

**Avalon Community Reference Group Meeting No. 8
Thursday 16 July 2020 – Via Microsoft Teams**

Attendance	<p>Avalon Community Reference Group Members:</p> <p>Cr Ian White Cr Kylie Ferguson Cr Alex McTaggart Richard West Sue Boaden Ros Marsh Peter Mayman Billy Bragg Robert Hopton Billy Bragg Vanessa Tiernan Simon Sinclair Catherine Kerr Matthew Fallon</p>
Apologies	<p>Tracey Whitney Alvaro Del Campo Sandra Morgan</p>
	<p>Northern Beaches Council:</p> <p>Louise Kerr – Director Planning and Place Andrew Pigott – Executive Manager Strategic & Place Planning Anne-Maree Newbery – Manager Strategic & Place Planning Phil Devon – Manager, Transport Network Jeremy Smith – Manager, Park Assets - Planning Design & Delivery Brendan Gavin – Principal Planner Jeanne Thuez - Planner</p>

Introduction	
Where are we now?	Andrew Pigott, Executive Manager Strategic and Place Planning gave a brief introduction and update on the draft Avalon Beach Place Plan.
Discussion 1	
Vision	<p>Discussion of the following components of the Vision</p> <p>The Vision captures the aspirations into the future but could include wording such as “in 2030 Avalon Beach will be...a relaxed and peaceful.</p> <p>The Vision defines the way forward and the Avalon Community Reference Group agreed on the Vision at an early workshop A supporting statement such as a Mission Statement could strengthen the vision.</p>

	<p>The Vision and draft Place Plan needs to acknowledge the personality and creativity of Avalon Beach community now and into the future. Proposed works and aspirations of the draft Avalon Beach Place Plan should direct the new Northern Beaches Local Environmental Plan (LEP).</p> <p>Vision is missing a section relating to economy</p>
<p>Guiding Principles</p>	<p>Discussion of the following components of the Guiding Principles</p> <p>A reminder that the Avalon Beach Place Plan is a high-level document and does not include detailed designs or detailed budget.</p> <p>Bike paths, pedestrians and traffic issues are very contentious, but we need to look forward to the future. Bike paths identified in the Place Plan are more or less shared paths.</p> <p>Request for a separate workshop to discuss transport and bike paths.</p> <p>Councils Response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Intersection – four different scenarios have been modelled. • Council in discussions with Transport for NSW regarding the bus network and bus stop at Old Barrenjoey Rd North. • The Northern Beaches Bike Plan - going to Council Meeting on 28 July 2020 to report on the public exhibition. <p>Note: the Northern Beaches Bike Plan is broader than Avalon Beach Town Centre</p> <p>The uniqueness and creativity of the area needs to be strengthened in the document</p> <p>The Guiding Principles need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include Aboriginal & European Heritage • Be clear and spell out what each principle involves • Include a statement under each Principle that explains what will drive the plan. Re -word slightly, e.g. instead of 'vibrant and diverse' 'economic resilience' use Community and culture - celebrate indigenous and European heritage. It needs purpose and a mission statement. • Stress the importance of trees and tree canopy to the area. • Tie together the objectives and actions and ensure they link to the vision. • Incorporate sustainability as a principle that sits above the Guiding Principles as it relates to all of the Guiding Principles. Need to incorporate electric vehicle charging stations and climate change. • Tease out guiding principles more. Prioritise Actions. • Need to reflect LEP and DCP issues in the Place Plan upfront
<p>Place Precincts</p>	<p>Discussion of the following components of the Place Precincts</p> <p>Each statement of the Place Precincts outlines what was previously agreed.</p>

Southern Gateway

- Need to rethink aspects of the Southern Gateway Precinct.
- Concerned with the vague language used to highlight future uses in the area – concerned that other non – community/ open space uses will occur.

