

Waverton Precinct Meeting

8 July 2026

Minutes

The meeting commenced 7:35pm, Waverton Uniting Church Hall, and was closed at approximately 9:00pm.

Chair: Ian Grey
Minutes: Shelley Kirkwood
Attendance: 24

Join your neighbours and make a difference to the community you live in.

North Sydney Local Government Area (LGA) has an active Precinct community. North Sydney Council's Precinct System began in 1972 and now comprises 17 Precincts within our LGA. Run by residents, the Precinct meetings provide feedback to Council in an advisory capacity. Comments from the regular Precinct meetings are reported to and considered by Council as part of its decision-making process, and so are one of the many ways that Council staff and councillors stay abreast of community opinion.

Residents can meet at their local Precinct Committee to share views on a range of topics and to help inform governments of community opinion on projects, plans and proposals. Precincts also encourage social interaction within the local community by coordinating events.

The aim of Waverton Precinct is to participate in the democratic life of our area, from the most modest DA to grassroots ideas for the district and city, to the largest proposals affecting our neighbourhoods.

1. Welcome and apologies

- Ian Grey welcomed attendees and introduced Katie Newton, Director of Kelly's Place. Katie will address the meeting to provide an overview of North Sydney Council's proposal to demolish the current Kelly's Place Children's Centre facility. It was noted that no replacement site has yet been identified. The Council proposes to expand this area into public green space.
- Apologies received from: Barvara Hush, Doug Anderson, Elizabeth Pfanner, and Kate Miller
- Ian noted that the Agenda order will change slightly to the advertised order to allow Katie to address the meeting first.
Note: the Minutes reflect the order of the meeting.

2. New business

2.1 Future of Kelly's Place Children's Centre

- Katie Newton is the current Director (Manager) of Kelly's Place Children's Centre, Hume Street Crows Nest, and has been employed at Kelly's Place for 16 years.
- Kelly's Place Children's Centre cares for 40 children from the age's newborn to five years, and during the hours of 7:30am-6:00pm.
- There are currently 18 educators employed at the childcare centre. This number exceeds the minimum regulatory educator-to-child ratio requirements.
- The educators hold qualifications that exceed the minimum regulatory requirements.
- Kelly's Place Children's Centre has been in operation for 38 years and continues to hold a strong reputation.

- Kelly's Place has known about the Hume Street park area expansion for 10 years, and throughout this period has worked closely with Council in the process of finding new premises.
- Many sites have been proposed: former Waverton Bowling Club; site in Neutral Bay (however that is not their catchment); and various commercial properties. None-to-date has been suitable for their needs.
- In November 2025, Council issued an agenda report with item 10.5 on Hume Street Park Project and Kelly's Place Children's Centre relocation options:
 - Four sites were identified however they are not viable.
- In November 2025, the Council advised that there were no available funds for the project. Councillor James Spenceley later raised the possibility that restricted developer contribution funds allocated for childcare and community facilities could potentially be used to support the relocation of Kelly's Place.
- On 25 May 2026, North Sydney Council voted against treating a motion from Councillor Spenceley regarding potential funding for the relocation of Kelly's Place as an urgent matter. Mayor Zoë Baker advised that, in her view, the motion did not meet the Council's urgency requirements.
- In June 2026, Councillors James Spenceley and Jessica Keen brought forward a motion seeking a report on whether up to \$2.5 million in childcare and community facilities developer contributions could be used to help relocate Kelly's Place.
- It was noted that 52 McLaren Street, a Transport for NSW/Sydney Metro-owned site, is the subject of a mixed-use redevelopment proposal that includes a childcare facility. North Sydney Council endorsed the planning proposal on 26 May 2025. It was further noted that a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) applies to the site; however, delivery of the childcare facility is dependent on the redevelopment proceeding.
- At the last Council meeting, 29 June 2026:
 - **1. Kelly's Place lease expires on 31 December 2026**
 - Council resolved:

"it will not further extend the lease to Kelly's Place Children's Centre beyond 31 December 2026"

and

"Council authorise the Chief Executive Officer to work with Kelly's Place Children's Centre to facilitate appropriate transition arrangements and support prior to the expiry of its lease on 31 December 2026"
 - **2. Funding allocated**
 - Council also resolved:

