



2030 IN YOUR VILLAGE: SUBMISSION FROM THE GLEBE SOCIETY

Members of the Glebe Society participated in the *Have Your Say* Workshop on 23 February 2012 but now wish to contribute additional information on some of our priorities for the development of the Glebe Village.

The Glebe Society has prepared the following as its first written contribution to community and Council conversations around Village 2030. It indicates strategic needs for Glebe Village and potential projects we believe will lead to meeting these.

We trust our ideas will inform the early stages of planning activities as the City of Sydney Council moves to revising the Local Area Plan for Glebe. The Glebe Society expects that in progressing to 2030 the Society and community will work with the City in implementing the necessary projects that lead towards attainment of our goals.

THE CONTEXT

The strong identifying features of Glebe for its residents and visitors are diversity, community and heritage

Our vision, and the projects we are proposing, are set against the context of a diverse community and a rich heritage that provide the warp and weft that binds Glebe. Glebe is an authentic village: the community is diverse and cohesive and has network connections which, if strengthened, will lead to increases in social inclusion, well-being, and increased sense of identity highlighted in The Grattan Institute's *Social Cities*.¹

The Heritage Council notes the connection between heritage and community and echoes *Social Cities* on social benefits. *Conserving the natural and cultural assets of the existing environment is considered a key part of planning for sustainable development. Heritage places are an irreplaceable asset – a non-renewable resource – with benefits to society, the environment and the economy. For society, heritage places represent those places most valued by communities because of their contribution to the sense of place and identity of neighbourhoods and as tangible links to Australia's past and its culture.*²

¹ www.grattan.edu.au/publications/137-social-cities.pdf accessed 29 March, 2012

² This is an extract from *Heritage Council of NSW submission to the NSW Planning System Review (28/2/2012)*.

OUR PRIORITIES

Retain and strengthen our unique heritage as a substantially intact human-scale 19th century townscape and important urban conservation area.

Projects	Rationale
Communicate heritage as culturally central, so that the community and economic benefits are properly appreciated. (e.g. heritage tourism, restoration grants, effective signs).	Communities grow robust by clarifying their identities. The economic and social benefits that flow from this are well researched and documented.
Put electricity services underground along all of GPR and create an effective boulevard.	Removal of overhead wires and careful landscaping will emphasise the lines of trees and the sense of a boulevard leading to the waterfront
Revitalise St Johns Road	St Johns Rd needs to be upgraded to take advantage of heritage aspects of the street, its commercial precinct and showcase the renovated Town Hall.
Revitalise Ross Street	Ross Street is hostile to pedestrians and businesses and needs an overall approach to managing the impact of the considerable through traffic
Develop a strategy to maintain the heritage of the Glebe Estate	The Estate is poorly maintained and heritage aspects are seriously endangered. Landlords and tenants would benefit from clear specification of duties and responsibilities.
Provide public art that celebrates the heritage and diverse community of Glebe Village.	Glebe Village needs as many markers as possible to celebrate its diversity and unique heritage. A fundamental principle of village development is diversity so the quirky and radical nature of Glebe deserves its art just as much as its grand figures do.
Use digital media and geo-positioning to provide access to history and heritage information related to locations, drawing on websites such as Dictionary of Sydney, Glebe Walks etc.	There is currently a rich variety of web-based information on history and heritage which could be brought together to enable visitors and residents to learn about their surroundings while walking in the city and villages.

Extend support services, networks and facilities to Glebe Village community.

Provide a new improved Library, Learning and Community Centre in the Benledi/St Helens precinct whilst retaining built heritage.	With careful planning this precinct offers immense opportunity to be a learning hub for the Village. The existing facilities are worn and inadequate, but their configuration at present provides opportunities will allow creative development.
Establish a one-stop multi-level government agency shop at Glebe Town Hall.	Ready access by all members of the community to civic services is fundamental

