

<p><b>Neighbourhood Forum 5</b></p> <p><b>Wollongong's Heartland</b></p>		<p><b>Coniston, Figtree, Gwynneville, Keiraville, Mangerton, Mount Keira, Mount St Thomas, North Wollongong, West Wollongong, Wollongong City.</b></p>
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### **Agenda for Annual General Meeting Wed. 4th April 2018, Town Hall Ocean Room**

- 1 Apologies
- 2 Election of Convener, Co-Convener and Secretary see p.2
- 2 Annual Report see p. 3.
  - Recommendations
    - 1 discussion on the commentary;
    - 2 the Annual Report be adopted.
- 3 Policies see p. 6.
  - Recommendation
 

The policies be endorsed, subject to any changes proposed and adopted at this meeting.
- 4 Locality Plans see p. 11
  - Recommendation
 

The Locality Plans be re-endorsed, subject to any changes proposed and adopted at this meeting.
- 5 General Business.

# Annual General Meeting

As noted in the minutes of the March meeting there is to be an election held for the Neighbourhood Forum 5 for a term of office until the AGM in March/April 2021.

The term of appointment for the Convenor has to be for up to two years but the Charter does not specifically prevent further terms of two years, simply that they must stand again for election. The term of appointment for the Co-Convenor is not specified but presumably is at the discretion of the Forum as is that for the Secretary. All three positions have been held by the incumbents for the past few years.

An independent person will chair this section of the meeting and Patricia Calabro has agreed to do this.

So far nominations have been received for:

Chair: Harold Hanson;  
Co-Chair: John Riggall;  
Secretary: David Winterbottom;

and will be called for from the floor at the start of this item.

If there is more than one nominee for a position then those present may vote for the election process:

Either:           by way of show of hands and if there are more than two candidates for any position with the one with the fewest votes dropping out until there are only two;

Or:                by way of two scrutineers volunteering and a secret ballot wherein, if there are more than two candidates, the one with the fewest votes is eliminated and has their vote transferred to their next preference.

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## 2018-9 Annual report.

REPORT	COMMENT
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	
The distribution list of those receiving agendas is over 400 (including 20 at Council). Gains exceed drop offs by a modest 1.5% since 2018.	
Average attendance by members is 18 which is down a little on earlier years.	The drop is probably because there have not been so many contentious issues. Support from the University is much appreciated.
Many people (including some in Council) rely on Agendas to keep tabs on what is happening.	It would be nice if more attended meetings, although many people rely on the agendas for information and then make direct contact with the secretary.
We tried to improve communications to and support for Ward Councillors.	Most Councillors respond when asked but generally, except for Cllr Tania Brown, do not attend meetings.
Some 169 letters have been sent to Council or to State Departments in response to calls for submissions and/or raising various issues	Many responses are non-committal, particularly from the State Government, but hopefully raise awareness.
34 were submissions on Council's or State's draft policies, plans or strategies, nearly all supported but suggesting some changes.	
Only 4 local communities have addressed the Forum on specific development applications or other issues.	We still need to find ways and means of improving, but many local issues were raised by members from the floor.
A number of the NF5's policies under <b>Places</b> (4); <b>Planning</b> (4); <b>Process</b> (4); and <b>Preservation</b> (6) have been up-dated	
Some 15 presentations have been made, the majority by Council officers;	

