

# Minutes of the Cumberland Heritage Committee Meeting

Council Chambers at the Merrylands Service Centre, 16 Memorial Avenue,  
Merrylands.

Tuesday, 12 February 2019.

**Start time: 6.00 pm**

## **Attendance**

*Heritage Committee Community Members (CM):*

<b>Name</b>	<b>In Attendance (Yes/No)</b>
Edmund Beebe (EB)	Yes
Reno Magro (RM)	No – Apology provided
Filomena Molinaro (FM)	Yes
Josephine Moncrieff (JM)	No – No apology received
Julie Nixon (JN)	Yes
Janaki Paudel (JP)	Yes
Cecilia Peralta (CP)	Yes
Greg Skelly (GS)	Yes
Kerryn Stanton (KS)	Yes
Dorothy Warwick (DW)	Yes

*Councillors:*

<b>Name</b>	<b>In Attendance (Yes/No)</b>
Clr. Garrard (Chair)	Yes
Clr. Lake	Yes
Clr. Campbell	Yes

*Council Staff:*

<b>Name</b>	<b>In Attendance (Yes/No)</b>
Monica Cologna (MC)	Yes
Neelam Pradhananga (NP)	Yes
Daniel Cavallo (DC)	Yes
Fiona McDermott (FM)	Yes

*Council Heritage Advisor:*

<b>Name</b>	<b>In Attendance (Yes/No)</b>
Ron Edgar – FORM Architects (RE)	Yes

*Guests*

<b>Name</b>	<b>In Attendance (Yes/No)</b>
Corinne Softley	Yes
Ruth Berendt	Yes

## **Confirmation of Minutes**

The Cumberland Heritage Committee (Committee) confirmed the meeting minutes of the Committee meeting held on 20 November 2018.

The Committee formally welcomed Edmund Beebe. Daniel Cavallo, Director Environment and Planning, briefly introduced himself, and Fiona McDermott, Team Leader Urban Planning, was also introduced.

Clr. Lake's motion to acknowledge the excellent work of the staff involved in organising the bus and walking tour of heritage sites in Granville was carried.

## **Item 1: Presentation on the Cumberland Heritage Study**

Corinne Softley and Ruth Berendt from Extent Heritage presented on the council-wide heritage study currently being undertaken.

It was noted that the key objectives of the study are:

- Review of existing items of environmental heritage that fall in the Cumberland Local Government Area (LGA) and are listed in the three (3) Local Environmental Plans (LEP) – Auburn LEP 2010, Holroyd LEP 2013 and the Parramatta LEP 2011
- Identification of potential heritage items for listing
- Identification of potential heritage items for de-listing
- Preparation of a thematic history

A copy of the inventory sheet template was circulated to all members of the heritage committee.

The presentation highlighted the two-stage process of the study in which members of the heritage committee can get involved, which were:

- Reviewing and providing comment on the inventory sheet template.
- Nominating potential properties for listing on the updated heritage register.
- Sharing any available historical resources.

It was noted that all suggestions/feedback from the Committee for the heritage study should be sent to Council (not Extent Heritage) via email, preferably in a consolidated manner.

Any feedback on the inventory sheet template by Committee members should be sent by 26 February 2019. Suggestions for potential properties for listing on the updated heritage register and any available historical resources can be sent at any time up to 10 September 2019. Further guidance will be provided by Council staff on the format for provision of feedback and the email address for this feedback to be sent.

RE requested the possibility of accessing background information used to inform the study. MC noted this is likely to be beyond the scope of the heritage study.

EB noted that social housing may form a theme of the study. Extent Heritage took note of this.

KS inquired about the mechanism that will be put in place to collect the community's ideas and/or feedback on the identification of potential properties for listing. It was noted that the heritage study is based on technical specialist advice. Upon completion of the study, an LEP amendment would need to be made to allow addition of properties identified by the listing to the Cumberland LEP. The process of an LEP amendment would include community consultation as per legislative requirements.

### **Item 1: Actions**

- Committee members (CM) to review the inventory sheet template and provide feedback by 26 February 2019.
- CM to provide a consolidated list of potential properties for consideration for listing by 10 September 2019.
- CM to consolidate any historical resources to be shared with Extent Heritage and send to Council by 10 September 2019.
- NP to provide further guidance to the Committee on how feedback should be provided.

