

Callan Park Open Forum



20 November 2010

Wharf Road Callan Park

COMMENTS RECORDED

Welcome - Mayor

Apologies - Cr. McKenzie

Introduction - McGregor Coxall

Topic 1 – Dog Walking

Summary of background and issues by McGregor Coxall

- Acknowledge dog walking in plan, it is a function of Callan Park
- Cat fencing bushland
- All native animals to be protected
- Areas other than Callan Point have significant fauna – King George Park – Need to do survey
- Dogs use beach at Mushroom Rock

Outcome : Defer issue and address in the course of reviewing the ‘Companion Animals Management Plan’ in 2011 - with further specific consultation.

Topic 2 – Provision for Sports

Summary of background and issues by McGregor Coxall

- NSW Rowing - Rowing activities in Iron Cove have a history of 125-150 years
- City Maritime / State Government/ Private Donors – have funding available – No cost to council
- Adversely effected by proposed ferry wharf
- A facility for disabled and disadvantaged
- Can also work with Kayaking, Disabled Sailors, Dragon Boats
- Not against proposed uses, but foreshore is for people
- Tennis Court – Glover Street – could you include it
- North Sydney – tennis courts on top of car park

- Balmain District soccer– Great existing fields renovated and back in use.
- Remove reference to specific sports on plan to be determined later. Wait till future management is known and in place
- Parking vs mini buses – mini buses a problem.
- Give consideration to additional parking eg. under 7 kids coming in at 9.00 leaving at 9.30. Examples of where buses are used are not that relevant to sporting precinct.
- Also need access to transport heavy sporting gear and equipment
- Don't want to turn Callan Park into a car park.
- Can Council also work with schools etc.

Outcome : Endorse the range of sporting facilities proposed by the plan

Remove reference to specific sports – to be determined at a later date. Wait until future management is known and in place.

Topic 3 – Orchard on Balmain Road

Summary of background and issues by McGregor Coxall

- Proposing to remove car spaces and replace them with park and then build new car spaces on existing park – seems an expensive way to do things
- All cars parks will have to be re-built over time using water sensitive urban design standards
- Trees provide a better frontage to Balmain Road
- CMP suggests removal of car park
- Can we have orchard
- Gardening/ outdoors – very therapeutic but orchard is seasonal
- Depends on the fruit on the trees
- Orchards – Part of site wide seasonal and productive cycle
- Gangs of youth will take fruit and wreck trees
- Car park already there, perfect drop off , pick up point
- Orchard - under car park – contamination issues?
- Why mono culture - not the way of sustainable agriculture
- Priority should be latest in sustainable agriculture

Outcome: Include notation on plan identifying the area as a site for Potential Agriculture/Horticulture uses that:-

- ***Achieve best practise sustainable agriculture***
- ***Provide green edge to park***
- ***Acknowledge the history of such uses on Callan Park.***

Topic 4 – Existing Land uses

Summary of background and issues by McGregor Coxall

- No one is seriously proposing that ambulance be moved off their corner of the site
- Dismemberment of the site a threat
- A queue of people interested in moving onto the site – good people leading good groups but the result will be a site overrun by variety of uses, this is the danger
- Somebody has to re-emphasise primacy of mental health uses on this site
- Site set aside 100 years ago for this purpose it is still needed for mental illness
- The people who are most vulnerable and neglected
- One opinion – give primacy to mental health in masterplan – stop dismembering site
- Mental health is why we got this site, it is what it is.
- Masterplan and POM will set up the filters for the future use and facilities of the site.
- Ambulance
 - land is on our assets register
 - site supports cardiac care,
 - medical research
 - Training 200 staff members a year
 - Critical facility for us
 - 10 years ago – ambulance was about transporting patients, now health care by paramedics upload data from the site saving lives
- Amount of footpath – will it be reduced?
- People who don't belong to a group don't get same considerations
- Plan provides a wider range and restructure of pedestrian pathways across the site

Outcome: Points noted, nothing specific to action.

Topic 5 – Aboriginal Culture and Social Services

Summary of background and issues by McGregor Coxall

- Aboriginal history and activity pre-dates mental health uses – need to remember this
- Look at keeping one building – if needed for future – to facilitate an outcome, based on additional consultation/research suggested
- Urban aboriginal mental health could also be accommodated on site

- Should not limit aboriginal contribution to just a few key areas of the site, eg. also at entrance to the site – to introduce visitors to site
- Defer till next stage based on more appropriate consultation methodology

Outcome: Defer decision on aboriginal facilities until next stage of plan when future management is known and in place. Use more appropriate consultation methodology customised to issue and stakeholders involved in order to further refine/develop options for Callan point and to incorporate Aboriginal Culture across the site.

