



Community & Environment Committee

Agenda: *Community & Environment Committee*

Date: *Monday 27 November 2006*

Time: *6.00pm*

Outline of Meeting Protocol & Procedure:

- The Chairperson will call the Meeting to order and ask the Committee/Staff to present apologies or late correspondence.
- The Chairperson will commence the Order of Business as shown in the Index to the Agenda.
- At the beginning of each item the Chairperson will ask whether a member(s) of the public wish to address the Committee.
- If person(s) wish to address the Committee, they are allowed four (4) minutes in which to do so. Please direct comments to the issues at hand.
- If there are persons representing both sides of a matter (eg applicant/objector), the person(s) against the recommendation speak first.
- At the conclusion of the allotted four (4) minutes, the speaker resumes his/her seat and takes no further part in the debate unless specifically called to do so by the Chairperson.
- If there is more than one (1) person wishing to address the Committee from the same side of the debate, the Chairperson will request that where possible a spokesperson be nominated to represent the parties.
- The Chairperson has the discretion whether to continue to accept speakers from the floor.
- After considering any submissions the Committee will debate the matter (if necessary), and arrive at a recommendation (R items which proceed to Full Council) or a resolution (D items for which the Committee has delegated authority).

Delegated Authority (“D” Items):

- Community Services and Programmes.
- Health.
- Liquor Licences.
- Fire Protection Orders.
- Residential Parking Schemes (surveillance and administration).
- Traffic Management (Traffic Committee Recommendations).
- Waverley/Woollahra Process Plant.
- To require such investigations, reports or actions as considered necessary in respect of matters contained within the Business Agendas (and as may be limited by specific Council resolution).
- Confirmation of the Minutes of its Meeting.
- Any other matter falling within the responsibility of the Community and Environment Committee and not restricted by the Local Government Act or required to be a Recommendation to Full Council as listed below.
- Library Services
- Licensing.
- Regulatory.
- Waste Minimisation

Recommendation only to the Full Council (“R” Items):

- Such matters as are specified in Section 377 of the Local Government Act and within the ambit of the Committee considerations.
- Matters which involve broad strategic or policy initiatives within responsibilities of the Committee.
- Matters requiring the expenditure of moneys and in respect of which no Council vote has been made.
- Matters delegated to the Council by the Traffic Authority of NSW.
- Matters not within the specified functions of the Committee, or which are not the subject of a Business Agenda (current or past).
- Matters reserved by individual Councillors, in accordance with any Council policy on "safeguards".
- Parks and Reserve Plans of Management (Strategies, Policies and Objectives)
- Residential Parking Schemes - Provision and Policies

Committee Membership:

7 Councillors

Quorum:

The quorum for a Committee meeting is 4 Councillors.

WOOLLAHRA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Notice of Meeting

23 November 2006

To: The Mayor, Councillor Keri Huxley, ex-officio
Councillors Anthony Boskovitz (Chair)
Tanya Excell (Deputy Chair)
Claudia Cullen
Marcus Ehrlich
Julian Martin
Andrew Petrie
Fiona Sinclair King

Dear Councillors

Community & Environment Committee Meeting – 27 November 2006

In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, I request your attendance at a Meeting of the Council's **Community and Environment Committee** to be held in the **Council Chambers, 536 New South Head Road, Double Bay, on Monday 27 November 2006 at 6.00pm.**

Gary James
General Manager

Meeting Agenda

Item	Subject	Pages
1	Leave of Absence and Apologies	
2	Late Correspondence	
3	Declarations of Interest	

Items to be Decided by this Committee using its Delegated Authority

D1	Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 13 November 2006	1
D2	Minutes of the Environmental Levy Community Reference Group Meeting Tuesday 14 November 2006	2
D3	Woollahra Traffic & Transport Study – 1067.G	12
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D8	Natural Environment Principal Activity – 1 st Quarter Management Plan Review – 827.G 04-07	106

Items to be Submitted to the Council for Decision with Recommendations from this Committee

R1	Draft Woollahra Pesticide Use Notification Plan – 1192.G	122
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Item No: D1 Delegated to Committee
Subject: **Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting held on 13 November 2006**
Author: Les Windle, Manager - Governance
File No: See Council Minutes
Reason for Report: The Minutes of the Meeting of Monday 13 November 2006 were previously circulated. In accordance with the guidelines for Committees' operations it is now necessary that those Minutes be formally taken as read and confirmed.

Recommendation:

That the Minutes of the Community and Environment Committee Meeting of 13 November 2006 be taken as read and confirmed.

Les Windle
Manager - Governance

Item No: D2 Delegated to Committee
Subject: **Minutes of the Environmental Levy Community Reference Group Meeting Tuesday 14 November 2006**
Author: Melanie Tasker – Project Officer Environmental Works
File No: 1142.G
Reason for Report: To report on the outcomes of the Environmental Levy Community Reference Group meeting held Tuesday 14 November 2006.

Recommendation:

- A. That the minutes of the Environmental Levy Community Reference Group meeting, held Tuesday 14 November 2006, be noted.
- B. That the Committee acknowledge the generous offer of the Vaucluse Progress Association, to contribute \$1000 to the Parsley Bay Reserve - Energy Dissipater Project, if our related Community Water Grant application is successful.

Background:

In 2002, the Minister for Local Government gave approval for Council to implement an Environmental Levy for a three-year period. An approval to extend the levy for another two years was granted by the Minister in July 2005. This allows Council to implement a range of environmental improvements, which aim to preserve and protect the natural beauty of the Woollahra Municipality.

The role of the ELCRG is to:

- receive and review progress reports on the implementation of the EWP;
- annually review the EWP;
- promote the EWP and its environmental objectives for the community;
- liaise with the community and provide feedback on the implementation of the EWP; and
- assist Council in seeking supplementary funding opportunities.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide the Community and Environment Committee with a copy of the minutes of the Environmental Levy Community Reference Group meeting held Tuesday 14 November 2006. The minutes will provide the Committee with an update on a variety of issues related to the implementation of the Environmental Works Program (EWP).

Conclusion:

Reporting on the minutes of the ELCRG will keep Council informed about the progress and main developments of the various projects and initiatives associated with implementing the EWP. The minutes include the actions recommended by the Group for the Committee's consideration for adoption.

Melanie Tasker
Project Officer - Environmental Works

Warwick Hatton
Director Technical Services

ANNEXURES:

Minutes of the ELCRG meeting of Tuesday 14 November 2006.

Item No: D3 Delegated to Committee
Subject: **Woollahra Traffic & Transport Study**
Author: Lorna Oliver - Traffic & Transport Planner
File No: 1067.G
Reason for Report: Establishment of car sharing facilities in the Woollahra Municipality

Recommendation:

- A. That the establishment of car sharing facilities in Woollahra be endorsed.
- B. That further reports be submitted to the Community & Environment Committee detailing any proposed locations for car sharing facilities.
- C. That any approved locations for car sharing facilities be monitored for a period of at least twelve months with regular reporting from the car share operator.
- D. That Woollahra's endorsement of car sharing be advertised including a statement inviting interested community car share operators to make submissions to Council if they wish to commence operations here.

Background:

GoGet is a car sharing company which started in Newtown and has been operating successfully in a number of areas in Sydney for about four years. They have approached Council advising that they have significant demand in areas of the Municipality, particularly in Paddington, and requesting the establishment of car sharing facilities in the Municipality.

GoGet is not the only car sharing organization operating in Sydney and endorsing the operation of car sharing in the Municipality does not limit Woollahra to permitting only one company to operate here.

Car sharing is a relatively new idea, which aims to reduce private car ownership. It works somewhat like a hire company. Members join a car sharing organization which owns a number of vehicles. The company locates its vehicles, with the permission of Council, in a number of strategic locations. When a member wishes to use a vehicle they book an available vehicle, either online or by telephone. Payment is by an annual membership fee and an hourly rate plus a kilometre allowance each time a vehicle is used. For the members, joining an organisation such as this may mean that a second or third family car is not required. Membership is usually cheaper than running an additional car and removes the administrative aspects such as insurance, cleaning and where to park when not in use.

The main difference between car sharing and a hire company is that most car sharing companies are not run commercially and they do not always make a profit. They are usually small, local organizations run by people with a commitment to reducing car dependency.

