

Planning Subcommittee Terms of Reference

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

- (a) (iii) opposing (by lawful means) development detrimental to heritage values or contrary to community interests;
- (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 of Sydney 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.

Current Issues

Through membership of the Better Planning Network the subcommittee is seeking to change or replace the planning legislation that will shortly appear before Parliament. What ever happens, the subcommittee recommends the Society continue to support BPN.

All the important decisions about the Harold Park redevelopment have been made, except for the adaptive reuse of the Tramsheds, which is currently being assessed, and the final building adjacent to the cliff whose use will be unknown until Mirvac submits a proposal.

These issues, together with the Affordable Housing Project, will continue to dominate the remainder of the year. The first building on Harold Park is nearing completion, and the subcommittee suggests a focus on the Ross Street precinct, including both existing and new residents, as an appropriate focus in the future.

Neil Macindoe.