



Residents' Panel Newsletter

Residents' Panel Membership: 2,300

Neighbourhood Consultation update

The Neighbourhood Survey was conducted in November/December 2008 with the entire Residents Panel membership. The aim of the survey was to understand at a neighbourhood level, what residents thought of their own respective neighbourhoods, their likes, dislikes, what needed to be improved and so forth. The second aim of the survey was to understand where residents used various domestic services and why. 745 Panel members completed the survey.

This information is to be used by Council Planners, Place Managers and Councillors (in conjunction with other information/sources) to help direct future neighbourhood enhancements.

The internal report regarding this consultation is almost completed as there was a significant amount of information coming from Panel members. All members that completed the survey will receive a one to one report on the findings/outcomes once the information is communicated to Parramatta Council staff and Councillors.

Communications will also be placed on the Resident Panel website and future newsletters regarding this consultation.



Westmead Precinct Consultation

Westmead is a significant area as it has the largest medical precinct in the Southern Hemisphere, coupled with secondary and tertiary education (a University of Western Sydney campus & Mcauley High School) and a large residential area.

So as to develop the area in the best interest of the community Council is undertaking development of a Vision document and considering if changes need to be made to the Westmead Local Environmental Plan (this plan dictates land uses in the area).

So as to develop the best possible plan for the area the consultation will involve: local residents, business owners from the area, major stakeholders and users of services from the area.

Council has begun consulting the business community on what are the current main issues in the Westmead area. Surveys completed late last year with businesses along Hawkesbury Road indicated:

Parking is the No.1 issue that businesses want improved

52% of respondents indicated that they would like the parking situation improved. To improve the situation respondents said:

- More parking is required in the area
- An increase in the turn over rate of parking with varying hourly rates depended on area parked

Majority of Business Owners, Workers come to work by Car

- 65% (approx) of people that work along Hawkesbury Road use the car to get to work.

Mid Week from 9am to 3pm is a hotspot for Parking difficulties

Analysis provides that Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday are the most difficult days for parking; esp between 9am to 3pm.

Consultation with Residents—due to start after Easter

The consultation with residents has 3 specific sections:

1. Consultation on the Issues
 - Survey on Local Issues - 15 April to 6 May 2009
 - Workshop to discuss solutions - May 2009
2. Consulting on the Draft Plans - Mid to late 2009 (TBA)
3. Adoption of the Plan - (TBA - To be announced)

Granville Hub Consultation

Parramatta City Council is considering developing a Community Hub in the area of Granville.

A Community Hub is a conveniently located public place where a variety of services and facilities come together to meet the needs of the local community.

A feasibility study has been carried out which identified a potential site for the development of a Community Hub at the Granville Bus Interchange and the Memorial Drive car park, right next to Granville Railway Station.

Panel members in Granville, Guildford, Harris Park and South Granville have been asked to complete a short survey (5 minutes) regarding this matter by 8 April 2009.

Further exhibitions and consultation will be completed if it is decided that the Community Hub for this area is in the best interest of the community.

Additional information can be obtained from Graeme Bleus (Property Development Advisor) on 9806 5386.



Ermington Hub Consultation

Parramatta City Council is also considering developing a Community Hub in the area of Ermington.

A feasibility study has been carried out for Council which identified a potential site for the development of a Community Hub at 20B Spurway Street, Ermington.

Panel members in Ermington, Dundas, Dundas Valley and Rydalmere have been asked to complete a short survey (5 minutes) regarding this matter by 8 April 2009.

Further exhibitions and consultation will be completed if it is decided that the Community Hub for this area is in the best interest of the community.

Additional information can be obtained from Graeme Bleus (Property Development Advisor) on 9806 5386.



Annual Australia Day BBQ 2009

The Residents' Panel held their fourth annual (members only) BBQ event on Australia Day as part of Council's Australia Day celebrations. The social occasion was a great opportunity to say thank you to all panel members for participating in consultations and various surveys over the past year. It was also a great occasion for panel members to interact and meet one another.

Over 600 Panel members and their families enjoyed a BBQ lunch provided by the Carlingford-Dundas Lions Club. Throughout the day, members were able to enjoy the range of entertainment provided (roving magician, face painter and henna artist) and relax in a fun atmosphere.

A recruitment stall was also available on the day, where a further 102 residents from the Parramatta Local Government area showed an initial interest in joining the panel.



Residents' Panel Youth Recruit

The Residents' Panel welcomes any resident from the Parramatta LGA aged 16+ to be part of Parramatta City Council's Residents' Panel.

Currently the Residents' Panel Team are in the process of signing up new Youth members to be part of the Residents' Panel. Not only can the Youth of Parramatta have their say, but we could provide them with the opportunity to gain valuable experience through the Residents' Panel Work Experience program (spaces are limited).

If you have or know of any person aged between 16-25 who resides within the Parramatta Local Government Area, please indicate the importance of being heard and involved in their local community.

For further details regarding the work experience program, please contact:
Albert Gittany (Residents' Panel Officer)
9806 5084 or
Email: agittany@parracity.nsw.gov.au

Loop Bus Service Consultation

In August 2008, Parramatta City Council introduced the Loop Bus Service to Parramatta CBD as a \$550,000 per year initiative. In February 2009, the Residents' Panel team assisted with a survey carried out with users of the Loop Bus Service. As a result 922 responses were collected, representing a 99% confidence level +/- 5% (based on an average of 53000 Loop users per month).

The main messages from the survey results were:

Loop Users rate the service as a complete success!

- 98% of users were satisfied with the Loop service
- This overall satisfaction rating is the highest rating ever scored by a Council supported service

There is a high rate of constant usage of the Loop service

- 78% of users either utilise the service daily or several times a week

The Loop service is providing a valuable link between train, other bus services and the ferry service

- 38% of Loop bus passengers use it to connect to the train
- 23% of users connect with another bus service

Local Parramatta Residents utilise the Loop to help travel to work or for recreation/social purposes

- 30% of Loop bus users live in North Parramatta
- 34% of Loop bus users live in Parramatta.

Destinations after using the Loop bus:

- 29% of users were travelling to Work/Business
- 18% were going home
- 14% were going to Shopping facilities including Westfield
- 10% were going to Parramatta Leagues Club.



Four bus-stops accounted for the majority of Loop usage:

- Parramatta Railway Station** is the most frequent stop for Loop bus users
- Westfield** is the next most frequent for joining the bus, but comparatively lower as a destination.
- Church Street North** (opposite the PO) is the third most frequent commencement point for people joining the Loop service. This indicates a high uptake of nearby residents using the bus to travel to and from the Parramatta CBD.
- Parramatta Leagues Club** is the next most frequently used stop.

Seniors Day Event at Woodville Golf Course

The Residents' Panel team attended the Seniors Golf Day Event held at Woodville Golf Course, on Thursday 19 March 2009.

The Residents' Panel team had the opportunity to meet and interact with various users of the Golf Course. By being present and interacting with senior members of the community at this event, we were able to seek additional seniors to the Residents' Panel. Which was a great result!



Left to right: Senior Golf Member, Colin Johnston, Lord Mayor Councillor Tony Issa, Albert Gittany and Senior Golf Member

CONTACT US TO UPDATE YOUR DETAILS!

The Residents' Panel Team can contact you and send your surveys by email.

If your address, email or contact number has changed, please call us on 9806 5084 or email us at: residentspanel@parracity.nsw.gov.au

For information on all reports, visit our website:
www.parracity.nsw.gov.au/residents/residents_panel