There are significant environmental benefits to car sharing. These include reduced emissions and reduced car ownership. Additionally, by reducing the need for car ownership, car sharing can reduce congestion caused by parking. According to Waverley Council's website, a car share vehicle can be shared by 10-20 people.

Below is an extract on car sharing from the Waverley Council website

<http://www.waverley.nsw.gov.au/council/cats/carshare.asp> :

“Car-sharing provides the following benefits to the community:

- *less car usage, which leads to less traffic and improved air quality;*
- *reduced number of cars on our roads. The average private car spends most of the time parked while a car share car can be shared by between 10 or 20 people;*
- *better environmental outcomes through new, fuel-efficient vehicles which means that people are getting out of older, inefficient vehicles and into a cars that are new, well maintained, safer and better for the environment; and*
- *letting public transport to compete with the car on level playing field, by including all the costs of a car up-front and highlighting the value of public transport.”*

The Federal Government’s *Australian Greenhouse Office* supports car sharing and has further information about its environmental benefits on its website. It has also prepared a 37 page report which is available on its website as shown.

Website : <http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/tdm/publications/carsharing.html>

Report: <http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/tdm/publications/pubs/carsharing-dec04.pdf>

A page from the Federal Government’s *Australian Greenhouse Office* website entitled: *Car sharing: An overview* is attached as an Annexure.

Car share companies may make arrangements with private companies, such as privately owned car parks to park their vehicles, however, an increasing number of councils are now using car sharing as a way to encourage reduced private car ownership. These councils support car sharing by allowing car share vehicles to park in designated location on their streets or in council car parks.

Allowing the car share vehicles to park in a designated location involves a change to the parking signage which needs to be approved by the Woollahra Traffic Committee. For this reason it is recommended that each location be investigated on its merits by Council’s Traffic & Transport staff and a report be prepared for the Woollahra Traffic Committee, and subsequently for the Community & Environment Committee. As car sharing is new to the Municipality it is recommended that each location be monitored by Council’s Traffic & Transport staff, and that regular reports be supplied by the car share organization detailing usage of the vehicle/s during the monitoring period.

Establishing car sharing facilities can be done on a trial basis. This involves identifying suitable locations for the car share vehicle to be parked and receiving approval through the Woollahra Traffic Committee for suitable signage to be installed. Subsequent monitoring of the operation of the facility, with regular reporting from the car share company to Council’s Traffic & Transport staff, would be expected for a period of at least twelve months in each location.

Waverley Council established a car sharing facility in January 2006 with four cars, two in Bondi Junction and two at Bondi Beach. There are also car sharing facilities located in Willoughby, North Sydney, Leichhardt, Marrickville and the City of Sydney.

Areas in Woollahra such as Paddington, Edgecliff and Double Bay are well suited to the establishment of car sharing. It is considered that car sharing vehicles should be appropriately located in two hour parking zones; rather than half hour, hour or metered zones, as vehicle turnover is imperative in such locations. It is proposed that, unless there a demonstrable need for an increased number, a maximum of two spaces would be provided at each location.

Identification of Income & Expenditure:

Cost of signage to be borne by applicant.

Conclusion:

Subject to Council's endorsement of the establishment of car sharing, suitable locations will be investigated, reported to the Woollahra Traffic Committee for concurrence and to Council for approval.

Once operational, these locations will be monitored by Council's Traffic & Transport staff for a period of at least twelve months with regular reports to be supplied by the car share organization detailing usage of the vehicle/s during the monitoring period.

It is considered appropriate that Woollahra's endorsement of car sharing be advertised including a statement inviting interested community car share operators to make submissions to Council if they wish to commence operations here.

Lorna Oliver
Traffic and Transport Planner

Warwick Hatton
Director Technical Services

ANNEXURES:

A page from the Federal Government's *Australian Greenhouse Office* website entitled: *Car sharing: An overview*

Item No: D4 Delegated to Committee
Subject: **Paddington Waste Survey Results**
Author: Mark Ramsay – Manager Depot and Waste Services
File No: 588.G
Reason for Report: To inform Councillors of the results of the survey of residents regarding their attitude to a change to the current garbage service in Paddington/West Woollahra

Recommendation:

- A. That, subject to a community information program to affected residents, necessary consultation with affected residents and necessary negotiation with staff to amend the current workplace arrangements:
- 1 the current 55 litre twice a week collection service in Paddington and West Woollahra be altered to 120 litres once a week, or 55 litres once a week where the resident so chooses,
 - 2 in streets where rear lane collection is an option the preferred collection point be clarified in consultation with affected residents, firstly on a street by street basis, and then where necessary with individual residents,
 - 3 the green waste service be carried out on the same day as the altered general waste service,
- B. That collection continue to be carried out in the mornings.

Background:

As a result of complaints received regarding littering, illegal dumping and noise of early morning waste collections, Council commissioned a survey of the Paddington West Woollahra area to gain residents feedback on proposals to improve the waste service.

The brief set out for the Consultants was as follows:

Currently, we collect 120L rubbish weekly within the LGA. This is collected once a week except for Paddington/West Woollahra which has a twice weekly collection via 55L bins. Paddington/West Woollahra is serviced in two zones: Zone 6 - serviced on Mondays/Thursdays and Zone 8 – serviced on Tuesdays/Fridays.

Recycling is collected on the first collection day i.e. Monday or Tuesday, and garden organics are collected on Wednesday in both zones.

Therefore Paddington/West Woollahra residents are putting out their bins three times a week for service (instead of once a week like everywhere else). This practice dates from the introduction of the new waste services in October 2001. Surveys carried out at the time resulted in a small majority of residents in these areas opting for twice a week collection, on the basis it was easier to accommodate 55L bins in terrace houses.

However, there are disadvantages to residents in these frequent collections, such as:

- *Early morning compactor noise*
- *Polluting emissions and traffic congestion with trucks in street three times a week*
- *Incidence of illegal dumping associated with bins left in the street*
- *Bins left in the street during the day detracting from the appearance of streets and neighbourhood*
- *Attraction for vermin and litter from polluting the environment.*
- *Incidence of stolen and broken bins.*

We are therefore reconsidering the introduction of a once a week 120L service for these areas, which would reduce the frequency of traffic noise and congestion in each week, and reduce the potential for littering and dumps.

We are also considering the possibility of a night service operating between the hours of say 7pm – 11pm with rubbish and garden organics possibly collected on the same night – however, recycling would remain the same. The residential streets would be serviced first followed by the commercial areas. This would remove entirely the problems of early morning noise.

A change to the hours of collection, if favoured by residents, would be the subject of negotiated changes to current service agreements.

The proposals as set out were:

Proposal 1

All 55lt bins to be replaced by a 120lt bin with a once a week collection from the front kerb.

Proposal 2

A night time once a week collection service from the front kerb with garden organics at the same time and recyclables the very next morning.

Benefits to Residents and Council:

It was considered that the benefits Council and residents would potentially gain from introducing these changes would be:

- Reduction in early morning truck noise
- Provision of a more user friendly, cost effective and efficient waste collection service
- Decrease the amount of polluting emissions from excess truck movements
- Reduce the amount of vermin and litter associated with the use of 55 litre bins
- Reduce the incidence of stolen and broken bins
- Lower the incidence of illegal dumping associated with bins left in streets

Survey Framing and Design:

Phase 1

Initial face to face interviews were held with 50 residents to discuss resident satisfaction with current waste services, the attributes they value in waste collection services and what their opinions are toward the proposed collection service changes.

This initial survey was to assist in the framing and design of the wider survey questions.

Phase 2

The wider survey was conducted using 11 streets and 353 respondents from a demographic of single and multi unit dwellings and age groups consistent with demographics.

Responses from 350 households were required to ensure the sample size equalled a 95% confidence interval. This number of responses represents 18% of the 6,500 households in the area.

To support the survey, additional information was placed on the web site and in the local paper.

Out of all surveys delivered to doorsteps, 46% were returned. This is regarded as an extremely high participation rate for a waste survey.

Key findings: for Both Proposals

Proposal 1 *All 55lt bins to be replaced by a 120lt bin with a once a week collection from the front kerb.*

The results given to proposal 1 were such that they have been broken up into two separate responses.

- The percentage of residents in favour of a 120 litre once a week service collected from the front kerb in all cases was 55%, with 45% not in favour.
- The support for a 120 litre once a week service rose to 74% if the collection point remained in the rear lane in those cases where there are currently rear lane collections.

