



5 November 2021

Mr Gynt Drinan
Project Management Team Leader
Willoughby City Council
Level 4, 31 Victor Street
Chatswood NSW 2067

Dear Mr Drinan

Willoughby City Council – Hampden Road Streetscape Improvements

Thank you for meeting with Artarmon Progress Association and sharing the Council's plans for the Hampden Road Streetscape. We welcome the opportunity to provide comments and suggestions for the Hampden Road Public Domain Upgrade 50% CC Concept Design.

General Comments

- Support the use of sandstone for retaining walls.
- Support for paving materials and proposed paving patterns.
- Support the plantings of deciduous trees along the western side of Hampden Rd.
- Request more tables and chairs plus seating with backs, rather than just benches.
- Suggestion to include a variety of people friendly and smart street furniture (for informal work/social meetings/gatherings, for individuals to relax/read a book etc)
- Suggestion to include copies of old Artarmon Village photos (if available) etched on metal along the length of the redevelopment and mounted near to where photos were taken.
- Provide power outlets along entire length for use during markets and events.
- Include "Artarmon" signage, similar to that in Naremburn.

North End - Village Green

Items the APA supports:

- Removal of the bike lockers as they are rarely used.
- The provision of level spaces for pop-up tents but do not support the removal of the mature Jacarandas to achieve this.
- Natural turf rather than synthetic turf.

Items the APA does not support:

- The reduction in the size of the Village Green space caused by the widening of the footpath. It may be a good opportunity to adopt a safer streets approach, have the speed limit reduced to 20kph., so that the road becomes a shared use area.

- The retention of the Brush Box tree (2). Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*) is not an appropriate tree for the Hampden Rd public domain. It is constantly shedding leaves, bark, or nuts. The nuts are small and pointy, and they insert themselves in your shoes and might be a problem for bicycle tyres too.

Comments/suggestions:

- Rather than widening the footpath to provide space for the tents, could the tents be placed between the existing Jacaranda trees? This would require leveling the areas between each tree to match the footpath level whilst maintaining a slightly raised semi-circular garden area around each tree trunk to protect the roots. Seating could be placed around these retaining walls.
- Need more tables with seating. These could be placed in areas which would still allow a portable gazebo to be placed over them should there be a market.
- Access to the southern Turf Area (6) appears to be restricted by the retaining wall.
- Request reinstatement of the trees that were proposed in the Masterplan to be planted along the eastern kerb to provide shading of footpath.
- Request retention and restoration (if necessary) of the Artarmon Village Green sign.
- Replacement of the flagpole and Australian flag to create a sense of civic pride.

Central Hub

Items the APA supports:

- The proposed terraced seating
- The amenity block
- Provision of bike racks but wonder if they could be located elsewhere to not impact on the size of the Village Green.

Comments/suggestions:

- Provide bike pump and water bubbler near the bike rack.
- Include a water feature to break up and help cool the large, paved area north of the station entrance.
- Include trees in the garden beds opposite Broughton Rd to shade the seats and large expanse of paving there.
- Include trees on the western edge of southern turf area (6) to provide shade. Could the existing trees (T20, T21, T22) or some of them be retained for this purpose as these appear to be well established, healthy and quite attractive?
- Add seating to walls of turfed area.

South End – The Gardens

Items the APA supports:

- Proposed removal of trees and new plantings (except possibly T20-T22, as noted above).
- The arbor structure.

Comments/suggestions:

- Provide tables and seating rather than benches. Include innovative seating.
- Reserved support for the nature trail, but more detail required as to what is proposed. Is this a series of Australian native plantings with signage?

- Extend the nature trail/pathway through the conifer forest (8) to meet the southern railway subway.
- Activate the conifer forest area (8) with tables and chairs, new retaining walls, paving and lighting.
- Reserved support for the Interactive Heritage Signage - more detail is required as to what is proposed.
- Question the proposed location for the memorial as the plaque refers to the Village Green (i.e. northern end).
- Charles Wickham plaque needs to be retained somewhere. Possibly could be mounted on the memorial.

