



Minutes of the Newtown Residents' Association Meeting 15 July 2024

Present: Rhona Carson (Chair), Steve Cosgrove (Minutes), Penny Sturgess, Joyce Gibson, Kevin Lethbridge, Graeme Carroll, Kerry Finnigan, Hilary Watson, Devid Jenkins, Don McDonald, Wendy Blue, Stephen Pritchard, Sam Somers.

Apologies: DM Laurie Foon, Josh Clark (Kianga Ora), Rowena Tun, Jane Patterson, Michelle Wolland, Lainey Cowan Jan Gould.

Carol Comber introduced and updated the meeting with progress at Mount Cook Mobilised (MCM)

- A range of activities that are business as usual for MCM
- Carol also coordinates [Mt Cook Connect](#), a 'virtual community centre' which provides information about activities and available venues in Mt Cook.
- Steve briefly described the work Massey University has completed upgrading the Great Hall for video production – another community asset.
- Rhona described the agreement between MCM and Newtown Residents' Association who provide a financial umbrella for MCM, who are not an incorporated society. This agreement is in the process of being renewed for the current year.

There was a discussion on the initial effect of changes to Berhampore parking.

- Some bus drivers appear to be driving too close to the centre of the road.
- The parking changes appear to be working OK so far, with a lot of free car parks.
- Steve updated the status of the Council's new parking enforcement cars.
<https://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/projects/parking-services-vehicles>
- It was noted that Wadestown and Johnsonville are the next area to be addressed.

177 Owen Street redevelopment (Old Workingmen's Bowling Club)

- Removal of old buildings has started.
- Some work is being undertaken on the boundary with the town belt.
- There is discussion about the location of the stage and other sound related questions.
- Rhona circulated some City Council concept drawings of the site and the planned public park.
- It is expected that some accessible parking will be provided before a new gate is installed to prevent unauthorised access to the Town Belt.
- Other specific amenities, such as an exercise circuit, might be a good addition – we could make a case for this if there are requests which show a demand.

Don McDonald suggested that there is a need for Council to improve their email responses to complaints and concerns.

Safety in Newtown - Two months ago two Newtown focused police officers came to the Association meeting, and recently we have heard that there are City Council Safety Officers - Joel Berryman (City Safe Team Leader), Nic Stephenson (City Safe Advisor), and Felix Ramsden (City Safe Advisor) focussing on what is going on in Newtown, and working with DCM and local police.

Rhona asked for people's observations about what is going on on the streets currently, and it was noted that the environment does appear to be safer-looking over the past month.

However there was a ram-raid at the Coromandel Dairy Wednesday night last week (10 July). In the early hours of the morning a speeding car crashed through and broke the doors then took off again. Nothing was taken.

Newtown Residents' Association Constitution

- A 2022 Act of Parliament requires some changes to our (and other incorporated societies) constitution by 2026. The Executive undertook to get some initial information about this for the next AGM in September.
- Our current objectives are much more complicated than those of some other Residents' Associations which have recently re-registered. Rhona asked for volunteers to work on re-writing them and Sam and Stephen volunteered.
- There was a general discussion regarding the potential for the Association to get charity status, and the ways we can be described as having 'charitable purposes'.

Newtown Library and Smart Newtown are currently closed while the roof is being repaired. Smart Newtown is working from the Community Centre. Kerry (a CAB volunteer) reported that the plan is for Smart Newtown to move permanently to the Community Centre and Citizens Advice Bureau will move to their current premises next to the library.

Meeting closed at 8:45