Note: The methodology used to determine this increase is noted in paragraph 2, page 5 of annexure (A). Council is currently reviewing all collection points via the “Liveable Lanes Program”. A once a week service would reduce the need to remove collection point in the majority of laneways as the problem of dumping in rear lanes due to bins being left in the lanes will be easier to manage and should reduce. Conversely the objection of some residents to bins being presented in streets should also be reduced.

- There was also a small number of residents who would prefer to keep the 55lt bin but with a once a week collection.

Proposal 2 *A night time once a week collection service from the front kerb with garden organics at the same time and recyclables the very next morning.*

Again the responses given to this proposal were such that they need to be broken up into their separate responses.

- 51% of residents were against a night time service, with 39% in favour, 7% indifferent and 3% not responding.
- The proposal that green waste be picked up on the same day as general waste was largely supported.

Current Service Satisfaction Levels:

Resident concerns and satisfaction levels are:

1. Clean and tidy streets/lanes – **high** priority, **low** satisfaction

2. The incidence of illegal dumping – **high** priority, **low** satisfaction
3. Residents clearly know which day services occur – **high** priority, **medium to high** satisfaction
4. Noise made by collection trucks – **high** priority, **medium to high** satisfaction
5. Traffic congestion from truck movements – **high** priority, **medium to high** satisfaction
6. Provision of an environmentally sound service - **high** priority, **medium to high** satisfaction
7. Minimal truck polluting emissions - **high** priority, **medium** satisfaction
8. Consistent garden organics collection - **high** priority, **medium** satisfaction

In summary, residents' perception of the service provided rates "clean and tidy streets and lanes" and "the incidence of illegal dumping" as the only two factors that rate a high priority but low satisfaction level.

The projected future satisfaction level of the 74% of residents in favour of altering the service in accordance with the proposals, show an increase in all service level provisions to the high satisfaction sector.

The projected satisfaction level of the 26% of residents who are not in favour of the proposals, show a slight increase in future satisfaction levels up to the medium to high satisfaction sector in the "incidence of illegal dumping", "minimal truck polluting emissions" and "consistent garden organics collection", with a reduction in satisfaction levels in all other areas.

Conclusion:

Given the results of the survey and that the advent of a once a week service would reduce the amount of illegal dumps, vehicle traffic, noise, emission levels and fuel usage, it is recommended that:

- the current 55 litre twice a week collection should be altered to a 120 litre once a week collection, or 55 litre once a week where the resident so chooses,
- any concerns with the collection point should be overcome by consultation with the individual residents
- the green waste service should be moved to the same day as the general waste service
- the collections should continue to be carried out in the mornings

Consultation with affected residents will initially be by way of a letter drop, followed up with on-site inspections by Waste Services staff where necessary.

A message will also be placed in the local paper with information and a contact number to answer the concerns of any other residents.

As these proposals would mean a change to the current EBA entered into by Council and the Union and signed by the Waste staff in 2004, they would form part of the negotiations for a Collective Agreement, in accordance with Council's resolution of 13 June 2006, to implement provisions of the WorkChoices Act "*for the benefit of Council's service provision to its residents and ratepayers and Council's overall financial position without disadvantaging Council's staff and resulting in Woollahra Municipal Council becoming a model employer*".

Mark Ramsay
Manager Depot & Waste Services

Warwick Hatton
Director Technical Services

Annexure:

(A) Hyder Consultancy “Community Waste Survey Outcomes Report”

Item No: D5 Delegated to Committee
Subject: **Lyne Park amenity building**
Author: David Sheils - Manager Public Open Space
File No: 195.G
Reason for Report: To respond to a Notice of Motion

Recommendation:

- A. That if the demand for change rooms in Lyne Park is demonstrated with the 2007 winter ground hire applications, a report be prepared for Council to consider funding \$13,000 for the refurbishment of the Lyne Park change rooms.
- B. That a report be prepared for Council identifying public amenity / café redevelopment opportunities for the Lyne Park including a preferred redevelopment option. This report will include estimated cost expenditure and potential returns to Council for each option.

Background:

On 13 June 2006, Council resolved the following Notice of Motion:

“That a Report be brought to the Community and Environment Committee addressing the structure at the Western end of Lyne Park Rose Bay (comprising toilets and change sheds) such report to deal with the following:

- 1. upgrading the toilets and change sheds to an appropriate standard, with a view to their being used by school and private sporting groups hiring the playing fields at Lyne Park.*
- 2. whether a canteen and/or small café with seating can be located at the north eastern end of the structure including tables & chairs on the concrete forecourt facing the playing fields.”*

Change rooms

Public use of the change rooms at Lyne Park ceased in 1995 as a result of a lack of demand. Previously the change rooms were used by mature aged sporting teams, however, just prior too, and following their closure, the use of Lyne Park has predominantly been for school aged sports, or where players typically arrive at the ground dressed in sports attire and do not require the use of showers and change facilities after the game. We have not received any requests from our current Lyne Park hirers for the use of the change rooms.

The majority of Lyne Park’s sports use in winter is soccer and rugby. In 2006 the following groups regularly hired Lyne Park for winter sports.

Club / organisation	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Scots Preparatory School	Day	Day		Day		morning	
Kambala School			Day				
Eastern Suburbs Soccer Football Ass						afternoon	
Colleagues Rugby						Intermittent #	
Eastern Suburbs Rugby Union Football Club		Night		Night		Intermittent #	
Maccabi Soccer Club			Night				

when not used by the majority user Eastern Suburbs Soccer Football Assoc.

Council's parks and beach maintenance staff use one of the vacant change rooms to store a small amount of equipment and provide staff lunch accommodation (comprising table chairs and a small fridge). The use of the change rooms by staff is not critical for day to day operations and other venues are available for staff should the change rooms again be required for public use.

In March this year, after the commencement of the rugby season and two months after we had advertised for winter ground hirers, we were approached by a newly formed Maccabi Rugby Club seeking the use of Lyne Park as a home ground for Saturday competition games and mid week training. The Club fielded one team in the 2006 Rugby sub-district competition. Whilst no vacancies existed at Lyne Park other than one game, we were able to offer the Club use at Christison Park where vacancies did exist. Christison Park maintains a rugby field and change room facilities and is predominantly used by the Maccabi Soccer Club.

At the request of Mr Garry Knespal, a Maccabi Rugby Club representative, a meeting was held 31 May with the Acting Mayor, Marcus Ehrlich, and the author, requesting the use of Lyne Park as its future home ground, with possible opportunity to create a new clubhouse facility at this site. Mr Knespal also requested the use of the Lyne Park change rooms if, and when, the club was able to hire Lyne Park in future years.

We were not able to agree to the development of a clubhouse facility at Lyne Park as it not supported in the Lyne Park Plan of Management, however, we would consider any future ground hire application Maccabi Rugby may provide in the future, together with other ground hire applications submitted by other groups.

In assessing ground hire applications we favourably consider applications which demonstrate participation by local residents, local schools, youth teams and girl sports. We also support local hirers who have used the venue previously and had a history of abiding by any conditions applied to the use of the ground. We normally expect hirers to apply for use of the same grounds each year, however, when vacancies occur, we are then able to provide new or expanding existing clubs to fill these places.

As the change rooms have not been used for many years, there are a number of items that require repair or replacement to bring the facility up to an acceptable level prior to public use. Repair works required include new taps, water saver shower heads, electrical work, replacement hot water systems, and painting. We also need to provide a new gas connection to the building to provide an 'on demand' gas hot water system. This type of system is the most cost and environmentally effective means of infrequently heating hot water associated with a change room facility. We estimate the total works would cost \$13,000.

It would be difficult to justify Council expenditure of \$13,000, at this stage, for the use by a single Club (with one team). We could, however, early next year when we advertise seeking winter ground hirers, survey all potential hirers for demand for change room facilities at Lyne Park. The results of this survey would be received by the middle of March 2007 and a report prepared for Council consideration on how these works could potentially be funded for implementation before the 2007 winter season.

Kiosk / café facility

On 7 April 2003, Council adopted the Lyne Park Plan of Management. The drafting of this plan involved a comprehensive public consultation process with resident meetings, a public exhibition period and community representations to Council's Community and Environment Committee prior to Council adopting the plan. Comments on the then draft Plan of Management were also sought from adjoining residents and proprietors such as the Lyne Park tennis centre and Catalinas.

