# Newport Residents Association Inc.

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| Members present: | As per attendance sheet |
| Acting Chair & Vice President | Gavin Butler |
| Secretary: | Doug Cohen |
| Committee members: | Sue Young, P Middleton, Kyle Hill, |

**Council Representative:** Andrew Johnson, Northern Beaches Council Community Liaison Officer. **State Representative** Irene McBride from Jacqui Scruby's office.

Apologies: Glenn Moore (President), Wendy Dunnet, Sandy Tall

**1. Previous Minutes and Treasurer's Report**

The previous ordinary meeting minutes, dated 8 August 2026, were

Moved: Ron Seldon: Seconded:Peter Middleton

The Treasurer reported a current balance of approximately $1,125. Expenses included website hosting and the annual associations return.

Council hire charges have been paid through to the end of December.

Moved: Kyle Hill Seconded: Peter Middleton

**2. Newport Village Revitalisation**

**Newport Village Revitalisation and Community Improvement Districts (CIDs)**

The Association discussed opportunities to revitalise Newport Village, address vacant shops and encourage greater commercial activity.

A Community Improvement District could bring local businesses and property owners together to develop improvements, potentially supported by NSW Government grants.

Possible initiatives include:

- Streetscape improvements and landscaping.
- Beautification projects.
- Community events and activities.
- Business precinct activation.
- Initiatives similar to the Deep North Festival in Avalon.

Glenn had circulated information about the proposal through Mailchimp.

Members are encouraged to support the petition promoted by state MP Jackie Scruby and to pursue further information about the CID program.

**Newport bus zones**

Members revisited concerns about the length and location of bus zones in Newport Village and their impact on parking and commercial activity.

The discussion noted that the arrangements are influenced by state transport requirements, including the need to accommodate articulated buses. The matter has been considered previously.

Further consideration would require a developed proposal supported by new information.

**3. Newport Masterplan and Planning Controls**

The Association continues to advocate for the Newport Village Commercial Centre Masterplan to be formally included as an appendix or standalone document within the new Development Control Plan (DCP).

Although Council has incorporated many Masterplan controls into the new DCP, members are concerned that the broader vision for Newport Village's character and future development may not be adequately preserved.

Councillor Miranda Korzy has advised that councillors will receive a briefing and that she will advocate for the Masterplan's inclusion.

**Next step:** The Association will follow up with Council after the briefing.

Members also discussed concerns about development outcomes in Newport and the potential impact of larger-scale development proposals in Mona Vale. Members interested in opposing inappropriate development were encouraged to support the SOS Mona Vale community campaign.

**4. Robertson Road — Construction and Parking Concerns**

The Association discussed concerns raised by local business operators regarding construction at 351 Robertson Road.

Reported issues include:

- Drilling and construction debris landing on the adjoining business premises.
- Potential damage to roofing and air-conditioning equipment.
- Disruption to business operations.
- Construction-related vehicles occupying limited customer parking spaces.

The Association will seek Council's assistance in investigating the reported impacts and clarifying the applicable development consent and parking requirements.

Members emphasised the importance of supporting Robertson Road and adjoining businesses during the construction period.

## 5. Newport Shared Pathway Officially Opened

The Newport shared pathway was officially opened on 13 October.

Association representatives attended the opening and Mayor Sue Heins acknowledged the significant work undertaken by the Newport Residents Association over approximately six or seven years to help secure the project.

The pathway improves walking and cycling access towards the Serpentine and Bilgola Beach and provides new views of Newport Beach.

The longer-term ambition remains a connected shared pathway extending through Bilgola towards Avalon. Further sections face planning and construction challenges.

Some minor outstanding works and defects remain.

**Handrail concerns:** A member raised concerns about the installed handrails, including interrupted hand grip, potentially sharp edges and possible non-compliance with the relevant Australian Standard. The concerns will be referred to Council for technical assessment.

## 6. Council Code of Meeting Practice

Andrew Johnson updated members on changes to Northern Beaches Council's public participation arrangements.

From October, the public forum and community engagement forum are scheduled to take place on the same evening as the ordinary Council meeting.

The arrangements described were:

- **5.00 pm:** Public forum, approximately 40 minutes.
- **Following this:** Community engagement forum, approximately 20 minutes.
- **6.30 pm:** Ordinary Council meeting.

The public forum allows residents to address items on the Council business paper. The community engagement forum allows residents to raise other Council-related matters.

Members welcomed the return to same-evening forums, which may improve councillor attendance and public participation.

Residents wishing to speak must register, and speaking opportunities are limited.

## 7. Environmental Protection — Proposed Wildlife Corridor

The meeting was advised that Pittwater Community Alliance (PCA) received an update from the Pittwater Natural Heritage Association concerning a proposed wildlife corridor linking Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, Katandra Bushland Sanctuary and Ingleside Chase Reserve.

The proposal aims to protect important bushland connections, threatened species and biodiversity.

A Council report was expected on 20 October 2026 to consider further steps towards protecting the land, including potential Council ownership and appropriate environmental safeguards.

**Next step:** PCA intends to write to Councillors requesting their support for Councillor Korzy's motion the long-term protection of the corridor when voting on the 20th October 2026.

**8. Local Roads, Traffic and Pedestrian Safety**

Members raised several local safety concerns with Council's representative.

**Road maintenance**

- Faded traffic-island markings that are difficult to see at night or in wet weather.
- Potholes and deteriorating road surfaces on local streets, including uphill sections around Newport.
- The need for better reporting and prioritisation of hazards.

**Pedestrian safety**

Concerns were raised about visibility and pedestrian safety near the Bishop Street and Gladstone Street intersection, particularly where children travel quickly along footpaths.

The concerns will be referred to the appropriate Council officers for consideration.

**Lower speed limits**

Council outlined the progressive introduction of lower speed limits in selected residential and village precincts. Depending on local conditions, limits may be reduced from 50 km/h to 40 km/h or 30 km/h, supported by traffic-calming measures.

Residents should check posted signs as new arrangements take effect.

**9. Newport Shops and Illegal Tobacco Sales**

Members discussed vacant shops and suspected illegal tobacco retailers in Newport Village.

Irene, from Jackie Scruby's office, encouraged residents to report suspected illegal tobacco sales through the appropriate NSW Government Health reporting channels.

Photographs and video footage can assist investigations where safely obtained. Residents experiencing repeated unresolved issues were encouraged to contact the state MP's office for assistance.

**10. Other Business**

Reinstatement of Pittwater Council: Members were advised that a further proposal had been submitted to the NSW Office of Local Government. A response from the responsible Minister is awaited, after which a business case is expected to be made available online.

Further details will be provided when available.

**KEY ACTIONS ARISING**

1. **Newport Masterplan:** Follow up with Council regarding formal inclusion of the Masterplan in the DCP.
2. **Robertson Road:** Refer construction debris, potential property damage and parking concerns to Council.
3. **Shared pathway:** Request technical assessment of the handrail concerns and outstanding defects.
4. **Community Improvement District:** Encourage members to support the petition and investigate potential NSW Government funding.
5. **Wildlife corridor:** Write to Council supporting further investigation and environmental protection.
6. **Road and pedestrian safety:** Report specific hazards and seek Council assessment.
7. **Illegal tobacco sales:** Encourage residents to report suspected unlawful activity and escalate repeated unresolved concerns.

**The meeting closed 8:00 pm following general business**

**Next meeting: Tuesday 3rd November 2026 at the Newport Community Centre at 7.00pm. All welcome.**