



Minutes of the Newtown Residents Association meeting - 18 August 2025

7.30pm at the Community Lounge, St Thomas's Church, 200 Riddiford St.

Present: Jane Patterson (Chair), Steve Cosgrove (Minutes), Don McDonald, Daphne Pilaar, Keith Powell, Michelle Wolland, Warwick Taylor, Wendy Blue, Fiona Robertson, Sambrene Chandler, Laura Zhong, Graeme Carroll, Malcolm Menzies, Gravity Marsters, Merio Marsters, Carol Comber, Stephen Pritchard, Cpt Andrew Wilson, Hilary Watson, Dave Jenkins, Cr Nureddin Abdurahman, DM Laurie Foon

Guests: Paul Fletcher - Priest in Charge at St Toms, Madeleine Taylor.

Apologies: Rhona Carson, Penny Sturgess, Steve Dunn, Sam Somers, Marion Leighton

Discussion

McDonalds Parking - noted that a 60 minute parking limit is now being enforced. If you stay longer you will get an \$85 fine. You could write to ask to be excused, with a copy to the owner (get email address from Hilary).

Paul Fletcher, Priest in Charge at St Toms, introduced himself. He and his wife live in Mansfield St.

He has been here six months and is working out local priorities.

Don asked "what is his mission?" Answer - "Working with youth and others".

Services are in the Newtown School Hall because the Church here is too small. They are repurposing the use of this space for appropriate groups. This building might be replaced with community housing in the future.

Madeleine Taylor from [Tiriti Action Group \(TAG\)](#) talked about the work TAG is doing to raise awareness about the upcoming referendum on Māori Wards this local body election.

Warwick asked about a good way to deal with dissenters. Madeleine suggested some engagement tactics and recommended courses at <https://www.tauiwitautoko.com/>

Further discussion about Newtown concerns and street safety.

Cpt. Andrew Wilson from the Salvation Army talked about developing a community de-escalation workshop, as previously discussed at the May meeting. There will be a pilot session on the 3rd of September.

Councillor Nureddin Abdurahman and Deputy Mayor Laurie Foon outlined the CBD issues, particularly the [City Safety Plan](#), and why some people are moving from the CBD to Newtown.

There is a Council paper coming soon on this issue.

There is a meeting on Tuesday to start co-ordination between service providers and the local community to start collating and sharing information.

Paul Fletcher added that there are a lot of things going on in Newtown and people are working to support those who need help.

Nureddin went on to ask people to report any undesirable activity.

There was general agreement that this problem is complicated. People on Newtown streets include known drug dealers, and there are beggars who live elsewhere and come to Newtown because we are a compassionate community.

On 18 July there was [a fire, suspected arson](#), at 285 Mansfield Street. This was very alarming to neighbours, some of whom were at the meeting. The house was occupied by squatters and is likely to be linked to the other problems. We are advised that Council officers are in contact with the owners.

It was raised that people need far more than housing. Andrew said that the Government has indicated that there will be no more money available for mental health and addiction work. The various agencies will continue to work on community-based solutions.

Other news from Wellington City Council

Nureddin expressed his concern about the cost increases associated with the Sludge Minimisation Project. There is a project in Council looking at how to avoid cost overruns.

The water services delivery plan is likely to be signed this Wednesday.

Updating the Newtown Residents' Association Constitution

Stephen Pritchard has been working on updating our constitution as required by changes to the Incorporated Society Requirements. He outlined the process and undertook to get a draft circulated soon, in preparation for the AGM on September 15th.

Questions for the Meet the Candidates Meetings, which are on Monday 25th August (GWRC), Monday 1st September (WCC Councillors) and Monday 8th September (Mayor).

Jane suggested that specific questions could be emailed to Rhona Carson at newtownwellington@gmail.com, who could work with the MC on the day to suggest questions for candidates.

Meeting ended at 8:48