During this consultation process the proposal for a coffee cart, or kiosk / café incorporated within the amenities building was supported, similar to the successful redevelopment of the amenity building in Rushcutters Bay Park. It is noted that the Rushcutters Bay Park redevelopment involved the closure of the change rooms for use as kitchen space and cool room storage.

We believe there is strong demand for a coffee cart / kiosk / café at Lyne Park from park users and ferry commuters. Any redevelopment of the amenity building would also provide the opportunity to improve upon the existing public toilets.

The adopted plan of management permits the operation of a coffee cart or the development of a kiosk / café facility within the existing amenity building.

We have developed a concept for how the amenity building might be developed to provide a kiosk / café and maintain:

- the existing number of male and female toilets (with existing water reuse capacity);
- a disabled accessible toilet;
- secured services (irrigation control box, water, electricity and gas meters);
- change room facilities should demand be demonstrated in the future.

As a result a café concept plan has been developed (Annexure 1). This plan illustrates how a kiosk / café could be developed on the northern side of the building to take advantage of the views of the harbour and the shade of the adjacent mature fig. Views also extend to across Lyne Park sportsground. A slightly elevated timber deck (with ramp) could also be provided for the outdoor seating area and to protect the roots of the tree. The proposal generally utilises the existing building envelope. Any redevelopment of the amenity building to create a kiosk / café would require development approval.

In redeveloping the amenity building similar to that illustrated in the concept plan, various financial options would be available to Council such as (but not limited too):

1. Council undertakes the works and leases the kiosk facility (kiosk / café to be fitted out by lessee);
2. Council undertakes the works only to the public toilets and works to the kiosk / café would be undertaken by the lessee.
3. Works to the public toilets and kiosk / café would be undertaken by the lessee.

We will prepare redevelopment options for the building including design and cost estimates with a view to providing a further report to Council.

Coffee Cart

In recognition of the strong demand for a coffee facility in the area we have recently sought quotations for the supply and operation of a coffee cart in the ferry wharf carpark, located adjacent to the amenities building. We propose to engage a contractor to operate a coffee cart for twelve months with the opportunity to extend operation three months thereafter.

We plan to maintain the coffee cart until such time as the kiosk redevelopment, if supported by Council, would be completed. When the kiosk is completed the coffee cart would be removed.

Conclusion:

The opportunity exists for Council to reopen the change room facilities at Lyne Park subject to refurbishment works estimated to be \$13,000. However, currently there is not sufficient demonstrated demand for Council to expend these funds required to re-open the change rooms.

Therefore we recommend prospective Lyne Park hirers be surveyed early in the New Year and if demand for the change rooms exists, we will prepare a report for Council consideration on how to fund these works.

In regards to providing a kiosk / café facility, it is clear such a facility could be provided within the current footprint of the amenity building with an outdoor dinning area located beneath the shade of the mature fig tree. Redevelopment could occur maintaining the existing level of public and disabled toilet facilities and retain the change room facilities. Various commercial redevelopment options are available to Council and we recommend that we investigate these further and report to Council in the New Year with a preferred option.

David Sheils
Manager Public Open Space

Warwick Hatton
Director Technical Services

ANNEXURE:

Typical layout of future kiosk / café facility and Perspective

Item No: D6 Delegated to Committee
Subject: **Community Information Noticeboards**
Author: Kylie Walshe, Director Community Services
File No: 79.G
Reason for Report: To inform Council of the current status of community noticeboards and the proposal to install three new boards during this financial year.

Recommendation:

- A. That further investigation is undertaken into the placement of Community Information Noticeboards in Double Bay, Edgecliff and Rose Bay Commercial Centres, and that this include consultation with key stakeholders.
- B. That Council endorse the recommendations regarding the existing noticeboards.
- C. That a Community Information Noticeboard Policy and Guidelines be prepared and presented to Council for adoption.

Background:

Community information was identified as a priority issue by the community in the Social Plan 2002, Community Survey 2004, the Social Needs Study 2005 and the associated strategies for Ageing and Disability Services and Children's Services. To address this issue, a project was included in the Management Plan 2006-09, Principal Activity 5.0 Community Services (page 89);

Develop a promotion/ communications plan for community services activities and facilities to include:

- *Marketing and promotional mechanisms for activities, services, facilities and events*
- *Website review*
- *Installation and management of community noticeboards in key locations*

This project is due for completion in March 2007, with this report concentrating on the noticeboard component. The marketing and promotional mechanisms have commenced and are being undertaken on a case by case basis for activities and events. The website review has also been commenced with the introduction of the new website.

This project will also meet objectives in the Principal Activity 6.0 Customer Service & Communication (pages 110 & 113);

- *Continue to identify and respond to customer's needs.*
- *Promote Council's services and facilities.*

This report will review the existing noticeboards in the Municipality, potential sites for additional noticeboards and commence discussion on the management procedures and content to be displayed on these noticeboards.

Current Status:

Council currently has a number of noticeboards located throughout the Municipality, with different purposes and management procedures. There are currently two (2) community noticeboards in our commercial / shopping centres: one at Darling Point shops in Darling Point Road and one in Queen Street Woollahra. These notice boards are maintained by the Darling Point Society and Queen Street West Woollahra Association respectively. Council's Community Development and Library staff currently access these noticeboards for the display of community information.

Council also has notice boards in Steyne Park, Cooper Park, Parsley Bay Reserve and Trumper Park. Unfortunately the board section of the noticeboard in Trumper Park has been removed due to continual vandalism. With the exception of the noticeboard in Steyne Park these boards hold information on the parks, bush care and associated information. The Steyne Park noticeboard also holds general community information including the monthly "What's On" Calendar of Events. These noticeboards are managed and maintained by Parks and Street Trees staff. See Annexure 1 for photographs of each noticeboard, taken in October 2006.

Proposal:

It is proposed that Council develop a community information noticeboard network, aiming to:

- Provide accessible information on issues, activities and events of interest to the community.
- Improve awareness and participation in Council events and activities by residents, thereby developing a sense of community.

These boards have the potential to increase communication with residents on a wide range of issues and activities. Based on initial discussions with all Divisions of Council it is clear that there are a number of objectives that could be met and a large range of information that could be placed on such noticeboards, if managed and maintained regularly. The long list of information that could be placed on noticeboards ranged from notices regarding Development Applications and new services to the promotion of community activities, events and services.

Existing Noticeboards:

There are six (6) noticeboards currently spread throughout the Municipality. Each of these has been assessed in relation to the suitability of the site and whether the noticeboard is meeting its intended purpose. Based on this it is recommended that:

- The noticeboards in Parsley Bay Reserve and Cooper Park remain and continue to be used for the display of information regarding parks, bush care and associated information.
- The noticeboard in Trumper Park not be replaced and the remaining structure be removed if no alternative use can be found for the structure.
- The noticeboard at Steyne Park be assessed in relation to its location, and relocated if required.
- The noticeboard in Mitchell Rd, Darling Point, remain and become part of the greater community information noticeboard network.
- The noticeboard in Queen St, Woollahra become part of the greater community information noticeboard network and be relocated elsewhere within the Queen St shopping precinct. The site should have easy access and readability from the footpath and determined through consultation with business owners, residents and the Queen St West Woollahra Society.

New Noticeboards:

It is proposed that investigation take place into finding appropriate sites for three (3) new community noticeboards, as included in the Management Plan 2006-2009. Consultation on their placement will be required in accordance with the adopted Communication & Consultation Policy and Guidelines, June 2006.

It is recommended that community noticeboards be placed in areas that:

- have a large amount of passing pedestrian traffic;
- are near key transport hubs, such as bus stops; and
- are used by a wide range of residents of Woollahra.

To meet these objectives the noticeboards should be placed in commercial/ shopping centres throughout the Municipality. An assessment of each commercial /shopping centre in the Municipality has been undertaken to identify appropriate localities for the noticeboards, see Annexure 2.

Based on this assessment it is proposed that the following commercial/shopping centres be explored for potential sites for three (3) new noticeboards:

- Double Bay Commercial Centre
- Edgecliff Commercial Centre
- Rose Bay Commercial Centres

Other locations such as Paddington, Vaucluse and Watson's Bay Neighbourhood Centres may be considered for installation of noticeboards in subsequent years. See Annexure 3 - Map of existing and proposed noticeboard locations.

