

THE GLEBE SOCIETY - ACTION PLAN, 2011-2012 - Final

Endorsed at Management Committee Meeting – 14 December 2011

Motion: *That the revised Action Plan and any further suggested amendments be endorsed by the Management Committee as the Society's Action Plan for 2011-2012. Agreed*

Motion: *That the individuals and groups named as responsible for aspects of the Action Plan be asked to proceed to implement the Plan and where appropriate to indicate to the Management Committee by February 1 2012 any support they might need to successfully carry out the activities. Agreed*

PART A

Record our Heritage

| Action | Who will Lead | Timeframe |
|---|---|---------------|
| Continue research that will lead to addition of items to the heritage register | Heritage Sub-Ctee | ongoing |
| Conduct at least two heritage themed events. | Heritage Sub-Ctee | December 2012 |
| Develop consistent records relating to history and heritage for gradual incorporation onto the website | Heritage Sub-Ctee | December 2012 |
| Ensure that current projects including the Plaques; History of TGSI; Glebe Walks; and Eglinton Road projects are adequately supported to progress the work. | Heritage Sub-Ctee; MgtCtee; Project Leaders | December 2012 |
| Liaise with bodies such as RAHS and Dictionary of Sydney | Heritage Sub-Ctee | On-going |
| Anticipate forthcoming events of special significance to Glebe such as Anzac Centenary | Heritage Sub-Ctee | 2012+ |

Planning and Development

See Part B

Bays and Foreshores

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| Monitor and take appropriate action on bays and foreshores issues and work with BCC regarding Blackwattle Bay. | Bays and Foreshores Sub-Ctee | On-going |
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Traffic and Transport Strategy

| Action | Who Will lead | Timeframe |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Extend membership of the Transport and Traffic sub-committee | Management Ctee with the Convenor | 2012 |
| Monitor traffic impact of major developments such as Harold Park | Traffic and Transport Sub-Ctee | On-going |
| Liaise with City and state bodies to ensure that TGSI has opportunities to influence | Traffic and Transport Sub-Ctee | On-going |

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|--------------|--|--|
| developments | | |
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Environment and Sustainability

| Action | Who Will lead | Timeframe |
|--|----------------------|------------------|
| Support strategies to extend and consolidate habitat that increase the biodiversity of native flora and fauna, especially small birds through collaboration with Council, community consultation and targeted planting | Environment Sub-Ctee | On-going |
| Continue advocacy for community gardens | Environment Sub-Ctee | On-going |
| Monitor implementation of Foley Park renovations | Environment Sub-Ctee | On-going |

Community Development

| Action | Who Will lead | Timeframe |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Identify strategies for providing practical assistance to local groups in particular GPS; GPS; GCAG: FLAG; and Centipede | Community Dev't contact | On-going |
| Provide support in kind with(funding where feasible) for community based activities including fairs, the Music Festival; Wentworth Park Games and one-off events | MgtCtee; Community Dev't contact | On-going |

Strengthening the Membership Base and Engagement

| Action | Who Will lead | Timeframe |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Continue to organize events for members focused on social and cultural aims of the Society including Glebe Voices as a regular event | Events Sub-Ctee; President | On-going |
| Prepare a discussion paper for MgtCtee based on an analysis of the membership base and proposing how the Society might increase participation in the Society (basis for a marketing plan to be prepared after input from MgtCtee) | VP | May 2012 |
| Implement an issues based program of activities targeted at areas where membership levels are lower eg Forest Lodge | VP; Management Ctee; Events Sub-ctee | Early 2012 |

Management and Oversight of the Society

| Action | Who Will lead | Timeframe |
|--|-----------------------|------------------|
| Augment membership of Sub-committees currently under strength such as Heritage; Transport and Traffic; Culture, Arts and Media and as necessary find alternative ways and groupings to achieve goals | VP Management Ctee | |
| Implement strategy that ensures the Society's | MgtCtee; Lyn | 2012 |

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|--|---------------------|---------------|
| archives are maintained and remain accessible in a secure environment into the longer term | Milton | |
| Hold discussions with Convenors/Contacts to identify progress and/or any barriers to completion of projects and regular activities including resources needed. | VP | February 2012 |
| Continue to build relationships with like groups (especially CoGG and BCC) and explore possibilities to extend the range of stakeholders eg to universities | VP; Management Ctee | |
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Conduct of Society Business

| Action | Who Will lead | Timeframe |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| Review conceptual framework of website to ensure it is organized to provide optimal access to TGSi information and documents | Website Coordinator; President | November 2011+ |
| Develop written procedures for routine aspects of business including archiving, distribution of papers, communication, maintenance of membership records | Pres, Secretary and Treasurer | 2012 |
| Develop a discussion paper on strategy for annual budgeting and allocation of resources relative to Society's goals and on-going projects as well as for administrative costs such as maintenance of financial records | Treasurer; Assistant Treasurer; | February 2011 |
| Document current policies to give a transparent guide to Society practices and general approaches | Pres; VP with assistance of MgtCtee | October 2011+ |

PART B:

PLANNING BACKGROUND

Neil Macindoe, Planning Convenor, 15 November 2011

This is a revised and updated version of the Planning Action Plan endorsed in April 2003, taking account of the passage of time and the new members on the Management Committee. The Table lists the Actions. The Background gives some history and explains how some aspects of the Objects (or Policy) listed in the Constitution are carried out by the Planning Subcommittee, for the information of Committee members who may be unfamiliar with current procedures.

