

I have studied the draft planning package for the future of St Leonards and Crows Nest

I am very alarmed at the height of proposed apartment blocks which are apparent in the draft planning package but my objection here is about the draft green plan for the area.

The first tenet of creating a people friendly local precinct is to provide a heart for the community and this, to me, means that sufficient open space needs to be provided where people can meet and mix with others of the community. Where the people can touch the ground and enjoy it together.

This is particularly true when the predominant accommodation is in the form of such high- rise apartments.

This plan illustrates that there is totally inadequate space available and most significantly there is no central heart for the community.

In section 7.0, being the conclusion of the document, a statement is made that the open space actually listed in the document is but a "dream" (a synonym for aspiration) . This is simply not good enough because the time to provide open space is BEFORE giant apartment buildings have been built and gobbled up all the available space and not as an afterthought.

I object in the strongest possible terms not only to the lack of open space provision but to the lack of a central heart in the area.

Putting very large green leaves on the pages of the report simply doesn't achieve the correct result and quite frankly I think it is an insult to our intelligence.