Approved
22/146	W'gong	22 Jutland Ave	Dual Occ	Object	Approved
22/1268	Figtree	54 Nebo Drive	2 lot subdivision	Support	Approved
22/1343	Keiraville	4-6 Georgina Ave	Units	Object	Approved
23/135	W'gong	7 New Dapto Road	Dual Occ	Support	Approved
23/276	Keiraville	26 Bulwara St	2 lots	Support	Approved
23/331	Coniston	512 Heaslip St	5 town houses	Support	Approved
23/417	W'gong	132 Church St	2 stories office	Support	Approved
23/507	W'gong	Belmore Basin	Timbersports event	Support	Approved
23/587	W'gong	5 Greenacre Rd	Dual Occ	Object	Approved
22/211	W'gong	4 Auburn St,	24 stories, hotel 59 dw	Support	Approved, Panel
22/1278	W'gong	29-31 Denison St	36 units,	Object	Approved, Panel
23/50	N. W'gng	4-6 Blacket Street	10 units	Object	Refused Appeal
23/358	Mangertn	11-12 St Johns Ave	6 townhouses	Object	Approved
23/360	W'gong	3 Harbour St	Dual occ	Object	Refused Appeal
23/367	W'gong	300-2 Crown St	8 stories 47 units	Support	Approved
23/349	Figtree	15 Branch Ave	3 town houses	Object	Approved
23/493	Figtree	54 Lewis Drive	Dual Occ	Support	Withdrawn
23/533	Kerraville	64 Grey Street	Dual Occ	Support	Approved
23/541	Figtree	17 Evelyn Ave.	Dual Occ	Support	Approved
23/768	W'gong	205 Church St	Dual Occ	Object	Refused

Not yet determined

21/101	N W'gong	3, Squires Way	UoW Health complex	Support
22/938	W'gong	379-383 Crown St	21 stories, 91 units	Support
23/156	W'gong	c/o Crown/Gladstone	22 stories 288 units	Object
23/358	Mangerton	11-12 St Johns Ave	6 townhouses	Object
23/368	N. W'gong	21-23 Edward St	10 stories 20 units	Support
23/646	W'gong	4 Smith/Harbour St	5 units, 4 stories,	Object
23/587	Figtree	8 O'Briens Road	Dual Occ	Support
23/551	W'gong	16-18 Market Pl.	5 stories, 7 units,	Object
23/945	W'gong	98-104 Gipps St	5 storey commercial	Support
23/962	W. W'gong	Edmund Rice College	2 storey building	Support
23/975	Gwynnville	19 Paulsgrove	boarding house	Support
23/1008	Keiraville	8 Burradool St	Dual Occ	Object
24/1	W'gong	15-19 Marr Street	7 storeys, 24 units	Support
24/2	Gwynnville	13 Frances St	Dual Occ	Object
24/23	Mangerton	51 Byrarong Ave	Dwelling & Dual Occ	Mixed
24/26	W'gong	23-27 Auburn St	16 stories, 61 units	Support
24/87	N.W'gong	39-41 Montague St	16 warehouse units	Support
24/96	Keiraville	95 Grey St.	Dual Occ	Support
24/100	Figtree	4A Arter Ave.	13 dwellings	Object

9 General Business

Date of next meeting
Wednesday 5th June 2024

Current active membership of Neighbourhood Forum 5 : 431 households

Snippets

COP 28 COP OUT

The COP 28 Climate conference revealed the sense of the gulf between the half-measures and warm words of international agreements and the existential struggle of real people in communities including that of the many island nation peoples whose lives and cultures are being extinguished by our collective failure to radically reduce carbon emissions and stabilise our climate.

People and places are becoming the collateral damage of global political failures driven by the vested interests of the petro-chemicals industry and the petro-states that it controls. Given the weakness of the COP 28 agreement, it is now scientifically inconceivable that we can stabilise global temperatures at 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Pushing out beyond that to 2°C and above takes us into new realms of scientific uncertainty— but what we do know is that the most extraordinary and radical action will need to be taken to save places near the coast.

Let's be clear that, despite the weight of climate anxiety across the generations, we have an absolute obligation not to give up. Instead, we must re-commit ourselves to doing everything necessary to secure a sustainable future. In doing so, we must recognise that we have a special responsibility to help communities understand honestly and openly the scale of the challenges that they face. We have to rise to the challenges, knowing that it is better to have fought and lost than to turn our back on the fate of future generations.

Dr. Hugh Ellis and Celia Davis

