

1 September 2020

Mr Hugh Myers  
Project Manager - Streetscapes  
Willoughby City Council  
Level 4, 31 Victor Street  
Chatswood NSW 2067

Dear Mr Myers

**Willoughby City Council – Artarmon Local Centre Public Domain Master Plan & Hampden Road Upgrade**

Congratulations on developing an exciting plan to upgrade the public domain areas on the western side of the railway. The Hampden Road Upgrade, one component of the Masterplan, offers: significant enhancements to Artarmon’s green space, village atmosphere and pedestrian amenity; much needed traffic measures to improve safety and slow traffic speeds; and, outdoor dining and meeting spaces to facilitate commerce and social gatherings.

The Artarmon Progress Association (APA) recognises more detail is still to be worked through and would welcome the opportunity to contribute to the plan’s refinement. Some suggestions and comments based on input from members are provided below. The APA has also encouraged members to make their own submissions.

**Hampden Road Traffic Calming**

Suggestions:

- APA supports measures to reduce traffic speed and discourage motorists ‘rat running’ along Hampden Road en route to St Leonards. However, locals have raised concerns that this may divert ‘rat running’ to Francis Road, Buller Road, Palmer Street, Robert Street and Benton Avenue. Council monitoring of changed traffic movements post implementation will be important. While traffic reduction measures are welcome, Hampden Road is unlikely to see any material reduction in traffic flows unless major work is undertaken on the Pacific Highway and Mowbray Road intersection. The APA has recently written to our local Member of Parliament, the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian (copy to Council), to present options to improve traffic flows at this intersection (once Sydney Metro vacate). The APA would be keen to understand what interactions Council has had with Transport for NSW regarding this intersection.
- The southern end of the 40km/hr zone should be extended to McMillan Road to improve the pedestrian safety to the school and mosque.

## **Artarmon Streetscape Masterplan**

### Suggestions:

- The documentation states that the Artarmon Streetscape Masterplan was prepared for both sides of the railway. For the community to understand how all the moving pieces fit and operate together, a comprehensive masterplan is needed. A comprehensive masterplan would include associated existing Council proposals (e.g. Hampden Road Upgrade, Wilkes Avenue Upgrade, Chatswood to St Leonards bike route) as well as 'on the fridge' concepts (e.g. east side train access, upgrades to both pedestrian underpasses, public art, a mall at Broughton Road, and a pedestrian crossing on Artarmon Road near the Artarmon Library). It is recognised that 'on the fridge' ideas would require community consultation but registering them on a masterplan would ensure these ideas are considered in future and not forgotten.
- To achieve the objective of connectivity between the east and west sides, the Masterplan should include a means of overcoming the non-DDA compliant gradient from Wilkes Ave to the underpass. APA believes a zig-zag DDA compliant footpath on the railway embankment on the northern side of the current path could be achieved under Council's 'beautifying' arrangement with Transport for NSW. The APA has written to our local MP, the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian, requesting a DDA-compliant accessible path between Hampden Road and Wilkes Ave. The APA requests that Council lends its support and advocates for a solution with the NSW Government.

## **Francis Road Intersection Improvements**

### Suggestions:

- A pedestrian safety refuge on Hampden Road at this intersection is very likely to present the same dangers to pedestrians as the existing refuge outside the 7-Eleven on Broughton Road where there have been numerous accidents and near misses. To avoid this situation, consideration should be given to banning right turn movements from Francis Road into Hampden Road.

## **Broughton Road Intersection Improvements**

### Suggestions:

- Consider 'no left turn' from Hampden Road into Broughton Road as a safety measure for pedestrians crossing Broughton Road.

## **Station Plaza**

### Suggestions:

- Businesses, residents and visitors are eager for the toilet facility. Various grades of Exeloo are available and the APA would be keen to understand what standard will be implemented (e.g. Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum) with a preference for platinum. We request that work on the public toilet be prioritised.
- Terraced seating would provide an excellent meeting place and location to sit and enjoy products from the local outlets. For the terraced area to be utilised throughout the year, mechanisms to provide adequate shade in summer and maximise solar access in winter are important. The illustration in the plan shows the flooring of the terracing in green. While it

would be ideal to have real grass and the green makes the terracing look great, the intended use of the structure means that lawn is impractical. Use of synthetic grass or coloured 'soft fall' is not supported; we would support a more environmentally friendly, natural material. Like the terraced seating, thought will be needed to ensure public furniture and separated outdoor dining facilities throughout are able to be used during hot and rainy conditions. Use of natural materials is supported. Terraced seating will be inaccessible or undesirable for some people so enough alternative seating will be necessary.

- There is strong support for greening the area with increased tree cover and lower plantings along the roadside. Residents have requested that an area of lawn be maintained, most likely around the monument to the north of the station entrance.
- To facilitate street fairs and markets, the layout for the village green should consider access to power and water.

### **Active Transport and Cycle Connectivity**

Suggestions:

- The village green area (near the station entry point) incorporates destinations where people can meet and socialise. Members are very concerned about the safety of integrating the cycleway into the streetscape through a shared cycle path along the eastern side of Hampden Road, particularly with the increased number of delivery e-cycles as well as other potentially hazardous modes of transport such as motorised scooters, gophers (e.g. scooters used by the elderly), skateboards, etc. Members have proposed an alternative bike route via Hampden Lane to address these safety concerns. The APA requests further engagement with Council to discuss approaches to deliver a safe, effective and workable solution.

### **Have Your Say Survey and Masterplan Documents**

Suggestions:

- We request that future proposals be delivered in a more user-friendly format. Sections of font are blurry and very difficult to read. The layout requires zooming in and out which is frustrating for readers.
- The survey does not seek feedback on key elements of the design e.g. do you agree with the proposed terraced seating concept (yes/no/why), shared path etc. Again, members have questioned how such a brief survey that is not tailored to the proposed plan can effectively inform Council of the community's views and influence the outcome.

Once again, we congratulate Council on developing an excellent plan that has the potential to greatly enhance the Artarmon village and we very much look forward to contributing more community perspectives as the plan progresses towards implementation.

Yours faithfully,



Georgina Roussac  
President  
Artarmon Progress Association

## **Who we are**

The Artarmon Progress Association, Inc. (APA) was founded in 1906 as a not-for-profit group and our objectives are to promote the welfare, physical and intellectual advancement of the suburb of Artarmon and the City of Willoughby, to protect the interests of the residents, and to encourage a keener spirit of citizenship and mutual help amongst residents.

Our newsletter, the Artarmon Gazette, is distributed quarterly to over 5,000 homes and businesses in Artarmon. We regularly communicate with residents and act as a conduit between local residents and elected representatives on matters concerning our local community.