"THAT Council reconfirm that development contribution funds collected for childcare under the community facilities provision within the North Sydney Local Infrastructure Contribution Plan are allocated for the fit-out of 52 McLaren Street, North Sydney and any childcare facilities identified in the Crows Nest Masterplan to be undertaken in the 2026/2027 delivery plan."
- Kelly's Place Children's Centre supports both the expansion of open space for children and families and the continued provision of childcare services. It was noted that Kelly's Place is a parent-run, community-based childcare centre.
- Kelly's Place has been in discussion with the State Government—reason is that funding and design for the Hume Street Park project is from that source.
 - Stage 1—the link from Willoughby Road; completed
 - Stage 2—requires Kelly's Place demolished for a flat-level park.

Note: The entire roof of Kelly's Place Children's Centre is grassed and accessible from the surrounding streets.
- The demolition of Kelly's Place and its associated playground would result in the loss of a space currently used by 40 children each week.

- There is a petition to save Kelly's Place Children's Centre and to date (as of 10 July 2026) 3870 signatures have been collected.
- Kelly's Place Children's Centre is reaching out to the local Precincts.
- Kelly's Place is after a win/win—greenspace and retaining Kelly's Place—in its current location or relocated.
- Question and thoughts raised
 - Shouldn't all stakeholders be consulted along the decision process?
Yes is the answer; however, that hasn't been the case for Kelly's Place.
 - Suggestion to request the Council and the State Government to consider in the design, if there is no relocation option, retaining Kelly's Place and its green roof playground, and open this playground to the public on the weekend—work together.
 - We can't have an increase in density and at the same time, remove essential services, such as childcare.
 - This is all about design. A park doesn't need to be flat—park land can be created around the current Kelly's Place building.
A/ vertical gardens and murals are suggestions to enhance the existing building within a parkland environment.
- Katie noted that the Council advised that the current Kelly's Place building has maintenance issues.
 - In 2024-25 the Council spent \$225,000 to make the roof lantern fully waterproof.
 - Council is stating that the building is at its end of life.
- An attendee noted that Council approves many developments and collects developer contributions under its Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan. These contributions are used to help fund local infrastructure, community facilities, and public projects associated with growth and development.
- Jeremy noted:
 - Council has proposed expansion of 2000m² of greenspace and to achieve this, demolish the existing 500m² of Kelly's Place, a council-leased site, and a highly regarded childcare centre.
 - Council has stated that this needs to happen now to solve the lack of open space/green space within the Crows Nest area. An alternative view is to continue to add open space/green space as opportunities arise through development.
 - Kelly's Place Children's Centre is a purpose-built childcare centre with a strong reputation.
- A [Have your Say on Expanded Open Space for Crows Nest](#) closes this Sunday, 12 July. If you agree with retaining the childcare centre, a short statement such as: "Hume Park should retain its childcare centre", is a great start.
- Kevin noted:
 - A public park has a duck pond. Why can't a park have a children pond, and this can be a feature.
 - Creative development is important as is forward thinking to meet service needs.
 - Kelly's Place is a community hub with a soul. With an integration of Kelly's Place into the park, the park becomes a smart park.
- Q/ Has it been advised why there hasn't been consideration for the integration of Kelly's Place with the proposed park?
A/ The State funding is for a park, and not for building.
- Some Precincts have written to Council as well as "Have your Say".
- Tim James MP and Felicity Wilson MP: have addressed the issue in parliament; been vocal and attended meetings with Kelly's Place and the State Government; and spoke on ABC radio.

