



northern
beaches
council

Partnerships & Participation
Strategic Reference Group

MINUTES

PARTNERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP

held via Microsoft Teams on

WEDNESDAY 4 AUGUST 2021

Minutes of the Partnership and Participation

Strategic Reference Group

held on Wednesday 4 August 2021

via Teams

Commencing at 6:00pm

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members

Cr Sue Heins (Chair)
Mayor Michael Regan
Cr Kylie Ferguson
Cr Penny Philpott
Tony Hilliger
Ina Vukic
John Buggy
Denice Smith
Chris Fulton
David Hope
Jane Meccelli

Surf Life Saving Sydney Northern Beaches Inc
Northside Enterprise
Belrose Open Space Corridor Association

North Sydney District Council of P&C Associations

Council Officer Contacts

Melanie Gurney
Claudia Brodtke
Katie Kirwan
Natalie Watson
Robert van den Blink
Andrew Grocott

Executive Manager Library Services
Governance Officer
Senior Advisor Governance
Coordinator, Volunteer Program Development
Manager, Youth & Community Development
Manager, Community Engagement

1.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

As a sign of respect, Northern Beaches Council acknowledges the traditional custodians of these various lands on which we meet and pays respect to Elders past and present.

2.0 APOLOGIES

Nil

3.0 DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- Councillor Heins declared that she is involved with a community group who may be applying for a community grant.
- Ina Vukic declared that she is also involved with a community group, Bushlink, who may be applying for a community grant.

4.0 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 MINUTES OF PARTNERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION STRATEGIC REFERENCE GROUP MEETING HELD 5 MAY 2021

CONFIRMED

Cr Philpott / D Smith

That the Minutes of the Partnership and Participation Strategic Reference Group meeting held 5 May 2021, copies of which were previously circulated to all Members, are hereby confirmed as a true and correct record of the proceedings of that meeting.

5.0 UPDATE ON MATTERS

DISCUSSION

Updates on the following matters were provided to members:

Item 6.1 – Northern Beaches Local Housing Strategy (May SRG meeting)

Mayor Regan advised that approval of the housing strategy is still outstanding. We expect to receive their comments in the next few weeks.

Item 6.3 - 34/7 Library Pilot (May SRG meeting)

Melanie Gurney, Executive Manager Library Services provided a brief update. Phase 1 of the 2 stage re-modelling of the Forestville Library towards a 24/7 library has been completed and very well received by customers. The libraries are closed at present due to COVID-19 restrictions however the building works for this financial year are still being progressed as planned for completion.

Ingleside Development

Cr Heins advised that Council rejected the draft Ingleside Place Strategy, citing environmental and fire safety concerns. A full copy of the resolution can be viewed [online](#).

6.0 AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS 2022 - ASSESSMENT PANEL SELECTION – NATALIE WATSON

DISCUSSION

Natalie Watson, Coordinator, Volunteer Program Development provided an overview of the Australia Day awards and invited members to nominate up to three community members to the judging panel for the 2022 Australia Day awards.

Tony Hilliger and Denice Smith provided some insight into the process and their experience on this panel last year.

T Hilliger and D Smith nominated to be on the panel again this year. D Hope nominated as a reserve.

6.2 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANTS PROGRAM - ASSESSMENT PANEL SELECTION – JUSTIN BURKE

DISCUSSION

Rob Van den Blink, Manager Youth and Community Development provided an overview of the community development grants program and invited members to nominate to be part of the assessment panel.

David Hope, Chris Fulton, Jane Meccelli and Tony Hilliger nominated to be on the assessment panel, with Denice Smith nominating as a reserve.

D Hope noted a potential conflict of interest due to his position within the North Sydney District Council of P&C Associations.

T Hilliger also noted a potential conflict of interest due to his position with Surf Life Saving.

J Mecelli noted that the not-for-profit organisation she works for is not applying for a community development grant this year.

6.3 WAY FORWARD WITH COVID ON THE NORTHERN BEACHES – MELANIE GURNEY

NOTE: The meeting adjourned at 7:25pm to 7:35pm

DISCUSSION

Andrew Grocott, Manager, Community Engagement facilitated a workshop to understand what partnerships Council can explore and how the community can best participate in supporting the community operate in the current and post COVID environment. The workshop was centred on the following questions:

1. How do we maximise community consultation in this time with competing and demanding priorities?
2. What partnership opportunities exist, could be created, or leveraged to continue to support our community?
3. What other ways can the community be encouraged to participate in supporting each other?

