



## Minutes of the Newtown Resident's Association Meeting, 7.30pm 15th February 2021 at Newtown Hall, 71 Daniell St.

**Present:** Rhona Carson (Chair) Steve Cosgrove (Minutes), Glyn Avery, Warwick Taylor, Penny Sturgess, Cheryl Robilliard, Steve Dunn, Sam Somers, Marion Leighton, Peter Frater, Kevin Lethbridge, Carol Comber, Mary Tohill, Jude Bleach, Robin Payne, Tolis Papazoglou, Adam Awad, Alison Borbely, Mandy Winther.  
Guest- Joakim Linman from Predator Free Wellington

**Apologies:** Jane Patterson, Leonie Walker, Hilary Watson, Dave Jenkins, Kassie McLuskie, Seini Talainaivalu, Martin Hanley, Anna Kemble Welch, Don McDonald, Cr Laurie Foon, Cr Fleur Fitzsimons.

Rhona welcomed everyone to the meeting, which was being held under Covid Level 2 conditions - extra spacing, rigorous checking in and sanitising, many attendees wearing masks.

**Predator Free Wellington** Community Engagement and Field Officer Joakim Liman introduced himself, and spoke about the PFW plans for an intensive rat eradication operation throughout Newtown and neighbouring suburbs. He used a powerpoint presentation illustrating the pests that are being targeted, the work already done and the future plans.

- The first area PFW tackled was Miramar
  - No stoats since 2007 - huge territory = few there
  - Only a few rats left - functionally extinct for 250 days +
  - It has taken two years to achieve this success.
- Phase 2 is Island Bay to CBD - Plan is to finish the city in ten years.
  - Bait stations and traps will be on private property, in bush reserves, parks, coastal and commercial areas. They are placed and secured in a way that prevents any risk to pets.
  - Boundary line is a trap every ten metres.
  - Possums - can eat 135 tonnes of vegetation each night. Now few south of Johnsonville
  - Some plants are particularly attractive to rats -eg Taupata berries and bark.
  - Introduced pest plants Banana Passionfruit and Cape Ivy are also popular with rats
  - Rat-proofing compost bins helps!
  - <https://www.pfw.org.nz/island-bay-to-cbd/> (sign up to host a trap, or see more about the project) or 0800norats 0800667287

Discussion followed. There was some concern about using poison bait, both on humane grounds and the problems of decomposing rats in wall cavities. Outline of the pros and cons - bait is more efficient than trapping and rats are major predators. Generally rats retreat to burrows to die, but PFW personnel go through the territory collecting carcasses from traps and elsewhere and they are disposed of safely.

At this stage of the project PFW are publicising the plans and are hoping to hear from people willing to have traps on their property.

Rhona thanked Joakim for his presentation; applause from the meeting.

Further reading -

<https://www.pfw.org.nz/get-involved/resources/how-to-rat-proof-your-compost/>

<https://dcon01mstr0c21wprod.azurewebsites.net/globalassets/documents/science-and-technical/sfc127b.pdf>

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/taranaki-daily-news/news/117171591/south-taranaki-students-invent-audio-lure-to-help-trap-stoats>

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/kea-kids-news/300113738/kea-kids-news-doc-using-traps-made-by-primary-school-students-to-catch-stoats> (about 3:15 in)

**Setting the Newtown Residents Association subscription rate for 2021:22** - it is in the Association rules that we decide this in February, although it doesn't come into force until our financial year begins in July. Previously this has been set to be a gold coin, with an optional donation.

**Moved Warwick Taylor/Steve Cosgrove: That the subscription for 2021:22 remains at a gold coin as it was in the previous year. Carried Unanimously.**

**Wellington Residents' Coalition.** Warwick Taylor outlined this organisation, explaining that it was formed in 1997, went into recess in 2012 and has been re-activated in response to a report to Wellington City Council suggesting (among other things):

- Water Meters for all households
- That Wellington Water be given all water assets of the WCC.

As of January 2021 the Coalition is campaigning to keep Wellington's water assets under the direct ownership and control of a publicly-elected body and to stop the introduction of water meters.

The Coalition meets weekly on Wednesdays, 12:30 at Trades Hall, Vivian Street.

There was a discussion of issues surrounding water meters.

The current Government is also considering centrally appointed water management companies. [The Mayoral Taskforce on the Three Waters Report is available here.](#)

Rhona proposed having this as a topic at a future meeting, with speakers who can answer the questions that arise.

**A preview of [the Newtown Festival](#), which is on Sunday 7th March**

Planning is going ahead on the assumption that we will be back at level 1 by this time.

The Festival is looking for volunteers for Marshalls, Waste Management, Traffic Management etc. Could people willing to volunteer please contact [newtownfestival@gmail.com](mailto:newtownfestival@gmail.com) or talk to Rhona, Martin or Anna.

A review of the [Wellington City Council Engagement Calendar](#)

The draft Spatial Plan is unlikely to go back to Council until June. There is a feedback report on this due out first. The Long Term Plan and District Plan consultations will also need our attention in coming months.

### **Newtown Market**

This was cancelled last time we were in Level 2 lockdown (attendance average of 350 people at a time). Sam (a Market Stallholder) and Marion have been discussing how the market could be managed at Level Two if we had volunteers to count people in and out and manage people on site, along with other steps with sanitiser etc. There was a previous successful effort to do this just before the major lockdown last March.

Discussion at the meeting was enthusiastic about trying to make this work if the Level Two lockdown continues, or returns in future.

**Sam Somers/Steve Cosgrove moved: That the Association assists with steps necessary to help maintain the Newtown Market during Level Two. Carried Unanimously**

**Redevelopment of the Community Centre.** This has been held up several times and now has another new project manager. The NCCC staff and clients are moving out on 14 April. The CAB has moved into Kia Ora Newtown. The Tool Library is moving to its new premises next to Network Newtown at the end of the month.

**Electricity Department Newtown Substation building** - Peter was able to answer a question about what is happening at this site - 180 Riddiford St.

- It was built to convert AC power to DC for the trams. It was made strong enough to withstand a blast if a transformer blew up -which is evident looking at the structure revealed by the partial demolition.
- Keeping the facade.
- Building out the back is going to be repurposed for modern needs.

**Meeting ended at 9:08**