

High rise in West Woollahra — why does the Council persist?

SPITE widespread and continued resident opposition, Woollahra Council appears to be pushing ahead a planning scheme which would permit high rise residential development in West Woollahra.

Its latest Draft Action Plan for West Woollahra still allows for buildings above the general height limit of 9.5 metres to be erected on certain sites in the Wallis and Oxford Street area.

The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association, while generally agreeing with the Council on most points in their proposed plan, remains opposed to any such unsympathetic and intrusive development.

A specialist planning consultant retained by the Association, Mr. P. J. Devery, B.Sc., M.T.C.P., has prepared



"It was just a tentative proposal designed to elicit resident reaction — then we decided to build it!"

Public meeting on the Plan

Woollahra Municipal Council has called a Public Meeting for Wednesday, November 14, to discuss the exhibited planning scheme for West Woollahra.

This will be held at the Council Chambers, 536 New South Head Road, at 7.30 p.m.

All local residents will have an opportunity of stating their views.

The Queen Street and West Woollahra Association still has serious reservations about the revised plan and urges all local residents to attend the public meeting to register opposition to proposal for high rise development in our area.

a report on the Council's scheme which rejects any zoning that would allow high rise buildings in this area.

Residents have also individually and collectively expressed their opposition to such development.

The Association is particularly disturbed at the "loaded" questionnaire printed by Council for distribution during the current exhibition of planning schemes which makes no provision for the person filling it in to authenticate it with his name and address.

We would like to ask the following questions of Council planners:

1. Why are the high rise proposals still being persisted with?
2. Why has the area proposed for high rise been expanded since the previous plan was exhibited?
3. Why, if there are at present **ONLY TWO FOUR-STORY BUILDINGS IN WEST WOOLLAHRA**, does the Council want to introduce more?
4. Why, in the plan for Paddington, do the Council planners lament the introduction of high rise buildings by the City Council while proposing similar

activity in an area that is architecturally and socially almost identical?

The president of the Queen Street Association, Mr Robin Brampton, said "The scheme drawn up by the Council is generally sympathetic to the needs of the area and its residents, with a welcome emphasis on the conservation of existing buildings.

"It is therefore both puzzling and disappointing that the Council should persist in riding roughshod over local opinion in seeking to provide pockets of development which would be out of scale with the rest of the area.

"When the Council's first draft scheme allowing for this was published last year, there was immediate opposition not only from our Association but from a group of local residents acting quite independently.

"In the face of this, the Council accused us of 'over-reacting' and kept assuring us that the proposals were only tentative and were merely drawn up to elicit resident reaction.

"If the Council was sincere, when the opposition was so bitter — why haven't the 'tentative' proposals been withdrawn?"

Questionnaire on high rise is despicable

by Tom Wilhelm

ALMOST two years ago the Council's plans for West Woollahra were unveiled.

At a "public" meeting, the Council came under criticism for not publicising it better. The turnout was paltry.

The Mayor stated that they had made announcements of the meeting and were glad to have our opinions of the "preliminary" plans.

They got them. We were seriously opposed to high rise zoning in West Woollahra.

Now almost two years later we see the same plans for high rise zoning on display in the Council offices. (How many of you knew they were on display?).

A questionnaire, the results of which are apparently to be used for planning purposes, accompanies the display.

The questionnaire, its method of distribution (if you can call it that) and its very existence are despicable.

The questionnaire asks us to state our interest in the area — ie resident, businessman or owner of a commercial property, but no names!

And then it gives us some options to choose from, only one of which does not involve large scale development of one sort or another.

