

NEWSLETTER #3 - 2022

Events

"GLOW Social Dinner 16th July" - members and friends enjoyed a fun get together at The Albion. Thanks to the following local businesses for their donations for the lucky door prize and raffles -The Albion Hotel - Foodworks - The Bottle-O Wickham - Wickham Street Studio - One Tribe Health & Fitness



Update on 41-47 Throsby Street development

An area at the western end of Throsby Street last year had its maximum height increased from 13 metres to 24 metres, with a requirement to provide community incentives in order to gain the maximum height. The change adopted by Newcastle Council on July 26 reduces part of the site from 24 metres to 14 metres, to create a gradual rise from the village end. It comes after a planning proposal to raise the building height limit for a proposed development at 41-47 Throsby Street, which sits on the land in question, in exchange for a laneway was approved by the council in April. Residents argued the laneway provided no community incentive, and only benefited the developer. The height limit under the planning proposal was increased from 10 to 14 metres on the end closest to the Wickham village and 28 metres on the western side.

Ward one councillor John Mackenzie said while he voted against the planning proposal, he believed supporting the masterplan would provide consistency with what's already been approved. Fellow ward one councillor John Church said the community had consistently told him it "doesn't want a tall building on this site". "Multiple submissions have been received, more than 50, saying that that's not what they're after," he said. "It's concerning that we seem to have been doing a lot of specific planning work to give this developer on this site what he's after. It seems like the DCP amendments, special planning agreements, and now an amendment to the master plan is all very site-specific." Lord Mayor Nuatali Nelmes acknowledged it had not been an ideal process, but said staff, ward one councillors and the community had met many times throughout to try and get a positive outcome.

Wickham Public Domain Plan

On 18th August GLOW had our first meeting with City of Newcastle staff and their consultant Mott MacDonald on the Wickham Public Domain Plan. GLOW was expecting to see some preliminary designs however, the consultant was only at a very early stage in the design process having only assessed all the information provided by CN. They walked the streets and engaged with a few stakeholders to get ideas from GLOW but more input is needed from everyone living in the area. Some ideas include Wickham having its own sense of place distinct from the CBD, keeping sandstone kerbing, seating, gardens, trees, street lighting, street network and traffic flow. GLOW intends to write to CN and the consultant Mott MacDonald with our collective ideas.

GLOW welcomes your points of interest and input for future Newsletters. Email info@glow.org.au
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