Under Part 2 of The Society's Constitution, under Objects, we find two sections relating to Planning:

iii) opposing (by lawful means) development detrimental to heritage values or contrary to community interests;
and

(b) to preserve and enhance the natural and architectural character of Glebe, and to encourage sound town planning, architectural and conservation practices;

These Objects have been pursued from the Society's foundation, originally through opposition to inner-urban expressways and planning laws that allowed extensive demolition and high-rise development.

In 1974 The National Trust classified Glebe as an Urban Conservation Area, and also separately listed a number of buildings to be preserved.

In 1983 these were extended and given the force of law in a new Leichhardt Town Plan. Since then every planning instrument has been required to publish a map of the Conservation Area, and to list items that have a special significance, as Items of Environmental Heritage. This list can be examined on the City website. The ordinary controls in a planning instrument such as a Town Plan are there to control new development. What already exists is covered by the Conservation controls.

From its inception the Society created a Planning subcommittee to oversee these objects or goals of the Society. The preservation and continued survival of Glebe depends on the pursuit of these goals.

Conservation Area

A Conservation Area is one where most of the original development has been preserved. In the case of Glebe this includes, in addition to residential buildings, its shops, historic parks and public works, even its stone kerbing. Essentially it is a mid-to-late Victorian streetscape of high quality.

Under the proposed CityPlan there is an extra refinement. All buildings are labelled according to their status within the Conservation Area. Those that preserve their original characteristics are 'Contributory'. Those that do not add any conservation value are 'Neutral', and those that reduce the conservation value are 'Detracting'.

Items of Environmental Heritage

The listing of buildings or other structures as Items of Environmental Heritage within a Town Plan, gives these items the highest levels of legal protection. Any change to these items requires Council consent, and the normal expectation is that they be preserved. In Glebe these items are mostly within the Conservation Area, but some are outside, such as the Tramsheds. They are mostly buildings, but can be anything built or natural that has a special significance. The Items for each Council area are required to be listed in a schedule accompanying each town plan. The Items from the entire State are listed on a database which is accessed through the City's website – see Heritage – Heritage Database.

However there are many types of significance (a place could be associated with a particular historic person or event, for example) and because of its age and centrality

Glebe has several hundred. It is not uncommon for previously unrecognised significant places to be identified, and it is the work of the Heritage Subcommittee to identify and research these.

Because of their significance these identified Items are the most highly protected. Not only the Items themselves but any development in their vicinity has to be carefully assessed.

Wider Issues

Apart from the local town plan there are many other matters, including legislation and Government policies, that may affect planning in Glebe, and these must be monitored and commented on where necessary. Matters that are concerned with the Bays and Foreshores, which are controlled by different planning instruments and are outside the town plan, are dealt with by the Bays and Foreshores Subcommittee, which was formed for that purpose.

Interviews

From time to time a wide range of people seek information on planning issues. These can include the media, applicants and objectors, academics and students. Normally the Convenor, as the person with the greatest knowledge, handles these interviews, although if they are sufficiently general they could sometimes be dealt with by the President.

Summary

As can be seen from the above, the work of the Planning Subcommittee is continuous, extensive and complex. Every application and planning instrument is assessed for its likely impact on Glebe.

The role of the Convenor is to pull all these different elements together, and with the aid of extensive local knowledge, aided where possible by other members, to estimate what the various impacts are likely to be.

The authority to respond to applications has to be delegated to the Convenor because there are time constraints. Most do not require a response at all. However, there are occasions when a matter is sufficiently major or controversial to be brought to the full Committee. Ultimately the responsibility for Planning issues rests with the Committee, and it is essential that the more important decisions are made with their knowledge and input.

The following table lists the main actions of the Subcommittee:

| ACTION | OUTCOME | REMARKS |
|---|--|----------------|
| Review all development applications affecting Glebe and respond as appropriate. | Report actions to the Management Committee and keep members informed via the <i>Bulletin</i> . Large developments may require campaigns. | Ongoing |

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| Report on unauthorised work and breaches of conditions. | As above. | Ongoing |
| Review planning legislation and planning instruments (LEPs, DCPs) affecting Glebe and respond as appropriate. | As above. May require campaigns through contacts, resident groups, committees, media and public meetings. | Ongoing |
| Monitor operation of Townplan 2000 and proposed CityPlan 2010. | Respond to exhibitions. Respond to or generate amendments and reviews. | Ongoing |
| Liaise with appropriate Society subcommittees. | Joint activities and actions where appropriate. | Heritage, Bays and Foreshores, Environment, Traffic and Transport. |
| Establish and maintain contacts with consent authorities | As above | City of Sydney, Leichhardt Council, Department of Planning Heritage Branch |
| Establish and maintain contacts with conservation and planning groups | As above | National Trust, Burley Griffin Society, other resident groups. |