	to the concept of Village. Currently many Glebe residents are unaware of entitlements and this leads to unnecessary hardship
Establish sound long term funding for services and help disadvantaged to help themselves, by providing services to growing children, youth, elderly and isolated and young mothers.	Glebe Village faces considerable social issues but the short term approach to funding services prevents tackling these strategically. At the very least educational and development programs for key groups should be guaranteed. Alternative funding sources such as NSW Social Impact Bonds may be necessary.
Arrange negotiation between Mirvac and a suitable Aged Care provider, such as the Benevolent Society, to include integrated housing for seniors as part of the Harold Park development.	Glebe residents show a strong preference for continuing to live in Glebe as they go through life stages yet residential facilities for independent and assisted living for the aged are very scarce.
Explore options for the development of the Harold Park tramsheds including possible community uses (eg rehab workshop, child care) and the development of a light commercial area providing facilities such as offices spaces for local businesses	The tramsheds offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to develop infrastructure to benefit the local community and specialist facilities in an area close to the light rail

Lead the way on local initiatives in sustainability: energy, water, waste reduction, biodiversity

Develop and gradually implement a coherent plan to provide biodiversity corridors that link open spaces	Glebe Village has taken steps to protect its biodiversity and this needs to be strengthened by identifying effective corridors and appropriate planning of native vegetation
Establish a branch of Sydney City Farm on the hill ('Hill Link') adjacent to the Jubilee Park light rail stop as part of the master plan for Bicentennial Park	The 'Hill Link' provides an obvious site for development of a branch of City Farm, and/or a community garden. But the site is contaminated and must be remediated.
Open up access to the Jubilee Park from the Harold Park tramsheds beside the 'Hill Link'	Easy access to the tramsheds from the light rail will open up possibilities for the development of the tramsheds while minimising traffic impacts.
Provide education and technical help in sustainability issues suited to apartment and terrace house dwellers	Most of Glebe Village's people live in terraces or apartments, which provide special challenges to sustainable living. The Council could help individual households in this regard through, for example, workshops at local libraries.
Partner UTS Institute of Sustainable Futures with energy efficiency initiatives appropriate to Glebe Village	UTS can jointly developed projects with the Glebe Society and City.

Improve and extend public transport, encourage walking and cycling and minimise traffic on our streets.

Ensure completion of foreshore walkway to the City and beyond.	Rozelle and Blackwattle Bays are part of Glebe Village and the foreshore walk which traverses part of it must be completed.
Identify walkways and cycling ways to the hubs of other villages (e.g. to CBD, Newtown, Kings Cross), cultural and educational institutes.	People will walk and cycle when safe routes are developed, and clearly identified. Some engineering ingenuity may be needed to traverse major streets.
Identify and clarify routes such as found in the Eora project.	The Glebe Society, has developed a Glebe Walks website. A network of walks, such as these, connected by apps, will encourage walking and make roads safer.
Examine use of lanes as safe routes for bikes and clarify and identify these as second-level cycle paths.	Glebe is generally not a safe place to cycle; but the experienced cyclist knows safe runs. If we can identify these, link them to safe main street intersections/crossings then more will ride.
In collaboration with universities and TAFE identify safe pedestrian and cycle routes to and from the educational precincts.	Education is a major occupation for residents in Glebe
Provide shuttle buses to run between tramways, bus-ways, ferries, Glebe Town Hall, aged services facilities community centres, library and learning centre.	Glebe Village has a high proportion of aged, socially disadvantaged and disabled people who need accessible, fair priced transport within the village.
Provide an all-weather lift and some accessible means of getting to GPR from Glebe tram stop.	The Glebe Tram Stop is located at the bottom of a precipitous hill. It is not of the faint hearted to trudge up it as older residents and tourists attest.
Provide a ferry service that links Glebe with CBD, Balmain and North Sydney.	Such a ferry service will increase tourist access, decrease overcrowding on buses and get cars off the road.

Enhance the community and economic values of the bays and foreshores that link the village to its neighbours.

Extend Wentworth Park to the water.	Wentworth Park is one of Sydney's most historically significant parks. Currently a major street separates it and its users from the waterways, foreshore walk and Fishmarkets.
Ensure that developments of bays and foreshores comply with the statement of principles agreed in the Bays Precinct community consultations.	This will ensure that public good, not private benefit, is the overriding driver for future planning decisions for the Bays Precinct and will establish an integrated strategic plan for the whole Precinct incorporating a long term (c20 years) vision.

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