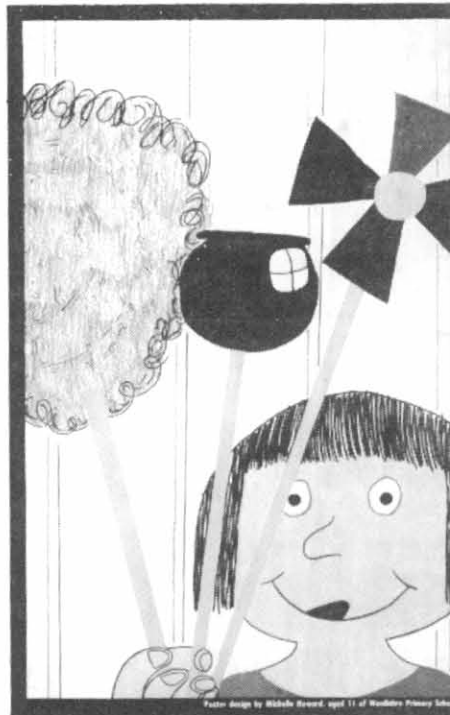
That our ward aldermen would allow these plans to go on display once again with high rise zoning proposed and would allow a questionnaire to be "circulated" for planning purposes in this manner is unthinkable.

Our aldermen apparently do not realise that West Woollahra does not need "redevelopment" but rather protection from developers.

In fact they should protect us from our town planners. High rise zoning is not needed in West Woollahra.

Carol Concert

The Association is planning a Concert of Christmas Carols and Music in Queen Street Galleries, 38 Queen Street, on Thursday, December 20, at 7 p.m. Admission will be free, including a glass of champagne and fruit cake to help us celebrate Christmas. Further notices will be published nearer the date.



Poster design by Michelle Howard, aged 11 of Woollahra Primary School

Kids... bring your Mum and Dad to QUEEN STREET FAIR

(Specially celebrating the Year of the Child)

Saturday, November 24th
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Browse and munch your way along hundreds of stalls selling unusual gifts and nice things to eat and drink

Have a go on the super rides and funfair games

Hear the fun bands and entertainers playing all day, including Lufthansa's famous German Band. And it's free

In Queen Street, Woollahra, from Oxford Street to Ocean Street

(NOTE: Queen Street will be closed to traffic for this stupendous event!)

IT'S FUN IT'S GREAT

Child designs Fair poster

This year's Queen Street Fair will be held on Saturday, November 24 — and the theme will be "Children", to mark the fact that this is The Year of the Child.

Among the entertainment will be a Children's Jazz Band and the Band of Woollahra School.

The design for this year's poster, illustrated above, was drawn by Michelle Howard, an 11-year-old pupil of Woollahra Primary School, who received a \$50 prize from the Association.

Through the cooperation of the principal

New pavement in Queen Street

IN THE past two weeks, the pavement outside the shops in Queen Street, between Holdsworth and Moncur Streets, has been relaid with the distinctive charcoal Cobblestone treatment.

The Association had a lot of influence in securing the use of this treatment, strongly opposing Woollahra Council's original intention of using a scheme combining concrete panels with brick infill.

We considered that the use of two different elements in the treatment would create too "fussy" an appearance in association with a streetscape which is already characterised by variety.

The Association is very satisfied with the use of "Cobblestones" instead; congratulates the Council on the speed with which the work has been put in hand; and hopes soon to see it extend right up Queen Street.

and staff, the Association arranged a poster design competition which drew a very high standard of entries.

This year's Fair will be as big, colourful and bustling as ever, with about 25 per cent of entirely new stallholders to introduce the sort of originality which is a special feature of the event.

As usual there will be continuous entertainment from two bandstands, funfair rides, and plenty to eat and drink.

We hope you enjoy it.

THE QUEEN STREET AND WEST WOOLLAHRA ASSOCIATION

A residents' action association covering the area bounded by Jersey Road, Edgecliff Road and Oxford Street, West Woollahra, N.S.W. Affiliated to the National Trust.

Address: Box 16, P.O. Woollahra, N.S.W. 2025.

Subscription: \$3 a year. Life membership \$25.

Patron: Joan Sutherland

President: Robin Brampton

Vice-President: Leo Schofield

Secretary: Julia Brampton

Treasurer: Tom Wilhelm

Committee: Len Brandt, Douglas Gordon, Mollie Lenthall, Pixie Nolan, Norman Prescott, Grant Roberts

Chairman of the Architectural Committee: Douglas Gordon

Village Voice is published approximately every three months. Letters and other contributions on local topics are invited. The editor is Robin Brampton (357-1488 day, 32-4475 evening and weekends).