The new noticeboards will be in accordance with urban design guidelines and Development Control Plans for each commercial centre, with guidance provided by Council's Urban Design Team when determining the sites and the type and style of noticeboards to be installed.

Management:

It is important for Council to determine the purpose of the community information noticeboards and set guidelines for the type of information that will be displayed at each of these. A Policy and Guidelines will be drafted to ensure a consistent and fair approach is taken when determining the content of the information on the noticeboards. A policy was adopted by Council in 2001 in relation to the content on noticeboards in the libraries (Annexure 4). This will be reviewed and included in the broader guidelines for the proposed community information noticeboard network.

It is anticipated that the Guidelines will endorse the use of the noticeboards for information on key community issues, new Council services, community events, facilities and services, with information from across Council included when applicable. It is also imperative that there are strict guidelines on the type of information placed in Council endorsed noticeboards, with commercial, political and offensive material excluded. This Policy and Guidelines will be presented back to Council for adoption, along with the proposed sites for the noticeboards.

It is further proposed that the management of the new boards be conducted by staff in the Community Development and Library Services Teams, with a routine established for the updating of the boards on a regular basis, i.e. once a fortnight.

Consultation:

In accordance with the adopted Communication and Consultation Policy and Guidelines this project has been assessed as having high impact at a local level, requiring informing, information gathering and consultation with all relevant groups, businesses and residents.

Informing and information gathering has already commenced with initial consultation conducted internally with all Managers and staff from Community Development, Library Services, Technical Services and Corporate Services. Discussions have also been held with the Queen Street West Woollahra Association regarding the noticeboard that they currently manage on behalf of Council. The Association is supportive of including these noticeboards in the broader community information noticeboard network, on the proviso that they have access to place information on the boards. Contact has also been made with the Darling Point Society and further discussions will be held with this organisation.

It is proposed that consultation on the exact location and management of the noticeboards be conducted with community groups, established sub-committees of Council and key stakeholders. This includes consultation with:

- Chambers of Commerce at each shopping precinct
- Landowners and businesses
- Resident Groups and Progress Associations
- Local service providers, such as Holdsworth Street Community Centre and the Woollahra Seniors Centre
- Councils sub-committees:
 - Youth Issues Forum
 - Seniors Advisory Committee
 - Access Committee
 - Community Safety Committee
 - Double Bay Commercial Centre Working Party

Conclusion:

The development of a community information noticeboard network will assist Council to meet objectives set out in the Management Plan 2006-2009.

The installation of additional Community noticeboards will enhance the information provided to the local community and provide a proactive way of promoting Council's activities as well as local information. It is recommended that community consultation to assist in the determination of sites at Double Bay, Rose Bay and Edgecliff Commercial Centres. Guidelines will also be developed in relation to the content and management of the community information, ensuring that the information is appropriate to the local community.

Kylie Walshe
Director Community Services

ANNEXURES:

- Annexure 1 – Photos of existing noticeboards
- Annexure 2 – Assessment of commercial/ shopping centres
- Annexure 3 – Map of existing and proposed noticeboard locations
- Annexure 4 – Adopted Policy for Community Information Noticeboards in Council Libraries

Item No: D7 Delegated to Committee
Subject: **Community Services Principal Activity - 1st Quarter Management Plan Review**
Author: Kylie Walshe - Director Community Services
Tim Tuxford – Manager Compliance
File No: 827.G 05-08
Reason for Report: To review the status of works, services, and Notices of Motion for the Management Plan principal activity of Community Services for the three months ending 30 September 2006.

Recommendation:

- A. That the status of projects for the Community Services Principal Activity be noted.
- B. That variations to projects be agreed subject to adoption of the relevant budget variations included in the separately reported quarterly financial review.

Background:

Section 407(1) of the Local Government Act requires that Council review the progress of the adopted management plan on a quarterly basis. Included with this report is the first quarterly review of Principal Activity No 5 of the Management Plan, which is "Community Services". This principal activity has the following sub- activities:

- 5.1 Community Services Management
- 5.2 Library Services
- 5.3 Community Development
- 5.4 Cultural Development
- 5.5 Environment & Public Health
- 5.6 Ranger Services

Included as Annexure 1. to this report is the Community Services Principal activity of the Management Plan, with detailed comments on the status of items in each sub activity.

The annexure includes all the details whereas set out in the following part of this report is a commentary on variations, changes, exception, completed work, achievements, etc. The purpose being to provide Councillors with a snapshot on the key influences or issues arising from this quarterly review.

Comments on budget variations where they are material or have an impact on the program of works or projects may be included in this report. However the budget review and confirmation of any changed forecast will be considered in a separate budget report which reviews the overall financial position of the Council at the end of the quarter.

Following is the commentary on each sub activity.

5.1 Community Services Management

This sub-activity covers the area of strategic planning and activities that impact on all operations of community services.

Key activities undertaken in the last quarter include the commencement of the Property Assets & Community Facilities Study and the opening of the Gunyah for community activities. The Gunyah Opening Day was a great success with over 120 local residents attending on the day. The new Community Services Facilities Brochures were available on the day and handed out to all who attended. Many people who attended completed Community Facilities Survey forms and elected to go on the data basis to be sent more information for future events.

Renovations continued for Vaucluse Bowling Club, with the an Open Day held for 22 October 2006.

5.2 Library and Information Services

This sub-activity covers all library activities, including projects for library facilities and the library and information service as a whole. Many of the management plan projects have commenced and are working towards the target dates. There has been two changes to the target dates, namely for the undertaking of the Customer survey in the Local History Centre, and the renegotiation of the Paddington Library Agreement with City of Sydney Council. Both projects have a new completion date of December 2006.

Some highlights of the library activities and projects for this quarter as reflected in the Management Plan are as follows:

Lending Services

- The Library and Information Service has a membership of 20,849 with a quarterly circulation figure, for all service points, of 113,411.
- In September 2006, the Library introduced people counters at the Double Bay Central Library. Monthly statistics will be available for the December 2006 quarterly review. For the period, 4 September 2006 – 10 October 2006, there were 19,541 visits by the public, which represents an average of 500 visits per day..
- The Home Library Service currently has 170 individual members and 10 institutional members (consisting of nursing home / hospitals), all of whom are visited fortnightly by Council staff or volunteers. There are 6 registered volunteers with the service.

Children's and Young Adult Library Service

- The Children's Library celebrated Children's Book Week, across all service points, with the theme "*Book Now*" from 21 August to 5 September 2006. The Library and Information Service hosted 44 school / preschool classes with an attendance of 1022 children.

Over 890 entries were submitted to the annual Book Week competition, titled "*Books into Movies*" where children were invited to translate their favourite book into a movie scene.

Story- time sessions continue to be well supported and enjoyed by children, parents and local community based preschools. During this quarter, 27 playgroup / storytelling sessions were held in Blackburn Gardens / Double Bay Children's Library with a total of 328 children attending. While at Paddington Library, 37 storytelling sessions were held with 554 children present.

Of special note was the celebration of NAIDOC Week with Matthew Doyle's Wuruniri Cultural Programme. Both Double Bay and Paddington Libraries hosted special storytelling sessions and a total of 38 children and 18 adults attended.

- The Library was successful in receiving a grant from the State Library of NSW to trial an extension of the Double Bay Children's Library opening hours from 6 to 8 pm, Monday to Friday, commencing 25 September 2006. This pilot programme aims to encourage more young adults to use the library collection for both study and recreation. Usage of the library will be monitored over the trial.

