



STEP Inc. Newsletter

Community Based Environmental Conservation Since 1978. No. 74 Sept 1995

SPECIAL EDITION -- COUNCIL ELECTIONS

STEP is not endorsing any particular candidates for this election, however, because of the importance of Local Government decisions on our heritage and the natural and built environment, STEP is making every effort to ensure that our members are as well informed as possible about the views and attitudes of the candidates offering themselves for election.

Consequently we have taken the following actions:

- 1 Organised a public meeting in the Comenarra Ward in conjunction with the Kissing Point Progress Association to allow the Comenarra candidates to present themselves to their electorate.
- 2 Liaised with the St. Ives Progress Association, who held a public meeting for the St. Ives Ward.
- 3 Liaised with the Ratepayers Association, who are arranging a public meeting for the Gordon Ward.
- 4 Have written to all candidates in all Wards with a questionnaire, requesting their responses to issues of importance to environmental conservation.

To assist our members to cast their votes in their respective Wards with the maximum of relevant information, we



publish the contents of our questionnaire, and the responses received.

We should hasten to add that our questions concentrated on the environmental aspects and there are obviously other factors, which should be taken into consideration in casting your vote

The letter to the candidates included the following:
".....Since Ku-ring-gai has some 1200 hectares of natural bushland under its care and control, and has an unique ambience and attractiveness, we feel that it is extremely important to ensure that Council recognises that and adopts policies, which enhance and which do not undermine and degrade these attributes by inappropriate development.

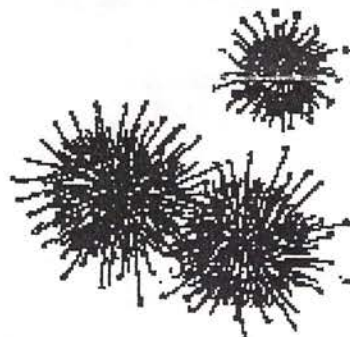


Consequently we wish to inform our members and others, who ask us, of the attitudes taken by candidates towards key environmental issues, which have the potential to conserve Ku-ring-gai as the jewel in the crown of the Sydney metropolitan area, or to destroy and degrade its amenity irreversibly within the next decade.

We have attempted to keep the questions succinct and would appreciate your answers in a similar vein.

Would you be so kind as to return your answers to us by Thursday, 31st August, 1995.

In taking this action we would like to acknowledge that the job of a Councillor is very demanding, and we commend you for being prepared to commit the time and effort to serving the community in this way....."



Not all candidates chose to respond, and some responded only by sending their own printed election material. The questionnaire reads as follows:

QUESTIONNAIRE TO CANDIDATES, COUNCIL ELECTION, 9TH SEPTEMBER, 1995.

1. URBAN BUSHLAND

- a. Would you agree that urban bushland has intrinsic value above that of vacant land?
- b. Would you agree that urban bushland should not be seen as a source of land for additional community facilities such as playing fields and roads?
- c. Would you agree that stricter development controls are necessary for areas adjacent to bushland to avoid degradation by nutrient run-off and weed infestation?
- d. Would you support the further investment by Council to control drainage at bushland perimeters?



2. ROADS

- a. Would you support measures to reduce through traffic from sources outside Ku-ring-gai?
- b. Would you support measures to reduce traffic speed and volume through Ku-ring-gai?
- c. Would you agree that

further road space development, leading towards Lower North Shore and City CBD's would encourage increased car use and result in increased congestion?

d. Would you support action by Council to remove the link road corridor between the F3 and the M2 at North Ryde from all planning instruments?

e. Do you subscribe to the notion that building extra road space towards the city will solve traffic problems?



3. URBAN CONSOLIDATION

- a. Would you agree that Ku-ring-gai should formulate planning policies to ensure that future population growth in Ku-ring-gai is limited, and to ensure that it is limited to occur only near public transport nodes?
- b. Would you agree that housing to accommodate population growth should not be allowed to encroach on natural bushland, nor cause its fragmentation, nor cause its degradation?
- c. Would you agree that housing or other development should not be allowed to decrease the tree cover?
- d. Would you agree that Development Control Plan for housing should enshrine the reduced envelope, reduced plot ratio and reduced site cover recently adopted by Council in draft form?

