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NEWSLETTER

NO. 1

OF THE HUNTER'S HILL TRUST

April, 1968.

This is a report from the provisional committee to residents who attended the big Town Hall meeting on February 7.

You will remember the three resolutions addressed to the Council, which sought:

- Preservation of Hunter's Hill's unique character.
- Deferment of home unit building until the proposed town plan is ready.
- A town planning committee on which the Trust and ratepayers could be represented.

The committee of nine elected at the Town Hall meeting (for names see Page 5) wrote to the Council, conveying the

NEXT TOWN HALL MEETING

The remarkable meeting on February 7 (the biggest assembly in the municipality for many years) directed the committee to call another meeting within three months. A suitable date could not be found at the Town Hall within the three months, but it has been booked for a meeting on May 22. Note this date in your diary now. Hunter's Hill Town Hall, 8 p. m., May 22. Business: Constitution of the Trust; election of a new committee; report from the old committee.

resolutions. The Council referred the letter to its Building, Planning and General Purposes Committee. This is a committee of the whole council, so that the effect was to bar the public from the debate.

The Trust committee wrote to the Council and the Press and pointed out that this was unsatisfactory. The letter was published in the Daily Telegraph, Weekly Times and North Shore Times.

The Council then decided to consider the matter in committee on March 18, and hold a special (open) meeting of council immediately afterwards to consider its committee report. Since no-one but the aldermen would have known when the open meeting started, this would have effectively barred public attendance. But the secretary got wind of the plan, and formally asked the Town Clerk that he be informed of the opening of the doors, so that he could attend. After some committee discussion, the Council reversed its order of business, first holding a special open meeting, which the secretary attended, followed by a committee meeting in private.

At the special open meeting, the Mayor, Ald. K. Bell, reported briefly a conversation he had had with Mr. Nigel Ashton, Chairman of the State Planning Authority. Mr. Ashton had said he fully agreed with the Trust resolution that the unique and historical character of Hunter's Hill be preserved.

Ald. Durnall presented a typewritten draft of a letter which he moved Council send to the Trust. The letter, in effect, rejected the second and third resolutions (for deferment of unit building, and for representation on a town planning committee). The reason given for rejecting the suggested town planning committee was that Council had already retained a competent professional town planner and firm of architectural consultants and that therefore such a committee would serve no useful

purpose.

This motion rejecting the second and third requests of the Town Hall meeting was passed by six votes to three. The voting was: For rejection, Aldermen Atkins, Bell, Chidgey, Durnall, Matthews, Wilson. Against rejection, Aldermen Bingham, Farrant and Merrington. The three latter aldermen had their objections recorded in the minutes.

Ald. Bingham said he had never known an alderman come to Council with a draft letter already prepared in this way. Normally, the Town Clerk drafted letters, he said.

Following this meeting, the Trust committee wrote to the six aldermen and asked them why they were against the proposals. So far, no replies have been received.

After these events were reported to the Trust committee, the committee decided it should make these points:

1. The town planner and the architects are not residents of Hunter's Hill and may not have the same attitude to preservation of the area as residents and ratepayers.
2. It is vital for residents and ratepayers to be sure the plan is being drawn up on lines in sympathy with their wishes to preserve the atmosphere and amenity of the area. ONCE THE PLAN HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY COUNCIL AND PUT UP FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION, IT CAN BE OBJECTED TO ON MATTERS OF DETAIL ONLY, NOT ON BROAD PRINCIPLES. Furthermore, objections to it must be raised by individual ratepayers. There is no provision in the Act for an association of ratepayers and/or residents to make

representations to Council.

This is why the Trust committee feels the town planning committee is essential -- so that we can be sure the broad outlines are in accord with the Town Hall meeting decision to preserve the unique and historic character of Hunter's Hill. If the Council also wishes to preserve the unique and historic character of Hunter's Hill, why will it not agree to consult its ratepayers by setting up such a committee?

The reasons the committee feels it cannot fully trust the Council are (1) The knowledge of what has already happened in the municipality in the last 6-8 years, and (2) The committee's complete inability to discover anything about the town plan.

There is no legal requirement for a town plan to be produced in secret. This is a matter of administrative convenience only. But because it is impossible to prevent all leakages of information, the attempts at secrecy put a favored few in a position to take advantage of foreknowledge of the plan. Who are the favored ones? In most municipalities, they are the estate agents, developers, builders of blocks of flats, oil companies. We would like to prevent this in Hunter's Hill.

