

CAMDEN COUNCIL

Media Release



10 July 2014

Camden Council Launches Major Camden Town Centre Upgrade

At last night's Council Meeting, Councillors endorsed a package of exciting works in the Camden Town Centre for public consultation for a period of 8 weeks.

Following 12 months of planning, work on the first stage of the Camden Town Centre Upgrade will include the installation of traffic signals on Argyle Street at Oxley Street, pedestrian signals on Argyle Street between John and Hill Streets, increase footpath width on Argyle Street, improve footpath slope, drainage works as well as the upgrade to furniture and paving material.

Mayor of Camden, Councillor Lara Symkowiak said she was proud to be taking another step towards improvements in the Camden CBD..

"It is essential Council invests significantly into the Camden Town Centre to ensure when we move to Oran Park, Camden is a stronger and better place than what it is today. These works will take time to complete, but my Council has made the commitment and has provided the funding to ensure these works are carried out".

"The works focus on upgrading the Camden Town Centre to ensure Camden continues to grow and flourish. We have been planning these upgrades for some time and a lot of work has been happening behind the scenes to ensure we, as a Council, do this properly and that businesses and residents have ample opportunity to have their say on the proposed upgrades".

As part of the report, Councillors also endorsed public consultation for a \$3.6 million decked car park to be built in front of the Civic Centre on Oxley Street. Stage 1 of the decked car park is intended to be a single deck with no roof and will be designed to allow additional decks to be added in the future should the need arise.

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“This decked car park is a huge win for our community. The need for this infrastructure is something I have heard constantly over a number of years and is just another project my Council has allocated funding towards and is committed to delivering. The proposed location of the decked car park is in close proximity to Argyle Street and will help ensure our businesses and their customers have sufficient parking. Whilst there is car parking on the fringes of the town, it is essential we provide additional parking as close to the main street as possible. This will help make Argyle Street more attractive and allows businesses to compete with surrounding shopping centres. Convenient car parking is critical to help ensure businesses prosper”.

In mid-2013 Council established an internal committee to develop a range of strategies and options to enhance the Camden and Narellan commercial precincts by the time Camden relocates to Oran Park in 2016. This committee will now undertake a Retail and Commercial Study of the Camden Town Centre as well as an analysis of options for best use of Council assets in Camden and Narellan.

The package of key initiatives, as endorsed by Councillors last night, will be placed on exhibition from Wednesday 23 July 2014 for a period of eight weeks, which is double the normal exhibition period.

“I strongly encourage residents from across the Local Government Area to have their say on the proposed upgrades. We want the community to be involved in the projects we plan to undertake. I am confident in the work and planning that has been done over the past 12 months and am really looking forward to hearing the community’s views.” she said.

Detailed plans along with samples of paving products will be available at both Customer Service Centres and Libraries for residents to view and provide comment. Storyboards and visual elements will also be available on Council’s website and Facebook page. A community workshop evening will be conducted at Camden Civic Centre on Tuesday 29 July 2014 at 7pm and will provide an opportunity for discussion and questions on the proposed plans. Everyone is welcome to attend.

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Words: 649

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