

It really is time for a change...

Dear Fellow Resident,

Over the past three years Joan Street and I have worked hard to get the NSW Government:

- Along with Sydney Trains to agree to go ahead and commence stage 1 of the Sydney Harbour High Line - <https://www.sydneyharbourhighline.org.au/> - (design work has started) and agree a timeline for stage 2;
- To abandon its plan to let Luna Park Sydney (Multiplex) draft a replacement Plan of Management;
- To acquire part of the Cliff Top Land overlooking Luna Park and start work on establishing a new park;
- To have the Metro spoil from McMahons Point removed by barge rather than by truck.

The challenges ahead with these issues are to:

- Watch for, and respond to, any move by the Government to downgrade its commitments to the Sydney Harbour High Line, protect Luna Park and the Cliff Top landscaping;
- Protect Wendy's Secret Garden - <https://www.wendyssecretgarden.org.au/> - in the face of the change of its ownership and secure its future by making it a permanent park.

Joan and I are candidates in the upcoming council election. Why?

The trigger for our decision was the experience from seeking Council's support for funding the Wendy's Secret Garden website. The request, supported by Council's executive, was flatly rejected by the majority of Councillors voting along faction divides – think about it, no funding support for a website for one of Sydney's great icons, Wendy's Secret Garden. We raised funds from our community to pay for the website.

On reflection, we realised there had been no support for the initiatives to protect Luna Park, to build the Sydney Harbour High Line or to complete the landscaping of the Cliff Top.

Then we learnt that near to a \$1m dollars had been spent on public inquiries into Council's conduct, alleged failures of governance and even an AVO.

The Mayor and six Councillors are standing for re election on separate tickets. We decided to take steps to stop the destructive faction fighting in Council and regain the Community's trust. We joined CommUnity 1st - <https://www.community1st2017.com.au/> - , an independent group of long-term residents who have a strong mix of business, community experience and service who believe it's time for a change. CommUnity 1st is self-funded by ourselves and friends, and is not associated with any political party.

There are many issues to be addressed. One of the most acute is car parking caused by a decision of North Sydney Council to substantially reduce the burden on developers to provide adequate parking. Under current Council policy, developers of apartment buildings do not have to provide parking. This policy has resulted in insufficient parking for residents, overspill onto the surrounding road network and the loss of 'public' on-street parking.

There comes a time when change is needed.

That time is now. We decided to nominate in the belief that we can become agents for change for the better. We have joined with David Martin to challenge the current Councillors standing again in this Wollstonecraft Ward through the CommUnity 1st team led by Mayoral candidate, Jess Keen.

- **Vote for change – CommUnity 1st Jess Keen for Mayor; and**
- **Group “B” above the line in Wollstonecraft Ward**

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Yours sincerely



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September 2017

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Facts are asserted in elections; fact checkers test those assertions.

Assertion by current Councillors	Facts	CommUnity 1 st
Represent community as it faces unprecedented development pressures		Portion of windfall profits from rezoning or permitted departure from existing restrictions should flow to the community
Current car parking policy provides adequate parking	Under current policy, developers do not have to provide car parking	Provide at least 1 car space per unit
Deliver an urban park over Warringah Freeway	Who pays?	State Government land, State Government project. This project should be part of the State Government's Northern Beaches Tunnel project to compensate for loss of parkland
Fast-track Lavender Bay High Line	Despite an invitation, the Mayor did not attend the first meeting of State Government Team on 24 th August 2017 to investigate the feasibility of the Sydney Harbour High Line (SHHL)	We will work in conjunction with the Sydney Harbour High Line Association
Fix Olympic Pool	The present pool leaks like a sieve. Council is proposing a temporary fix – installation of a pool liner. The outgoing Council prepared endless reports but took no decisions.	We will revisit the earlier plans and any amendments to those plans or additional proposals Present these to the residents with the financial case for each Following full community consultation, we will select a plan and seek Government grants for the work.



Getting back to basics

Experienced Councillors	In September 2015, Ted Mack, the “Gold Standard” Mayor of North Sydney said the current council is the “worst Council in 40 years”.	The CommUnity 1 st team comprises a solid mix of professional, business and community experience with the required leadership and professionalism to rebuild community trust in North Sydney Council
Reduce litigation costs	The outgoing Council incurred \$1m in legal and other fees associated with enquiries into its performance.	As we are a united team , for the first time in five years, Council business will be conducted without the need to engage lawyers.
Won the fight for North Sydney to remain a standalone Council	27 July 2017 – State Government abandoned amalgamation plans for North Sydney 31 July 2017 – Case dismissed in Supreme Court with order that Council pay all costs	We are opposed to any amalgamation
Won 30-year lease for Wendy’s Secret Garden	The lease was a temporary reprieve and will come to an end. The Garden is at risk because the State Government is about to transfer the lease to another landlord.	We want more than a lease. We want a permanent park with more than token financial support from the State Government
Built the Peter Kingston Walkway	Walkway has been there for >20 years. Peter has planted and maintained the garden. Following three applications from Lavender Bay Precinct, Council finally agreed to name the walkway “The Peter Kingston Walkway”	We will seek heritage listing for the Walkway and the Kingston comic statues and we will incorporate the Walkway into the Sydney Harbour High Line.
Saved Platypus	Platypus renewal project is a Commonwealth Government funded project	We will strive to provide community facilities
Low council rates + high services	A legacy of Ted Mack’s planning and the State Government’s cap on rate increases	Given the financial constraints we will work to shepherd the Council’s limited resources delivering services in line with community expectations



Getting back to basics