### **Item 2: Update on Action Items from Previous Minutes**

#### *Wheel and Plaque at Wentworthville Railway Station*

The Committee recommended at its 20 November 2019 meeting to approach the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure again after receiving a response from Mark Coure MP, the Parliamentary Secretary for Transport and Infrastructure. The Committee felt that Mr Coure's response did not adequately address the concerns raised by Council in its letter dated 11 September 2018.

Another letter has been drafted by Strategic Planning staff to be sent to the Minister with input from Clr. Lake. In addition to the concerns raised in Council's previous letter to the Minister, the newly drafted letter highlighted that whilst Holroyd Council was consulted during the reinstatement works at Wentworthville Railway Station, the focus was on the memorial fountain, which is the heritage listed item. The letter also noted the complaints made by the community about the poor location of the wheel and plaque.

The submission made by the former Holroyd Council on 5 January 2015 was attached to the letter. Current photos of the wheel and plaque were also attached to the letter highlighting its poor location. The letter requested that the Minister address the concerns raised by Council by:

- Moving the wheel and the plaque from their current locations to a position that is next to each other on a wall west of the station stairs, and
- Improving the contrast between the dark colour of the wheel and its dark background. Possible solutions may include the addition of a board behind the wheel that is of a lighter colour to act as a contrast between the wheel and its current brick background.

## **Item 2: Actions**

- Council to send letter to the Minister for Transport and Infrastructure and copy to Julia Finn MP.

### *Display of historic items of the former Councils*

This was discussed as part of agenda item 7.

## **Item 3: Cumberland Local Heritage Rebate Program 2019**

The Committee considered the report outlining the recommendation for the Cumberland Local Heritage Rebate Program (Rebate Program) to be run in 2019 in accordance with the Rebate Program Guidelines and as outlined in that report. It is proposed that the Rebate Program open on 1 May 2019 and close on 14 June 2019 to coincide with the National Trust's Heritage Festival.

In the report, minor changes were proposed to the Cumberland Local Heritage Rebate Program 2019 guidelines, primarily to reflect the change in level of funding available from \$20,000 to \$50,000 as approved by Council (C04/18-66) at its meeting on 18 April 2018 and allocated within the FY2019/2020 budget.

After considering the report, the Committee recommended that the approach outlined in the report and Guidelines be forwarded to Council for endorsement.

## **Item 3: Actions**

- Present to Council for endorsement the approach agreed upon by the Committee on the proposal for the Rebate Program be run in 2019 as outlined in the report presented to the Committee and in accordance with the amended Rebate Program Guidelines.

## **Item 4: Cumberland Local Heritage Awards Program 2019**

The Committee considered the report outlining the recommendation for the Cumberland Local Heritage Awards Program (Awards) to be run in 2019 in accordance with the Awards Guidelines and as outlined in that report. It is proposed that the Awards open on 1 May 2019 and close on 14 June 2019 to coincide with the National Trust's Heritage Festival and to run at the same time as the Rebate Program.

In the report, changes were proposed to *Category 5 – Writing Competition* and *Category 6 – Artwork Competition*. Category 5 consisted of two divisions in 2018, one being for fiction and the other for non-fiction works. As no non-fiction entries were received in 2018, it was recommended that both divisions be combined with participants provided the opportunity to submit either fiction or non-fiction entries.

It was proposed that the name of *Category 6 – School Poster Competition* be amended to *Category 6 - Artwork Competition* to more accurately reflect this category and to also increase the appeal of this category to both primary and high school students.

It was proposed that the National Heritage Trust Festival theme for 2019 be adopted but with the text in the announcement and application form for this category to be worded appropriately for primary and high school students. The scale (size) of the art entry was adjusted to encourage entries (A1 to A3). All entries received for this category in 2018 were in A3 size despite the A1 recommended size.

The report proposed that amendments be made to the Awards Guidelines to reflect the changes proposed to Category 5 and Category 6. Changes were also proposed to the nomination and entry forms of all categories to increase clarity.

Council staff presented to the Committee a sketch prepared by Strategic Planning staff for this year's *Category 4 – Keeper of the Stone (Children's Heritage Award)*, which is a colouring in competition. As the sketch was considered to be too similar to one used by the former Holroyd Council previously, the Committee recommended that the sketch be amended and provided other suitable ideas for the template.