Information Services

- 7295 reference enquiries were answered at the reference desk of both Double Bay and Paddington Libraries for the quarter. While 685 Local History enquiries were addressed by staff at the Local History Centre.
- The Library and Information Service, through funding from the State Library of NSW, commenced in August 2006 the indexing of Council's Archives. To date, two years (1860 - 1862) of indexing has been completed.
- The Local History Centre staff, as resolved by Council on 11 September 2006, have commenced the research project to celebrate the achievement of women in Woollahra. The staff are presently researching the lives of Dutchie Backhouse and Belle Miller to provide a biographical history on Council's website and to undertake oral histories on both women. Council will need to consider a budget adjustment of \$2000 to complete this project as per Council's resolution.
- Three regular Writers and Readers evenings were held this quarter in the Council's Committee rooms with an overall audience of 112.
- During September 2006, the thirteenth annual Woollahra Council Youth Photographic Award, sponsored by Waverley Woollahra Arts Centre, Zonta Club Sydney East and Woollahra Council was held. It attracted 111 entries in the photography categories and 27 entries in the new Short film section. The Award presentation evening was held on 13 September 2006 with the Mayor, Councillor Andrew Petrie in attendance.
- Also held during the quarter as part of 2006 National Poetry Week was the inaugural Dead Poets Day held on 7 September 2006, from 12 noon to 2 pm. Unfortunately due to poor weather conditions, the event was held in the Council's Committee Rooms rather than the Blackburn Gardens, with eleven readers and approximately 20 people in attendance. New public access computers have been installed (12 at Double Bay Central Library and 5 at Paddington Branch). These computers will provide access to networked CD-ROM's, MS Office applications (Word, Excel and Power Point) and the internet, including the library's online catalogue.

A detailed library quarterly report with statistics and trend lines has also been prepared for tonight's Committee meeting.

5.3 Community Development

This sub-activity covers the programs for children, youth, community safety, volunteering and community development.

Children's Services

- The quarterly Children's Services Forum continued to grow and attract new participants from children's services, with guest speakers on early intervention, support services for children with a disability, new projects to support parents with special needs and innovative transition to school projects. The Forum was held on 21st September and provided an important opportunity for services to meet, exchange ideas and stay informed about changes to the service system.
- Transition to School Project
Council worked in partnership with the NSW Department of Education, local Schools and Waverley Council on a Transition to School information evening for parents of children starting school in 2007. This was held in August in Vaucluse.
- Better Futures
Liaison was re-established with the Better Futures Sub-regional Reference group, which is currently investigating the feasibility of pilot projects to attract 9-13 year old children to continue to attend Out of School Hours (OOSH) projects. Council attends the meetings of Out of School Hours Service (OOSH) with Waverley and Randwick Local Government Areas.
- Woollahra Pre School continued to operate at full capacity.

Youth

A Youth Strategy for Woollahra is currently being developed in partnership with local youth services. A demographic profile of young people in Woollahra and a literature review of State and Commonwealth government youth policies is being prepared and to be completed by December 2006. The project plan will also be completed providing direction for analysis of policy and development of the strategic direction. The Youth Services Strategy is scheduled for completion by June 2007. Research tools have been developed, including a survey of young people and service providers.

Progress-

- Completion of surveys for Youth Service providers with distribution to the Waverley Action for Youth Services, Point Zero, Bondi Outreach Project and Come In Centre.

The following activities took place during the last quarter:

- The Youth Safety Network meeting was held monthly with the main focus being on issues relating to young people (12-24) who are at risk of truanting, in trouble with authorities, on the streets late at night, and new initiatives fostering positive images of young people in our community.
- Attendance at the monthly Youth Advisory Committee with main issues for discussion being planning for annual youth events. Planning for youth involvement in volunteering in the local community.
- The Road Traffic Authority, in collaboration with Council, ran a "Teach Your Child to Drive Safely" attracting twenty local parents.

Community Safety

The development of the draft Crime Prevention Plan has been completed and reported to the Community and Environment Committee on the 23rd October 2006 for its release for a public exhibition period. After the analysis of all submissions the draft Plan will be reported back to Council for adoption, then forwarded to the Attorney General's office for endorsement.

The Community Development Officer has attended meetings with local licensees to establish the local Liquor Accord which was launched on 27th July 2006. The Accord aims to give the licensees the opportunity to work with each other to establish community standards to reduce criminal and anti social behaviour in the local community due to alcohol consumption. Council representative will continue to attend the meetings.

Liaison has been maintained with the Eastern Suburbs Domestic Violence Committee.

The Community Safety Committee has continued to be well attended by residents and Neighbourhood Watch representatives with two meetings held this quarter with the major exercise of prioritising strategies for the draft Crime Prevention Plan.

Volunteering

- Meetings with Woollahra Council staff who manage volunteers have taken place to finalise position descriptions for volunteers into a standard format for printing of a booklet on Volunteering opportunities.
- Liaison has been established with the Volunteer Coordinator at Holdsworth Street Community Centre with agreement that a Volunteer Forum will be held regularly. The forum aims to create a network of support to organisations in the local area, share information, knowledge and resources and review the methods to recruit, retained and support volunteers. Letters have been sent to all relevant organisations inviting membership to the forum.

EJ Ward Community Centre

The centre has a current membership of 43 residents and a weekly usage rate of 320 people. The usage rate is currently lower than anticipated due to the discontinuation of some regular bookings. The centre is actively promoting the centre to attract new long /short term users for the centre.

The Centre continues to provide a diverse range of activities and functions to the local residents. Activities offered include lunch meals, day trips, exercise classes, table tennis, card games, arts and crafts, HUGS knitting group, Computer Pals, University of the 3rd Age and ongoing casual room hire. The activities at the Canonbury Cottage, McKell Park include gentle exercise classes, meditation and relaxation classes.

Ageing, Disability and Access

All management plan activities are on target, with the Aged and Disability Community Development Officer receiving 20 to 30 enquires a month. The main areas of enquires have been individual shopping, individual transport with an escort, home help services, home maintenance and gardening services.

A Woollahra Council Access Committee event was held on the 23 August 2006, the Mayor Andrew Petrie opened the event entitled 'Wheelpower – how one man's vision became reality'. Motivational speaker Brett Falkner spoke about becoming a paraplegic and his life adventures afterwards. Mr Andrew Hewitt who has cerebral palsy spoke about how he tutors people with disabilities in drumming workshops and his works in the music industry. Access Committee members, community services in the area and local residents attended the afternoon. The Committee launched the "Help is at Hand" brochure on community services and organisations that help people with a disability to stay at home.

Staff attended the Community Information Day in Bondi Junction Mall on 6 September along with over 40 service providers in the Woollahra and Waverley Local Government Areas. There was over 500 passing traffic on the day with many people taking the Woollahra Directories (Seniors, Youth Services, Seniors Accommodation) Community Services Facilities Brochures, Home Library Service, Home Supports brochure and Fliers on new activities run by Council across the Municipality.

Following the adoption of the Social Needs Study 2005 which identified a lack of community space for recreation and community activities in the Vacluse end of the Woollahra Municipality a program of activities for seniors have been developed in response to the local recreation and social community needs. Activities will commence at the Gunyah in October 2006 and at Vacluse Bowling Club in early 2007.

5.4 Cultural Development

This sub-activity includes cultural events and cultural development activities.

The preselection judging component of the 2006 Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize was finalised in August. 496 entries were received, up 33% on the previous record. Forty one finalists were chosen for this year's *Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize Exhibition*. The winner will be announced on October 27 followed by a free public exhibition of the finalists to be held at Woollahra's historic Redleaf building, from October 28 until November 5.

Attracting established artists including Adam Cullen and Cash Brown, Alan Giddy and Alison Clouston, the prize will also present works from emerging artists including Dr Julie Bartholomew who has created an exquisite three piece work in porcelain entitled *I Am* and Claire Simpson's *Fantastic Palace* constructed from playing cards and chipboard. Judges for this year are Felicity Fenner Curator, Ivan Dougherty Gallery and Lecturer, Master of Art Administration, College of Fine Arts, University of NSW, Anthony Bond, Head Curator International Art at the Art Gallery of NSW and Professor Ann Graham Chair of Fine Art, University of Newcastle. Further Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize activities included the development of a Friends of the Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize Program, finalists floor talk program occurring across three days, local schools touring program. Additionally, the Cultural Development Coordinator participated in the steering committee of the upcoming Kids Day Out event due to the links between this event and the Woollahra Small Sculpture Prize exhibition.

Participation continued in the Eastern Regional Local Government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Forum (ERLGATIF). 2006 NAIDOC Week took place between 2 – 9 July with a theme of 'Respect in the Past – Believe in the Future'. Woollahra Council hosted two dedicate story-time sessions for young children, with Matthew Doyle from the Wuruniri Cultural Program conducting the Double Bay Library story-time.

In conjunction with the Community Development Officer, consultation and research was conducted into the drafting of a Reconciliation Statement. In August, Council resolved to place the Reconciliation Statement on exhibition for public comment, with a further report to be brought back to Council.

