



Newport Residents Association Inc.

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Mr Dick Persson
Administrator
Northern Beaches Council
725 Pittwater Rd
Dee Why NSW 2099

Dear Mr Persson,

Changes in Access and Usage of Community Noticeboards

For decades, Pittwater community groups have had access to a number of council erected noticeboards in our villages. The groups, registered with council, were issued with a key, so we might post our relevant group notices for the wider community to read. (For the NRA, this has been a monthly notice of meeting plus occasional notices for Newport community events on one of the pair of boards adjacent to the beach park entry.)

The system has worked perfectly for decades, with completely affable community cooperation in their usage. If we have any recent complaint, it is that they have become less community noticeboards and much more boards for Council notices, often leaving little room for community generated notices.

Recently the NBC upgraded this pair of noticeboards, with new locks requiring new keys. When we enquired about regaining access, we were instructed we should send our notices to: "*Reference & eResources Librarian, Mon, Wed, & Fri*" at the Mona Vale Library.

This change is a most disappointing and time wasting increase in complexity and bureaucracy (indeed, possibly censorship) under the NB Council compared to the community-friendly system, which operated so well under Pittwater Council. We would ask that the system revert to direct community access by registered community groups (plus, if Council wishes, the method outlined for any other non-registered parties).

As there are two adjacent, separately locked, noticeboards, perhaps we could suggest that one be renamed an NBC noticeboard and the other remain a Community noticeboard, so that there is always space for community-generated notices, with keys again distributed to the appropriate legitimate community groups.

We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely

Wendy Dunnet,
Hon. Secretary