



CUMBERLAND
CITY COUNCIL

Council Meeting

Wednesday, 7 July 2021 at 6:30pm

Cumberland City Council Chambers

Merrylands Service Centre, 16 Memorial Avenue, Merrylands

Councillor Contact Details

Granville Ward

Clr Steve Christou (Mayor)	0419 651 187	Steve.Christou@cumberland.nsw.gov.au
Clr Joseph Rahme	0418 995 471	Joseph.Rahme@cumberland.nsw.gov.au
Clr Ola Hamed	0405 070 007	Ola.Hamed@cumberland.nsw.gov.au

Greystanes Ward

Clr Eddy Sarkis (Deputy Mayor)	0418 306 918	Eddy.Sarkis@cumberland.nsw.gov.au
Clr Greg Cummings	0417 612 717	Greg.Cummings@cumberland.nsw.gov.au
Vacant	-	-

Regents Park Ward

Clr Ned Attie	0419 583 254	Ned.Attie@cumberland.nsw.gov.au
Clr George Campbell	0409 233 315	George.Campbell@cumberland.nsw.gov.au
Clr Kun Huang	0418 911 774	Kun.Huang@cumberland.nsw.gov.au

South Granville Ward

Clr Paul Garrard	0414 504 504	Paul.Garrard@cumberland.nsw.gov.au
Clr Tom Zreika	0400 805 303	Tom.Zreika@cumberland.nsw.gov.au
Clr Glenn Elmore	0418 459 527	Glenn.Elmore@cumberland.nsw.gov.au

Wentworthville Ward

Clr Michael Zaiter	0418 432 797	Michael.Zaiter@cumberland.nsw.gov.au
Clr Suman Saha	0419 546 950	Suman.Saha@cumberland.nsw.gov.au
Clr Lisa Lake	0418 669 681	Lisa.Lake@cumberland.nsw.gov.au

For information on Council services and facilities please visit www.cumberland.nsw.gov.au

LATE REPORTS

Council Meeting – 7 July 2021

Mayoral Minutes

MM07/21-64	Mayoral Minute - Saving the Western Sydney Two Blues	5
MM07/21-65	Mayoral Minute - Advocacy For Overhead Bridge on Lower Prospect Canal Walkway.....	7
MM07/21-66	Mayoral Minute - Additional Covid-19 Support for Local Businesses and Community	9

Item No: MM07/21-64

MAYORAL MINUTE - SAVING THE WESTERN SYDNEY TWO BLUES

Author: Mayor Steve Christou
File Number: SC486

SUMMARY

Recently, I was disgusted to hear of the attempts to force a merger of our local Two Blues Rugby team with another club. It's been orchestrated in secret by the elitist eastern suburbs and north shore clubs, just as council is finishing a new \$13.5 million stadium and international standard rugby field at Granville Park for the Two Blues. The disappearance of the Two Blues will reduce sporting pathways and development opportunities for our young people – many of whom are from disadvantaged backgrounds. It's typical of the wealthier clubs in wealthier suburbs to dismiss the western suburbs clubs who have worked so hard to build the sport to provide opportunities for young people from lower socio-economic communities.

The other hostile clubs in the competition have agreed on a list of financial requirements to continue to be in the Shute Shield competition, knowing they could already meet those standards, but that Two Blues would take several years to meet them. This includes employing a full time coach, having a minimum of seven grades, having a doctor at each game and minimum level of revenue. Setting these standards behind closed doors without any consultation with Two Blues is an arrogant and patronising move from the clubs. They should be banding together to build their sport, rather than dividing it.

While there are some wider systemic issues at play which need urgent attention by Rugby NSW and Rugby Australia, this attack on a local club smacks of jealousy and elitism. I'll fight to keep the Two Blues in this new facility. I know they'll rise to be worthy of these international standard facilities. I congratulate the Two Blues junior teams who were successful in the state championships last week. It's a club that's going places and has the potential to create world-class athletes.

The Two Blues have a strong board and leadership team. I would like the Two Blues to know that this Council will be strongly supporting and advocate for them. I call upon the NSW Shadow Minister for Sport and the Minister for Sport as well as other local State MP's to support this Mayoral Minute.

Therefore Councillors, tonight I am recommending the following:

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Support the Mayoral Minute;**

2. **Write to Rugby Australia, urging them to reconsider a proposal to merge the Western Sydney Two Blues with West Harbour and Penrith Shute Shield Clubs;**
3. **Write to the NSW Shadow Minister for Sport and Minister for Sport requesting their full support in advocating for the Western Sydney Two Blues as a club in their own right in the Shute Shield competition. And;**
4. **Write to other local State Members of Parliament, also requesting their full support and advocacy in relation to this matter.**

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Item No: MM07/21-65

MAYORAL MINUTE - ADVOCACY FOR OVERHEAD BRIDGE ON LOWER PROSPECT CANAL WALKWAY

Author: Mayor Steve Christou
File Number: SC486

SUMMARY

I recently met with a passionate man, Mr Ian Bell, regarding an important matter being ongoing advocacy efforts for an overhead bridge on Lower Prospect Canal Walkway.

