The Future of Harold Park and the Heritage Tramsheds
Statement Endorsed by a Public Meeting
Held at St Scholastica's College, Avenue Rd Glebe
6 30pm 21st April 2010

*ANNOTATED 3 February 2012 with indications of achievements since April 2010

This public meeting of Annandale, Forest Lodge and Glebe residents rejects the proposal put forward by the Government Architect's Office on 17 and 20 February, 2010, and requests a complete review of the controls for Harold Park implied in that proposal so that it includes the following objectives and related planning principles:

Objective One: Acceptable density and building height
Planning principles
1. Limit building to the height of the cliff face at any point, or, in the case of the perimeter, to the height of adjacent buildings (excluding the height of the cliff in the Crescent). NOT ACHIEVED

2. Reserve at least 35% of the site as publicly owned, formally dedicated Public Open Space managed by the City of Sydney Council. (The Tramsheds are not part of this 35%) ACHIEVED

3. Limit population density to what can be accommodated by building to the reduced height on the remaining 65% of the site. NOT ACHIEVED

Objective two: Environmentally sustainable, high-quality design
Planning Principles
4. Make all development, including the renovated Tramsheds, sustainable and energy efficient, and protect privacy, views and amenity. COMMITMENTS ACHIEVED

5. Build all dwellings outside the 100-year flood limit. FINAL OUTCOME NOT YET CLEAR

6. Restore the Heritage-listed Tramsheds and forecourt to include (for example) community uses, gardens and bird habitat. Any commercial/retail uses are to be small scale and in harmony with uses in Annandale and Glebe shopping strips. COMMITMENTS ACHIEVED

7. Make provision for affordable housing. ACHIEVED

8. Hold a design competition at the DA stage to ensure a creative, best practice, environmentally sustainable result. The judging panel is to include community representatives. NOT ACHIEVED

9. The Tramsheds- the heritage centrepiece of the site - are to be restored to public and community use by reimbursing the Pacing Club for money paid by them for its acquisition. PARTIALLY ACHIEVED WITH ACTIVE LOBBYING CONTINUING

Glebe is a human-scale, coherent and largely complete 19thC townscape which is listed on the Register of the National Estate and Classified as an Urban Conservation Area by the National Trust.
Objective three: Attractive, Usable Public Open Space
Planning principle

10. Design the 3.67 hectares (35% of the site) of Public Open Space to: visibly and coherently connect with other existing and proposed open space (including proposed open space on the Crescent and the Hill); be safe and secure; be sunny with minimal overshadowing, and to include active recreational areas (including an all purpose playing field). 35% ACHIEVED BUT STILL UNCLEAR ON LOCATION AND CONNECTIONS. ACTIVE LOBBYING CONTINUES

Objective four: Safe, easy access, improved connections and minimised additional traffic impact on surrounding streets
Planning principles

11. Vehicular access is to be via a reopened Canal Road and a new intersection at Minogue Crescent. Vehicular access is, under no circumstance, to be across parkland. Fully assess the wider traffic impacts, including the Wigram Road and Booth Street intersection in Annandale. PARTIALLY ACHIEVED

12. Improve connections with surrounding areas. OUTCOME NOT YET CLEAR

13. Encourage easy access for pedestrians and cyclists. BEING MONITORED

14. Provide adequate and appropriately located onsite parking, (including for bicycles) for residents and visitors to the site. Do not issue street parking permits to residents of the site. BEING MONITORED

15. Upgrade public transport, including access to light rail, and establish integrated ticketing. BEING MONITORED

This resolution (in slightly different earlier versions) was also discussed at a special meeting of Glebe Society members at Benledi House on 8th April and at a public meeting at Forest Lodge Public School called by The Greens on 12th April. It was unanimously supported at these meetings involving around 400 members of the Glebe, Forest Lodge and Annandale communities.

Glebe Society position at FEBRUARY 3 2012

The Society continues to provide input to the Council and to liaise with the community and other groups who share our goals in relation to Harold Park. The most recent formal input to the process was a Supplementary Submission to Council of City of Sydney on October 14 2011 following the receipt by Council of the DAs. Our Submission highlighted three additional points to be taken into account when the DAs are being formally considered by the Council and CSPC:

- The building height issue continues to be a great concern to the community
- Clarification on commercial activities at the Tramsheds is needed and the implications of these activities on volumes of traffic
- Overall impacts of traffic in general needs further exploration through release of detailed existing traffic data or an enhanced traffic study if these data are not available

The Society will next deal with the issue when the CSPC papers are made available publicly (expected to be March 2012) Check for further information, submissions and forthcoming activities in relation to Harold Park on http://glebesociety.org.au