RE also suggested that *Category 2 – Restoration and Development* be expanded to heritage properties that have undergone adaptive reuse. It was noted that this may highlight interesting projects that have had undergone sensitive adaptive reuse, for example, industrial buildings into apartments.

After considering the report, the Committee recommended that the approach outlined in the report and Awards Guidelines be forwarded to Council for endorsement with the recommend change of the Category 4 colouring in competition template and the expansion of *Category 2 – Restoration and Development* to include adaptive reuse.

#### **Item 4: Actions**

- KS to send Strategic Planning staff photos that might be suitable for the Category 4 colouring template.
- Expand *Category 2 - Restoration and Development* to include adaptive reuse and propose corresponding changes to be made to the Awards guidelines.
- Present to Council the approach agreed upon by the Committee on the proposal for the Awards be run in 2019 as outlined in the report presented to the Committee, in accordance with the amended Awards Guidelines, and with the changes recommended by the Committee for a change of the sketch for the Category 4 colouring template and for the expansion of *Category 2 - Restoration and Development* to include adaptive reuse.

#### **Item 5: Update on the Cumberland Local Heritage Sub-Committees**

A report on the Local Heritage Sub-Committees was reported to the 21 November 2018 Council Meeting. Council considered this report and resolved that Council allocate funding for a new position, and set up an Auburn Local Heritage Sub-Committee, once a new Heritage Committee Administration Officer has been appointed. Council also resolved that EB be invited to join the Committee.

EB has been invited to join the Committee and has accepted. He is also present at today's meeting.

**Item 5: Actions**

- No actions.

**Item 6: Cumberland Heritage Networking Event on 26 February 2019**

The Auburn Heritage Sub-Committee and Granville Historical Society have agreed to present at the networking event. The presentations will be approximately 15 minutes in duration with 15 minutes for Q&As. The event will be held at The Atrium, Auburn Service Centre, 1 Susan Street, Auburn at 6.00pm.

Inquiries were made as to whether other groups and individuals could be invited to the networking event such as the Lidcombe Heritage Group. Council staff advised that the networking event is open to the public and any interested individuals or groups are encouraged to attend. Information on the networking event is also available on Council's website.

**Item 5: Actions**

- KS to invite the Lidcombe Heritage Group to attend the Cumberland Heritage Networking Event and advise them to RSVP with Council staff.

**Item 7: Display of Historic Items of the Former Councils**

MC noted that based on the recommendation made by the Committee at its 20 November 2018 meeting to determine where to display the historic items of the former Councils, Council staff undertook an assessment of all feasible spaces in the Auburn and Merrylands Service Centres, and the Auburn and Granville Town Halls.

A copy of the assessment carried out was presented to the Committee.

MC noted that the assessment has assisted in identifying the spaces available for the display of historic items and noting the large number of spaces, also highlighted the need to focus display of historic items to one building to start with. She suggested that the Merrylands Service Centre could be a good starting point for the display of historic items.

The Committee noted that this assessment is a good starting point. However, Clr. Lake expressed a desire to see historic items displayed as soon as possible, and the Committee was in general agreeance. It was also agreed that the Merrylands Service Centre should be the focus at the outset.

MC provided an update that Council's Community and Culture team are working to resource this project and have sought the interest of any members of the Committee who wish to be involved in the selection of items for display.

**Item 7: Actions**

- The Community and Culture team to work with the Strategic Planning team to implement this initiative. Strategic Planning Team to brief them.
- CM to inform NP if they are interested in working with the Community and Culture team to select items for display by Friday, 22 February 2019.
- Community and Culture team with any interested members of the Committee to select items and display in the Merrylands Service Centre.

## **Item 8: Projects of the Former Auburn Council**

Clr. Campbell spoke about the Liberty Plains Book, and how the former Auburn Committee wanted to add to the book. Discussions took place about the rewriting of the entire book and the huge amount of time and expenses associated with that. Clr. Campbell believes that the book should be updated rather than re-written.

DW noted the Holroyd approach of the photographic history book they produced. Other committee members commented that people don't want to get bogged down with a detailed book, and that a photographic coffee table book is ideal.

RE spoke about the value of reference books.

Clr. Lake indicated there is a huge amount of resources in the libraries and recommended we take stock of what we have. It was suggested that the books published on the built history of the Cumberland LGA be identified. Clr. Garrard indicated it would be good to have this list for the Networking Event on 26 February, however Clr. Lake indicated this may be difficult as all eight (8) libraries are preparing for an event on 20 February, which does not leave much time.