Mr Bell is the President of the Canal Reserve Action Group (CRAG), which was formed in 1994 as a result of the then state government proposing to sell off the tract of land previously belonging to the Sydney Water. This tract of land, now known as the Lower Prospect Reserve, extends from the Guildford Pipeline to where the Prospect Highway/Conciliation Road meet through the centre of the now canal track walk.

This 7.7 km, 64 hectare stretch of land is home to numerous species of flora and fauna. This open recreational space of land is both an asset and necessity for the residents of the greater Cumberland area which is surrounded by increasing developments encroaching upon this valued green area. This land was extremely popular during the previous Covid virus lockdown between March - July 2020 for walking and bicycle exercise, which eased the frustrations of people's freedoms being restricted as exercising outside was permitted. No doubt, with recent restrictions again announced, it's importance is magnified even more.

The Canal Reserve Action Group (CRAG) has been advocating for this bridge for more than a decade now, to previous and current Premier's, State and Federal MP's, to no avail. In fact, in 2018, our neighbours at Parramatta quite easily received funding to install a bridge over Pennant Hills Rd, North Parramatta with not a lot of fuss made.

The time for action on this project is now. Our local interest groups are entitled to be heard, particularly when they are spending their own time to put the safety of our community first.

I call on the NSW Premier to strongly consider the safety of the people of greater Western Sydney by approving funds for the construction of this once promised long needed and essential Overhead Bridge, which is necessary to return the safety back to the Cumberland community. I would also like to thank Mr Bell and the Canal Reserve Action Group (CRAG) for their dedication over a long period of time to our community.

Therefore Councillors, tonight I am recommending the following:

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Support the Mayoral Minute; and**
- 2. Write to the Premier of NSW, advocating for the approval of funding to deliver this important infrastructure project as a matter of public safety.**
- 3. Write to local State and Federal Members of Parliament, seeking their urgent support on this key local issue.**

ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Item No: MM07/21-66

MAYORAL MINUTE - ADDITIONAL COVID-19 SUPPORT FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITY

Author: Mayor Steve Christou
File Number: SC486

SUMMARY

Given the recent re-escalation of Covid-19, the community and our local businesses are on heightened alert again, and need our support.

I know a lot of our local businesses and our wider community are hurting again as a result of recent stay at home orders announced by the Premier. We want to do as much as we can to help. This Mayoral Minute will outline Council's further support measures this evening.

Council has already at its own cost, switched on park lighting until 9pm in 13 key parks across the local government area, encouraging our community to get outside and recreate in these difficult times. This is vital to both the physical and mental health of our community.

In terms of financial support, I'm pleased to advise that Council will waive all unpaid outdoor dining and goods on display application and licensing fees for the rest of this calendar year, until 31 December 2021.

Council will also ensure that any of its commercial lessees are able to approach us to discuss rent deferral/relief options, to provide them with some certainty over their businesses and their lease arrangements with Council.

For the casual hirers of our sporting facilities or sportsgrounds, Council will refund any bookings that have been unable to proceed due to the recent Covid-19 stay at home orders. Bookings made for any other council venues or facilities that will not go ahead due to the changes to the NSW Public Health Order will also be refunded to the booking parties.

For seasonal sportsground hirers, Council will continue to monitor the situation, but as it stands with the NSW Public Health Order, all existing bookings are still confirmed and are to be honoured.

I would also like to write to our local State Members of Parliament, seeking their strong support and advocacy for local businesses and the community during this difficult time. This includes advocating for grants and stimulus packages for local businesses.

We are here for our residents and our local businesses, and I encourage all affected by the Covid-19 to contact Council or visit our dedicated webpage to see how our

services have been affected, what continues to operate and to see what solutions we can put in place.

Therefore Councillors I am recommending the following:

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Suspend all unpaid outdoor dining and goods on display application and licence fees until 31 December 2021.**
- 2. Implement rent deferral and relief arrangements on a case by case basis for commercial lessees impacted by Covid-19 who operate out of a Council owned facility.**
- 3. Refund all cancelled casual hire bookings for council sporting venues or facilities whereby the function or event cannot go ahead due to the NSW Public Health Order.**
- 4. Write to the relevant State and Federal Ministers seeking financial and other hardship support for local businesses.**
- 5. Delegate to the Mayor and General Manager to implement the above and to revoke or amend these changes as restrictions are relaxed in accordance with Government directives.**

ATTACHMENTS

Nil