



Minutes

Built and Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee

**Tuesday 14 November 2023
4.00-5.30pm**

Location:	Coachwood Room Level 6, 31 Victor St Chatswood
Chair:	Councillor Anna Greco
Attendees:	Members: Adrian Alexander, Rena Czaplinska-Arche, Audrey Thomas (via zoom), Paul Storm, Wayne Farmilo, Srishti Mahhajan (via zoom), Karen Somers WCC Staff: Mitch Noble (Head of Planning), Govender Dyalan (Strategic Planning Team leader), Alice Stapleton (Heritage Planner), Bushra Salam (Governance)
Apologies/absent:	Denis Fernandes, Nicholas Flood
Guests	Councillor Anna Greco

Agenda items

Item	Topic / Discussion	Action
1	Welcome: The meeting was declared open at 4:03pm.	Governance
	Apologies Denis Fernandes, Nicholas Flood	
	Declarations of interest A link to the Disclosure of interest by Committee Members form was circulated with the Agenda. Hardcopies were also available at the meeting. https://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Council/Forms/Disclosure-of-interest-by-Committee-Members No declarations were received.	
	Acknowledgement of Country <i>Willoughby City Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we meet today, the Gamaragal People, and their connections to land, waters, and community. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including those who may be in attendance today.</i>	

3 Committee Governance

Appointment of Chair

Pursuant to clauses 5.4 of the Committee's Terms of Reference, the Committee unanimously appointed Councillor Anna Greco Chair for the meeting and noted that appointment of an ongoing Chairperson be reconsidered at the next meeting of the Committee.

The appointment of an ongoing Chairperson will be conducted at the next meeting of the Committee.

Nominations for Chair of the meeting:

- Wayne Farmilo nominated Paul Storm
- Paul Storm declined the nomination
- Wayne Farmilo nominated Councillor Anna Greco
- Seconded by Paul storm
- No other nominations were received.

The Committee voted the Chair of today's meeting to be Councillor Anna Greco.

The Committee unanimously approved.

4 Previous Minutes

Acceptance of Previous minutes

The Committee adopted the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on Tuesday 12 September 2023.

Moved by Wayne Farmilo

Seconded by Paul storm

Carried unanimously.

Business arising from previous minutes

- Draft Heritage Review presentation to be circulated prior to 19 March meeting for the Committee review.

Planning Unit

5 Strategic Activities

- **Exploring Terms of Reference esp. open Space strategies; Resilience Strategy (Resilient people sections); Heritage; Indigenous Strategy and Reconciliation Action Plan.**

The Committee explored the Terms of Reference (ToRs) and reaffirmed their heritage experience and focus (as in March).

The Committee noted that the Resilience Strategy an Action Plan has been adopted by Council. As there is a heritage

component to the plan the committee will potential have a role in future updates.

Dyalan Govender (Strategic Planning Team leader) advised that the Draft Reconciliation Action Plan was exhibited in October. Results will be reported in the December council report.

Council's Draft Public Spaces and Recreation Strategy is on exhibition until 11 December 2023. Noting the Committee's ToRs, the Committee members are encouraged to review the draft and attend an information session. The details are available on Council's Have Your Say page.

Paul Storm shared that the heritage society has a new display. November is free entry (Sunday afternoons).

Rena Czaplinska-Arche added that Open Space is part of Cultural heritage and supports Committee including it within its ToRs.

Paul Storm suggested a potential future project of the Committee could be a register of historically significant exotic gardens. Strategic Planning Team leader added that Council has an existing Natural Heritage Register which includes some exotic plantings. The Committee noted that a review and more expansive document could be a future project for the committee to pursue.

Karen Somers noted the example of Jacaranda plantings and the connection to the Mater Hospital giving saplings to new mothers for planting.

Paul Storm noted Council previously had a garden competition in 50s, when trophies were presented to cultivate domestic planting. There is also an important history to be recorded for Artarmon Reserve and natural history resources from the Aboriginal Heritage Office. These matters could be part of an exploration of local natural history.

Chair- There is a book from WCC on this which she can share with Committee. The book is called Bo-ra-ne Ya-goo-na Par-ry-boo-go and can be downloaded free from the library

<https://libraries.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/History-at-Willoughby/Introduction-to-Willoughby/Online-publications/Bo-ra-ne-Ya-goo-na-Par-ry-boo-go>

Consideration-1:

Committee members are asked to document historical exotic species items for cultural & historic value, and collate

relevant sources that could be used for a potential future project of the committee.

Strategic Planning Team leader suggested that the existing natural History Register would offer a useful starting point should the committee want to develop a wider resource.

Paul Storm noted that the Committee can identify plants over an extended period. He also noted that some trees in the area have a “tree hug” band noting their importance. They appear to have been installed by Council, and example is in the vicinity of Victor and Johnson Streets.

Adrian Alexander noted that Artarmon Parks have incorrect signage boards with erroneous historical information. He has previously reported this to Council, but no action has been undertaken.

The Council Staff noted that Mr. Alexander can forward his correspondence and we can follow up on his initial enquiry. Should the committee wish to investigate updating park signage further it would be important to be specific as to precisely which signs are an issue and what information is demonstrably incorrect.

Consideration-2

The Committee requests Adrian Alexander to share with the Committee the sign issues he has already identified and the Committee will also bring any other issues they identify with park ark signage to the next meeting for further consideration. A working party may be considered to review the signage and identify corrections required.

The chair will coordinate and informally establish a working party/group to discuss this and the matter may will be discussed further at the next meeting.

- **Promotion of heritage and education/education model/piece for the community, committee can provide advice to council, Target audience.**

Wayne Farmilo shared with the Committee that Willoughby south progress association is starting a new website which will contain local history content. He noted currently local history information is dispersed across various sources such as the progress associations, North Sydney has a heritage section but has not got the full knowledge, and Mosman council display room dedicated to heritage items.

The Committee noted that often information is held in hard copy in isolated possession of individuals who have done specific research or for specific projects. It would be beneficial if these dispersed and isolated source could be

digitised in one place.

The committee noted that clarity of purpose and audience is critical. Defining the audience will inform the type of information that is needed and how best to communicate it.

The chair noted that at the moment building a centralised resource is essential to ensure local knowledge is accurately recorded and validated.

Consideration-3

That the Committee review the existing repositories of historical information and bring back existing repository details and identified information gaps to the next meeting.

Srishti Mahhajan suggested that Mozaic multicultural centre has a good repository and we can use their support on this.

The Committee discussed and agreed that the current repositories of historical information needs work before promotion is undertaken to the community.

The Chair noted that Ku-ring-gai has a good example of how historical information can be provided online.

Team Leader Strategic planning confirmed that he would provide details of how the Willoughby Library “History at Willoughby” webpage content is managed. Details to be provided at the next committee meeting.

5 Other Business

Possible agenda items and strategic outputs of the committee were discussed.

Next Meeting

Date: Tuesday 19 March 4-5:30pm

Agenda Items:

- Update on establishment of Working Group
- Exotic species documentation for cultural & historic value
- Audit of display boards for historical accuracy
- History and Willoughby webpage overview and management details
- Draft Heritage Review

Planning unit will circulate the Draft Heritage Review to 2 weeks prior to the next meeting for the Committee to review.

Meeting Closed: 5:32 pm

Attachment A – Action items

Date added	Matter	Latest update	Person/people responsible
12/09/23	Draft Heritage Review	Ongoing	Planning Unit
14/11/23	Exotic species documentation for cultural & historic value	Ongoing	
14/11/23	Audit of display boards for historical accuracy	Ongoing	
14/11/23	Formation of working party/group	Ongoing	