<b>PLANNING</b>	
<b>Major Development Applications:</b>	
9 supported and approved 2 opposed and refused/withdrawn 5 opposed and approved 1 supported and refused/withdrawn	There has been a significant increase in the number of major applications
<b>Dual Occupancy DAs</b>	
11 opposed and approved 9 supported and approved 2 opposed and refused	Dual occupancies continue in areas remote from services.
<b>Other Applications</b>	
13 supported and approved 1 opposed and refused/withdrawn 6 opposed and approved 2 supported and refused/withdrawn	These are mostly small scale residential developments or boarding houses.
<b>Development Administration</b>	
Boarding Houses. There are still only two of the boarding houses in Keiraville/Gwynneville that are registered.	There is a clear definition of a Boarding House in that legislation but Council still do not use it for development assessment purposes.
Last year Council considered a Local Environmental Plan for South Wollongong a priority	No idea what is happening, the draft report was most disappointing.
Developers are requested to allow floor plans to be placed on-line so that the impact, such as of setback infringements, can be seen.	Council have changed the wording so that most developers now conform.
<b>PROJECTS</b>	
<b>Keiraville/Gwynneville:</b>	
The Planning Proposal designed to respond to the community's concerns about unsustainable and inappropriate development is still on the table.	The Neighbourhood Forums Alliance is taking up the issue.
The Implementation Plan has been adopted by Council.	
Council has endorsed our Greening Strategy	Some aspects incorporated into the Council Strategy
Desired Future Character Statements for suburbs provided.	To be taken up by the Neighbourhood Forums Alliance.
Further examples of good and bad streetscape provided.	Still no response.
Council has accepted some short-term traffic problems and solutions	The parking and access study is still not available but promised by the end of March.

<b>City Centre:</b>	
A number of suggestions from our City Centre project are now being implemented by Council, or are under active consideration.	There is still no formal Community Advisory Group.
The City Centre Public Spaces Public Life project is coming up with very similar principles to those we have promoted.	A place manager has been appointed but patronage of the Mall still seems to be declining.
<b>Figtree Centre</b>	
Unworkable Plan still seems to be in limbo.	
<b>South Wollongong</b>	
Draft Plan prepared which does not help much.	Needs community engagement
<b>North Wollongong</b>	
Draft Policy prepared including new height controls and Future Character Statement.	Still awaiting Council reviews.
Liveability project started with good support from Council and the RMS.	The View Street community were concerned that improvements would attract undesirables.
<b>LIAISON</b>	
<b>Council</b>	
We have had strong support from Council in terms of presentations.	It would be nice if Council's Community Engagement team were more involved.
Grand Pacific Walk and Blue Mile - it seems at long last a review is in the offing.	Council continues to fund projects not in accordance with their own flawed plan.
Waste disposal - A Strategy was adopted but we need to press for details.	No details available.
The alienation of Stuart Park remains a very sore point.	The authorities do not seem to be prepared to buy into this one.
<b>Crown Lands</b>	
A good relationship has been developed with Crown Lands about Wollongong Harbour.	
<b>University</b>	
A good relationship has been developed with the University and we meet officers regularly.	
University representatives frequently attend Forum meetings.	
<b>CONCLUSION</b>	
We have had an interesting array of speakers, most from Council but need to find ways and means of increasing attendances at meetings.	

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## **Forum Policies**

Forum Policies come under four broad divisions: **Places**; **Planning**; **Process**; and **Preservation**. They are reviewed annually.

### **Places**

#### **Boarding Houses**

Chapter C3 of Wollongong DCP 2009 be further updated to:

- 1 exempt as a boarding house those with fewer than 5 lodgers;
- 2 require development applications from those with 5 lodgers or more;
- 3 include advice on definition like that from Ryde Council;

15th November 2015

#### **Wollongong Harbour**

Wollongong Harbour should:

- 1 remain a working harbour;
- 2 retain its cultural heritage;
- 3 provide public access and public places;
- 4 retain existing trees;
- 5 provide only low key tourism buildings.

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2010

#### **Sale or Lease of Public Land**

- 1 As a general principle whenever possible land in public ownership should not be alienated unless either it is of no benefit to the public or is to be leased for a commercial venture.

3 No community land should be used for the exclusive use of any organisation, other than Council, unless the use is of short duration for a very limited period, and the cumulative impact is acceptable, or the land is to be leased for a commercial venture.

2 Community Land should not be sold if it:

- i is an integral part of a significant park;
- ii gives possible access to a significant or lineal park;
- iii is able to be widely used for active or passive recreation activities;
- iv is likely to be worse maintained; or
- v has already been alienated by stealth.

If the land is suitable to be sold then at least two-thirds of the proceeds from any sale should be used to embellish nearby open space.

4 No land is to be leased for a commercial venture, other than for a not for profit service for the general public already using the land, unless:

- i public tenders have been called to ensure the best outcome;
- ii there are the most exceptional circumstances;
- iii there is little demand for the land to be used by the general public; and
- iv it can demonstrated there are community and economic benefits not obtainable on another more appropriate site.

