

Minutes of Newtown Residents' Association Meeting - 17 August 2015

Present: Kate Swartz (Chair), Cheryl Robilliard, Leonie Walker, Steve Dunn, Laura Newcombe, Effie Rankin, Stephen Pritchard, Evelyn Hopkins, Rachel Bolstad, Walther Jobstl, Michelle Rose, Steve Cosgrove, James Coyle, Rhona Carson.

Apologies Claire Pettigrew, Peter Frater, Martin Hanley, Anna Kemble Welch.

WCC Consultations

There are no current consultations.

The Traffic Bylaw Review and the Fire Bylaw review start on 28th August and the Safer Speed Limit consultation on a proposal to reduce speed limits in six Wellington suburbs starts on 8 September.

Conservation Week, 1st-8th November - a Dept of Conservation 'Partnerships Ranger' has emailed to encourage us to organize an 'initiative or event' to mark this week. This has been passed on to the Community Gardening Group, to see if they have any proposals.

Litter -

Evelyn expressed extreme concern about the state of Newtown streets, and dissatisfaction with the current contractors. David W and Evelyn did an audit a few weeks ago, and photographed 80 issues.

The meeting discussed this and questioned what standard we should be able to expect.

There was agreement that the Association should write to the Council again, saying things have not improved - copied to our Councillors.

There is a Keep Newtown Clean event to be scheduled in September (next month). At the May meeting it was proposed to reduce KNC to events 4x a year, instead of monthly. There was agreement in principle for the NRA to provide an umbrella for KNC, but as far as we know there has been no response to the call for volunteers to organise these events. Rhona will make enquiries - perhaps we will need to go back to Council to say we can't do this event

The Festival has been nominated for a Wellington Airport Regional Community Award (Heritage and Environment Category) in recognition of the work James Coyle and the rest of the recycling steering group and the volunteers put into recycling at the Street Fair this year. 50% of waste from the Fair was diverted from the landfill

James is working on a press release before the Wellington Awards night on 25th August.

There have been follow-on effects, Cubadupa has asked for advice, and the team want to influence WCC to focus on recycling at other events and markets, and to provide permanent recycling stations on the streets - instead of just rubbish bins. The Festival will discuss options to encourage stallholders to increase recycling in 2016.

Further to recycling - Noted that Pak 'n'Save Kilbirnie are trialling recyclable meat trays.

WCC plans for toy aircraft

Stephen P raised the issues facing people who want to fly remote-controlled toy aircraft now that the new rules about drones are in place - querying what WCC are planning to do in response to this.

Celebrate Newtown: this aspect of the Newtown Festival will run through February to late March 2016. The Festival Committee are inviting people to think of events to run during this time, that can be added to the programme. This means they will benefit from the publicity that comes with being part of the Festival programme. The Newtown Community and Cultural Centre is planning a "Newtown Treasure Hunt" as their Celebrate Newtown contribution - suggestions welcome for places to include.

Plan 79 submission

No response yet to the Association and a number of other people who have submitted.

Princess Terrace

No further word either

Caltex Site

Rumour that some apartments have been planned - no firm information so far.

Free Public Wifi

There is going to be a free wifi site soon above Amadeus

History of Wellington South Licencing Trust

Steve Dunn reported that the historical work on this has been completed, but he needs to find someone who can help with getting it loaded on to a website where it can be made available. There is still some money in the fund. Some attendees at the meeting had some expertise on this to offer - to discuss after the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm. Next meeting, AGM, 21st September.