
Mayoral Minutes - 28 July 2020

ITEM 4.1 **Canterbury Racecourse**

Since the release of the draft Sydenham to Bankstown Urban Renewal Corridor Strategy in 2015, our community has lived with absolute uncertainty about the fate of its commercial centres, planning rules, future growth patterns and roll out of supporting infrastructure along the rail corridor between Hurlstone Park and Bankstown. Indeed, the Canterbury Bankstown LGA has had to bear the brunt of the uncertainty for the Sydenham to Bankstown corridor.

To put an end to this uncertainty, this Council once again demonstrated why it is a leading council in this state and has itself initiated a series of masterplans that will be delivered along the rail corridor that will implement our housing and employment land strategies and sustainably plan each centre to deliver jobs, infrastructure, open space, investment and a diverse form of housing. This work is already underway for Bankstown and Campsie.

The missing piece in this corridor however is also its biggest asset and opportunity to deliver much needed open space to this community. The Canterbury Racecourse and its surrounds. This 33 hectare site has the potential to completely transform Canterbury for the better. I'm not prepared to sit and continue to watch this space, idle, without doing anything about it.

In my view, this racecourse is the centrepiece of the corridor and we have waited long enough to understand what the long term future for this site is, although I am under no illusion that should the racecourse choose to vacate the site at some point, the site will comprise a mix of uses including open space and create an opportunity to refocus and renew the Canterbury town centre.

This part of our city has significant deficiencies in open space and requires investment in education and health facilities to support our existing and future population. These pressures will only intensify as our city grows. The State Government must provide the resources to fund and deliver high quality, regional open space and supporting infrastructure that ensures our city is appropriately serviced.

To ensure the aspirations of the community are met, Council needs to have a voice at the table and be a part of setting the future for this site.

Tonight, I am therefore asking for the establishment of a 'Canterbury Racecourse Coordination Committee' and I am calling on the Greater Sydney Commission's South and Central City Districts Commissioner, Mr. Peter Poulet to Chair this Committee, with membership from key relevant government agencies and the Australian Turf Club.

Given the importance of this work, I believe it is essential that the community are also heard throughout this process and should be formally recognised. In this regard Council will establish a Community Voice Panel of up to 10 individuals (selected through a expression of interest process with the aim of obtaining a broad mix of community) who would be formally engaged through this process.

I expect the role of this Committee will be to clarify the Australian Turf Club's intentions for the land and agree on a way forward to deliver a clear vision for the racecourse lands. The work of the Committee will then be used to inform the future Canterbury Local Centre Master Plan, which has been scheduled to commence in 2021.