Lighting

Items the APA does not support:

- Proposed catenary lighting and smart poles as these are not in keeping with a Heritage Conservation Area.

Comments/suggestions:

- Request undergrounding of power lines. This is a unique opportunity to greatly improve the look of the village.
- Retain the old street lamp, make operational and replicate along the whole of the strip.
- Ensure the proposed feature lighting is energy efficient (preferably solar powered).
- Request ample functional lighting to provide a safe environment.
- We should be aiming for lighting that doesn't create light pollution, i.e. light only goes downwards, not up to the sky.

Tree & Planting Palette

Comments/suggestions:

- Street tree suggestions: Crepe Myrtle, NSW Christmas bush *Ceratopetalum gummiferum*, *Corymbia* hybrid 'Summer Red' Flowering Gum.
- Hedging suggestions: *Camellia Sasanqua* or *Callistemon 'All Aglow'* – Bottlebrush for hedging along railway line as much more attractive than *Nandina* and much used throughout Artarmon.
- Brush box (*Lophostemon confertus*) is not an appropriate tree for the Hampden Rd public domain. It is constantly shedding leaves, bark, or nuts. The nuts are small, pointy and they insert themselves in your shoes and might be a problem for bicycle tyres too.
- The proposed species list for the Hampden Rd upgrade feels like a missed opportunity in honouring and celebrating Artarmon's unique indigenous flora. Being a highly developed area in a suburb with minimal remnant vegetation we feel it's crucial that street plantings reflect the broader ecology of the area wherever possible. Choosing locally occurring species would strengthen habitat corridors via appropriate canopy species, uphold an aesthetic that's sympathetic to the areas remnant bushland and provide an opportunity to educate the public through the considered integration of the natural and urban landscape. The close proximity of the development to the last intact stand of remnant vegetation in the suburb, found in the Artarmon Reserve and stretching (although in bad condition) along the train line, supports the argument to extend and embolden the areas local flora. "Coastal Enriched Sandstone Moist Forest", the dominant Plant Community Type for the Artarmon Reserve, is well documented in regards to its species composition. Many of the species present in this PCT, although not common in urban landscapes, have proven themselves appropriate in

tolerating the demanding conditions. A list of such species has been compiled below; effort has been made to exclude species that cannot be easily procured:

Canopy: High to low

- *Angophora costata*
- *Syncarpia glomulifera*
- *Eucalyptus punctata*
- *Elaeocarpus reticulatus*
- *Allocasuarina torulosa*
- *Ceratopetalum gummiferum*
- *Banksia serrata*
- *Banksia integrifolia*

Small trees and Shrubs:

- *Acacia terminalis*
- *Backhousia myrtifolia*
- *Banksia spinulosa*
- *Breynia oblongifolia*
- *Calicoma serratifolia*
- *Correa reflexa*
- *Dodonaea triquetra*
- *Grevillea linearifolia*
- *Leptospermum polygalifolium*
- *Ozothamnus diosmifolius*
- *Notelaea longifolia*
- *Persoonia levis*
- *Persoonia linearis*
- *Persoonia pinifolia*
- *Pittosporum undulatum*
- *Platylobium formosum*
- *Podocarpus spinulosus*
- *Polyscias sambucifolia*
- *Pultenaea daphnoides*
- *Pultenaea flexilis*
- *Zieria smithii*

Grass / Grass like:

- *Dianella caerulea*
- *Lomandra filiformis*
- *Lomandra longifolia*
- *Microlaena stipoides* var. *stipoides*
- *Oplismenus aemulus*
- *Patersonia glabrata*
- *Xanthorrhoea arborea*

Vines / Groundcovers

- *Dicondra repens*
- *Hardenbergia violacea*
- *Kennedia rubicunda*
- *Pomax umbellata*
- *Pratia purpurascens*
- *Pseuderanthemum variabile*
- *Smilax glycyphylla*
- *Tylophora barbata*

Yours faithfully,



Georgina Roussac

President

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.