Coastal Fringe

- Terracing of hill near the bus stop is a concern for some members, especially the extension of the bench style seating at the higher level of the hill that is not needed.
- Support other concepts identified for the area.

Village Hub

- Place Plans need to be future thinking and deal with the main issues such as conflict between cars , pedestrians and bikes – Need to reflect back to the vision to guide final decision on which options to proceed with.
- Concern that the bike paths didn't link to other pathways and lacked connectivity
- Concerns that there is insufficient street width to allow bike path, parking and existing trees to remain. Seek detailed plans/ cross section showing the proposal.
- Tree canopy is to be maintained with NO trees being removed by proposed works.
- Design elements need to be cohesive and consistent across all areas.
- Concern that bike paths will detract from the ambience of the village and conflict with pedestrians. The village must prioritise pedestrian movement
- Relocation of bus stop remains a concern for some members
- Concerns raised with the performance stage/area given potential noise impacts to adjoining residents and potential for noise be funnelled towards the west. Members provided advice regarding existing acoustic prepared for Dunbar Park that indicated the location of any performance stage should be sited in the western area of the Park facing east to avoid noise impacts.
- Concerns raised at the removal and loss of landscaping along the boundary of the Recreation Centre being removed to allow the courtyard to be opened up onto Dunbar Park
- Overall support for improvements identified in Patterson Lane
- Other laneway should be provided the same treatment as Patterson Lane.
- Support the concept of using vacant shops for temporary purposes such as pop up shops and art displays.

Other areas of contention was the Netball Courts and Blackspot Fencing at Barrenjoey Road, Avalon.

Black Sport Funding:

Council received a grant from the Australian Government Black Spot Program for Blackspot Fencing to be placed along the medium strip of Barrenjoey Road, Avalon. The Black Spot Fencing will be placed on public exhibition in approximately 2 weeks.

	To achieve the best results it is important that one company with experience and expertise be appointed to undertake the overall detailed design.
	The actions outlined in the draft Avalon Beach Place Plan need to be consolidated, budgeted and undertaken over a 3 year program.
	Need to make it very clear in the Plan that it is a big picture document so the community doesn't focus on the tiny details or photos
Discussion 2	
Action Plan	Discussion of the following components of the Action Plan.
	The Place Plan should state up front that this is a big picture document, the plans are conceptual and the allocated costings are indicative only.
	Need to introduce a greater range for the indicative costs so there is not a big range between low/medium/high/significant.
	Council should contact utility providers such as Sydney Water, NBN to determine if they have plans for Avalon Beach Village that may coincide with Councils proposed works.
	Palm Beach and Whale Beach Residents Association have requested a meeting with Council to go through their submissions.
	Southern Gateway - golf course future use needs to be resolved. Should not be used for non-community uses. How will the Place Plan deal with the affects Post COVID-19?
	Pop ups and quick wins are a great way to get some vibrancy happening in the Town Centre as there are a high number of shop vacancies.
Not enough information on Arts and Culture in the Action Plan and little money allocated.	
Discussion Forum	
General Comments	The Place Plan is a high-level document.
	Could achieve some quick wins by undertaking the Eat Streets concept i.e. Simmonds Lane.
	How will the Plan be implemented and managed moving forward?
	Timeframe for implementation is too long – Plan should allocate a 3-year timeframe for work to be undertaken.
Next Steps	
General Comments	Need to draw a greater connection with the Local Strategic Planning Statement, LEP and DCP to give the Place Plan more teeth.

	<p>The draft Avalon Beach Place Plan is missing a Maintenance Budget.</p>
	<p>Council will review the submissions received from the Avalon Community Reference Group.</p> <p>The updated Plan will be distributed to the ACRG for review and consideration before the draft Place Plan is presented to Council for endorsement to commence public exhibition.</p>
	<p>The draft Avalon Beach Place Plan will be placed on public exhibition for approximately 6 weeks.</p>
<p>Meeting Closed</p>	<p>8.15pm</p>