



Newport Residents Association Inc.

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23rd August 2021

Director Planning & Place Louise Kerr
Northern Beaches Council
PO Box 82,
Manly NSW 1655

Dear Louise,

Robertson Rd, Newport

Thank you and Andrew Pigott for giving Simon Barlow and myself an update last Wednesday 18th August 2021 as a follow-up to our community meeting on the 28th July 2021.

With regard to the update re your discussions with the representatives of the current DA for 351 & 353 Barrenjoey Road you mentioned as I recall the following;

- Agreed to move waste collection to Barrenjoey Rd
- Willing to reduce car park to one level with one car per resident tenancy
- Prepared to adjust car park so that in the future if they were able to get access to Foamcrest Ave. via the Auspost site they would close the Robertson Rd access (and convert to a shop) and then put through the access to Foamcrest Ave.

Re the first dot point, we see this as logical.

Re the second dot point, the question is what is the trade-off? If it is to retain the vehicle entrance at the same location as envisaged in the DA then there is no benefit to the community. Also with the knowledge that a reduction in car spaces does not necessarily mean that there will be a reduction of cars, where will those cars park?

Re the third dot point this gives us some major concerns for the following reasons;

1. There was no discussion about where the entrance on Robertson Rd was to be and we assume they still want to have it at the location noted on their DA. This location we would find unacceptable.
2. The DA vehicle entrance location is still directly opposite where the Newport Masterplan has designated for a plaza and arcade and therefore completely inappropriate.
3. With this location Robertson Road would still be unable to be closed for special events (and future permanent pedestrianisation).

4. We would be concerned that the 'future' would never come and with the knowledge of the common practice of developers allowing their development companies to go into liquidation it would be unlikely that the body corporate of 351 Barrenjoey Rd would then be willing to pursue the cost involved in making the vehicle entrance change.

We understand that the developer has chosen the current planned vehicle entrance location for practical topography reasons (and presumably cost), however we do not see that as a reason to destroy Robertson Roads future.

We acknowledge that an alternative location entrance from Barrenjoey Road has a number of difficulties with the proximity of the traffic lights and pedestrian crossing (without some strategic thinking). Therefore we believe unless a solution can be found to obtain an entrance from Foamcrest Ave (via the Auspost site or the adjoining church site) we are only left with an entrance from Robertson Rd as close as possible to Barrenjoey Road if this development was allowed to go ahead. We also acknowledge that you are still pursuing a discussion with Auspost at the appropriate level as to their plans for the future and were going to try and make contact with the church.

We also discussed amending the Masterplan (which you felt was unnecessary). We felt strongly that council should consider appointing an urban designer to create a plan to move forward with the Masterplan's vision and create an urban, retail heart for Newport. You indicated that you did not see that as your role. This leaves the community without a solution leader/driver and the community and NBC being reactive not proactive to future DA's which in turn will become very costly, the cost probably greater than the cost of an urban designer.

To summarise, we appreciate your updates but remain very concerned that our chance to pursue the evolution of Robertson Rd Newport for the community maybe lost very quickly.

Yours sincerely



Gavin Butler
President

Cc Mayor Michael Regan,
Chief Executive Officer Ray Brownlee