

## Item 5

### Matters for Tabling

#### 5.1 Disclosures of Interest

Disclosure of Interest returns that have been lodged in accordance with the City of Sydney Code of Conduct are being received and collated by staff.

#### Recommendation

It is resolved that Council note that Disclosures of Interest returns will be received and noted following the resumption of in-person meetings.

#### 5.2 Petitions

##### (a) Urgent Attention Required for Degraded Nature Strips on Gordon Street in Paddington

Councillor Scully gives notice that, at the meeting of Council on Monday, 20 September 2021, she will table and speak to a petition (with 18 households in support) with the following terms:

We live in Gordon Street in Paddington. Outside most of the houses in our block, between Elizabeth Street and George Lane, the nature strips are essentially dirt. They are dusty when dry and muddy when wet. They make the whole streetscape look terrible and they diminish the community. Their dry dust presents an asthma hazard. They lower the value of our properties.

Our section of Gordon Street is the least well maintained in the neighbourhood. It has been awful for years.

Nearby streets – Stewart Street, Regent Street and even the western end of Gordon Street, have grassed nature strips or nature strips planted with well-chosen plants interspersed with stepping stones. They look good and are an asset to the community.

This issue has been raised with City of Sydney on several occasions by several residents over the last decade. The Council has twice planted rolled turf, but the grass always dies, despite our watering. Perhaps the types of street trees are not compatible with growing grass under them – whatever the reason, our part of Gordon Street looks appalling. The style of plantings along Regent Street might be a better option and should be considered.

We pay our rates and look after our houses, but City of Sydney is failing to adequately take care of the nature strips which are its responsibility.

It is time this issue was fixed. With Spring coming up, it is the right time to undertake plantings and remediate the nature strips.

Tree roots are cracking the footpath, creating trip hazards and damaging fence footings. In this same section of Gordon Street, particularly around 46 Gordon Street, aggressive street tree roots are buckling the footpath, creating a trip hazard, and encroaching into property. Council and Telstra have cut the roots and cemented over the hazard on several occasions, but these have been only temporary solutions; the roots grow back and the trip hazard reappears.

The roots have also cracked the render off the limestone plinth that supports the metal fence and will eventually crack the plinth. The plinth and fence are part of the heritage façade of the building. The cracked render contributes to the overall poor look of the streetscape. Urgent attention is required before the damage gets to the stage where it would require significant and expensive Council remediation.

In summary, we want Council to give this part of Gordon Street the same attention and treatment that other streets in the neighbourhood have received – plant out the nature strips in time for this Spring; and fix the issue of invasive street tree roots.

**(b) Make Nuffield Park Off-Leash**

Councillor Scott gives notice that, at the meeting of Council on Monday, 20 September 2021, she will table and speak to a petition (with 132 signatures) with the following terms:

Zetland and Green Square are the most densely populated communities in Australia – yet they have some of the lowest access to open spaces to play.

Zetland forms part of the Green Square precinct, which has a population of 33,000, growing to 74,200 by 2041.

Zetland urgently needs more open space to play for our many small dogs to exercise and socialise with their inner-city families.

Zetland communities love Joynton Park, which is currently off-leash at all times - but the rapidly growing population needs more spaces to play.

Join the community call to the demand the City of Sydney turns Nuffield Park into a dog off-leash space to play, especially as a haven for our beloved small dogs.

**Recommendation**

It is resolved that the Petitions be received and noted.