



Minutes of the Newtown Residents Association meeting on 17 March 2025, 7.30pm at St Thomas's Community Lounge.

Present: Rhona Carson (Chair), Steve Cosgrove (Meeting notes), Chris Rabey, Alisn Borbelly, Tom Law, Kevin Lethbridge, David Jenkins, Hilary Watson, Steve Cosgrove, Sam Somers, Leeha North, Gareth Price, Daphne Pilaar, Keith Powell, Bryony Hales, Penny Sturgess, Jane Patterson, Don McDonald, Joyce Gibson, Michelle Wolland, Lainey Cowan, Kerry Finnegan

Guest - Murray Edridge - Wellington City Missioner.

Apologies: DM Laurie Foon, Cnr Nureddin Abduraman, Carol Comber, Martin Hanley, Steve Dunn

Rhona welcomed attendees, and passed on thanks from Martin Hanley, Newtown Festival Director, to all who contributed to the Newtown Festival on March 2nd.

Car parking for Association meetings: It was noted that the McDonald's car park time limit has changed from 90 to 60 minutes and people are being prosecuted for parking there for 90 minutes. The P60 on-street parking restrictions apply between 8am and 6pm, so parking on the street during meetings is recommended. [See the official information here.](#)

Guest Speaker

Murray Edridge, Wellington City Missioner, talked about Whakamaru, and the work WCM does from there and at other WCM facilities.

- The situation for those challenged in the community is as dire as it has ever been. There is an increase in the homeless population, exacerbated by the decreased availability of emergency housing. Several WCM services are focussed on housing options.
- Te Pā Manawa Britannia House in Petone is an established transitional housing facility.
- Te Pā Pori, the Tory Street Supported Transitional Housing Facility, provides self-contained units and has 24/7 support staff in attendance.
- Te Pā Maru, the previous Night Shelter on Taranaki Street, now provides accommodation for substance users. This project went over expected expenditure because of seismic strengthening requirements and additional amenity in the building. This is a harm reduction resource for alcohol dependency rather than a treatment venue. It is also unique nationally. The wrap-around support is hard to provide, but does produce some wonderful results.
- Te Ō is a Kāinga Ora complex in Mt Cook, where WCM provides 24/7 support to the residents.
- Whakamaru, which opened in November, had a complicated path to development. Originally the plan was to refurbish an old building on the Oxford Tce site, but eventually the decision was made to demolish it and construct a purpose-built facility. The Wellington community, with some Government support, has paid off \$50 million for the building.
- Whakamaru provides transitional housing as well as other services. These services include:
 - Craig and Gail's Café – a vibrant community hub where there is no 'us and them'. Customers pay what they can.
 - There are meeting spaces with excellent connectivity and services. These gather people in.
 - Social Supermarket
 - Laundry and showers
 - Medical Centre and other practitioners: social workers, support workers, financial mentors.
 - Crisis Recovery Café. People in distress can drop in to the Café at any time 24/7 to seek support from staff who are trained and supported to provide it.

Murray answered questions about the services. He also praised the staff and volunteers who make the services work - including some of our members at the meeting who are part of the WCM team. He was thanked and warmly applauded for his contribution.

Neighbours' Gathering at Carrara Park Rhona invited attendees to this event on Saturday March 22nd from 1pm – 4pm We at Newtown Residents' Association are hosting this event to celebrate [Neighbours Aotearoa](#).

Update on the new Community Park, 177 Owen St - work has started on the Park construction. The WCC officers have been consulting with Manu Whenua, who are going to give a name to the park.

Urban Renewal: Adelaide Road, a case study on Brownfields Redevelopment. A panel discussion was run by the Urban Development Institute (UDINZ) on 6 March at Whakamaru. Hilary Watson, Steve Dunn and Carol Comber attended.

Hilary reported back and referred us to this review of the meeting: <https://www.thepost.co.nz/nz-news/360605726/ripe-development-failed-plans-adelaide-road>

Consultation and development of a plan for Adelaide Road was initiated by WCC in 2008, but little has been completed.

Ian Cassels spoke on the panel about the successful development of the 'Monark building' on the corner of King Street.

WCC consultations. Consultation on the Long Term Plan (LTP) amendment, the Annual Plan, and the Local Water Done Well, will be happening from March 20th to April 21st.

There will be 2 in-person consultations in our ward. The first consultation meeting will be at Newtown Library Saturday 22nd March 10.30am - 12pm, the second at Island Bay Library, Thursday 10 April, 12–1.30pm.

Date of the next meeting: 14th April. The 3rd Monday in April, 21st April, is Easter Monday. Rhona proposed moving to 14th April - still 4 weeks between meetings, and allows time to discuss the WCC consultations before submissions close.

Meeting ended at 8:50pm