

Minutes of the meeting of the Newtown Residents' Association held on Monday 18th June 2012 at 7.30pm Newtown Hall, Daniell St.

Present: Steve Dunn, Tom Law, Carol Comber, Kate Zwartz, Cheryl Robilliard, Dave Smythe, Laura Newcombe, Bernie Harris, Kevin Lethbridge, Peter Frater, Alan Shaw, Greg Nicholls, Ania Upstill, Don Mackay, Martin Hanley.

Apologies: Steve Cosgrove, Cr Paul Eagle, Anna Kemble Welchj, Neville Carson, James Coyle, Don McDonald

Minutes: Minutes of Monday May 21st meeting were approved. Carol / Steve

Innermost Gardens – Ania Upstill gave background on Innermost Gardens projects in Wellington. There is a garden at St James Church but they are looking for alternative sites in Newtown. If anyone knows of a vacant site, large back yard or potential ground (not Town Belt) that is sunny and reasonably accessible tell ania.upstill@gmail.com

St James – Alan Shaw (St James Minister) outlined how the number of parishioners at St James had reduced, insurance costs had significantly increased (4000%) and WCC had given notice that the church had to be strengthened within 15 years. Church members now go to Trinity and St Giles. Alternative options to reuse the building have been investigated. The church does not have the funds to maintain or manage the building so has decided to sell the property. In fact they are having difficulty funding the production of a number of reports required for an application to demolish the WCC listed heritage building. Alan will keep in touch about future developments at St James.

Better Local Government - There was concern that 'wellbeing of the community' is no longer a requirement for Local Government in the proposed legislation. The meeting did not agree on a preferred option but wanted a submission to WCC that stated 'Any new model for local government must include strong representation through Local or Community Boards that are sufficiently resourced with powers and budget to effectively represent and manage the needs and wellbeing of local communities'. Steve to action..

Closing date for submissions Friday 29th June. Online – www.wellington.govt.nz/reform to fill in submission form or email reform@wcc.govt.nz

General Business

Finances – Peter will have a set of the 2011 audited financial reports at the next meeting

NRA website –check it out. www.newtownra.com Don asked that guidelines be set up for those who manage the website and what should be posted. The website is a useful in holding Minutes of Meetings and records but there was concern that someone might note that members were regularly out of their properties at specific times and might burgle property. In future the posted Minutes will record that 'Concillors and X number of NRA members were present'. A separate record of who attended could be kept.

Events Policy – Martin, Don, Kate and Peter have made a submission through the Festival Committee.

Meeting closed 8.40pm and some members went to Bar Edward to celebrate recognition of Peter Frater, Martin Hanley, Anna Kemble Welch and James Coyle acknowledged by WCC as being Absolutely Positively Wellingtonians.
Recorded Steve Dunn

Post meeting note:

Community Centre Parking - Tom mentioned that the Community Centre was seeking changes to the Residents Parking in the area. A 2hr limit plus unlimited time for those with Residents Parking sticker between 8am – 6pm, is mooted. This is similar to what is proposed for Hansen Street and is a good idea for near the Community Centre.

Newtown bar event – this is now proposed for September. Check www.newtown.com for further information.

Meeting calendar: Third Monday of each month @ 7.30pm @ Newtown Hall, Daniell Street.

19th March _ Steve Spence and Stephen Harte (WCC traffic engineers)

16th April–Stuart Bullen, Sandra Crews (WCC Safer Roads)

21st May – Better Local Government review, St Anne's Presbytery

18th June – St James, NRA 2011 Accounts, Absolutely Positively Wellingtonian Award.

16th July – End of year 2011 accounts

20th August –

17th September – Annual General Meeting

15th October –

19th November –

Date tbc December – Xmas get together