HAVE THE LEAKAGES STARTED?

It is possible the leakages have begun already. The committee has been told one property in Woolwich Road has been bought for demolition to make way for home units, yet the land is at present proclaimed as non-home unit area. One way to prevent the suspicion of this sort of thing (already being widely discussed in the municipality) is to make public the broad outlines of the plan. The ratepayers have a right to know what is in store for them. This should not be a secret shared only by the elected aldermen.

There is hope for Hunter's Hill in the recent events in Paddington. Mr. Commissioner Bunning recommended that Paddington should be declared a protected historical area, and that Woollahra Council should be advised by a Paddington Advisory Committee, including the Council, National Trust of Australia, Royal Australian Institute of Architects, and the Paddington Society.

This is the kind of advisory committee we need in Hunter's Hill.

YOUR COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee of nine elected at the Town Hall meeting on February 7, with officers elected by committee vote, is:

N. Wallman (Chairman)	74 Alexandra St., Hunter's Hill, 2110. Solicitor.
Dr. R. B. Temple (Hon. Secretary)	72 Alexandra St., Hunter's Hill, 2110. University Lecturer.
Donald J. McLean (Hon. Treasurer)	34 The Point Road, Woolwich, 2110. Educationalist.
Prof. Max J. Deutscher	9 Croissy Avenue, Hunter's Hill, 2110. Professor of Philosophy (Macquarie University).
Peter G. Gee	62 Barons Cres., Hunter's Hill, 2110. Architect.
Frederick Kirby	35 Dick Street, Henley, 2111. University Administrator

W. Rutherford	10 Vernon Street, Hunter's Hill, 2110. Engineer.
J. V. Smith	24 Huntley's Point Rd., Huntley's Point, 2111. Printer.
K. W. Tindall	53 Huntley's Point Rd., Huntley's Point, 2111. Lecturer in Psychology.

Others have been co-opted to assist and advise.

"DOUBLE YOUR MONEY"

Mr. R. Lenehan, of 1 Futuna Street, Hunter's Hill, in a letter to the committee, wrote:

"As a matter of interest, I might mention that I have just been offered, through a second or third party, a 'gold-plated investment in land at Hunter's Hill that will almost certainly double your money in 10 to 12 months'.

It involves the buying of land for home units and has big backing.

I suggested in reply that consequent upon a citizens' meeting this may all fall apart.

'I wouldn't worry too much about that,' I was told, 'not with the backing this has got.'"

FINANCE

Hunter's Hill Trust now has about 250 members, and \$400 in a special account, Bank of New South Wales, Hunter's Hill.

We need more members. Please spread the word. Use the form on page 8.

BEECROFT AREA ACTIVE

Hunter's Hill Trust is only one of several trusts in the Sydney metropolitan area which are active on behalf of ratepayers and citizens.

One of the most active in the western suburbs is Beecroft-Cheltenham Civic Trust, which has given the Hunter's Hill Trust a warm welcome and much useful advice.

Three members of Hunter's Hill Trust last week attended the annual general meeting of the Beecroft-Cheltenham Civic Trust.

They were told that Beecroft-Cheltenham Civic Trust had had close co-operation from Hornsby Shire Council, which had allowed them to see the draft town plan during its preparation.

Plans are in hand for a conference of civic trusts and the nine organisations taking part have decided to hold the meeting at Hunter's Hill.

The decision reflects Hunter's Hill's position as an old and historic suburb which has always been in the forefront of civic progress.

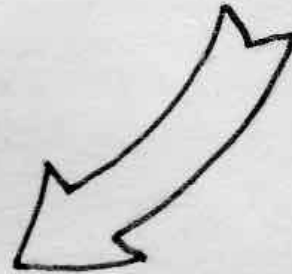
WHO IS THE TOWN PLANNER ?

The Town Planner for Hunter's Hill Council is Mr. D. A. Briggs, of Edwards, Madigan and Torzillo and partners, architects, 300 Castlereagh Street, Sydney

MEMBERS WANTED!

ENROL YOUR NEIGHBOURS!

Dr. R. B. Temple,
Hon. Secretary,
Hunter's Hill Trust,
72 Alexandra Street,
HUNTER'S HILL, 2110.



I would like to be a member of the Hunter's Hill Trust.

I enclose \$1.00 as my membership fee, and a donation of
..... (delete if no donation).

Signature

Name (block letters).....

Street

Suburb

Phone Number