

Stavros Michael
Manager City Networks
Wellington City Council

30 May 2013

Dear Stavros

Re: Cityhop Newtown

Thank you for your letter of 2 May consulting the Newtown Residents' Association on the proposal from 'Cityhop' to set up a car share scheme for the Newtown area in the Wilson street car park.

At its monthly meeting of the Residents' Association on Monday 19th May, the proposal in the letter was described and a local resident Eleanor Aitken was able to give a lot of detail on how she uses the car share scheme. There was some discussion on how the scheme works and what costs were involved to use the vehicle, and also how visible the car park location should be and the relative safety of the location in the Wilson Street car park behind the shops.

Our Association has a long standing philosophy of supporting initiatives that improve the liveability, viability and sustainability of our community. We recognise that increased density can help make our local shops, services and amenities more viable. We care about minimising environmental impact and have sub groups of members actively working on how cycling and public transport might better provide movement of people and goods within our community. The Cityhop proposal, as described to us, could help contribute to these outcomes.

We realise this proposed park is the start up location but there were alternative location suggestions at our meeting. For instance, a kerbside park in Green Street would be more visible, but that would impact on local residents who don't have off street parking. Members also liked outside Newtown Library. Being hosted in the Wilson St public carpark does mean being visible and accessible with the first vehicle, which would help publicise the scheme, and encourage users to shop locally, but there may be other ways of doing this better, particularly when more vehicles come available (enrolled users would know where to go when booking a car). Personal safety in the proposed car park was also queried, but there was a personal account of using the area at night and still feeling safe. Members felt WCC will need to make sure the night time illumination meets public safety requirements and suggested closer to the street, next to the mobility carpark, would be better lit.

The Newtown Residents' Association agrees the car share scheme is worth supporting.

There was general agreement from the members meeting that our Association welcomes giving it a trial based with one car located in the Wilson Street carpark. It was noted that it's just the one allocated reserved car park, which should be very clearly marked with signage on the fence clearly visible to drivers.

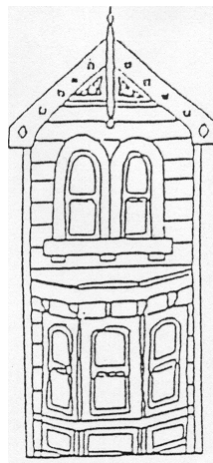
As the scheme expands we would like WCC and Cityhop to contact us and to use our members' fine grain local expertise when deciding other designated parking spots.

We presume that local businesses that are directly affected by the proposal have been consulted as well for their agreement and input into the trial.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at martin.hanley@vuw.ac.nz or on 389 7316 if you would like our Association to provide more detail of our members thoughts on the local start up of this important initiative.

Yours sincerely


Martin Hanley
President
Newtown Residents' Association



Newtown
Residents'
Association
(Inc.)

PO Box 7021
Wellington South