

# Councillors' feedback...feedback...



## **Channel 9**

**Redevelopment –** Will this saga ever end?! I think all of us are at our wits' end regarding the continual push by the Channel

9 developers for greater density and more apartments. Council recently resolved to continue our objections to further development and have lodged those concerns with the Department of Planning and Environment.

Council recently also wrote to the Premier about the latest modification application that has been submitted for the Channel 9 site. Chief among our concerns was that this was not in fact a modification, but a new application. Sadly, the Minister for Planning and his department did not share this view and once again residents will have to raise their concerns as we go through yet another round of trying to ensure that the site is appropriately developed.

The biggest source of frustration for many of us involved is that the developer can keep making applications, with no risk – approval means the developers get an increase to the bulk and scale of the site, but rejection of their latest proposal leaves them with the status quo and does not allow for any further reductions. I have written to the Premier suggesting that legislation should be enacted to protect the community from these constant applications and will share her response when received.

## **East Artarmon Residential Parking Scheme –**

The scheme has been in operation for months now and, at least anecdotally, the feedback has been mostly positive.

As I asked in my last column, Council is very keen to make this scheme work and if there are issues, complaints or feedback that might help make it better, please send me email. I know there were especially concerns about the number of permits each residence was entitled to, so I would love to hear your thoughts on that issue.

## **Pedestrian Countdown Timers –**

The intersection at Hampden Road and Broughton Road in Artarmon is getting

its pedestrian lighting upgraded. The RMS has confirmed that a countdown pedestrian crossing will be installed. The countdown timers show how many seconds you have left to finish crossing before oncoming vehicles will be given a green light. If you have not started to cross, the countdown timers can help you decide if it is safe to do so.

There has been a lot of feedback about the possibility of relocating the crossing to improve pedestrian safety on that strip, and I have asked that the Traffic Committee – which is comprised of the local member, the RMS, NSW Police and Council – to look at if the current location is still the most appropriate.

## **Chemical clean-out –**

On Sunday 4 November, Council will be offering a free chemical cleanout. Between 9.00am and 3.30pm residents are invited to drop items not accepted in regular council clean-up, including paints and gas cylinders, at Bicentennial Reserve car park on Small Street, Willoughby (next to the Willoughby Leisure Centre).

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After 19 years as a Local Councillor some reflection is overdue.

## **Urban**

**Development –** There is a potent mixture that

has always been present that is now building a life of its own. In 1996 Australia's population was 18.3 million, in 1972 it was 13 million, today it is 25 million and in 30 years it is estimated to increase by 11.3 million to 36 million. In my lifetime, the population of Australia has increased by 177%. In NSW, Councils, particularly urban centres and areas rezoned for residential, thrive on population, or more particularly, dwellings or new dwellings. Existing dwellings attract rates and new dwellings attract rates and development levies and this equals council cash flow! The point is that Sydney, now more than ever, really

does need a plan for urban living for financing community services and infrastructure. Yet, redevelopment and growth in the number of dwellings seem to just happen like the latest thought bubbles. The following comments are made against this background.

There are several very large issues for Artarmon residents going forward. They are:

## **Maintaining the very special character of East Artarmon –**

Already I can see council officers supporting development approvals that are clearly not in line with the heritage and conservation guidelines that have been followed for as long I have even been on Council, and well before that time. These developments stick out like sore thumbs. Councillors have no role anymore in the development application process, so the community must now take up the role of caretaker to its own area to try to prevent inappropriate developments.

## **Shopping amenity and traffic congestion –**

Such has been the increase in local traffic and on major road traffic within Willoughby City that getting about to do daily activities like shopping is becoming a challenge. The answer is to start to plan to build large supermarket destinations between major arterial roads so that local traffic need not cross such roads. For this district, this means that part of the industrial area must be rezoned to provide access to people in Crows Nest, Naremburn and Artarmon and West Chatswood (who would come down the Highway) to a major shopping destination with car parking to match. This would also fit in with what the newer businesses in the industrial area are demanding.

However, the Hampden Road businesses need not be overlooked. There is no area here large enough for a large supermarket with suitable access. Instead, rezoning for the shops needs to look to a mix of uses that will bring daytime trade and peak hour trade. This will mean a mixture of commercial and to a lesser extent residential is likely to be the outcome. Local residential demand will drive the changes to the

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Willoughby Local Environment Plan and Willoughby Development Control Plan in respect to the Artarmon Village that are currently under review.