1 March 2017

## **Town Hall**

The Town Hall is touted as the city's key civic and community venue and ought to be the centre of local cultural life – why else have a town hall? Community groups are being squeezed out in favour of out-of-town commercial ventures.

The policy is that non-profit, volunteer managed, groups be only charged at a rate sufficient to cover basic costs such as lighting, cleaning and security.

6th May 2015

## **Keiraville/Gwynneville**

Following a major community engagement programme during 2013 a series of proposals were refined and adopted as policy:

- 1 the Keiraville/Gwynneville Community Plan;
- 2 the Keiraville/Gwynneville Implementation Strategy;
- 3 the Keiraville/Gwynneville Planning Proposal;
- 4 the Keiraville/Gwynneville Greening Strategy;

March 2014

## **Planning**

### **Locality Plans**

Comprehensive plans for localities, excluding the City Centre, were developed in 2010 and refined in 2012. These were discussed with Council officers who, whilst generally sympathetic, were not prepared to support the proposals in advance of a review of the Development Control Plan for which there does not appear to be a timetable or resources.

In the event the Keiraville/Gwynneville Community Plan built on the plans for those localities and developed a Planning Proposal which refined the plans, but, more significantly, require changes to the Local Environmental Plan.

As a result the Locality Plans for all areas were amended to conform to those adopted for Keiraville/Gwynneville. That involved using Transition Areas to replace Development Streets, eventually increasing densities in those Areas, and omitting the two-lot adjacent constraints for medium density housing.

It is also to be noted that we adopted significant changes in the vicinity of the Figtree Centre when working with Council on plans for that which, as we predicted, got nowhere.

As a result the Locality Plans were reworked and up-dated but without changing the adopted outcomes. The changes were necessary because:

- 1 the relevance of Development Control Plans had been watered down by State legislation and Land and Environment Court decisions to the point where they are ineffective for our purposes, whilst still being valuable at a detailed level;
- 2 experience from the Keiraville/Gwynneville project sets a precedence as to what can be achieved elsewhere;
- 3 specific changes in South Wollongong are proposed subject to Council's delayed study.

1st April and 5th August 2015

### **City Centre**

Our vision is for a strong, vibrant and viable centre which acts as a focus and place of pride for citizens.

- 1 Introduce a broad based City Centre Reference Group to monitor, advise and review activities, investment and marketing.
- 2 Substantially increase access, enterprise support, promotion, economic development and especially community activities.
- 3 Significantly increase funding to the City Centre in line with rate revenue from it.
- 4 Rationalise the rating system to remove the current inequities.
- 5 Re-direct funding emphasis from major infrastructure to Place Management and significantly improving the environment for pedestrians and cyclists.
- 6 Relocate long-term parking at the edge of the city centre near the principal access roads, within an integrated financial plan.
- 7 Rationalise short-term parking and introduce a City Centre Section 94 Plan to prevent fragmentation and achieve economies.



- 8 Concentrate commercial development on the core by rezoning to encourage residential development, and limit commercial development, in the peripheral areas.
- 9 Review height limits to reduce them.

15th November, 2015

### **City Centre Residential**

The Forum supports:

- 1 responsible sustainable development;
- 2 high density residential development within reasonable proximity of the City Centre;
- 3 conformity to Council's very generous planning standards (other than height);
- 4 restricting the height of new development to within 4 stories of adjacent sites.
- 5 the provision of housing for the disadvantaged.

The Forum does not support:

- 1 variations from planning standards;
- 2 concentrating housing for the disadvantaged in large buildings;
- 3 discriminating against disadvantaged people by reducing standards;
- 4 using prime commercial sites exclusively for residential purposes.

18 November 2009

### **Site Specific Rezoning**

Outstanding proposals are:

- 1 Coniston Centre needs the boundaries adjusted.
- 2 Housing on Wollongong Golf Course should be zoned Residential.
- 3 The south side of Staff Street should re-zoned for a higher density.

