



# Newtown Residents' Association

[www.newtown.org.nz](http://www.newtown.org.nz)

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## Minutes - Residents' Association Meeting - 18th April, 7.30pm at the Newtown Community Hall, 71 Daniell St

**Present:** Rhona Carson, Tom Law, Steve Cosgrove, Belinda Christie, Peter frater, Don McDonald, Effie Rankin, Evelyn Hopkins, Jeanie McCafferty, Martin Powell, Steve Dunn, Cheryl Robilliard, Matt Atkinson

**Apologies:** David Wilcock, Jane Patterson, Paul Eagle, Martin Hanley and Anna Kemble Welch

### 1. The **Wellington City Council Annual Plan** consultation.

- a. Consultation document seems not to be available in hard copy, none in the Newtown Library - will check and and if not available elsewhere comment that this is a problem. [update 20<sup>th</sup> April – it was available at Council offices - Central Library had a copy for reference only].
- b. One month is a very short time for meaningful consultation. This might be constrained by the Local Government Act. However the consultation is at the same time each year so we need to be prepared. In January we were invited to submit to the development of the plan. We need to plan a submission by the time of our November meeting.
- c. A number of items need specialised knowledge or understanding before commenting - eg Draft Low-Carbon Capital Plan, Urban Development Agency - or don't directly affect us eg Kilbirnie Business Improvement District. Decided to focus discussion at this meeting to items directly about our area. [History from Peter F- Newtown has had a community-building fund similar to that being proposed for Kilbirnie. This was used for streetscape improvements in the 1980s].
- d. New Outdoor Events Series - \$200,000 proposed - our view, want existing underfunded events - ie Newtown Festival - to be better funded before or as well as creating new events. Funding new things could include other events around the Festival, which could lower pressure on Fair Day.
- e. Placemaking - includes \$100,000 for "suburban beautification". Maintaining the character of Newtown's main street might come under this - needs restoring.
- f. We strongly support the Council taking back ownership and maintenance of all sewage pipes.
- g. We can also repeat our views, expressed in the Long Term plan, to support ongoing maintenance etc. There is still about \$3million dollars proposed for Newtown Community development. This is in the Long Term plan.
- h. Noted that each person can make an individual submission via the WCC website.

### 2. **WCC Dog Policy and Animal Bylaw.** Feedback is due 2nd May.

Cheryl and Martin H have agreed to prepare a submission. Cheryl outlined main points e.g. all cats micro-chipped, max 3 per household - need to apply to WCC if want more. Chickens similarly limited to 12 and no roosters. No feeding of animals in public places except designated areas. There was concern about the cost of licensing cats. There was support for asking that controls be used to address issues

rather than a draconian approach to policing the rules.

Dog Policy covers exercise areas. There was general support for the dog exercise areas, particular concern in the Vice-Regal North area not to let dogs off the leash until clear of private property. Fenced areas are popular.

Cheryl will circulate a submission before sending it.

3. **The outcome of the WCC Community, Sport and Recreation Committee meeting on 13th April about the recent report and recommendations on Begging.** The committee decided to accept recommendation to manage issues through “street management” rather than attempt bans. David Wilcock made a submission to the committee on behalf of Newtown Business Association, many problems with people begging in the vicinity of Newtown Mall, often with intimidatory behaviour. Constable Dean, in charge of all community police sites, was also at the meeting and David talked to him about this issue. He also requested that Community Police resume coming to our meetings. David reports increased Police presence on the street and fewer problems since then. There is a ‘Street Outreach’ multi-agency team who try to make contact and work with the people who are begging. Look out for Local Hosts (green uniform) who are employed by Council and are part of the Outreach team.
4. **A report on the Mt Victoria Transport Forum on 12th April** - the Mt Victoria Newsletter convened this meeting to discuss the ['Let's get Wellington Moving'](#) public engagement process - a joint initiative of Wellington City Council, Greater Wellington Regional Council and the NZ Transport Agency. There was general discussion about this meeting, led by the attendees - Steve C, Cheryl, Steve D, Martin P. Impressed by the willingness to listen, not impose proposals. Consultation began 6th April, open for 6 weeks. See <http://getwellymoving.co.nz> to take online survey.
5. **Berhampore Community Centre** has been in the media. Recently opened, based at the Centennial Flats on Adelaide Rd. Public meeting on 6th April, Peter and Rhona attended. Primarily about running the Community Centre, but also some discussion about reviving the Berhampore Residents' Association. Peter supports this, Berhampore needs a focus for consultation with WCC about local issues. Currently two issues:
  - a. 30kph speed limit through the shops and Britomart Street.
  - b. Placemaking - Council initiative to give Berhampore a stronger identity.
6. **FixIt.**
  - a. Discussed collecting FixIt response data, so we have hard stats on how these are working in our area. We can try asking Council, but experience is that it is hard to get answers. Graffiti and Health and Safety issues seem to be addressed quickly but cleaning, landscaping, etc, seems to be more problematic. Hoping that Kevin Lavery will accept our invitation to meet next month, it will be useful to have clear information for him.
  - b. Major issue is not getting feedback about whether the problem has been fixed. Perhaps more instructions would be useful. Donald has managed to get a list of all the jobs he submitted, from Issues Resolution Office. Many have not been addressed. It was agreed that follow up is not very good.
  - c. The wider issue is that we want on-going maintenance checked and followed up without it being necessary for someone to draw attention to it. We are looking for ideas regarding what to do if we don't get a response to the rubbish issues.

7. Tom reported on the rumour that the **Newtown Community Police Station** is going to close. This is more likely after a volunteer in an Auckland community office was attacked. Police have closed these offices at present because of Health and Safety concerns, so our office will be closed until further notice.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm.