

Neighbourly Committee No 4
Incorporating Neighbourhood Forum No 4
Executive Committee:
Co-Convenors Bradley Chapman and Paul Evans
Secretary: Bradley Chapman
Treasurer: Vacant
Contact: Bradley Chapman – bradleyc@ozemail.com.au



NF4 Tuesday, 4th June 2024

AGM – MINUTES

Open Meeting- 07.00pm

Zoom Address:

<https://uca-nswact.zoom.us/j/93242847341?pwd=IUy2SQXeutNdSaNHQ8GCNyH73PdTSm.1>

Meeting ID: 93242847341

Passcode: 757866

Apologies – Cr Hayes, Paul Evans, Michael and Alison Blake, Sam Tannous, Marie Caine, Anne Marett,

Minutes of Previous Meeting- 6th June 2023.

Business Arising from Minutes -

Co-Chair Report:-

It continues to be an important opportunity to keep NF4 functioning and to work with the regular members and especially the representatives of our affiliated community groups in supporting matters of resident concern to Wollongong City Council. While it continues to be a challenge to make this forum better known within the footprint from Russell Vale to Fairy Meadow/Mt Ousley centred on Corrimal, from time to time, key issues arise which reconnect residents with this forum. Increasingly however, younger families and individuals find themselves time-poor and discouraged from attending face-to-face meetings as previous generations would, preferring instead to communicate via social media. This may soon lead to a serious conversation with Council about the on-going relevance of forums such as NF4. While we still function, we appreciate the direct involvement in the meetings, of Cr R Martin and Cr D Hayes from Ward 1, in providing factual guidance and perspective on the workings of Council, (and helping the co-convenor stay on topic...). We also formally thanked and farewelled outgoing Councillor Cameron Walters for his strong support of NF4 during the former term of Council.

We continue to receive respectful connection with the staff at Council through the Community Engagement Team and value the opportunity to work with them to further improve the community contact process and procedures on behalf of our residents and local businesses.

During the year, we have supplied submissions on a wide range of issues, and joined with a range of extra community groups in expressing concerns over state and council policies and programs that will significantly impact the liveability and future functioning of our community.

- The M1 Mt Ousley Interchange Development leading to a resident consortium that now regularly meets with Federal and State MPs as well as TfNSW and Fulton-Hogan representatives. A special thanks to Emma Rooksby for becoming a regular representative of NF4 (and other interests) in this consortium and to Alison Byrne MP for enabling the meetings to be established on a legitimate and respectful basis.
- Continued support for CCAG in monitoring Legacy Property's work at 'The Works' Development.
- Support alongside Ward 1 Councillors regarding the transport needs of greater Corrimal in relation to the State Housing Strategy and its impact on the immediate area, with particular reference to the Memorial Drive, Railway Street and Corrimal Railway transport zone as well as the obvious impact of 'The Works' Development.
- CCAG/NF4 finally achieve a meeting with Minister Scully to highlight the misfit of the TOD to Corrimal's situation. That a Sydney-based solution is not workable without a serious upgrade of South Coast Rail which continues to lack budget recognition in The Capital.
- East Corrimal Open Space receive and take the lead on new resident enquiries about toilet facilities near Happy Valley Park and again raise with Council the pedestrian safety issues of excessive speed along the East Corrimal reach of the Northern Cycleway, now made significantly worse by e-bikes and scooters.
- NF4 contributions to the TfNSW/WCC proposals for upgrades to pedestrian and active transport facility on Railway Street and Murray Road to and from Corrimal Railway Station.
- Continued frustration expressed that the above can be considered separately to the concerns about increased housing density and the low functioning of the South Coast Rail line embedded in the T.O.D. Policy.
- Support for Corrimal RSL's 2-stage DA of the club premises in the Town Centre.
- Again share with council staff the budget and long term directions for City Infrastructure.
- Councillors share both the economic benefits of a policy to welcome TV and Movie industries to Wollongong and the proposal to establish a Drug Court in the city as a proactive means of engaging youth and disadvantaged young people and diverting them towards rehabilitation rather than the criminal justice system.

Thank you for attending and I hope we can continue to play a useful role in the positive life of our suburbs in the coming year.

Discussion of what Community Consultation looks like in the future.

Council to review these strategies.

Brad Chapman

Co-Convener

Election of Office Bearers

- Cr R. Martin accepted to Manage Proceedings

- Call for nominations for Positions.

Brad Chapman – Co-convener

Paul Evan Interim Co-convener

Treasurer: Susannah Cavill and Brad Chapman

- Determination of new Office Bearers, Meeting endorsed the above people in their roles.

Thank you, Richard.

Discussion on Future of NF4.

Meeting attendees recognised that the community's ability and interest in attending monthly face-to-face meetings was changing due to a combination of factors.

- Family and work commitments
- Resident members discouraged by winter travel conditions
- Generational change of attitudes towards regular face-to-face meetings
- Knowledge barriers to community awareness of Neighbourhood Forums unless affected directly by a major activity or decision resulting in contact via Council

A mixture of the above impacting regular attendance.

Cr Martin shared with the meeting that WCC is currently investigating the future form that Community Consultation should take. No current intention to close NFs but clearly multiple avenues are needed to meet statutory requirement to engage public feedback.

Meeting decided:

To trial bi-monthly meetings on the *Even Months* for the remainder of 2025.

Ad Hoc Special Meetings can be arranged if required by specific issues.

Corrimal RSL continues to offer its facilities if such are needed.

Communicate this decision to the mail list stating that next meetings will be:

Tuesdays, 5 August, 7 October and 2 December [Being our Christmas Gathering].

Commence General Meeting.

**NF4 Tuesday, 3 June, 2025, General Meeting:
Towradgi Community Hall**

MINUTES -

Open Meeting- 07.20pm

Apologies – Cr Hayes, Paul Evans, Michael and Alison Blake, Sam Tannous, Marie Caine, Anne Marett,

Minutes of Previous Meeting 6 May 2025 - Distributed via email to members.

Business Arising from Minutes -

Ward 1 Councillor's Update: -

Council's audit on their council-owned lands proceeding. Discussions with interested residents about consolidating small parcels of land that could be sold off to benefit Council's budget commitments and overheads.

Correspondence In –

- WLPP 10 June 2025 - No properties directly affecting NF4 residents.

Correspondence Out –.

Current DAs: [Available for Resident Comment]

DA-2025/331 - Development Application - 1/20 Russell Street BALGOWNIE NSW 2519 - 2 Jun
Home business - production and packaging of craft teas
DA-2025/340 - Development Application - 36 Wallace Road FERNHILL NSW 2519 - 3 Jun
Residential - Shed
DA-2025/332 - Development Application - 19 Rose Parade MOUNT PLEASANT NSW 2519 - 4 June
Residential - secondary dwelling
DA-2025/347 - Development Application - 78 Keerong Avenue RUSSELL VALE NSW 2517 - 9 June
Residential - removal of retaining wall and construction of dwelling. Old Rescue Station.
DA-2025/353 - Development Application - 51-59 Princes Highway FAIRY MEADOW NSW 2519 - 10 June
Construction of external disability access ramp
DA-2025/359 - Development Application - 25 Wallace Road FERNHILL NSW 2519 - 11 June
Subdivision - Torrens title - two (2) lots

No submissions from NF4 as no residents asked for comment..

Community Campaigns:

- **Corrimal Community Action Group**

Attached Letter to WCC re: 2035 Community Strategic Plan

- **East Corrimal Open Space Committee** –

- **Build our Bridge Committee**

[**NF4, NF5, Illawarra Bike Users Group, Healthy Cities Illawarra, Keiraville Residents' Action Group**]

General Business:

- CCAG discussed their concerns about the loss of the Environment Goal from the Community Strategic Plan in its 2035 version compared to previous Council plans. Shared concerns about Community Resilience appearing to have been downgraded as a determination and therefore a lost priority in future provision.

Cr Martin responded to this document that Council has acknowledged the community feedback on the wording of Goal 1. It was not intended that Environment be downgraded as a priority. WCC has undertaken to deliver more information to address this concern. Development plans need to maintain the existing standard of green corridors.

- Council has spent \$60m on the city city + \$16m over four years on new infrastructure.
- Information program on management of private creek matters to be forthcoming as this is a significant issue in the city's flood preparedness. A major push for residents and Council to work together in preparing each respective responsibility. ie. Council can not be held responsible for the management of private holdings. As with fire and emergency information from RFS and SES, advice is given for community members to prepare and manage their homes and properties to the best of their capability.

Meeting Close: 8:20 pm

Neighbourly Forum 4 meets the 1st Tuesday of the month at Towradgi Community Hall, Corner of Moray Road and Towradgi Road Towradgi at 7pm.

**** All Welcome - No Cost ****

The General Manager and Wollongong City Councillors.

Wollongong City Council

Wollongong, NSW 2500

RE: Draft Our Wollongong Our Future Community Strategic Plan

Dear Councillors and General Manager

The Corrimal Community Action Group would like to make a comment on the CSP.

In the 2032 CSP there were 6 Goals. This has now been reduced to 4 Goals in the 2035 CSP with **a lack of appropriate acknowledgement of the importance of valuing and protecting our environment.**

The number of goals (7) in **Goal 1 /Sustainable** is well below the measures of the number of goals in the other 3 goals of **Vibrant (12), Connected (15) and Inclusive (14).**

Given the ongoing problems with natural disasters within our area the protection of our natural environment is of prime importance if we are to be a sustainable and climate resilient city.

1.1 The community is actively involved in the expansion, improvement and preservation of our waterways, green corridors and other natural areas connecting the escarpment to the sea.

Comment

Do we want to expand our waterways?

What strategies are there to involve people and neighbourhoods into actively being involved and what plans are there to increase their participation.

We would like all of our waterways, green corridors and other natural areas to be cleaner and safer. At present they are polluted and left in many instances to land holders to maintain.

Is there any direction on how private landholders can be encouraged or obliged to be more aware of their responsibility to keep waterways clear of potential hazards.

Regular inspections of local creeks and waterways should be able to give a clearer picture of how this can be improved.

Testing of water quality in our waterways should be a regular part of a sustainable and climate resilient city. These tests should be published regularly, along with information on how people can improve the quality in our area.

Our green corridors are diminishing and cannot be replaced just with just shared footpaths. **A register of available green space should be available each year to make sure that it is not diminished.**

Natural areas are being damaged and downgraded during building and development work.

Native species of flora and fauna are being pushed out of the area and replaced with small off leash dog areas. There is no WCC plan to rescue and rehome fauna that has been displaced. How can we improve the biodiversity in our environment and protect what is already there.?

Larger penalties for pollution during building and development should be investigated. There seems to be a culture of **'do the crime, pay the fine and then keep repeating'**. Repeated dust issues on Railway Street Corrimal is an ongoing problem. Another example is the

continued pollution of Bellambi Creek from the Coal Mine and the pollution from dust on neighbouring properties.

Increase our resilience to natural disasters and ability to adapt to a changing climate, to protect life, property and the environment.

Comment

Climate resilience is the ability of a system such as a local council to anticipate, prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change.

Environmental protection is the key, and crucial in building climate resilience. We have sporting fields that have been built on coal wash to the detriment of wetlands. Creeks that have been rerouted to suit development at both private and government level. Creeks that have been polluted by industry and private individuals.

More rain events and the associated flooding, landslip, erosion, along with rising sea levels has an impact on the way we should be thinking about zoning near beaches, creeks, rivers, steep escarpments, along with filling in wet lands; marshes and mangroves.

Resilience should also have early warning signs for the local population to prepare and well developed and easily accessible exit routes.

We would ask Council to return the goal of

We value and protect our environment

To Our Wollongong

Our Future 2035

Community

Strategic Plan Draft

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