

NOTES OF HERITAGE REFERENCE COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY, 21 MAY 2020 AT 1.00PM

ONLINE MEETING

- Present: Councillor J Anderson (Chairperson) (Roseville Ward)
Councillor M Smith (Deputy Chairperson) (St Ives Ward)
Melika Aljukic (Australian Institute of Architects)
Joanne Martens (Community member)
Robert Moore (National Trust)
- Staff Present: Antony Fabbro (Manager Urban and Heritage Planning)
Vanessa Holtham (Heritage Specialist Planner)
Olivia Turner (Student Heritage Planner)
- Others Present: Representatives of the owner of 6 Springdale Road, Killara, Ms E Keenan (first part of meeting):
— Patrick Wilson (Heritage Consultant of Touring the Past)
— Clare Collett (Legal representative for owner, from Mills Oakley)
— Josh Leahy (personal representative of owner)
Dr Scott Robertson of Robertson and Hindmarsh Pty Ltd (engaged by Council to undertake independent Heritage Assessment)
- Apologies: Jennifer Harvey (Ku-ring-gai Historical Society)

The Meeting commenced at 1.00 pm.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- Councillor J Anderson declared a potential non-pecuniary conflict of interest as a result of her residing next door to 6 Springdale Road, Killara for 30 years. She knew the former owners, Barry and Margaret Eastment, for this period of time, but has had no contact with them since her move from 4 Springdale Road in 2016, excepting contact regarding Barry's passing that year.

MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- Nil

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Confirmed the following:

- 4 September 2019 (File: CY00413/7 [2019/267220](#))

MINUTES OF HERITAGE REFERENCE COMMITTEE

File: CY00413/7

1. Meeting held online via Zoom due to Covid 19 Restrictions – amendment of the HRC charter is required

The committee accepted the use of online platform 'Zoom' in place of a face-to-face meeting, given the COVID-19 regulations outlined by the Office of Local Government. The need to amend the HRC charter to allow the future use of online platforms was noted and accepted, pending further clarification on the change needed to the wording of the charter.

2. Interim Heritage Order 6 Springdale Road, Killara – Eastment House Ken Woolley

The Committee was provided with all of the relevant reports and heritage assessments relating to 6 Springdale Road, Killara, which is currently the subject of an Interim Heritage Order gazetted on 31 January 2020.

The discussion of this matter began with an address to the committee by Patrick Wilson, the heritage consultant for the owners of 6 Springdale Road, Killara. Patrick Wilson read from the letter provided to the committee by the owner's legal counsel, Clare Collett, the previous day. The letter detailed issues with the initial inspection of the property (undertaken during an 'open for inspection' whilst the property was on the market) and addressed the heritage assessment report prepared by Dr Scott Robertson for council. No additional information outside of that contained in the letter was provided by Patrick Wilson during this address. Clare Collett spoke after Patrick Wilson and expressed general dissatisfaction with the process and inspection as aforementioned, as well as the lack of notification to the owner prior to the gazettal of the Interim Heritage Order.

The representatives for the owner then received questions from the committee. Councillor J Anderson asked Patrick Wilson a question regarding the historical subdivision of the property. Melika Aljukic queried what the owner's intentions were with the property, specifically regarding demolition. Robert Moore asked Patrick Wilson about his views on the social significance of the place, and the claim that the interior of the building was designed by the Eastment Building Company. The representatives from 6 Springdale Road, Killara, then exited the meeting.

Dr Scott Robertson then addressed the committee, providing an overview of his report as well as responding to the comments made by Patrick Wilson on Dr Robertson's report. Dr Scott Robertson reiterated his familiarity with Woolley's work, having interviewed Mr Woolley and been engaged to design modifications to some of his projects. He emphasized the indivisible link between the interior and exterior architecture of this building (and buildings generally), explaining that the spaces and volumes were designed by Woolley, with soft furnishings and fittings being the work of the Eastments. Councillor J Anderson noted that she may have access to additional historical information on the subdivision of the property which she could provide to Dr Robertson.

The committee then discussed the heritage significance of the building. All members expressed that they felt the property was worthy of local listing. Robert Moore, who was involved in the original 1989 Heritage Study in Ku-ring-gai, noted that heritage listing is an ongoing and constantly changing process, and that the original study did miss potentially significant properties.

The committee produced the following motion:

That this committee supports the local heritage listing of 6 Springdale Road, Killara.

It was unanimously carried.

3. Update on Roseville Station Transport Access Upgrade

An update on the Roseville Station Transport Access Upgrades was provided to the committee. The changes from the original design, which involved a new footbridge, to the current design, involving retention of the footbridge, were highlighted. It was noted that further design details were still pending.

4. Heritage Conservation Area exemption to SEPP5 Seniors Living

The committee was informed of Council's desire to seek a permanent exemption to the Seniors Living State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP5) in all of its Heritage Conservation Areas. A temporary moratorium on such development came into place in February 2019 and is due to expire on 1 July 2020. The committee expressed support of this action.

5. Update on Heritage Grant Program

The committee was informed that the annual Heritage Home Grants Program had been opened in April and that applications were being accepted until the 31 May 2020. The increased budget from 2019 was noted, with a new funding pool of \$50,000 for 2020.

6. General Business

The comments provided by Melika Aljukic from the Australian Institute of Architects on the Ku-ring-gai Heritage Strategy (raised in a previous meeting) were noted.

The meeting closed at 3.30 pm.

The next meeting is tbc.