The draft Public Art Policy was placed on exhibition for public comment during July. Following the exhibition period, a further report based on comments from the community with minor amendments was endorsed by the Community and Environment Committee in September, along with the Public Art Implementation Plan.

In conjunction with the Community Development Officer, a funding proposal was submitted to the Department of Immigration (Living in Harmony) for a community harmony project to be conducted in 2007. Notice will be given in October 2006 as to whether the proposal will be the recipient of funding.

Distribution of nomination forms for the 2007 Woollahra Citizen of the Year Program commenced in this quarter, with nominations closing on Friday 27 October.

5.5 Environment and Public Health

The activities and projects listed under this sub-activity aim to protect the health and well being of residents and visitors to our area.

533 health premises are currently recorded for the area, with 343 of these handling, preparing and or selling food. Council's Environmental Health Officers endeavour to inspect premises that prepare and handle food twice a year, with low risk premises that only sell packaged food being inspected once a year.

The remaining 190 health premises include hairdressers, beauty saloons, businesses involved in skin penetration activities and premises with cooling towers. These premises are inspected at least once a year.

During the quarter;

- 72 food and health premises were inspected as part of our Food Safety and Public Health Program;
- 2 food related notices were issued;
- 55 babies were immunised under our Childhood Immunisation Program, representing an increase of over 63% on the 2005/06 quarterly average;
- 39 pollution related matters were reported and investigated, as part of our Pollution Control Program. 51.3% related to noise, 28.2% related to water, 20.5% related to air and no land related pollution issues were received;
- 8 notices/orders were issued under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* and 11 were issued under the *Local Government Act 1993*; and
- Council's Environmental Health Officers received 59 development application referrals for new food and health premises, acid sulphate soil and contaminated land assessments and noise assessments. 49 of these referrals were completed within the quarter at an average turn-around time of less than 9 days per referral.

On 17 September 2006, Council organised another highly successful People & Pets Day at Lyne Park that was well attended and supported by our community.

5.6 Ranger Services

Council's Rangers provide a variety of enforcement services to ensure the public safety and convenience of our community in relation to the use of public places.

During the quarter;

- 68 abandoned vehicle matters were reported and investigated, representing a reduction of about 16% on the 2005/06 quarterly average;
- 20 road and footpath obstruction matters were reported and investigated, representing an increase of over 35% on the 2005/06 quarterly average;
- 16 private skip bin matters were reported and investigated, representing 80% of the total number of matters reported and investigated during all of 2005/06;

- 1 littering fine was issued;
- 112 companion animals were registered on the New South Wales Companion Animals Register for our area, with 87.5% of these animals being de-sexed;
- 30 barking dog matters were reported and investigated, representing a reduction of about 18% on the 2005/06 quarterly average;
- 2 nuisance/dangerous dog orders was issued; and
- 17 dog related fines were issued, representing an increase of over 38% on the 2005/06 quarterly average. 13 of these fines related to dogs not being on a lead.

Conclusion:

In summary, the projects detailed within the Community Services Principal Activity for 2006/07 were completed predominantly on time and within budget, except as otherwise noted.

Tim Tuxford
Manager Compliance

Kylie Walshe
Director Community Services

Annexures:

1. September 2006 Quarterly Review Report - Community Services Principal Activity of the Management Plan

Item No: D8 Delegated to Committee

Subject: **Natural Environment Principal Activity - 1st Quarter Management Plan Review**

Author: Warwick Hatton - Director Technical Services
Allan Coker - Director Planning and Development

File No: 827.G 04-07

Reason for Report: To review the status of works, services and Notices of Motions for the Management Plan principal activity of Natural Environment for the 3 months ending 30 September 2006.

Recommendation

- A. That the status of projects for the Natural Environment principal activity be noted.
- B. That the variations to projects be agreed subject to adoption of the relevant budget variations included in the separately reported end of year financial review.

Background:

Section 407(1) of the Local Government Act requires that Council review the progress of the adopted management plan on a quarterly basis. Included with this report is the first quarterly review of Principal Activity No 2 of the Management Plan, which is "Natural Environment". This principal activity has the following sub- activities:

- 2.1 Environmental Protection
- 2.2 Stormwater Systems
- 2.3 Tree Management
- 2.4 Waste Services
- 2.5 Street Cleaning
- 2.6 Bush Regeneration
- 2.7 Harbour Facilities

Included as an Annexure to this report is:

- 1. The Natural Environment Principal Activity of the Management Plan with detailed comments on the status of items in each sub activity.
- 2. Any uncompleted adopted "Notices of Motion" related to the Natural Environment principal activity.

The Annexure includes all the details, whereas, set out in the following part of this report is a commentary on variations, changes, exception, completed work, achievements, etc. The purpose being to provide Councillors with a snapshot on the key influences or issues arising from this quarterly review.

"Notices of Motion", which have a major impact on approved Management Plan core activities and projects, have been included in the management plan as variations so as to facilitate the changing of priorities in an orderly and transparent manner.

Comments on budget variations, where they are material or have an impact on the program of works or projects, may be included in this report. However, the budget review and confirmation of any changed forecast will be considered in a separate budget report, which reviews the overall financial position of the Council at the end of the quarter.

Following is the commentary on each sub-activity

2.1 Environmental Protection

The preparation of the Woollahra Sustainability Plan continues. The project involves reviewing Council's existing functions, activities, programs and policies, identifying local issues, community consultation, establishing a local vision and objectives, and identifying actions. The plan aims to build on and promote Council's existing programs, ensuring that the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) are applied to all function areas. The literature review, Council review and community consultation stages of the project are now complete. The draft plan is currently being prepared in consultation with related staff and MANEX.

The preparation of the draft Energy Savings Action Plan has commenced. This plan focuses on the energy use from Council's top ten energy using sites, audits the facilities and identifies and prioritises actions to conserve energy. Council's base year energy use has been calculated for the top ten energy using sites and the energy management review was conducted in August 2006. The review evaluated business performance in energy management at an organisational level and identified critical actions to improve the level of sustainability. Energy Performance Contracting (EPC) is being considered as an alternative to energy audits. As a part of the EPC process, a detailed feasibility study is undertaken to identify savings measures and opportunities. This is the equivalent to conducting an energy audit. Council sought and received an extension to the ESAP deadline from the Department of Energy Utilities and Sustainability, with the plan now due by 30 December 2006.

Council commenced the preparation of the Woollahra State of the Environment (SoE) Report 2005/2006. The SoE 2005/2006 is a supplementary report. SoE reports are prepared as a part of Council's Annual Report. The SoE report and the Annual Report are to be submitted to the Minister for Local Government by 30 November each year.

The environmental impacts and legal issues associated with bore water use and private desalination plants are currently being investigated. The investigation will also consider the development of policy controls.

2.2 Stormwater Systems

DRAINS stormwater modelling to identify flooding problem areas for the whole Municipality 90% completed. CCTV inspection and condition ranking conducted on an as needed basis.

Rushcutters Bay Catchment Flood Study completed to draft stage. To be placed on exhibition in November 2006. Double Bay Catchment Flood Study 60% completed.

Rose Bay Catchment Flood Study brief being prepared.

Gross pollutants trapped in stormwater pit devices are being recorded and monitored by our works teams as part of the Environmental Works program. Intervention level being revised and cleaning contract under review.

Boronia Road, Bellevue Hill drainage investigation completed. Design in progress.
Fisher Avenue, Vaucluse drainage investigation completed. Design in progress.
Stage 1 Cliff Street drainage works design completed and construction in progress.
The Crescent, Vaucluse drainage investigation completed and design brief being prepared.

2.3 Tree Management

During this quarter we processed 718 applications for pruning or removal of trees protected by the Tree Preservation Order, serviced 400 applications for pruning or removal of street or park trees and assessed 516 development applications related to tree management issues. In this quarter we carried out new or replacement planting at 50 locations.

A draft Street Tree Masterplan and Noxious Weeds Strategy has been developed as part of the Vegetation Management Strategy (VMS). These documents will be presented to the VMS Working Party and Council in early 2007

Data collection is well underway for the street and park tree asset management project. Asset inventory and condition surveys have been carried out on 4000 street trees. We expect to have surveyed all street trees by March 2007.

2.4 Waste Services

A survey was carried out in October 2006 to determine the level of contamination and what type of product is not being recycled in both single and multi unit dwellings. This will formulate the focal points for education plans for the upcoming year.

