
Sent: 7/02/2012 2:35:49 PM
Subject: 638 Pittwater Road, Brookvale - rezoning proposal

Dear Caroline,

Thank you for discussing this matter with me last week. As advised the Society stills holds with its original submission to the Council of the 30 December, 2009 that the site should be wholly rezoned to B5 under the new LEP, thereby eliminating the current split zoning between B5 and IN1 (old F1/F3). In our discussion you indicated that it was the intention of the Council to rezone the site wholly to B5. In these circumstances the Council has the support of the Society. Do you still have a copy of our original submission?

We also discussed the Society's proposal; which is still being developed prior to the lodgement of a DA and discussion with Council staff, for the development of the site by the Society into a 'community hub' servicing the disadvantaged members of the Northern Beaches community. Essentially the Society would retain the retail aspect of the current site on the ground level but develop commercial levels above. These commercial levels would house community and not for profit agencies who currently offer services to the community such as mental health, drug and alcohol counselling, homeless services, legal aid, etc. It is also proposed to provide a dental clinic for low income and Centrelink benefit card holders as dental health amongst low income earners has been nationally identified as a chronic problem affecting this group. Also under investigation is the possibility of providing a child care facility for low income and single parents in order to assist these groups find and maintain employment, with the benefits that accrue to the community from this. Consideration is also being given in the proposal for the provision of community meeting space for local groups to obviate the need to meet in local halls, church rooms, etc. that may not be really suitable in terms of space, facilities, parking, security, etc.

The proposal aims to facilitate a 'wrap around' of services for clients so that a range of services can be provided in the one location that makes travel, referrals and coordination of services much better for clients and agencies together. It is the Society's belief that this type of facility can point the way to future developments around the country that service need and also help integrate many persons experiencing disadvantage back into the community in a more meaningful way.

Anyway this is for the future, but I would ask that if possible this be taken into account in the Council's deliberations on the change to the zoning for the site.

Regards,

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