

GreenWay Community Forum

Monday 13 April 2026

Petersham Service Centre L3 Function Room (Ngara)

Meeting Minutes

Meeting commenced at 5.38pm and concluded at 7.23pm

1. Present

Community members	Councillors	Council staff
Alex Lofts	Clr Liz Atkins	Magda Jansen (GW Engagement Officer)
Bronwyn Holland	Clr Andrew Blake	
Bruce Ashley		
Colin Jones		
Suzy Carter		
Jo Blackman		
Nick Chapman		Other/observers:
Jennifer Kent		Terry Freshwater
Mary Osborn		

2. Acknowledgment of Country

AL provided an Acknowledgment of Country

3. Welcome and housekeeping from the Chair

4. Apologies

Ken Welsh (IWC), Aleksandar Spasenovski (IWC), Tealia Scott (IWC)

5. Quorum (minimum 7 members)

Quorum reached

6. Minutes from last meeting

Moved by JB, seconded by JK, carried AL

Business arising: NIL

Items to track:

JK: Maintenance and budget for maintenance

7. Officer updates and reports

Name(s)	Item	Comments/questions
NIL		

8. Items from Forum members

Name(s)	Item	
Alex Lofts	3.2 The forum and the future: 3.2.1 Governance officers and the Forum position paper 3.2.2 Frank retrospective and reflection/	AL: IWC Governance team is discussing Terms of Reference, no further updates about the future of the Forum. Always trying to keep image of Forum very positive. The Forum may sit within the Community Directorate in the future. Mayor has reached out to AL to have meeting about future GW budget and future of Forum. Meeting has not happened yet. Need to move forward in non-partisan way.

Name(s)	Item	
	<p>achievements</p> <p>disappointments</p> <p>3.2.3 Relationship and communications with Council officers</p> <p>3.2.4 Options</p> <p>3.2.5 Report to Council</p>	<p>As Chair, I'll have to write a final report of our achievements. Please send appraisals of past performance to AL, in confidence.</p> <p>Overall, GW is successful. Vision of the GW has been delivered for a large part. We are still the 'eyes on the GreenWay', and the public has now also taken on this function. What is our vision for the GW, how can we contribute and be seen as an asset to Council?</p> <p>AL proposes to have another separate meeting to discuss vision and how to communicate.</p> <p>MO: going forward, we could benefit from having input from other groups, for example the history society. We can also use the IWC Biodiversity Strategy for the future.</p> <p>BA: not usually approached by Council officers for my opinion</p> <p>JK: concerns about signage gap from Jack Shanahan to Cooks River, from IWC to CBC. MJ: this is being addresses by IWC, plan is in development.</p> <p>NC: we used to have Council Officer attendance, but not anymore. Do we need vision for GW or vision for Forum? AL: both, our vision for the GW, and the Forum's purpose for the future. For example, how do we connect to the community?</p> <p>NC: Difference between position paper and the report mentioned? AL: there are some similarities, but different. Will do final report, as part of the Terms of Reference.</p> <p>SC: Bones Café to Lilyfield Bridge area along the GW is part of Masterplan, but nothing has yet been done. This is still part of our future.</p>

Name(s)	Item	
		<p>BH: Forum is more than PR function; it is also about listing and hearing and creating feelings of ownership for community. AL: we have done a lot of this and what is there still to do? E.g. history tours, art tours, 'Weed Free by 33'.</p>
<p>Suzy Carter</p>	<p>5.1.1 Meeting with living Arts team and the GreenWay Art Exhibition</p>	<p>SC: had a meeting with Living Arts team about GreenWay ArtPrize with Michael Daly for 2026. Potentially doing it the same as last year (same venue). No funding allocated, but Michael Daly was interested.</p> <p>JK: can we focus on community involvement, rather than prize money? Lots of GW users take photos. How can we get people involved? This creates more 'ownership' as well.</p> <p>AL: holding the event as last year was put forward as something that could be built upon.</p> <p>AL: suggestion was made to run GW Art Prize every other year and in a cooler time of year. Michael Daly suggested March 2027.</p> <p>Clr LA: budget for next year is discussed in next week's council meeting agenda, this will then go on exhibition. Suggest submitting comment about GreenWay Art Prize to have this noted in budget for next year.</p> <p>SC: Lords Rd mural is set for decommission. Agreement that it needs to be resolved quickly now.</p> <p>NC/SC: is there a public art/mural policy? Clr LA: not aware of one</p> <p>AL: Michael Daly will get back to us</p>
<p>Bruce Ashley</p>	<p>5.2.1 A new methodology needed for future decision making and management of the GreenWay - takes into account community, expert and elected representative views? The</p>	<p>5.2.1</p> <p>BA: we need one entity in Council to have ownership of the GW, not various teams or directorates. Can the community be involved? Positive public response to GW, and continuous community engagement needed. One GW overview/entity is needed. Could be a GW working group with Council officers, volunteers and different experts. Will need to be driven by community. Can</p>

