



## Minutes of the Newtown Residents Association meeting on 14 April 2025

This meeting was at 7.30pm at the Community Lounge, St Thomas's Church, 200 Riddiford St Newtown.

### Present:

Rhona Carson (Chair), Steve Cosgrove (Meeting notes), Leonie Walker, Wendy Blue, Penny Sturgess, Don McDonald, Alex Hockley, Carol Comber, Sam Somers, Kevin Lethbridge, Michelle Wolland, DM Laurie Foon, Cr Nureddin Abdurahman.

**Guest** - Paul Barker, Wellington City Council Street Transformation Manager.

**Apologies:** Keith Powell, Daphne Pilaar, Jane Patterson, Hilary Watson, Dave Jenkins, Martin Hanley.

**The Newtown Parking Plan** is due to begin in Newtown East on June 24th.

**Paul Barker** from WCC addressed the meeting. He outlined the operation of the parking plan - a percentage of the on-street parking is designated P180, 8am-8pm Monday-Friday, with an exemption for parking permit holders who can stay indefinitely. Parking permits are currently \$195 a year, which can be paid in installments, or free for disability parking permit holders. There had been a proposal from Councillors to reduce the cost for Community Service Card holders, but this can't be done at present because Government legislation limits the ways CSCs can be used - this is still being negotiated.

The plan was implemented in Berhampore and Newtown West in June 2024, with the intention to review it before implementing it in Newtown East. This review has taken place. There were few significant issues but it was identified that some streets are still under pressure, and there was some inequity for some residents living inside the local centre (ie commercial zone) who didn't qualify for residents' permits. There was a WCC Koata Hātepe | Regulatory Processes Committee meeting on Wednesday 9th April which agreed to exploring the need for more restricted spaces in Berhampore, and extending the zones for residents' permits to include residents in the local centre. Permits are allocated in priority order - currently there are nine priorities. Commercial Center could be a tenth priority.

**Residents in Newtown east will receive a letter and a leaflet in early May** – this will have information on the parking changes and how to apply for a resident parking permit and visitor permits. Applications for residents' permits will be open from mid-May. The application is done online or by phone.

### Discussion -

- The question was asked about why there will no longer be a permit sticker on a car – a sticker alerts residents to unauthorised vehicles, which can then be reported. The answer is that number-plate recognition is now the preferred option.
- Mevo and CityHop are allowed to park permanently on P180 spaces.
- Paul advised that some Constable Street residents (north side, near the library) who live in the local centre zone and are currently eligible for residents' permits will still be eligible - although the associated residents only parking will be replaced by 180 min resident exempt spaces.
- Around the Zoo there are more considerations. The scheme will be commenced as planned, but specific problems in this location can be considered later in the process.
- The scheme will be kept simple to begin with, then can be reviewed.
- Two scenarios were presented where residents need to change the number plate registered to a house every so often. Paul undertook to get back to the Association regarding this.
- Cr Nureddin Abdurahman noted that there have been a number of infringement notices issued in Berhampore/Newtown West and this can be a significant financial issue. He is concerned people from refugee and migrant communities where there is a language barrier might have trouble finding out about and understanding the new rules.

- Paul noted that permits can be obtained by phone and translators are available to help with this. A phone call is the first step but if that isn't sufficient then the Council officers will take further steps to help and can arrange to meet in person.
  - There were some leaflets in other languages available when the Berhampore/Newtown West scheme started. The uptake wasn't great, but these could be made available again.
  - Council is working with tenants and housing providers, including Te Toi Mahana, to assist renters with the processes.
  - Mobility permit holders can get a permit at no cost.
  - Everyone who requests a permit in the 'first round' will get one unless there is a major issue.
  - Tuesday 24 June is when the scheme starts.
    - Two weeks of warning notices for infringements will follow
    - 8 August enforcement will begin. The current scheme is down to about 30 tickets per month.
  - Michelle Wolland asked about longstanding parking issues in Balmoral Tce. Paul will investigate.
- Paul Barker was thanked for his time, and left the meeting at this point.

**A discussion of the WCC open consultations followed** - LTP amendment, Annual Plan and Local Water Done Well. Submissions close on Monday April 21st.

- Don McDonald asked about fines on the bus lanes – Cr Nureddin said that the figure quoted was \$250,000 which was the total of tickets issued, not the amount of fines paid. Don still wants to know the amount of money received.
- DM Laurie Foon clarified that anything that is not listed in the consultation document is remaining in the LTP and is not being consulted on. This includes the Arts Funding, which was agreed in the previous round of consultation.

**LTP amendment – Cr Nureddin opened the discussion.**

- Cr Nureddin outlined the previous process, leading to the amendment about not selling the airport shares, and listed some of the projects for which funding has been changed. These are projects being targeted for consultation.
- Anything else can be mentioned in a submission.
- Feedback can be about projects from any area of the city.
- The Council doesn't have a co-ordinated transport plan for the city, which is unfortunate.
- The Carrara Park toilet was agreed by Council in August 2023 but is now scheduled for year four of the LTP (the next Council). We can request that this be brought forward and included in the current Annual Plan.
- There was also discussion about the new Owen St Park, now under construction and making good progress. The request for a toilet in those plans was defeated – Council policy of no toilet if there is another public one within 5 mins walk. Could reopen this request.
- There is now money in the proposed LTM for Suburban Centre Upgrades, Newtown and Johnsonville are likely candidates.

**Annual Plan** - Deputy Mayor Laurie Foon spoke about this

- There is a proposal that the Council provide \$700,000 each year to Taranaki Tenth Trust to maintain Mātai Moana Reserve on Miramar Peninsula. This is something we could consider supporting. <https://wellington.govt.nz/your-council/projects/matai-moana-reserve>
  - Commercial rates for Air B & B providers are suggested in the Annual Plan. Any submissions on this topic will be of interest.
- Cr Nureddin noted that this is a very tricky issue.
- The projected rates rise is 12.2%. This includes 1.4% for the waste minimisation fund.

**Local Water Done Well** - DM Laurie Foon

- This is a very big decision. The options are
  - A multi-council water services organisation with all the Greater Wellington Councils. The water related assets, debt, revenue and liabilities would be transferred to the new entity. The costs would no longer be included in Council rates, households would be charged directly for their consumption.
  - A Wellington-only water services organisation – similar to the above but solely owned by WCC and only applying to Wellington water services.
  - Continuing with existing arrangements, WCC owns the assets and services are contracted out to Wellington Water.

- Water meters are probable whichever option is decided
- Cr Nuredding noted that under the current plan it would take 660 years to fix the pipes.
- We can feed back into this process if we have concerns about:
  - The potential for privatisation.
  - Lack of Council control over the new entity
  - Potential of the new entity to avoid any targeting of charges
  - Transferring 3 waters to a regional entity would mean that City Council would have reduced assets to secure borrowing

In summary, in making submissions:

- Look at what we like and what we don't like.
- Consider what we would like to talk about (for the next ten years) and submit accordingly..

**Other business:**

DM Laurie reported that the big Newtown Cleanup last Sunday went very well.

The park at 177 Owen Street is scheduled to be finished in June.

**Meeting ended at 9:07pm**