



Minutes of the Newtown Residents' Association Meeting 18 April 2022 (on zoom).

Present: Rhona Carson (Chair), Steve Cosgrove (Minutes), Jane Patterson, Léonie Walker, Sam Somers, Hilary Watson, Steve Dunn, Marion Leighton, Michelle Wolland, Don McDonald, James Fraser, Martyn Pinckard, Yadana Saw, Warwick Taylor, Joyce Gibson, Stan Alley. Council Officers Bri Peters, Claire Pascoe and Vida Christeller attended for the discussion about the Cycleway.

Apologies: Cr Fleur Fitzsimons, Cr Lourie Foon, Kassie Mcluskie, Penny Sturgess, Kevin Lethbridge, Anna Kemble Welch and Martin Hanley.

Publicised Agenda Items

- Update from the WCC Cycle Team about the transitional bike path from Mein St to the city
- [the WCC Economic Wellbeing Strategy](#)
- [the WCC 2022-23 Annual Plan](#)
- [the Ministry for the Environment Consultation on Transforming Recycling](#)

Other items.

Don mentioned **illegal parking at the Zoo**. Rhona acknowledged this as an issue, but suggested there is little we can do about it at the moment.

James Fraser asked about progress at the ex - **Workingsmens Bowling Club**, commenting on the club rooms being boarded up and a chunk taken out of the hedge. Rhona confirmed that the windows were broken, so were covered, and the gap in the hedge was created so the WCC maintenance team could take their ride-on mower on to the site. An informal group got together some weeks ago to discuss suggestions for using the space, Rhona will follow up and suggest another meeting. The Council meeting on 3rd Feb recommended that the Annual Plan/Long Term Plan approve up to \$1.5M for developing the site – however it doesn't seem to be in the current draft Annual Plan. Our Ward Councillors are looking into this.

Council Election & Possible Meet the Candidates meetings

Sam introduced '**It's In The Ballot**'. This was trialled at the last elections it involves meetings with candidates, broadcast on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube. Random questions are selected in the style of 'Its In The Bag'. Sam intends to have shows for all wards and all Councils in the GWRC area.

Yadana mentioned (by way of disclosure) that she is standing for GWRC.

Marion Leighton thanked Sam for doing this, noting that the online format makes the meetings accessible to a wider audience. Sam hopes to engage more younger voters.

Rhona proposed that the Association hold in-person meetings as we usually do. Nominations open on 15th July and close on 12th August, so we won't know till then how many candidates there are. The number of nominations will impact the number of meetings required – eg if the numbers are quite low we could combine Mayor, Council and GWRC in the same meeting, but last election we needed separate meetings for each of these so everybody could have time to speak. We will plan to have meetings around the end of August, beginning of September – voting papers will be sent out from 16th September, voting closes on 8th October.

Update from the WCC Cycle Team about the transitional bike path from Mein St to the city

Jane outlined the history of this, then introduced the Council officers Bri Peters, Claire Pascoe and Vida Christeller who had come in on a public holiday to korero with us.

Claire outlined progress since last November when she was last at a Residents' Association meeting.

- There was an intense consultation period in the design phase.
- The section from Mein Street to the Basin Reserve is starting next week.
- The full route is expected to be completed by September.
- The web-site has details of how the whole route will look. Claire outlined the overall objectives.

- The formal consultation will start after the bike path is operational, so people can give feedback on how it works in practice.

Questions and Responses

- Recently there have been a lot of discussions around the needs of the shops near the Riddiford/Adelaide Rd corner. Claire listed a number of options that were considered for a replacement loading zone. There will be one just inside the hospital driveway, about 40m from the previous position.
- It was noted that the Hospital personnel are potential customers – Marion gave the numbers, 6,000FTE staff, many of whom work business hours Mon – Fri, and 600 patients, with associated visitors.
- Steve C described a conversation with a rangatahi who totally supported the way the cycle lanes are being trialled.
- Sam asked about the crossing outside Blind NZ. Claire explained that the poles are being moved to make more space on the road.
- The Council officers noted that a bus stop is being removed on each side of Adelaide Rd This is a trial to help speed up the busses.
- Bri outlined some short-term parking which is being introduced to the Adelaide Road side streets.
- Steve Dunn asked whether some of this was the time limited/residents' exempt parking which had been proposed. Bri will enquire further, but doesn't think so.
- Léonie asked about bike parking, and there was a lot of discussion about where bike parks of various types could be placed. Bike parking is planned for outside the Blood Bank. It would be good to have bike parking outside the shops, but there are also concerns about keeping the footpath clear.
- There was a query about the outcome of the Council meeting on 14th April. The Council voted 10-4 against delaying the trial and 14-0 in favour of a number of other proposals. [*Note – an extract from the Council meeting minutes is copied at the end of these minutes.]
- Rhona asked about timing. It is expected that sections will be opened as they are finished, but this is not confirmed.
- Officers are working with Countdown to improve visibility of the public parks they offer. The number of parking places they currently offer is much reduced from the original agreement for 20 spaces so this is also being negotiated.
- There were questions about lower speed limits – long standing request for 30km through Newtown. The team noted that it isn't possible to do this as part of the trial – can't do it as a temporary measure – but there are some legislative changes coming which will make reducing limits easier.
- Final comment - on 28 April there is a Breakfast at the Basin for cyclists, with information about the bike path plans.