The Committee noted that other sources besides Council's libraries should also be explored.

## **Item 8: Actions**

- Clr. Campbell to contact Terry Kass to identify how the Liberty of Plains book could be updated (carry over action from previous meeting).
- NP to request Council library staff to prepare a list of books on the built history of the Cumberland LGA for circulation at the next meeting on 2 July 2019 or beforehand, if possible.
- NP to invite library staff to the next Committee meeting on 2 July 2019 to speak briefly on the collection of books on the built history of Cumberland LGA.

## **Item 9: Other Matters**

### Cumberland Heritage Committee Meeting Dates

MC noted the dates for meetings and events in 2019, determined after consultation with the Committee in late 2018:

- Cumberland Heritage Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, 12 February 2019, 6.00pm – 8.00pm
- Cumberland Heritage Networking Event
- Tuesday, 26 February 2019, 6.00 pm – 7.30 pm
- Site visit of Awards nominations  
Tuesday, 2 July 2019, 4.00pm – 6.00pm

- Cumberland Heritage Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, 2 July 2019, 6.00pm – 9.00pm
- Cumberland Heritage Awards Ceremony  
Tuesday, 10 September 2019, 5.30pm – 6.30pm
- Cumberland Heritage Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, 10 September 2019, 6.30pm – 8.30pm
- Cumberland Heritage Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, 26 November 2019, 6.00pm – 8.00pm

#### Motion by the Auburn Heritage Sub-Committee Nominees

Nominees of the Auburn Heritage Sub-Committee put forward a motion that a detailed report be prepared for the Old Lidcombe Police Station at 11 John Street, Lidcombe and the Old Lidcombe Post Office at 1A Taylor Street, Lidcombe to ensure the preservation of these two heritage sites, which were noted to be under threat by neglect. The motion noted that the report should detail for each site:

- What measures have been adhered to or neglected regarding heritage compliance,
- How the owners have complied with conditions of any Development Application, and
- What guarantees are in place to ensure future compliance and maintenance? For example, why have missing roof tiles on the old Police Station not been replaced in order to maintain and protect the structure?

The motion put forward by the nominees for the Auburn Heritage Sub-Committee was carried by the Committee and will be reported to Council, including financial and resourcing implications.

It was requested that Council's compliance officers inspect the two addresses from a compliance perspective and see whether any action needs to be taken.

MC and EB noted the limitations to Council's powers to enforce the maintenance of private property.

#### Auburn Ambulance Station

KS noted that there is a lease sign on the Auburn Ambulance Station and that this may be the first change of use since the 1930s. She inquired about what the Committee can do to ensure an appropriate use is approved by Council.

MC and RE noted that all changes of use are required to undergo a Development Application process during which a detailed assessment is undertaken by Council to ensure the proposed development/change of use is appropriate. Furthermore, a Development Application would result in appropriate signage placed at the site to inform the community about the proposal and to enable the local community to make



comment on the proposal. Once a Development Application is lodged, it would also appear on the Development Application tracking website.

### Cumberland Heritage Study

Clr. Garrard inquired if the heritage study would look at the facades of the buildings in the Auburn Town Centre and other town centres within the Cumberland LGA. He noted the prevalence of air conditioning units on the facades facing South Parade in Auburn.

MC noted the potential for a future main street study. It was suggested that it would be useful to look at what Parramatta and Ashfield Council has done.

### Grants for State listed heritage properties

KS noted that heritage grants are open. EB clarified that the grants are for State-listed items.

EB requested Council staff to email KS/Committee information about grants available for State-listed heritage properties.

### **Item 9: Actions**

- Present the motion raised by the nominees of the Auburn Heritage Sub-Committee and carried by the Committee for endorsement by Council, including financial and resourcing implications.
- Council's compliance officers to inspect the two addresses from a compliance perspective and see whether any action needs to be taken.
- NP to email KS/Committee information about grants available for State-listed heritage properties.

### **Item 10: Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled to commence at 6.00 pm on **Tuesday, 2 July 2019** at the Merrylands Service Centre. A site visit of the Awards nominations will take place on the same date prior to this meeting. The meeting point for the bus and other details will be forwarded to the Committee closer to the date.

The meeting closed at 7.32 pm.