- Ian Grey noted that he sensed the meeting attendees had empathy with Kelly's Place stance; that is to build a park and integrate their childcare facility. Suggested that this issue would be revisited later in the meeting so that a motion can be discussed.
- Later in the meeting, the motion idea was revisited. The meeting agreed that the following points should be included in a formal motion which is to be prepared by the Chair and Secretary and put to a vote at the August meeting. Pending that formal vote, the meeting approved action by the Precinct in support of the above and specifically asked the Executive to communicate promptly with Council around the following items.
 - Council extending the current lease while the design for Hume Park Expansion project is reviewed with all stakeholders.
 - Integrate a childcare centre into the design.
 - To retain the current Kelly's Place Childcare Centre as this model is a successful one—it is community run; it has dedicated and highly-trained staff; higher staff to child ratio than required; it is a lower fee option; it benefits from being in a park; and it is ideally located in Crows Nest and near transport.
 - With increased density, there are increased service needs for the residents, with childcare being a primary one.
 - Waverton Precinct agreed that the civic and environmental quality of the park can be maximised by actively integrating the childcare centre, through creative and imaginative design.

2. Previous meeting minutes (June 2026)

Moved by Kevin Alker, and Seconded by Peter Krinks

"That the June 2026 minutes be approved"

Carried unanimously

3. North Sydney Council (NSC) response to previous resolutions

NSC has yet to respond to the June 2026 resolutions, nor have they responded to the May 2026 resolutions. As the Precinct concept was established to be conduit between the residents and the Council, it is important that resolutions are addressed by Council promptly, so they can be reported back to the residents effectively, that is, in a timely manner. This will be raised with the Council.

4. Existing business

4.1 Former Waverton Bowling Club site (update)

- Ian talked with Marcelo from North Sydney Council and he is happy to meet with us, with a date to be confirmed.
- Identified that the NSW State Government is almost certainly negotiating with the Aboriginal Land Council Corporation over the meaning of "unused and unneeded" in the light of the High Court decision on the Paddington Bowling club site.
- To date there hasn't been dialogue between NSC and the Aboriginal Land Council.

4.2 Possible new foreshore walk between Milsons Point and Wollstonecraft Stations and beyond (update)

- The next stage is for the working group to individually walk the route and use a set of suggested criteria to take notes. Examples of the criteria: condition of path surface; are there stairs; public amenities; signage; historic locations; fauna and flora; indigenous sites.
- Ian noted that Council is excited about this project.

4.3 Sports facilities for teenagers (update)

- John and Ian have done some work on this project, identifying suggestions of the sport and the location:
 - Basketball hoop at the far end of the Coal Loader, and/or at Waverton Park (high or low), and/or at Merrett Playground (please refer to Attachment A).
 - John suggested that the current derelict wharf at the BP site be used as “jump into pool” -- a ladder is available. This wharf, however, is condemned.
- The Precinct has previously suggested that locations for activity be visible—“safety by design”. So, perhaps the upper level of Waverton Park is a better location than the oval on the lower level, for example.
- Jeremy noted seeing a group of teenagers shooting a tennis ball at a makeshift basketball hoop in Brennans Park—a good example of the community's needs.
- Attendee noted that the aim of this project is to keep teenagers entertained. There are existing courts in our area, for example at the DEM School. Suggestion for these to be made accessible after school hours.
- The Chair was asked to make these suggestions to Council.

4.4 Save Our Sydney Harbour (update)

- Save Our Sydney Harbour has approached Maritime to remove the Aquacube in Berrys Bay, as well as other derelict vessels. There is a white yacht off Berry Island which has been there for a very long time and is supposedly infested with insects. These need to be removed.
- We need to gain momentum to gather action rather than talk.
- It was suggested we also write to Maritime and the Minister on the Coal Loader Wharf. This cannot be salvaged or repurposed. The campaign team has done this recently—and their correspondence should be publicly supported by Waverton Precinct.
 - Waverton Precinct changed its view early this year to one of removing the wharf and independently Save our Sydney Harbour has now arrived at this same view.