24<sup>th</sup> March 2009

### **Process**

#### **Community**

Community engagement should start when a project is being contemplated and even then it is still a top down process and a long way from community empowerment and creating communities.

5<sup>th</sup> October 2011

#### **Service**

A customer focus on increasing use technology fails to address the needs of the disadvantaged and non computer literate members of society who are increasingly being marginalised. The format for the advertising of development proposals needs a radical rethink.

5<sup>th</sup> October 2011

## **Notification**

- 1 The Development Control Plan notification component is lengthy, complex and should be simplified and re-drafted.
- 2 All development applications should be notified to adjoining owners with the advice to contact the Neighbourhood Forum if they have concerns that the proposal could have a wider impact.
- 3 Wider notification should be based on the impact on the community (not a lengthy land-use table) especially when there are environmental issues (such as tree removal or flooding), potential nuisance or the restriction of views.
- 4 The size and prominence of on-site notices should be increased.
- 5 The Development Control Plan should include provision for mediation and alternative dispute resolution in the assessment process.
- 6 Newspaper advertisements should provide realistic descriptions of proposals.

8<sup>th</sup> August 2009

## **Comment**

Virtually all of these proposals have been rejected.

## **Preservation**

### **Escarpment**

The promotion of the intrinsic values of the Illawarra Escarpment and protect it from inappropriate development by:

- 1 monitoring all development proposals that impact on the Illawarra Escarpment to ensure that:
  - i new development provides long-term benefits to the escarpment;
  - ii development which could be seen from the city below is excluded;
  - iii the visual impact from viewpoints above is considered;
  - iv isolated development at risk from unstoppable bushfires are excluded;
  - v at least two access roads to escape bushfires are guaranteed;
  - vi there is no further subdivision of creek lines;
  - vii vegetated ridges are used to separate suburbs;
  - viii Planning Agreements to require Property Vegetation Plans are used.
- 2 joining with others to provide a strong and united voice in promoting the protection of the scenic and conservation values of the Illawarra Escarpment so that these values will exist for future generations;
- 3 seeking to achieve formal State level recognition of the Illawarra Escarpment as a significant biodiversity corridor linking the Royal National Park in the north to the Morton National Park to the south;
- 4 developing and/or supporting proposals that will celebrate and enhance the values of the Illawarra Escarpment;
- 5 lobbying for all Core Escarpment lands to be acquired into public ownership and managed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

20<sup>th</sup> November 2013

## **Suburbs**

Residential areas need to be freed from the domination of cars. Slower vehicle speeds and priority for pedestrians, especially the young and old, and cyclists would allow the streets to be reclaimed and used by people.

5<sup>th</sup> October 2011

## **Food**

Community gardens and the encouragement of people to grow produce in both back and front yards would help food production.

5<sup>th</sup> October 2011

## **Transport**

- 1 Rail services need to be improved.
- 2 New measures are needed to encourage freight on the road system to go by rail.
- 3 Variations to conditions of consent affecting freight movement operations in the Port of Port Kembla must be fully justified.
- 4 Variations must include detailed consideration of all cumulative impacts.
- 5 Variations must include an estimate of all of the external costs of additional grain haulage on road.
- 6 A Code of Conduct should be applied to all truck drivers.

6<sup>th</sup> July 2011

## **Heritage**

Support the thrust of the Heritage Strategy but include more specific measures to:

- 1 involve the community;
- 2 publicise the importance and benefits of heritage preservation;
- 3 outline funding opportunities;
- 4 for Council to manage their own heritage properties.

2nd December 2015

## **Sustainable Development**

Support Council to:

- 1 take a strong leadership role in promoting sustainable development, as is done, for example in Newcastle and Sydney;
- 2 work closely with other groups associated with sustainability;
- 3 implement their 2008 Action Plan on Sustainability;
- 4 sign up to the NSW Mayor's Agreement on Climate Change;
- 5 report back to the community the initiatives by other Councils presented to the Local Government conference;
- 6 formally incorporate consideration of the impact on sustainability in every decision by Council.
- 7 introduce precinct plans to improve social, economic and environmental sustainability on the basis of local needs and aspirations for a quality living environment.