Jane and Rhona thanked the officers for their time. They invited anyone to contact them with any further questions and concerns.

Forthcoming consultations:

WCC Economic Wellbeing Strategy

- Submissions are due on 25 April
- Rhona outlined some parts
 - The Strategy states that Cultural, Social, Economic and Environmental factors should be taken into account for well being.
 - There are six outcomes being targeted: Sustainable business and career pathways, Circular Economy, Business friendly city, Centre of Creativity and digital innovation, celebration of our capital city status, Dynamic city heart and thriving suburban centres. These are all good aims, but the concrete actions on how these outcomes might be met are less obvious.
- Marion noted the conflict inherent in deciding what is core council business and what is not.
- Rhona asked anyone interested to read the strategy and put forward ideas for a possible submission from the Association.

WCC 2022-23 Annual Plan

There are two major changes from the Longterm Plan that Council wants feedback about – the future funding of Council housing and the future of the Southern Landfill.

Council Housing

- The Council has put forward 2 options – continue with Council ownership and management of the housing, or set up a Community Housing Provider (CHP) to take it over. There are 3 options for a CHP - Council sells its housing to the CHP, the CHP leases the housing and is responsible for tenancies, repairs and maintenance – this is the WCC preferred option, or the CHP leases the housing, manages tenancies and minor repairs but Council manages major maintenance.
 - Warwick outlined some history and the state of Council Community housing stock. Essentially, the Council has run out of money for the last five years of a twenty-year upgrade plan. Steve added that this problem was exacerbated by more leaking flats and earthquake prone flats than expected.
 - He is concerned about any move to transferring the options of City Housing to a Trust; the Council should retain accountability for this.
- Rhona noted that the Plan suggests that moving housing to a trust would mean less funding necessary from rates. Warwick is not sure about that.
- Warwick noted a lack of transparency in the self-financing of Community Housing.
- Warwick answered a question about why Council tenants don't get the MSD rent-related funding. This is apparently related to criteria for tenancies. If WCC set up a CHP new tenants could get the Rent Related Subsidy, but not existing tenants.

Landfill Options

- New landfill on the current site.
- Build a huge incineration plant. This requires a minimum amount of waste, which conflicts with our waste minimisation policy.
- Close the landfill and send waste to the Hutt or Porirua.

There was support at the meeting for building a new landfill on the current site.

James noted the private landfill at Happy Valley which takes most demolition waste from the city, and the risk of pollution from this site.

Other matters in the 2022-23 Annual Plan

There are a few other changes from the long-term plan, including funding for Khandallah Pool, but not the funding allocated to the Workingmen's Club site. There are also some proposed increases to encroachment fees and changes to other Council charges.

Submissions about the Annual Plan are due by 15th May. People who would like to be involved in discussions about submissions are invited to make contact on newtownwellington@gmail.com.

The Ministry for the Environment Consultation on Transforming Recycling

- This includes re-introducing a deposit scheme for bottles.
- Warwick outlined some of the features of the consultation document: <https://consult.environment.govt.nz/waste/transforming-recycling/>
- Sam is concerned about Tetra Paks recycling. He used eight litres of packaged plant based milk and one of trim milk at the Johnsonville market. Leonie confirmed that there are plans for tetra paks and Marion added that a place in Hamilton is collecting them. If recycled, tetra paks are less of an environmental issue than plastic or glass.

Submissions on Transforming Recycling are due by 8th May. People who would like to be involved in discussions about submissions are invited to make contact on newtownwellington@gmail.com.

Picking Up Waste in Newtown

There is another event planned for 2pm on 1 May. This is also a chance to promote environmental awareness.

The meeting ended at 8:58

***An extract from**

Minutes of the Pūroro Āmua | Planning and Environment Committee 14/04/2022

2.1 Halt roadworks of Riddiford St North

Resolved

That the Pūroro Āmua | Planning and Environment Committee:

1. Receive the information.
2. ~~Suspend further work on the Newtown trial cycleway until such time as all businesses along the route have been specifically engaged with by Council officers on the detailed design and have had their suggestions, concerns and questions reasonably addressed. [This clause was defeated]~~
3. Note that after feedback from businesses in John Street provisions have been made to retain the existing loading zone as a time restricted on-street loading zone/P10 (approximately 2 parks) 7pm-7am as well as establish a new full time loading zone on the hospital access road just south of the shops.
4. Note that there will be new public parking available at the children's hospital.
5. Note that formal consultation will be conducted once the trials are in place to gather feedback on lived experience to inform decision making along with data.
6. Note that a WCC standard level of service for loading zones will be prepared to support businesses as Council rolls out the ambitious capital works programme.
7. Direct officers to require compliance with the agreement that 20 public parks are provided in the Countdown supermarket carpark.