4.4 Lime Bikes

- These are proliferating around Sydney.
- Lime Bike ‘distribution’ has moved into five Council areas (not into Hunters Hill).
- The concept is encouraged as it: has health benefits; reduces pollution; and reduces the reliance on cars for transport.
- Appears that the Lime Bike company comes around early morning to reposition the bikes so they are standing and are in groups.
- North Sydney Council can shape *how and where* Lime operates locally, particularly through a MoU and geofencing requirements, but it does not have complete control over Lime's overall operating model.
- Question whether the current model is the appropriate model.
- Suggest building racks (or further docking stations) near public transport hubs (train stations and bus stops).
- Suggest having docking stations where bikes can be recharged, and where the ride trip is logged on and off financially, such as in New York, and Paris.
- Question raised on whether revenue is generated from Lime Bikes using public space to ‘park’.
- Question raised on whether parking inspectors will issue a fine to Lime Bikes should a bike be left illegally; that is fallen over and causing an obstruction.
- Riders are likely to leave bikes anywhere as it's more convenient than taking to a rack.

- Kevin Heys noted a Sydney Morning Herald article [Sydney should make share e-bikes work this time around](#) that highlights overseas examples of successful models, compared with the difficulties currently experienced in Sydney.
- Jeremy thought we should welcome the share e-bikes as a transport model.
 - It was noted this isn't under question, rather, it is the current operating model that is suggested to be reviewed.
- Work is being done to tighten regulations, for example, with geofencing for speed and location.
- Lime Bikes are responsible for the behaviour of those using the service, and therefore responsible for the current behaviour; example, leaving bikes in a disorderly manner. This current behaviour can only be changed with comprehensive and regulatory guidelines.

4.5 Proposed Statewide Community Participation Plan

- The Proposed Statewide Community Participation Plan (CPP) is a NSW Government proposal to replace the 100+ different community participation plans currently used across the state with one statewide set of consultation rules for planning matters. The goal is to make the planning system more consistent, faster, and easier for the public to understand.
- Information on CPP can be found on the Transport NSW planning portal.

5. Community updates

5.1 Noakes Boatyard

- Bronwyn Muir updated the meeting:
 - In 2021, Noakes hadn't had a fire certificate for five years.
 - Noakes need to meet fire safety compliancy and to date it has not.
 - Twenty-eight items were identified as requiring fire safety compliancy.
 - To date, none of these twenty-eight items have achieved their respective fire safety certificate. Ian has different information and will meet with Bronwyn after the meeting to discuss and will also seek clarification from North Sydney Council.
 - It is queried as to why there are no sprinklers or smoke alarms in the work areas.
 - Nearby residents are concerned about fire toxic materials. Currently there is no storage area for flammable materials. This should have been addressed under Stage 2, however, to date it hasn't.
 - Question is raised as to where the flammable materials are actually stored.
 - Been advised that a carbon filtration system is being delivered today (8 July) and will be installed soon.
 - Today, 8 July, toxic fumes were experienced, and this was alerted to EPA.
- Suggested a resolution be drafted to note that Waverton Precinct will continue to monitor Noakes Boatyard meeting its legal responsibilities on fire safety compliancy.

5.2 Other

- Kevin Heys noted that the next Combined Precincts Meeting will be on 21 July.
- Kevin Alker noted that late-night vehicle noise continues to be an issue in Larkin Street. Cars using excessive speed and burn outs are the main issues.
- It is also suggested that a yellow line be painted in the turning area at the end of Larkin Street to reinforce the no parking requirement.

The meeting closed at approximately 9:00pm.

We look forward to seeing you at the next Precinct meeting.

The Waverton Precinct **August 2026 meeting** is:

Tuesday 4 August, 7:30pm

The Uniting Church Hall, 75 Bay Road, Waverton

wavertonprecinct.org | precinctw@gmail.com

Waverton is unceded land of the Cammeraygal people of the Eora nation — always was and always will be.

In keeping with truly ancient protocols, we acknowledge Cammeray himself,
and Cammeraygal leaders past, present and future.