Topic 6 - Mental Health

Summary of background and issues by McGregor Coxall

Presentations made by:

- 1) Vaughn Carr
 - 2) Garth Popple
 - 3) Allan Rosen
 - 4) Vivienne Miller
 - 5) Janet Bateman
- Gladesville site – cornucopia create work for 55 people paid annual wages
 - Education and training programs
 - Café
 - There are models close by that work
 - Mental health centre gives opportunity for:
 - Social enterprise
 - Consumers themselves have control, not service providers
 - Mental health consumers not well funded
 - Our back yard – consumers housing cooperative – flyer
 - Sense of ownership of the area – model of positive living, fo people who have suffered mental illness
 - A social response
 - Convergence is taking place a major centre for metal health on site provide opportunity for:
 - Education
 - Training
 - Research
 - Employment
 - Social inclusion

- Live on site short term preparation for living out in community
- Patrick McGorry – Limit accommodation to whilst accessing services
- Living on site OK if only preparing people for the outside world, where they would be again living in the community
- Research not to be to the detriment of consumers, consumers not to be fodder
- No reference to unmarked graves on site
- CMP needs to be reviewed to investigate this point, more research required
- Distinction needs to be made between drug and alcohol and mental health
- Wellness Institute on site – good
- Wellness University on site – could potentially attract federal funding
- Sometimes we get hung up on terms
- Callan Park is a community
- Foundation house – should be for Mental Health
- Callan Park not for non Acute
- Visited Concord – very disappointed
- In waiting room – pictures of Callan Park
- Bring it back for other than acute
- ARC is the only lived experience organisation on the site
- Who's recently won tender for Daintree
- Is Council prepared to speak to ARC – maintain dedicated space to maintained lived experience on site
- Biggest concerns – stigma and discrimination in the community
- Calling on Cag – hold a workshop on site inviting lived experienced people to develop plan for site
- Employment and social enterprises – pathways to jobs
- Need support of Leichhardt Council
- Housing the memory of all who lived and died here
- Its about us participating in life, not just receivebgf services
- Ask us to pause and think about consumers' past
- Who used and lived on this site
- As we talk about future LGA, we must not be forgetting the past
- Masterplanning – veterans' field should be patients' field
- Involved in housing
- Not mental illness – Neurological illness

- Hotel for people who are accessing services on the site
- Services

- Callan Park community – part of Rozelle and Balmain community
- Co-operative enterprises – coffee shop Trust
- Terrible mistake to set up a Museum, us versus them, establishes institution
- Operated by people with mental illness

- 30 years experience in mental health nationally
- Callan Park Masterplan – involves demolition of many buildings
- Cannot do community development without a roof over your head
- Once buildings are gone they are gone
- In my 30 years of community development, you would be wiped out if you had to pay market rent

- Request that Council considers all of these points in the context of the traditional owners

- WIRES would like and presence on site
 - Animal Protection
 - Bush regeneration
 - Release – need assistance, mental health consumers could assist

- Consumers in 2000 decided they wanted to refer to themselves as consumers – we respect that
- Consumers no longer want to live in large institutions

- Cornucopia café and nursery
- Integrates with broader community

Outcome: Wherever possible, Mental Health Consumers should be included in the management and operation of the site

Mental Health Consumers to be represented in Governance of the site,

Mental Health Consumers to be part of the process and actively involved in determining the future of the site

Topic 7 - Skate Park

Summary of background and issues by McGregor Coxall

Presentation by Aaron Callaghan

- Location excellent -addresses key issues of surveillance safety and access
- Site will cater for regional needs
- Promotes family use of park and spaces for young people
- Range of ages -includes boys and girls from 7 years to 42
- Users will police the facility and work in with management of the facility long term
- Facility promotes mental health through recreation
- Design needs to be one which involves the community

- Skaters just want to skate and hang out with their friends in a safe environment , not cause trouble
- Location is the middle ground for both Leichhardt, Rozelle and Balmain residents
- Location wont detract from local residents privacy and will promote Callan Park as a regional community park
- Location has safe access routes - local bus services, no need to cross main roads
- Location good, food and drink from local shops

- Skate Park OK but not in this location
- Don't be too specific too early

- Like to endorse young speakers
- Support it, but don't nail it down too early
- Current location probably the best
- Lighting provided? No plans yet, will it operate at night?