4. MONA VALE RD. CORRIDOR

- a. Would you agree that the Mona Vale Rd. corridor should not be further developed?
- b. Would you agree that the development of a Bus Depot, as currently proposed, adjacent to the C.A.R.E.S. facility is totally inappropriate?
- c. Do you support Council's rejection of this proposal and its action to defend the rejection in the Land and Environment Court?
- d. Would you agree that any currently undeveloped land along the corridor, including the regenerating bush, be dedicated for addition to Garigal and Ku-ring-gai Chase National Parks?

5. COUNCIL EFFECTIVENESS

It is widely believed that the effectiveness of the last Council was dramatically reduced by the factional problems and by the often bitter personal relationships between some of the Councillors. What would you do about this?

+++++



RESPONSES

The following candidates replied to the questionnaire:

B.Robinson (Comenarra)
A.Barry (Comenarra)
E.Malicki (Comenarra)
T.Wood (Comenarra)
J.Mitchell (Gordon)
A.Hall (St.Ives) (verbal)
G.Swinson (Roseville)
P.Derwent (Gordon) (verbal)



The following candidates did not answer the questions directly, but sent only their printed election materials, and this could give the appearance of wishing to avoid the questions:

P.Smith (St.Ives)
D.Dobbin (Gordon)
B.Lazarus (St.Ives)

The following candidates did not respond at all, and this could be interpreted as lack of interest in STEP, or as wishing to avoid the questions:

D.Barnett (Gordon)
P.Barnett (Gordon)
D.Halligan (Roseville)
F.McIver (Roseville)
R.Webeck (St. Ives)
R.Jones (St.Ives)
T.Insley (Comenarra)

++++
ANSWERS

The questions were of course posed to get a positive "Yes" to all except 2.e., where a "No" was sought.

The answers provided by the candidates, who responded are summarised as follows:

1 Urban Bushland - "Yes" all round.

E.Malicki pointed to her record.

G.Swinson qualified his answer with the comments that standard of bushland, and the merits of sports fields must be considered.

2 Roads -

"No" all round to question 2e, and mostly "Yes" to questions 2a to 2d, while B.Robinson confessed his need for more information before committing himself, A.Barry commented against speed humps and called for public transport, cycle paths and a long term transport plan, and E.Malicki pointed to her record of years of activism in this field.

3 Urban Consolidation -

The proposed changes to the Development Control Plan give rise to some differing views, A.Barry and T.Wood being in favour and E.Malicki calling for more flexibility relating to block sizes. B.Robinson disagrees with the changes.

4 Mona Vale Rd. Corridor -

"Yes" all round except for: E.Malicki comments that the C.A.R.E.S. facility is in the wrong location.

J.Mitchell and E.Malicki qualify their answers relating to the tip site being suitable for other uses (sports fields?) B.Robinson states his need for information before committing himself.

5 Council Effectiveness -

G. Swinson deplores the conflict and prefers to remain aloof from it.

B.Robinson would apply his interpersonal skills to resolve conflict.

J.Mitchell and T.Wood advocate Conflict Resolution methods to be applied.

A.Barry stresses the need to accept majority decision, and avoid media involvement.

E.Malicki believes there will be less conflict in future, and points to the importance of good chairmanship, trust between Councillors and staff, and the need to know the legal limits applying to decisions before making them.

Generally -

P.Derwent responded verbally by pointing to his long record of support for all the aims and objectives being pursued by STEP.

A.Hall responded verbally by referring to his record, especially in relation to the Mona Vale Rd. Corridor and bushland issues generally.

COMENARRA WARD PUBLIC MEETING

All five Comenarra Ward candidates attended the public meeting to present themselves and to face questions from the audience.

We will not comment about the individual per-formances, leaving that to the people in the audience to judge for themselves.

We would like to express our thanks to the candidates for participating, and trust that those who attended will have gathered some additional information from the meeting to allow them to cast their votes on Saturday, 9th September, with the best knowledge of the candidates' attitudes to the important issues.

SENDER
STEP Inc.
P.O.Box 697,
Turrumurra, 2074.

Financial to July 0
4
PHIL HELMORE & HELEN WORTH
19 VERNON ST
TURRAMURRA 2074