Waverton Precinct (July meeting) Re item 6.3

The issue of activity sites in parks (for teenagers in particular)

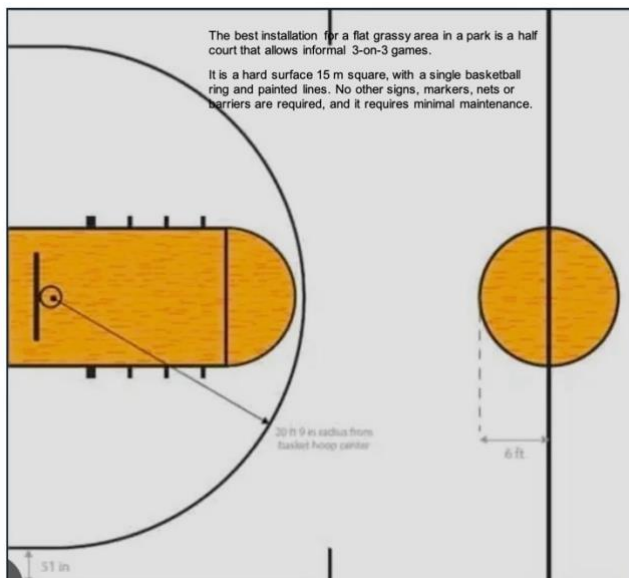
With a few exceptions, parks in Waverton lack opportunities for teenagers and others to participate in active recreation.

Over many years the Precinct has asked the Council to consider some relatively simple ways to improve this situation, such as installing a basketball ring in a few locations.

The Precinct prefers public locations like upper Waverton Park rather than sites which are relatively isolated.

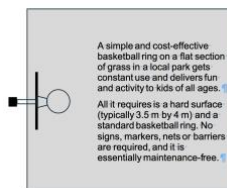
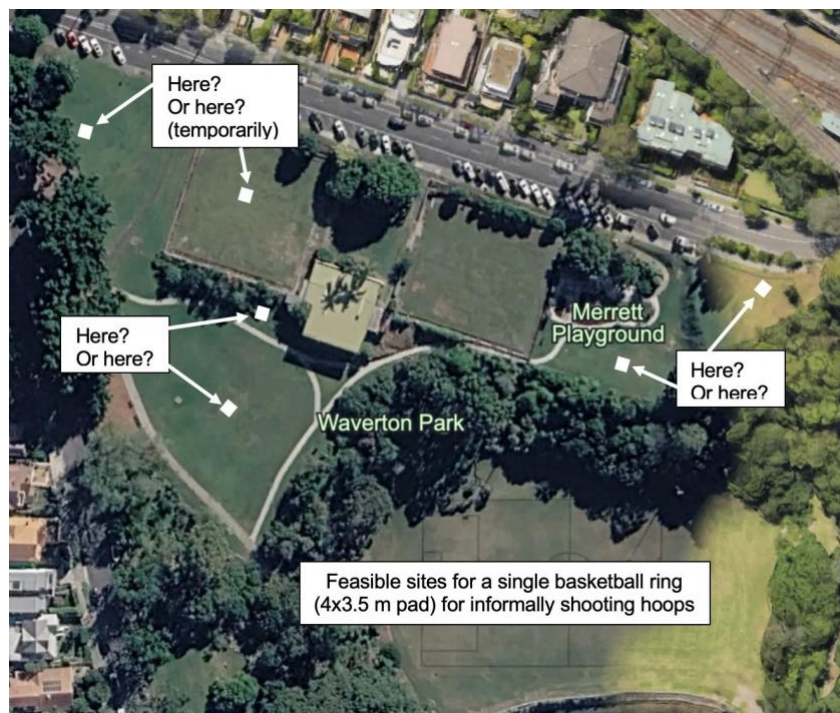
A full basketball court is best: it can support a formal game, 3-on-3 at one end of the court, less formal games, or just shooting hoops.

More achievable and still a big boost to activity opportunities would be a **half court**. →



And feasible almost anywhere is a simple basketball ring on a small concrete slab:

When Ian met with the Mayor recently, Zoe asked the Precinct to suggest some options – so it is timely to make a specific request to the Council.



Accordingly, Waverton Precinct might request:

THAT Council –

- Act on long-standing requests by Waverton Precinct for more opportunities for active recreation for teenagers.
- Seek informed local views on options to meet the recreational needs of teenagers.
- Investigate:
 - the costs and feasibilities of installing one or more basketball half-courts in nearby parks; *and*
 - installing one or more single basketball rings in Waverton Park (see image above).