The Liveable Lanes program has now been run in four more lanes resulting in a significant reduction in the amount of bins being permanently left out and the amount of illegal dumps being reported.

Council has entered into a food organics trial to remove food scraps from the general waste stream and reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfill. Initial estimates after the first six weeks showed a reduction of approx. 4 to 5 tonnes per week being removed from landfill.

An audit has been carried out in Paddington and West Woollahra, to gain information on residents' views of the current collection services provided and options such as 120 litre bins once a week, or night-time service. A report will be provided in the near future.

2.5 Street Cleaning

We commenced a review of schedules and operations to address some problems with cleaning schedules due to the continuing dry conditions and unseasonal leaf fall, on the one hand, and on the other, a significant increase in the volume of material being put out for clean-up, which impacts on staff resources for general cleaning.

2.6 Bush Regeneration

The new bush regeneration schedules were successfully completed for the first quarter of 2006-07.

Successful Bushcare volunteer programs continued in Harbourview Park, Gap Park, Trumper Park and Cooper Park. Promotional material, training days, and a new website have helped us recruit to our current level of 40 volunteers.

2.7 Harbour Facilities

Options for upgrading the Watsons Bay Baths have been the subject of extensive investigations into piled structures, floating pontoons, turning boards, etc. The results of these investigations were reported to the last Watsons Bay Working Party meeting held on 26 September, 2006. At this meeting, the Working Party endorsed a design concept for the upgrading of the Baths. This design concept is currently being costed and a report on the proposal will be submitted to the Corporate and Works Committee for consideration in the 2nd quarter of 2006-07.

Warwick Hatton
Director Technical Services

Allan Coker
Director Planning & Development

Annexures:

1. September 2006 Quarterly Review of Principal Activity – Natural Environment
2. September 2006 Quarterly Review of Outstanding Notices of Motion – Natural Environment

Item No: R1 Recommendation to Council
Subject: **Draft Woollahra Pesticide Use Notification Plan**
Author: Bruce Rann, Manager - Parks and Street Trees
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File No: 1192.G
Reason for Report: To report on public submissions regarding the Draft plan and obtain Council's endorsement for Gazettal

Recommendations:

- A. That Council adopt the Draft Woollahra Pesticide Use Notification Plan and forward for Gazettal.
- B. That the Committee's recommendation proceed to the Council meeting on 27 November 2006 as a matter of urgency, in view of the requirement to have the Plan gazetted prior to 1 February 2007.

Outcomes of Public Exhibition:

The Draft Woollahra Pesticide Notification Plan was placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days, concluding on 22 November 2006. No public submissions were received during this period and therefore no alterations have been made to the Draft Plan.

Background:

The Environment Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Environment and Conservation (DEC) have amended the Pesticide Regulation (relating to the Pesticide Act 1995) to require that all Local Governments and Open Space Managers produce a Pesticide Use Notification Plan by February 2007. If a Plan is not in place by that date, penalties will apply to unauthorised use of pesticides.

The EPA and DEC are generally satisfied with the way Local Governments and Open Space Managers are using pesticides, however they believe that residents and visitors should have appropriate notification of pesticide use in public open space, so they can choose to avoid the open space venue during pesticide application if they desire.

Woollahra Parks staff are aware of the issues associated with pesticide use and have been working for a number of years on practices and procedures which minimise the volume, frequency and toxicity of pesticides used. We always apply pesticides under controlled conditions and use the lowest volume and toxicity chemicals possible.

However, the EPA and DEC use the word pesticide in its broadest sense, and ask that notification plans cover insecticides, termiticides, rodenticides, herbicides, fungicides, plant growth regulators and any other chemicals which may kill, harm or hinder the target organism. Therefore, the Notification Plan must encompass every possible use for pesticides within public open space areas, whether the Council is likely to use these or not.

We already have pesticide notification procedures in place, such as signage in local areas, and advertisements in the local paper. The changes to the Pesticide Regulation will formalise our current practices but not necessitate any significant changes.

Most Woollahra Parks employees hold tertiary qualifications in horticulture which encompass theoretical and practical competencies in the understanding and application of pesticides. In all instances where any unqualified staff are working with or near pesticides, those staff are trained by qualified consultants in the understanding and application of pesticide use to an equivalent competency of the TAFE qualification mentioned. All relevant outdoor staff working with pesticides hold a current 'ChemCert' certificate, and follow the WorkCover Code of Practice for Chemical Use.

By having qualified staff and keeping abreast of advances in horticultural science, we have been able to minimise the use of pesticides by improvements in plant cultural techniques as well as by employing many of the principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). To this end, Council has virtually stopped the spraying of insecticides in park, garden and roadside situations throughout the municipality. However, along with other peak horticultural organisations such as Royal Botanic Gardens and National Parks and Wildlife Service, Woollahra Council does employ pesticides (in the broad sense of the term) in a number of situations, as set out below:

Discussion of types of chemicals and their uses:

a. Plant Growth Regulators (PGR)

There are a number of sites across the municipality where PGR's are used. The main use of PGR's is to retard the growth of grasses on extremely steep slopes. This practice minimises the amount of time specialist trained horticultural staff have to spend working on steep slopes in harnesses. This minimises our exposure to potential risks associated with this kind of work.

b. Termaticides

Council employs specialist qualified contractors to inject termaticides into park and street trees identified as having termite colonies. This practice minimises the risk of trees becoming hollow and brittle as well as minimising the risk of termites spreading to adjacent houses. As this technique injects the pesticide deep into the tree there is very little risk of exposure to the public or staff.

c. Broad Spectrum Herbicides

Council uses "Roundup BiActive™", a new generation, low toxic, amphibian friendly form of Glyphosate to control noxious and environmental weeds in certain situations. Glyphosate is used as a spray by staff and contractors to control: weeds which affect residents such as asthma weed, noxious weeds which must be controlled under the Noxious Weed Act, and weeds which rapidly propagate in large quantities. Glyphosate is also the chemical most often used by bush regenerators in 'cut and paint' control programs for exotic invaders in Woollahra's natural areas.

d. Selective Herbicides

Safety, aesthetics and playability in most sporting codes requires a well-knit, uniform and even surface for sports fields. Woollahra Municipal Council uses herbicides such as 'Spearhead™' to remove broadleaf weeds from its high profile sports surfaces. Bush regeneration sites are often in close proximity to residential turf lawns. Selective herbicides such as 'Fusilade™' can effectively retard the invasion of natural bushland by exotic turf species.

e. Insecticides

Woollahra Municipal Council has virtually eliminated the use of insecticides in horticultural operations. The main use of insecticides is for dealing with dangerous insects such as wasps in high use areas such as verges in front of shopping centres. We have also dealt with turf destroying insects such as army worm with insecticides a couple of times over the last few years.

f. Alternatives

The alternative weed control method of steam spraying has been trialled by Woollahra Municipal Council Park staff however it was found to be:

- Less effective than herbicides because it only affects the above ground parts of the plant, leaving the root system to re-sprout.
- A very short lived result due to persistent roots further increasing potential costs.
- Difficult to use in natural areas due to the size and mobility of the steam compressors.
- Approximately twice as expensive as herbicides such as Glyphosate per application

Woollahra staff will continue to investigate and trial new technologies for pest control as they become available.

Notification Arrangements:

The notification arrangements outlined in the plan were based on our assessment of the common user groups known to use an area, the level of public use of the area, and the type of chemical used. Notification will generally be provided to the community through the use of advertisements in the local newspaper and detailed signs placed at the location where the pesticide is applied. However, additional notification arrangements will exist for sites that are considered to be sensitive places (such as hospitals, schools, and childcare centres) and when a broad scale pesticide application program is initiated (such as the quarterly herbicide treatment of weeds within the suburbs of Paddington and Woollahra).

Conclusion:

It is important to ensure an appropriate level of notification is provided to the public when pesticides are applied to open space areas. It is also important to maintain a high level of operational efficiency to enable the most effective management of these areas.

The Draft Woollahra Pesticide Use Notification Plan conforms to all requirements of the amended regulation and provides for the most effective management of public open space areas and service to the community.

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ANNEXURE:

1. Draft Woollahra Pesticide Use Notification Plan
2. Department of Environment and Conservation, Fact Sheet 41: New law for notifying the community when public authorities use pesticides in public places.