



Brooklyn Village Alliance

The Brooklyn Village Alliance is made up of community members who want to work together to preserve, beautify and rejuvenate the heart of Brooklyn.

The community survey of 2016 confirmed that the majority of members 'want to keep the quaint village feel of Brooklyn, the wonderful sense of community... and have no overdevelopment.' We propose a concept that would benefit a range of community members in a low-impact way that is in keeping with the unique village identity of Brooklyn.

Our plan works with the 'place-making' approach put forward by Hornsby Shire Council, with the goal of the preservation of Brooklyn's historical precinct and improvement of existing facilities. In doing so, we acknowledge and build on worthy community achievements to date, such as the recent renewal of 'The Cottage'.

We seek further input from community members and warmly invite the Executive and other members of the Brooklyn Community Association to join with us in our journey towards bringing these ideas to fruition.

Our initial proposal has recently seeded and includes the following places and ideas:

Place 1: The Historical Precinct:

Street front:

Most community members would probably agree that the street front from 'The Cottage' to the Medical Centre lacks visual appeal. All of the premises, including 'Fitzies' are owned by Council. They could be beautified with an affordable plan to renovate and unite the exteriors, continuing with the white weatherboard look of 'The Cottage'.

Courtyard:

The space behind these facilities is currently used for parking. Should Council find an alternative for these parking spaces, the rear area could be transformed into an appealing community courtyard, continuing the use of sandstone that has been placed along the waterfront. A sculpture, small fountain, mosaics, community gardens etc. could further beautify and enhance this courtyard. The huge trees in this space are absolutely magnificent!

Leisure and Learning:

A modest extension to this centre would create a classroom-size facility (80 square metres). This could be used for exercise, leisure activities for groups too large for 'The Cottage', as well as for community educational opportunities, such as those offered by the University of the Third Age. It could open at the rear with wide doors and a deck to the community courtyard.

Historical Shed:

Currently used as a garage, this unique and valuable historical structure could be preserved and enhanced so that public access and appreciation is facilitated.



Place 2: Parsley Bay:

Toilet Block Upgrade:

An extension and upgrade would give the toilet blocks visual appeal. It would provide additional toilets, showers and safe, dry storage facilities for community water-sport groups.

'Forty Foot Rock':

This incredible ancient monolith is currently crowded by an unnecessary drain structure, parking signs and poorly planned vegetation. A small park space at the foot of this rock, sensitively designed, would reveal and respect the majesty of this local feature.

Place 3: The Baden Powell Facilities

The Pavilion and the Baden-Powell Hall should be renovated and maintained by Council to support activities such as scouts and child-care. Otherwise we risk these being torn down and sold off. Other groups that make use of the neighbouring sporting grounds, playground and skate-board park would benefit from the maintenance of these existing community facilities.

Place 4: Brooklyn Public School

This is the ideal location for a larger hall. Locating a hall on the school premises places the management clearly in the hands of the school and is the only safeguard against high-impact commercial usage. It would use flexible 21st century school architecture to allow for maximum benefit on a regular daily basis for students, as well as housing the annual Trivia Night school fund-raiser. Projected student population growth (Peat Island families) will drive future additions to the learning spaces at the school and possible removal of the demountables, creating ample space for a larger facility.

An Invitation to the Community

The **Brooklyn Village Alliance** maintains that the above goals are achievable, affordable, respectful and creative. They build on the great work already achieved in our community. Initial conversations with Council representatives have been receptive and encouraging.

This plan could serve a broad range of community members well. It would beautify and rejuvenate the current neglected space that sits at the heart of Brooklyn.

Further updates and consultation opportunities will be provided on the Brooklyn Community Association website and community newsletters.

The **Brooklyn Village Alliance** proposes a sensitive, varied and unifying vision for Brooklyn that we are invite you to support.

Are you inspired? If you are interested in furthering these ideas, please contact:

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