

Councillors' feedback...feedback...



As 2020 draws to a close, we can reflect on a year that has brought us extreme situations to test our resilience, including storms, bushfires and

Covid-19. Thank you for your patience and support.

In my previous column I outlined that the Artarmon Parkland pavilion project continued to progress. In March we conducted community consultation for the design brief and, in June, the consultant architect developed the concept design. We engaged a panel of three independent architects to conduct the design review process. It supported the principles of adaptive re-use and offered refinement ideas for the concept design that went on public exhibition in October.

Due to delays during the review process, the consultation schedule has been pushed back. Community

feedback on the detailed design is invited during the development application consultation that began in late November. The consultation will be longer than usual due to the holiday season.

We have commissioned two separate independent heritage reviews of the existing club building, both of which identified that the building did not warrant local heritage protection.

Having recently received a local heritage nomination and accompanying heritage report, we engaged another independent heritage consultant for advice in assessing the nomination. That advice will also be considered in the DA assessment.

The tender process for construction is expected to take place in February – March 2021. Building will begin in May 2021 and be complete in early 2022.

The Artarmon Public Domain Masterplan, which covers the public areas on the western side of the railway line, was out for public consultation

from 5 August – 1 September. Most responses supported the plan.

The opening of the new sports pavilion at Thomson Oval is imminent. One of the busiest ovals in the area, it is used for club soccer, cricket and rugby, Artarmon Public School and the local community. The new building includes public toilets, change rooms, a canteen and storage space for clubs. The federal government contributed \$515,000 and Council \$500,000.

In streetscape news, a contractor has been engaged for the upgrade of Wilkes Avenue. Work is planned to start before Christmas and should be completed by April 2021.

There are six development applications (DAs) for the former Channel Nine site, two of which are construction DAs. Council staff will report back to the North Sydney Planning Panel on the construction DAs by early next year.

Please get in touch with me directly to discuss anything further.

- gail.giles-gidney@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

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Amy - Artarmon

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Business support fuels Artarmon's economic recovery

On Monday 12 October, the Council meeting approved the extended Business

Support Plan that waives all fees for footway dining and street advertising. This will save businesses \$57,000.

The environmental health inspection fees for about 400 businesses were waived, and 42 sporting club and community groups had \$501,000 in fees for sports grounds and facilities either refunded or not charged.

This extension of the Business Support Plan aims to fuel economic recovery and give our local businesses the boost they need to get back on their feet.

Artarmon Local Centre Strategy

Since our last edition of the Gazette,

the Council has provided further information on possible features that would be incorporated in the Artarmon Local Centre Strategy. Willoughby Council also outlined issues and challenges. Improvements to be achieved include:

- connectivity
- enhancing the “village feel” (encouraging interaction with outdoor dining)
- amenities (a new toilet block)
- business quality (through expanded retail activation)
- opening up public spaces
- greening the centre
- footpaths and public seating.

Some possible challenges are also being looked at and discussed. These include:

Traffic impacts – the effect of through traffic on both sides of the train station has been identified and studied. One possible way to mitigate this would be to reduce the advantage of driving through (i.e. the rat run)

by introducing traffic calming (40 km/h). A further feasibility study would be done on Hampden Road (being a sub-arterial road) and including pedestrian flow.

Chatswood to St Leonard bicycle route

Slowing-down points for cyclists have been analysed and a possible dismount zone presented. The questions remaining are:

- How do we educate cyclists to slow down and “share” the lane with pedestrians, given the number of school-aged children?
- Education for the cyclist versus policing – how is this achieved?

Exciting plans were also presented on parking, traffic lights and the library site. These could be incorporated in the Artarmon Local Centre Strategy. Please share with me your thoughts and I welcome feedback on any current issues.

– christine.tuon@willoughby.nsw.gov.au



NORTH SHORE

Veterinary Hospital EST. 1935

Thank you for all your support in 2020!

North Shore Vet Hospital has managed to keep the doors operating through a trying 2020 for everyone. We have had a different sort of a year!

It has been so delightful to see all the puppies and kittens, being cared for by passionate owners.

Many of you are getting to experience the joy of owning and caring for a pet for the first time.

We have had the leptospirosis cases, but were delighted we could offer a vaccine immediately.

Over summer, please look out for your pets. If you own a brachiocephalic breed (Frenchie, Pug etc), please be careful in the summer sun to make sure they don't become overheated.


Ticks are still around so please make sure they are on preventatives. Watch out for all the Christmas nasties as well: onions, chocolate, sultanas and grapes, barbecue skewers.

Have a wonderful Sydney summer. Remember we will be open 24/7 as always.

Stay safe and look after yourselves and your furry friends.



– Dr. Peter Chitty & the team at North Shore Veterinary Hospital

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Artarmon Village upgrade

The long-awaited upgrades to Wilkes Avenue and Hampden Road are under way. The Wilkes

Avenue works contract has been awarded and construction was due to start in late November 2020. Work is expected to be finished in late April 2021. The Hampden Road streetscape plan continues to progress and work is

expected to be finished in early 2022. It has been a long wait, but I know you will agree when you see the final results, that it has been worth it.

Happy holidays

It goes without saying that 2020 has been a long year. Despite the challenges Covid-19 has presented to Council, it has presented a number of opportunities as well. Focusing on upgrades to our open spaces, support for local businesses and finding new and inclusive ways to collaborate has been terrific. Online council meetings

and committees will allow many more people to participate in a manner that is convenient for them. One drawback is that I will not be able to wish many of you a Merry Christmas face to face.

It is a tremendous honour to represent you on the Council and I am exceptionally proud of the progress our community has made this year. If there is anything you feel I can help with, or you have an idea about how we can further improve our fantastic neighbourhood – as always – please let me know.

- nic.wright@willoughby.nsw.gov.au

APA proposes underpass to reduce Artarmon traffic

by Michael Dawes

The Artarmon Progress Association has been advocating for many years for improvements to the Pacific Highway-Mowbray Road intersection. In particular, APA would like traffic from Mowbray Road West to be allowed to turn right onto Pacific Highway to head south. Roads and Maritime Services has been reluctant to allow this, which means this traffic has to

turn right at Hampden Road and travel through Artarmon.

With the Sydney Metro work site soon to be redundant, APA sees this as an ideal opportunity to significantly improve the intersection and has proposed to Transport NSW that an underpass of Mowbray Road be built for the highway. Ramps would allow turns in all directions to and from

Mowbray Road and highway traffic could flow unimpeded by traffic lights.

Improving the performance of the intersection would reduce congestion and rat-running through Artarmon. APA's proposal went to the minister in August. At the time of going to press, we had received no reply but we are hopeful that our suggestion is being seriously considered.

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Greater Engagement at the Property - You must not rely on the Buyer's imagination. It's essential that the home works for them, that it feels inviting, practical and invokes emotions. People should focus on how they would feel there, not on required repairs and whether furniture would fit. Provide them with solutions, not problems.

- **Undertake necessary repairs:** Cracking - Ensure all tiles, wallpaper, plaster, etc. is free of damage - Ensure there is no mould present.
- **Focus on light:** Remove window coverings if old or worn out - Clean windows - Use lamps and add mirrors - Consider painting in a lighter shade - Cut back foliage from windows.
- **First impressions count:** Stand at the street entrance and imagine you are seeing your property for the first time - Move to the front door, look about and observe the quality of presentation and repair - Pause within the entry foyer and consider how welcoming it feels.
- **Declutter**

Styling

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