

ATTACHMENT E

CONSULTATION REPORT – 2016

CONSULTATION REPORT – WIMBO PARK PRELIMINARY LANDSCAPE DESIGN – STAGE 2

Prepared by: Adam Lander, Senior Communications and Engagement Advisor, City of Sydney

Date: December 2016

1. The City ran a community engagement process to inform the community about this proposal, to invite them to a face to face discussion, and to provide feedback on the proposal. The community engagement period ran from 19 November 2016 to 19 December 2016.
2. Overall, people who participated in this process indicated general support for the park design.
3. The communications and engagement activities undertaken included:
 - (a) A notification letter explaining the proposal, distributed to 10,250 properties in the Surry Hills area;
 - (b) Display advertisements placed in local media outlets “Central” and “Wentworth Courier” in November 2016;
 - (c) Direct notification to key stakeholders including Bourke Street Public School, Surry Hills Creative Precinct, and local businesses;
 - (d) Information, consultation materials and feedback form available on SydneyYourSay.com.au, the City’s online engagement hub;
 - (e) The consultation was listed in two Sydney Your Say EDM in November and December 2016 that combined reach 4,000 registered Sydney Your Say users;
 - (f) The City tweeted four times during the consultation. The tweets had a potential reach of 37,587 people;
 - (g) Hard copies of the concept design were available at the Surry Hills Library and Town Hall House; and
 - (h) Face to face information was provided at a consultation event held at Wimbo Park, on Saturday 19 November 2016. This event was attended by the Lord Mayor.
4. There was good participation from the community in the community engagement process, including:
 - (a) 652 visitors to the project page at SydneyYourSay.com.au during the consultation period, including 451 downloads of project information and 31 photo views of the proposed park design;
 - (b) 39 people provided feedback on the project either through email, feedback forms or the online survey;
 - (c) Approximately 50 people attended the face to face event at Wimbo Park on Saturday 19 November 2016 and provided verbal feedback to City staff, summarised below.

5. The following feedback was raised by the community during the consultation process (including feedback forms, email submissions and verbal feedback to staff at the face to face event on Saturday 19 November 2016):⁶
- (a) Support for the design was expressed in 28 of the 39 submissions received;
 - (b) Two submissions specifically stated they do not like the current design;
 - (c) Several comments were received relating to play equipment in the park, including:
 - (i) More play equipment should be installed to encourage active play;
 - (ii) Water play similar to Redfern Park should be considered as there is nothing similar in the area;
 - (iii) Several residents supported the in ground trampolines, however; one thought they were not a good choice as they would require too much ongoing maintenance;
 - (iv) Play equipment (trampolines) are not suitable in such close proximity to running light rail vehicles;
 - (v) Ensure that the children's play area is suitably separated from light rail traffic.
 - (d) Several comments were received relating to the planting throughout the park:
 - (i) Four submissions asked that heavier planting be incorporated throughout the park to create more shaded areas;
 - (ii) Heavier planting along the Parkham Lane edge to create a barrier between residential properties and the light rail tracks;
 - (iii) More native shrubs to be incorporated into the design to encourage native birds to the park;
 - (iv) The plaza area at the Western end of the park be replaced with grass to create more green space;
 - (v) Provide an interface between garden beds and adjacent residential properties to avoid impeding residents access to the wall for maintenance;
 - (vi) Support for the native planting palette;
 - (vii) Removal of the existing palm trees in the North/West corner of the park as they are not native and create a great deal of mess due to dropping of seeds'
 - (e) Retention of the existing mural and birdbath was highlighted. (Nb: The mural and birdbath will be stored offsite during construction and be returned to site as works are completed);
 - (f) Concern was raised about the safety of children in the park and their ability to run onto the lightrail tracks. Discussed option of incorporating a fence, disguised within the planting strip. This idea was well received;
 - (g) A request was made to install exercise equipment and outdoor table tennis in the park;

- (h) Ensure that the treatment of trafficked areas (e.g. Parkham Lane roadway and Nobbs Lane roadway and car park) allows groundcover and grass to grow through;
 - (i) Two submissions asked the City to continue advocating for grass tracks;
 - (j) Replace large table with smaller picnic tables throughout the park;
 - (k) Request for the community table and BBQ area be moved to the Southern side of the park near the mural so it is further away from adjacent properties;
 - (l) There was a request that the design incorporate a fenced in dog park;
 - (m) Make sure an adequate amount of bins are installed for both rubbish and dog waste.
6. The following items were also raised as individual concerns, but sit outside this project scope:
- (a) Several submissions have asked that consideration be given to creating a Light Rail stop at Eastern end of the park. This is outside of the City's scope and would need to be considered by TfNSW;
 - (b) One resident suggested that the site be used for parking to offset losses in the Surry Hills area rather than a park;
 - (c) Parking associated with Langton Centre remain private and not revert to public parking;
 - (d) Investigate art grants for properties with garages backing onto the park so that they can be painted to fit in with the surrounds;
 - (e) Install an amenities block and if not possible, provide wayfinding to the nearest available;
 - (f) Drainage in Parkham Lane is currently inadequate and leads to frequent flooding. Would like this addressed during the park construction;
 - (g) Some residents were concerned about the speed of the light rail vehicles travelling through the park;
 - (h) One submission asked that the path through the park is not operated as a Shared Path and that cyclists be directed to Parkham Street. It was also asked that this path be narrowed to create more green space;
 - (i) Heavier planting between the tracks and the Shared Path to further separate the two;
 - (j) There was concern about general maintenance and cleaning of the park and the frequency in which this would happen;
7. Ongoing consultation with the community will continue during the construction phase of the project.