

**Appendix D - Callan Park Water Front Precinct**  
**Meeting Notes 9<sup>th</sup> July 2008**

The public meeting of the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2008 was well advertised through a range of media including postal notification, Council's Internet Site and in the Mayoral Column of the Inner West Courier and Glebe papers. The meeting was attended by 36 members of the public.

Representatives from community sporting bodies, the Friends of Callan Park and the City Farm proposal were also in attendance. Apologies emailed from the Balmain Little Athletics Club. Councillor's Allen, Hannaford, Copley-Finch, Porteous, and Councillor McKenzie attended as elected representatives of Council. The meeting was chaired by the Mayor, Councillor Carolyn Allen.

Council staff who attended the meeting included Council's General Manager, The Director of Environment and Community Management, The Manager of Environment and Urban Planning, Council's Media and Public Affairs Officer and Council's Senior Recreation Planner. Notes compiled from the meeting are as follows:

- Council should not be negotiating with SHFA or the University. The University is not in a strong position for advocating care and control of Callan Park
- The Veterans site should be retained in its current form and housing retained and utilised in honour of our service men.
- The Glover Street Garden should be retained. There is a genuine concern that buildings will be developed on this area. It is compatible with the nearby Glover St playing field.
- Sydney City Farm- The term "recreation" should be broadened to include the city farm. Educating children on healthy lifestyles and promoting sustainable living are important concepts of the city farm. Council should combine resources with the city farm group and work together for something that is truly visionary at Callan Park. Nutrition, organic farming and healthy living are important concepts associated with our proposal. Council has previously given support to the City Farm concept.
- The MOU and land use plan proposed by the State Government is immoral. There needs to be a proper master plan developed for the park with full community consultation. Unstructured (passive) recreation needs to also be acknowledged (there are a large number of playing fields proposed) and provided for in Council's planning. There also needs to be a remembrance garden created acknowledging our service men. This should be included in any master plan.
- What about club rooms for the sporting bodies? The current buildings adjacent to the sporting ovals should be retained for sporting use. Does

Council's proposal include this ? Use of clubhouse for sporting bodies and other community uses should be negotiated. It's not clear what plans there are for Callan Point. The Point is being damaged by car parking and wheel ruts.

- The psychiatric hospital should be reinstated. Sporting groups and the city farm can also be part of the process. Both contribute to mental health and community well being. The sporting clubs don't have a position on this.
- Cricket-110 years of cricket played at Callan Park. A long history associated with the site. Buildings on the site can be utilised not only by the sporting bodies but by other sections of the community. There are shortages of community facilities for youth recreation. Cricket, Soccer and Council could work together to provide facilities for youth services in these facilities outside of sporting time use.
- The University does not share the Camperdown fields with the community. Elite sports only and that is also their vision for Callan Park. The community will be excluded. Elite sports do not lend themselves to community needs. Our local sporting bodies would be lucky to gain any access.
- Callan Park is the "farm" for those with mental illness. The community must recognise and consider the needs of those with mental illness. Alternatives need to be considered to provide the mentally ill with 24 hour supervision and quality services. The University proposal is only valid in that it addresses maintenance of the heritage buildings. The University is not fair dinkum. They should be providing courses, degrees, rehabilitation and jobs for those with mental illness. 55 million was spent at concord. The site at Rozelle is worth 1.5 billion.
- It's inexcusable to put a dollar amount on Callan Park. Council must not negotiate with the University.
- What Council officers are recommending is a deal with the University but the University has no standing at Callan Park. The community opposes the University take over of Callan Park. The Council should refute the opportunity to negotiate with the University and oppose their take over. Any agreement with the University is a de facto recognition of their claim.

Everyone agrees they want the existing sporting fields with priority use to existing users. There. is a scandalous shortage of open space.

Mental Health facilities should continue. Proper master plan including the city farm must be undertaken for the best social and environmental outcomes for the community. The needs of everyone must be met if the community is to be fully engaged.

- Public hearings must be held.
- RTA Plans how do they impact upon the bay run ?
- We need a Golf Course.
- Don't negotiate & push for a masterplan. Once the Callan Park legislation is lifted then all bets are off and the State Government wont honour their intentions under the current Act. Don't carve up Callan Park. Look at the Inner West Metro Strategy which shows only a part of Callan Park as open space.
- The sporting clubs position is unanimous – (no compromise position).
- The State Government is currently in a predicament with current polls and does not want two fights. They may well compromise or cede Callan Park to Council and continue fighting for the Iron Cove Bridge proposal.
- The University submission should be publicly displayed and exhibited. It has no time for community use and excludes the needs of community sporting clubs.
- The State Government is targeting public housing – this should also be considered in Callan Park
- Council's position is that its wants the entire waterfront open space and the in principle agreement is tactical. Council could lose the lot otherwise.
- Council's in principle agreement makes it easy for the State Government to ignore our priority for the entire waterfront open space
- Why wont Council make a decision, this issue has been deferred twice!
- We will still be sitting here on the 22<sup>nd</sup> !

### **CONSENSUS RESOLUTION FROM THE MEETING**

1. This public meeting requests Council to undertake direct negotiations with SHFA, the local member and the Minister for Planning for:
  - Council management & care of the ovals at Callan Park
  - Priority for local & current users for these playing areas

### **MAJORITY SUPPORTED**

2. The Council also to repudiate the in principle agreement and to renew its push for a proper master plan and a Callan Park Trust with full public consultation for Callan Park.

**MAJORITY SUPPORTED**

3. The meeting also records its continuing support for a major appropriate mental health facility in Callan Park & endorses Council's position on this.

**SUPPORTED - Sporting clubs abstained**

4. That the NSW Government should provide a real quid pro quo in resources to improve the lives of mentally ill service-users of the inner west of Sydney by providing a full range of community mental health facilities to complement the relocation of inpatient facilities at Concord. Such a quid pro quo should reflect the real value of the Rozelle Hospital Callan Park site, and the current needs for recovery services for people with mental illnesses.

**SUPPORTED - Sporting clubs abstained**