

Motions to 23rd October Council Meeting

Proposed Motion:

Community Gardens

That the Environment and Sustainability Committee and Environmental team of Canterbury Council investigate suitable locations and the costs involved in setting up community gardens in Canterbury with the view that a number of gardens be created in 2009.

A report to be made at March Council.

Proposed: Cr Linda Eisler

Supporting Speech:

Residents have approached me requesting Community Gardens for the City of Canterbury. They have also begun sending suggestions for suitable locations. I believe there is sufficient interest to make this a viable project.

Riverwood Estate currently runs a successful community garden, as does Canterbury PS and there are Community Gardens throughout Sydney like Randwick, Hurstville, Marrickville, Sutherland, Rockdale, City of Sydney (which has 10). Kogarah and Woollahra are planning gardens.

Residencies in places like Campsie have very little garden space. Community Gardens offer them space where they can meet, socialize, share knowledge, grow produce and develop sustainable practices.

“Community gardens are a unique form of open space whereby people can learn, recreate, socialise and demonstrate sustainable principles within a garden setting. Community gardening is a valuable community recreational activity that contributes to health and well-being, positive social interaction, community development, environmental education, sustainable principles, protection and use of public open space.” (www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au)

I believe community gardens encourage a sense of community pride and belonging. People learn to communicate and share with people from different backgrounds. Like Men’s Sheds this is an opportunity for people who don’t have the space at home to practice a hobby they love while developing friendships and a sense of community.

They also offer a venue for Canterbury’s workshops on composting, and no dig gardening.

I hope you will support this proposal which will offer the community a tremendous opportunity for socialization, recreation, education and a source of healthy food and physical activity.

PASSED

Proposed Motion:

Environment and Sustainability Committee

That the Director of City Planning prepare a report on the formation of an Environmental and Sustainability Committee with a Charter as outlined below:

Policy Register



23-107

Advisory Committee Charter
Draft
Environment & Sustainability

Mandate

Terms of reference

The Committee's role is to advise and make recommendations on environmental and sustainability issues as they relate to councils operations with a focus on the implementation of the Environmental Management Plan and the City Plan.

Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss, advise and make recommendations affecting the City of Canterbury in sustainable resource management, including water, stormwater, energy, biodiversity, pollution, land management and future directions for waterway management. • Coordinate community input with other key organisations with respect to environmental sustainability. • Assist with the monitoring and review of programs, projects and initiatives that lead to an improved environment and a sustainable City of Canterbury; in accordance with best practice; • Raise awareness in the community about matters relating to environmental sustainability; and • To take into consideration the cultural diversity of the area in relation to the environmental and sustainability issues.
Term	Concurrent with each term of Council
Meetings	Five times per year
Membership	
Community representation	<p>One representative each from the Community, Business/Industry and Government with an interest in environmental sustainability or interest in water or energy conservation or waste minimisation.</p> <p>A maximum of 3 representatives from local environmental community organisations such as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooks River Valley Association (incorporating the Mudcrabs) • Wolli Creek Preservation Society • Local Bushcare or 'adopt a patch' programs
Councillor representation	<p>3 Councillors – One from each ward</p> <p>The Mayor is an ex-officio member</p>
Council staff representation	General Manager or delegate; Director City Planning or delegate/Director City Works or delegate.
Support staff	<p>Team Leader- Environmental Issues</p> <p>Administration Officer</p> <p>Other officers deemed necessary by the General Manager or Directors.</p>

**Chairperson
and deputy**

The Chairperson shall be a Councillor determined by council. The Committee shall elect a Deputy Chairperson who shall hold office for 1 year.

Supporting Speech:

A healthy future requires that all levels of government focus on showing strong leadership in developing and implementing strategies required to produce necessary changes in environmental, economic and social development.

In Canterbury many measures such as tree planting and education classes on composting, worm farming and our environmental footprint have begun. However, I believe a committee dedicated to our future direction with input from the community, business/industry and government, and, from local community organisations is essential.

It is important to have these groups contributing and directing Council. Their involvement is important for their first hand knowledge and experience of the problems related to establishing a sustainable economy and environment. It will also mean that they, and therefore the community, have a sense of ownership and commitment that will enable the implementation of changes that at times may be difficult.

The Committee aims to guide Council on sustainable management of our resources; to assist in monitoring programs, projects and initiatives so that best practice is maintained; to ensure the community is aware of what we are doing and why; and to ensure that all members of our culturally diverse population are informed and benefitting from changes being implemented.

I wish to thank Robert Davidson, Director of City Planning, and Nell Graham, Environmental Officer, for the preparation of this Charter.