



Minutes of the Newtown Residents' Association Meeting 17th June 2024

Present: Rhona Carson (Chair), Joyce Gibson, Bill Colosimo, Stephen Pritchard, Kevin Lethbridge, Jane Patterson, Bryony Hales, David Jenkins, Hilary Watson, Keith Powell, Steve Dunn, Leha North, Lainey Cowan, Tolis Papazoglou, Robin Payne, Don McDonald, Alex Hockley, DM Laurie Foon.

Apologies: Steve Cosgrove, Carol Comber, Marion Leighton, Josh Clark, Penny Sturgess, Sam Somers.

The Parking Scheme for Berhampore and West Newtown – due to start on Monday 24th June.

Attendees affected by the new parking scheme talked about their experiences and concerns. DM Laurie Foon took notes, in order to follow up with the WCC Officers responsible for the scheme.

Issues raised –

People were having problems with the online system for applying for a parking permit – eg, getting ID recognised, email links not working, trouble registering different cars from the same shared email address. Taking a lot of persistence and computer literacy to get a successful result.

An attendee recommended going in person to Arapaki, the WCC Service Centre in Manners St. The staff there helped him to register.

Concerns that in areas where the parking will continue to be unlimited the available parking places could be taken by people leaving cars longterm. It is hard for residents to find a parking spot now and could get worse not better with the new scheme.

When the cycleways are installed in Rintoul St people on the uphill side won't be able to stop outside their homes even for pick up and drop off. Request that an equivalent of 'residents' loading zones' be established – ie provision for 10 mins short term parking – to let people at least drop off passengers or unload heavy items across the road.

Newtown East isn't yet included in the scheme. Residents in Roy St continue to advocate for recognition of the extra demands on parking at weekends in the vicinity of the Zoo and Newtown Park, so that when the scheme is extended next year there can be some assistance with this.

Laurie Foon passed on some information

- for the first 3 weeks of the scheme only warning tickets will be issued.
- there will be a review of the scheme after the first 6 months.

The new park at 177 Owen St

This is the former Workingmen's Bowling Club site. When the WCC Councillors discussed the Park proposal on June 6th they agreed that the existing club buildings could be demolished (too costly to fix) and the site developed into a neighborhood park for community use and small events. There is already \$1,500,000 in the budget for this. Cr Nureddin Abdurahman proposed an amendmend to request that toilets be included, but when put to the vote the result was 9 for and 9 against, with the Chairperson's casting vote

being against. The official Council policy is that toilets aren't needed because there are other public toilets within 5 mins walk – at Newtown Park.

Since the Council meeting Rhona Carson, Steve Dunn, Cheryl Robilliard and Jane Patterson have had a meeting with Sanjay Patel and David Halliday, the WCC Officers overseeing the project, to discuss the plans further. The intention is for demolition of the buildings to start in the near future, and the redevelopment to happen within the year.

Steve Dunn outlined the proposal – a large open space for general recreation and events, including BBQs, seating, a children's play area and a stage. There is some continuing discussion about the best position for the stage.

The discussion at the meeting agreed that the decision not to include toilets was short-sighted. The Association is likely to look for an opportunity to have this reconsidered.

Community Garden at Carrara Park

Rhona Carson gave an update about this garden. The enthusiastic gardeners who started the garden have moved on. Currently the plots are kept in order by a few neighbours (who are Association members), but new gardeners would be welcomed. Recently the Association applied to the WCC Community Garden Fund (known as Stone Soup) for a grant, and have received \$115 (inc gst) to be spent on compost, seeds, seedlings etc for refurbishing the beds.

Wellington Heritage Festival

Rhona reported that she is still in the process of gathering information for a series of applications for events during the Festival in October-November.

Alex Hockley, the WHF CEO, said that there were about 140 events confirmed so far, with several from Newown.

Judicial Review

There was a brief discussion of the news that the Live Wellington Trust has filed for a Judicial Review of the WCC decision to reject the District Plan Independent Hearings Panel recommendations about the extent of Character Precincts in inner city suburbs.