## **Waste charges –**

This year, I questioned the General Manager of the Council in open Council about waste collection charges. The General Manager assured me that there would be no increase in the waste costs for residents. I am not so sure that this will turn out to be correct. The elephant in the room is the issue of waste disposal, recycling and landfill. There are no real solutions being discussed save taking the waste over the mountains. Recycling is not working. Cartage of waste and landfill to sites far away must increase costs.

## **Industrial area –**

New generation businesses are looking for a funky village centre amenity around which to do business. These types of businesses describe the Artarmon industrial area as something out of the 50's and not relevant to their needs. This is a challenge to the mind set at the Council. Competition will drive occupancy rates and the type of industry that comes into the area. Property owners collectively will need to try again to have the Council's planners develop a better town plan for the area. I sense the digital disruption occurring in our economy will cause something to give.

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I hope that everyone has been keeping themselves warm during these cold months. Not long to go now!!!

## **Beaches Link Tunnel –**

Some details on this project has just been released by RMS on its latest Beaches Link Update. This 30 page document explains how some major issues will be tackled. These include the ventilation outlets and the air quality monitoring. The proposed ventilation outlets will be on the Lower North Shore within the Warringah Freeway and in the industrial area in

Artarmon south of Gore Hill Freeway.

To achieve zero ramp emissions, jet fans draw in air from the exit ramp to ensure a net inflow of air at the ramp so that all tunnel emissions are removed through an elevated ventilation outlet. The NSW Environment Protection Authority will regulate the ventilation outlets by requiring tunnel operators to meet air quality limits and undertake air quality monitoring.

For those of you interested in finding out more you can get online at [www.rms.nsw.gov.au/whtbl](http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/whtbl).

## **Resident Parking Scheme in East Artarmon –**

Community consultation on a proposal to implement resident parking restrictions and 4P parking restriction in Smith Road, Shepherd Road, Stafford Road and Tindale Road East Artarmon was undertaken in response to a submission from Artarmon Progress Association. Following assessment of community feedback, the Council has implemented a new resident parking scheme and 4P parking restriction in these streets as well as introduce No Parking 8:30am to 6pm Monday to Friday on the southern side of Shepherd Road. These changes will extend the resident parking scheme and 4P parking restrictions introduced in Artarmon East (east side of railway) in May 2018.

## **Artarmon Bowling Clubhouse –**

An assessment of the suitability of the former Artarmon Bowling Clubhouse as a community facility identifies significant issues that warrant further investigation due to:

- The current standard of the amenities;
- Distance from Artarmon's high density area;
- Accessible physical infrastructure;
- On-site parking;
- Distance to public transport;
- Traffic implications;
- Alternate community facilities in Artarmon.

## **Artarmon Parklands –**

Consultation has been undertaken with stakeholders and the community to produce a Master Plan for Artarmon Parklands (incorporating Artarmon Reserve and the Artarmon Bowling Club land). Works supported by the

community include community garden, outdoor fitness equipment, more passive recreation area, additional play space for older children, upgrade of the existing playground, car park improvements and access improvements.

Willoughby City Council asked the Citizens Panel to comment on the Draft Master Plan for Artarmon Parklands with regard to the grounds of the former Artarmon Bowling Club. A further report will be brought back to Council in October 2018 containing a business case and community benefit analysis.

Funding of \$1.35 million will be available to implement the works and will be undertaken in 2018/2019, subject to the budget for 2018/2019 being approved. Improvements to the parkland over the next 2 years will enable the community to benefit from increased recreation opportunities in the Artarmon area.

Please share your thoughts with me and I welcome any feedbacks on current issues.

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## **Artarmon GAZETTE Collections**

**The APA is interested in acquiring collections of past editions of the Artarmon Gazette.**

If you like to donate them to the Association please contact us at [editor@artarmonprogress.org.au](mailto:editor@artarmonprogress.org.au)

or telephone Adrian on

**0401 644 052**

## **Household Recycling**

Willoughby residents can now donate unwanted household items using a free collection and rehoming service run by the Bower Reuse & Repair Centre. Contact 9568 6280 or email [reuse@bower.org.au](mailto:reuse@bower.org.au).