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	<p>current backwards and forwards between the Forum and IWC staff isn't working. Need a system of keeping track of issues and responding to the GreenWay as a multi-faceted vision and geographical place, not dot-points in a jumbled mix of officers list of responsibilities.</p> <p>5.2.2 Latest on Weed-free by '33, and latest re inability of IWC and contractors to effectively manage weeds post construction. Where has the GreenWay GIS got to? It could play a major part in Weed-free by '33 corridor</p> <p>5.2.3 Suggestion that the GreenWay should have a listing on the Rail Trails Australia web site now that it is open and significant parts of the trail are within an operational rail corridor.</p> <p>5.2.4 Report from Better Streets panel forum on the Greenway held at</p>	<p>even include AI utilisation. How do we go forward? Can Clrs assist in moving this forward? Still needs community involvement and coordinated vision. NC: I agree, need integrated place-based management in place, or full community stewardship, as recommended in 2010 report. Need all relevant senior Council officers to be involved. AL: I'll include this in the report.</p> <p>5.2.2 BA: State government funding could be suitable. JK: GW users see the weeds and could be encouraged to be active. BA: we need all bordering sites and landowners to work together. AL: we may need grant funding for this JB: I enquired and got a response. Will report back. BA: we need a high-level agreement and coordination with all parties, including TransDev. JB: GIS; Cooks River Alliance have a set up an interactive map. This could be an opening to pick the GW GIS back up. BA: GW maintenance company also needs to be involved.</p> <p>5.2.3 BA: can be heritage rail areas or live rail corridors. Could be suitable for GW. CJ: is very popular in other states, such as VIC and QLD/northern NSW. TF: Rail Trails attract cyclists that spend money and support local businesses. AL: Any objection to this? Do we need to work with IWC on this? BA: happy to progress this. TF can assist with a contact. MO: some concerns about encouraging more cyclist, as a walker. BA: this website also focusses on cycling safety proactively. JK: Arlington light rail stop to Johnson Park is a tricky area. JB: would like to see this go by Mayor first. AL: can we communicate this with IWC? BA: yes</p>

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	<p>Little Big House Sunday 29 March</p>	<p>BH: what happens with cycling/walking conflicts? MJ: IWC is working on improvements addressing this. Clr AC: we are also aware.</p> <p>5.2.4 BA: NC and I were panellists, as well as two Councillors. Clr LA: we are thinking about this and how to share the space. Seems that fast commuter cyclists are using the GW more responsibly. Need more education on how to share the space. And look at useful on path signs, e.g. SLOW BA: signs typefaces are too small for cyclists</p>
<p>Jo Blackman</p>	<p>5.3.1 Placement of guards around planting edges/boarders, especially around corner to stop people creating desire lines. Successfully used in Jubilee Park/Federation Park in Glebe. (I recently saw a runner dashing diagonally across Old Canterbury Road and plough straight through the plantings.)</p> <p>5.3.2 Creating of dog sand box toilets. Not as big as pictured of course. They are used extensively in London.</p> <p>5.3.3 Creation of GreenWay Maintenance Manager's position</p>	<p>5.3.1 & 5.3.2 AL: will include these in the report</p> <p>5.3.3 JB: seeing this function as an on-ground maintenance manager. AL: can also include GW mobile cycling rangers BA: this role could also lead the 'Weed Free by 33' JK: this role could liaise with the maintenance contractors BA: yes, and adopt-a-spot options and organising NC: this is focussed on maintenance and vegetation. Is urban ecology already doing this? JB: they have no budget or resources BH: Popular energy and engagement on the GW are happening every day. The value of a role like this can be being visible to users and seeing quick solutions and improvements.</p> <p>Addition JB: Waratah Mills apartment complex is applying for a grant for a mural on their property boundary wall with the GW, showing mill heritage and IWEG/bushcare work.</p>

Name(s)	Item	
Nick Chapman	<p>5.4.1 Weston Street</p> <p>5.4.2 State Government interest in Greenways and the Greengrid</p>	<p>5.4.1</p> <p>AL: maybe introduce a 'woonhof', a slow street with very few cars. It seems to have settled a bit, but some cyclists are loud. Will share some info about this by email tomorrow.</p> <p>Clr LA: there has been a Council motion. IWC is doing a lot of work on this.</p> <p>JK: the footpath is very narrow.</p> <p>AL: there could be an option to create larger shared spaces.</p> <p>BA: there could be a 30km/hr speed limit for vehicles (and bikes). Clr LA: we are doing 40km/hr, not 30km/hr.</p> <p>AL: this is ongoing, Council staff is aware and this is on Clrs's mind.</p> <p>NC: Route Options Report is appendix of GW Masterplan and details decision making around Weston Street.</p> <p>5.4.2</p> <p>NC: reporting a lot of positive discussion about the GW and stimulated by the GW. Talk about Sydney as a 'city of greenways'.</p>

9. Reports from Forum members and community groups

Name(s)	Item	Comments/questions
IWEG	IWEG update via email	

10. Other Reports

Name(s)	Item	Comments/questions
NIL		

11. Items/questions on notice

Name(s)	Item	Comments/questions
		<p>Jennifer Kent is happy to stand back from Forum and let younger generation take ownership.</p> <p>AL: ToR dictates that EOI go out to community for any new members. This would be done by IWC/independently.</p> <p>CL: would like statement on GW post implementation review</p> <p>CL: would like Dobroyd Canal shared path statement, progress on implementation of the Masterplan</p>

Date for discussion of future of GreenWay Community Forum

AL: hoping for news to come about the Forum. Should we still have this meeting?

NC & others: yes, we can book a Council community room for this

AL: send all your thoughts on the future of the Forum to me via email please

Date:

Monday 4 May 2026

Venue TBA

5.45pm – 7.15pm