



Newport Residents Association Inc.

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www.newport.org.au

24th April 2017

General Manager
Northern Beaches Council
PO Box 882
MONA VALE 1660

Pedestrian Safety in Newport Shopping Centre

Dear Sir,

A recent development of numerous apartments at the rear of 359 Barrenjoey Road Newport has resulted in a blind driveway that crosses the shopping area pathway when approaching the driveway from the north. The shop front at 359 Barrenjoey Road (currently leased by the local newsagent) was developed long before the Newport Masterplan was adopted which would have seen adequate setbacks created to avoid such an issue. The approach from the south is besides buildings which have adequate setbacks and so visibility and safety is not a problem.

One of our members who rides a mobility scooter was nearly involved with a potentially major accident whilst riding his scooter southwards in the Barrenjoey Road shopping centre at the aforementioned location when a car, with no warning, exited from the blind driveway and crossed the footpath.

For the safety of pedestrians we believe there should be a warning light and buzzer installed at the driveway which would give pedestrians a warning that a car was about to exit from the blind driveway across the footpath.

We would appreciate council investigating this matter and working with the owner to install adequate safety measures the same or similar to our above suggestions.

We attach a copy of a letter sent to council by the affected resident Mr. Warwick Kitt explaining in detail the incident in question.

Thank you,

Yours sincerely,

Gavin Butler
President

7 Melaleuca Street,
Newport NSW 2106
18th April 2017
Phone No: 02 9999 1568

E-mail:

Mr Mark Ferguson
The General Manager
Northern Beaches Council
PO Box 882,
Mona Vale NSW 1660

Re: Pedestrian Concerns at Newport Shopping Area.

Dear Mr Ferguson

I am writing in regard to a potential danger to pedestrian traffic using the footpath near the Newsagents shop in Newport. On November 10 last I was riding my mobility cart along the footpath travelling south (at walking pace) outside the newsagency at 359 Barrenjoey Road, Newport. Adjacent to the newsagency is a driveway used to access the apartments at the rear of 359 Barrenjoey Road. As I approached the driveway a car was coming out of the driveway slowly, to exit the building at the rear. The car could not see me at all and the driver was slow to brake. I had to take evasive action to avoid being knocked or hit by the car. In fact a man standing nearby could see what was happening and got such a shock he dropped his mobile phone on the ground.

The problem is that the building at 359 Barrenjoey Road comes right to the edge of the footpath and cars exiting the driveway cannot see pedestrians walking and likewise pedestrians walking in a southerly direction cannot see a car exiting the driveway. If one is walking in a northerly direction there is no problem as the building at 355/357 Barrenjoey Road is set back and good visibility is in place.

Since the incident on November 10 I have twice spoken to the landlord of the building at 359 Barrenjoey Road who is also responsible for the driveway and asked him to take some remedial steps such as putting a "Stop" and "Sound Horn" painted sign on the driveway and the same sign on the wall of the building. I thought these steps would at least alert pedestrian traffic when a car is exiting the driveway. To this date the landlord has not taken any visible remedial steps to try and avoid another "near miss". I also know of another person who had a similar "near miss" experience to me.

I would like to request that an appropriate Council staff member visit the site and recommend what remedial steps should be put in place. I am happy to be on site when the Council Officer is there to explain what happened in my case. In my view it may be necessary to request the landlord install the flashing red light attached to the building that

alerts pedestrians when a car is exiting the driveway just as is done in the City of Sydney on busy streets like George and Pitt Streets.

I look forward to hearing about what the Council considers as appropriate steps that should be taken to avoid another "near miss" or a worse still, a serious injury.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Warwick Kitt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a distinct loop at the end of the last name.

Warwick Kitt