



Minutes of the Newtown Resident's Association Meeting, 7.30pm 19th April 2021 at Newtown Hall, 71 Daniell St.

Present: Rhona Carson (Chair) Steve Cosgrove (Minutes), Jane Patterson, Ngaire Cleal, Mary Tohill, Jude Bleach, Michelle Wolland, Hilary Watson, Steve Dunn, David Jenkins, Alison Borbely, Sam Somers, Léonie Walker, Brian Dawson, Paul Eagle MP, Cr Laurie Foon, Cr Fleur Fitzsimons.

Guests - Clare Lundon and Hugh Wilson (Innovatiing Streets), Glenda Hughes and Roger Blakeley, (Greater Wellington Regional Councilors), and Wellington City Council Planning Officer Baz Kaufman.

Apologies: Warwick Taylor, Penny Sturgess

Rhona warmly welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially the invited guests.

1. Clare and Hugh from Innovatiing Streets gave an update of the Project of the platform which was installed outside the Friendly Bakery and Black Coffee. They reported largely very positive feedback, and shared plans to increase such parklets in the community. They are currently in discussion with Bebemos, and other business owners are also keen to get involved.
2. The team from GWRC presented the main consultation themes from the draft 2021-2031 Long Term Plan . Climate change is the key theme driving other objectives. These are:
 1. To de-carbonise public transport – busses, rail and ferries.
 2. To restore areas of regional parks to native bush and wetlands as a climate change mitigation strategy
 3. To provide more support (especially secretariat support) to constituent Councils to coordinate planning for Regional growth.

They took questions on integrated ticketing for public transport, including the evolution of a national “snapper” type card, using Super Gold cards to allow snapper function out of free times, and innovative ways of paying and topping up such cards.

GWRC encourage submissions on the consultation via <https://haveyoursay.gw.govt.nz/long-term-plan> - follow the links to the Consultation Document for futher reading on these topics.

Submissions on the GWRC LTP are due by 2nd May.

3. Councillors Fleur Fitzsimons and Laurie Foon and Baz Kaufman presented the WCC Long Term Plan Consultation. Fleur noted that many votes at the Council table, after robust discussion, were 8/7 which means that community feedback could be very significant in shaping the final decisions. Laurie noted that WCC are looking for support for investment in our future. Choices are often “do you want it now or want it later?”
Baz highlighted the extremely challenging financial environment and the huge costs due to the earthquakes and to lack of infrastructure maintenance (especially in water infrastructure) over many years.
He explained that the Council is seeking feedback concerning 7 areas, and outlined the the relative spending options for these. These are explained in the consultation documents at <https://www.letstalk.wellington.govt.nz/hub-page/long-term-plan>.

1. Three Waters
2. Laterals
3. Cycleways
4. Funding Te Atakura action plan
5. Te Ngakau office buildings
6. Central Library rebuild
7. Sewage Sludge

What about costs? WCC pre-engagement consultation suggested that there is an appetite to 'get on with it'. The proposal is for 5.3% rates increase over 10 years -13% next year, then easing off.

The discussion covered options for the treatment and disposal of sewage sludge, which has big potential cost and climate change impact. There was a suggestion that the term 'cycleways' is out of date, as now there are other transport modes such as electric scooters to consider. A positive is Council approval to move responsibility for lateral pipes damaged where they cross public land (for example by Council tree roots) from home owners back to the Council – this was declined in a previous recent consultation.

Submissions are due by 10th May

4. Other discussion involved the cost of the Council review (\$75K, from the previous budget), the Upcoming (October) Lets Get Wellington Moving consultation on options for rapid mass transit which is expected to go through Newtown, and ongoing discussion about the need to protect out streetscape and green public spaces through the urban intensification planning.

The meeting closed at [9.pm](#), with Rhona thanking all the guests for their time and presentations. Rhona encouraged people to make individual submissions on both LTPs, and welcomed points of view to be sent to her for inclusion in a NRA submission.