The feedback provided is attached.

7.0 GENERAL BUSINESS

Nil

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

ITEM NO.	ACTION	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	DUE DATE
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Nil

The meeting concluded at 7.59pm

This is the final page of the Minutes comprising 5 pages numbered 1 to 5 of the Partnership and Participation Strategic Reference Group meeting held on Wednesday 4 August 2021 and confirmed on Wednesday 3 November 2021



1. How do we maximise community consultation in this time with competing and demanding priorities?

- Cr Ferguson - work through the associations to reach through their databases and Face book pages. Utilise a QR code to access notice boards.
- Jane M - Pen pals **postcard project** - Provided stamps and envelopes to provide feedback. **Lunch time sessions** on-line - chat type sessions. Postage paid for. FB for younger people. After 5pm is hard for working people. Social media post to younger people to get their grandparents involved and informed.
- Perhaps a social media post. Tell your grandparents/parents that NB Council will be calling to ask important questions. We want their voices heard?!
- Denice - FB is good. Ad in the local newspapers. Something really simple with links that connects them to the Council pages. Promoting on school newsletters
- David - Go where people gather - Woolies & Bunnings - Notice Board in the aisle. Maybe even a 2min video on the subject. Put a bit of technology behind it. Letter box arrangement for people to post ideas at these venues. White Board. Voice recognition software to capture ideas.
- John - a friendly face - Council people in an on-line environment or at shopping centres. Provide information about how people can use the on-line environment. Write to school Principals to get students to write essays about their family views on a subject
- Ina - Once a week/fortnight at Council have a dedicated feedback session
- Cr Heins - Criteria about who attends and how - prioritise people who are in need. You could have signs up with QR code and say what time someone would be there for further information "pop up" style.
- Text messages
- Chris - how about reaching out to adult learning or TAFE to get feedback?

- Telephone - not much love with scams and spam. May be well received by the older populations as was the experience with the Well Being calls conducted by Council.

2. **What partnership opportunities exist, could be created or leveraged to continue to support our community?**

- Denice - Bowling clubs and RSL's who are seeing themselves as community clubs
- Cr Ferguson - RSL's are seen as safe places by the older populations
- David - Clubs are obligated to participate in community activities. They know what works for them - consult with them.
- Tony - Put a circular out through the club for participation on opportunities. Flyer in the back of an Eazi Link bus that they can take away and fill in.
- Jane - RSLs - collaborate on grants. Huge amounts of networking groups, link into them and their localised meetings. Link with big medical centres like the hospital in relation to mental health - Health Scope to build confidence on health services

You can link with Sydney North Health Network as they commission millions in mental health services both in the community and in residential care. Link here:

<https://sydneynorthhealthnetwork.org.au/about-us/commissioning/commissioned-services/>

Commissioned Services - Sydney North Health Network
From July 1, 2016 Sydney North Health Network (SNHN) began commissioning local health services on behalf of the Australian Government.

- Cr Heins - Work with the RSLs individually to collaborate. Missing opportunity to partner with youth and businesses in relation to mental health. Leverage and collaborate with the services in those areas. Create events to enable people to talk about what is on their minds and to remind them the community is behind them
- Cr Ferguson - Liz Dwyer is collating all the agencies who are involved in mental health - now is a good time. Be careful of the added stress it may cause, reaching people when they do not want to be reached.

- Chris - 20=30 year olds pre Covid and post, sporting events, long walks, triathlons etc... quite often there are vendor booths.

3. What other ways can the community be encouraged to participate in supporting each other?

- John - a friendly face - Council people in an on-line environment or at shopping centres
- Tony Hilliger - I think the council could approach all the umbrella organisations on Northern Beaches and ask them to their clubs and people to get on the phones and ring their members. Push a phone a friend a day campaign. Say G'day everyday
- Denice - Are you Ok campaign - Local - Sept 9 - count down campaign underway
- David - Street activities. Talk to each other on walks - Community building. It is community driven. Signs put up in areas. People respond to silliness, smile and fun!
- Cr Philpott - signage to remind people to check in on neighbours and look out for others. Lot of people live alone, lot of anger and frustration. Think of stepping up the wellbeing calls
- Jane - levels of anger in the community are really high - heighten the awareness
- Cr Heins - Celebrate and look at ways to regain a sense of humour.