- Masterplan – the opportunity to
 - Determine do we/don't we have a regional skate park
 - Location
- Key challenge – how do we manage it
- Any facility will need a management regime
- Committee of Management – FOCP, Young People , Community Reps
- Design Plans must be developed – with FOCP, Young People , Community Reps
 - Fit in with amenity
 - Does not risk heritage
 - Compliments the park

- As a 5th grader – in Balmain – shy
- Age of 8 – Skateboarding
- 13 – sponsorship
- 16 – earning a wage – skateboarding
- Can provide a lot of opportunity for young people
- 2001 - AIS – engaged to develop coaching programs
- Stats- kids using facility in Australia
 - 5-15 – Skateboarding

- Bike Riding
 - Roller blading
 - More than any one else
- How does it related to mental health
- Our past 7 years suffered depression – skateboarding was the one things that helped
- Targeting children with social problems
- Set aside days for teaching children with special challenges

- Skaters park for our community
- Provide facilities to keep kids away from computer screens
- Lock Down – we are going to have a skate park
- In Council where I work – one of the most used facilities – actively manage Graffiti – it discourages it

- Misconception – anti social behaviour in skate parks
- In Australia and around the world
- Easy to thing that be a lot of graffiti and litter
- Quality facilities – look after them, discourage vandalism, anti social behaviour
- Location – good

- Facilities designed for wide use of abilities
 - Encourage wide range of users
 - Provides a safe environment

- Rather skate parks
- Caring
- Positive
- Vibrant
- Social
- Dynamic spaces
- Peoples health benefits - Vaughan Carr
- Lots of teenagers in early twenties, good to be in vicinity of Mental Health Facilities and professionals
- Rather than produce anti social behaviour, discourage anti social behaviour

- Bike hub – not for profit
- Bike Sydney – Endorse Skate park
- Child cycle track
- Bike – cycling has potential to reduce traffic in and on the park
- Bike recycling

- Well behaved young people, congratulations – put a good case
- Doesn't use fossil fuel
- Be careful we don't over extend park
- This is essential
- Confirm best position

- Vandalism takes various forms
- Coffee cups, sandwich wrappers
- Bike sandstone steps
- Confirm location in place of 3 houses
- Facility for young girls? Predominantly male pastime
- Encourage young woman to participate
- Talk about anti social behaviour
- Normally associated with boredom roaming around streets
- Skate boarding – active, not bored, not associated with anti social behaviour.

Outcome: A successful skate park site has a number of pre-requisites

- **Passive surveillance**
- **Public Transport**
- **Involvement of entire community and design and management**
- **Active management of facility**

Current site best satisfies these criteria, if not here, don't have one on Callan Park

Topic 8 – Ferry Wharf

Summary of background and issues by McGregor Coxall

- Current proposition – threaten rowing in Iron Cove, last remaining 2000m rowing course in inner city
- Ferry
 - set up toxic storm
 - have to pass under main bridge – navigation issue
 - cut across rowing courses
- Clubs affected
 - Leichhardt
 - Drummoyne
 - Balmain
 - Glebe
 - UTS
 - Schools that use course and facilities – disadvantaged
- 15,000 Rowing
- Birkenhead point ferry wharf just closed
- Design of new bridge modified to accommodate rowing course
- Leichhardt Rowing club has been going since 1876 in NSW
- Birkenhead point marina already a problem
- Potential extension of marina, a further problem
- Bridge duplication – design had to be amended
- Only viable 2000m rowing course in Sydney

Outcome: Ferry wharf to be removed form plan

Topic 9 – Parking regulations

Summary of background and issues by McGregor Coxall

- Access to nursing home – double traffic in streets
- No of car parking spaces – now/future
- Area of hard surface – now/future
- Disabled parking – mobility stickers
- Parking under Bonnie View cottage?

Outcome: Parking management will be a key issue in the futre and will need to be addressed

May be opportunity to regulate via a range of options-, permit parking, boom gates, parking meters, signage & enforcement. These will need to be investigated

General Discussion

- Balmain Road parking Lot 0 referred to in CMP?
- Why closing parking to create park
- Why building new parking lot
- Heritage office will have to approve plan
- Frontage of Balmain Road essential to present as a green corridor
- Car parks – water sensitive design principles
- Relucting to support any increase on current car parking
- Access to nurses home – increase traffic movements in residential streets in Rozelle
- Park has operated perfectly without this additional parking
- Underground car park ?
- Parking meters - ugly - boom gates?
- Spaces for people with mobility stickers around the site, for people who cannot walk far.
- The parking under Bonnie View Cottage
- Aesthetic/ front fence – masonry fence
- Open frontage, make park more permeable, but retain some fencing for safety etc.
- Balmain Road carpark – perfect drop off/pick up point
- Board Walk – what's the point of it, it cost so much
- Limit environmental impact water/animals move under it
- Parking fees apply for Ambulance services?

- Low wall all the way around
- Exactly how many car spaces on site, where?
- Status of Wharf Road Car Park.