

Meeting Notes

Meeting for CAC - Woolwich Representatives

September 3, 2002

Time: 5.30pm – 8.15pm

Venue: Sergeants Mess – Woolwich Dock

Present:

- Phil Jenkyn
- Bruce Lucas
- Alysoun Ryves
- Liz Newton
- Jenny Scotford
- Barry Smith
- Gil Wahlquist
- Sue Hoopman
- Nick Hollo
- Alex Magarey
- Sally Hamilton

Apologies:

- Richard White
- Joe Hockey

Introduction

- Prior to the meeting, a brief tour was conducted for CAC members of the newly constructed walk and footbridge across the dock and through the former Goat Paddock.
- Nick Hollo presented an overview of the Draft Plan for Woolwich Dock and Parklands.

Issues Arising

Woolwich Dock and Parklands

- It is very important that the Trust, both in the Draft Plan and in general reference to the Woolwich Dock, also refer to the parklands i.e Horse Paddock and Goat Paddock. The site should therefore be referred to as the “Woolwich Dock and Parklands”. This will ensure that the community and other Governments (State and Local) are fully aware that the Trust is planning for all of this land.

Parking and Access

- Car parking requires careful consideration as any new carparks should not be visible from the water, i.e set down low and landscaped such that they blend in with the existing environment;
- It was noted that one of the Guiding Principles for the Draft Plan is to ensure that any new carparks are placed in existing disturbed areas however this requires another approach at Woolwich where “disturbed” areas on the knoll could be re-vegetated and car parking located lower down the slopes; and
- Options for re-alignment of roadways and carparks should be examined with Council.

Proposed Wharf

- The advantages and disadvantages of locating a ferry service at Woolwich Dock were discussed; and

- It was agreed that the Valentia Street Wharf would be better if kept as a commuter wharf, and any new wharf constructed at Woolwich Dock and Parklands should be for recreational, charter boats etc.

Great North Walk

- Gil Wahlquist gave a presentation about the Great North Walk;
- It was agreed that the great North Walk is of significance and a very important walk which is currently under-utilised; and
- The Trust agreed that the walking track proposed for the dock and parklands could be incorporated into the Great North Walk and that this would be considered for the Draft Plan.

Commercial Viability

- It was acknowledged by the group that there is a requirement for commercial viability of the site, however, any proposed shops and cafes should not be in competition with existing shops and cafes at the top of the site on Woolwich Road.
- Market forces will decide what is needed at the site, however the Trust needs to ensure that provisions are in place in order to facilitate commercial activities which are in keeping with a defined maritime character of the area.

Landbase

- It was noted that the State Government is currently selling and/or leasing a number of sites around Sydney Harbour, and that this may reduce the amount of land available for transportation of goods and services to Cockatoo and Snapper Island, i.e reduced Landbase areas for the Trust;
- Therefore, there is concern that the Horse Paddock may become the Landbase for Cockatoo and Snapper and this would be opposed by the local community;
- The Trust stated that as part of the Sydney Harbour Executive Committee, NSW Waterways and the Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority have prepared a paper highlighting potential landbases around the harbour. The study identifies five sites, one of which is the Horse Paddock. Other sites identified include Rozelle Bay, White Bay, Berry's Bay and Pyrmont.
- The Trust has advised these authorities that the Horse Paddock would not be suitable, other than occasional and minor use and that the State Government should identify a broader range of sites.

Other

- Council informed the group that the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) have been consulted in relation to making the corner of Woolwich Road at the Woolwich Hotel "pedestrian friendly" by putting in some traffic calming devices.
- The Trust asked if there had been any problems arising from the recent use of the Horse Paddock for access to/from Cockatoo. One incident was reported where a truck could not gain access through the gates and passed through the sailing club area instead. This will be investigated by the Trust.
- It was noted that there is a desire for the horse paddock to remain as a "paddock" as it is the only one left in central Sydney and if therefore unique. This means that it should not be over-landscaped or the previous sub-division over-interpreted.

Close of Meeting

- The meeting was closed at 8.15pm.