



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

Present: Jane Patterson (Chair) Steve Cosgrove (Minutes), Hilary Watson, David Jenkins, Michelle Wolland, Jan Gould, Kevin Lethbridge, Adair Hannah, Martin Hanley, Lee Muir, Arron Cox, Kassie McLuskie, Jo Ellen Duckor, Anna Kemble Welch, Don McDonald, Warwick Taylor, Michelle Clemow, Penny Sturgess, Carol Comber, Alison Borbely, Sam Somers, Léonie Walker, Marion Leighton.

Apologies: Grahame Carroll, Rhona Carson, Brian Dawson, MP Paul Eagle, Cr Fleur Fitzsimons, Cr Laurie Foon

Guest: Samuel Hudson (independent journalist)

1. Responsible Dog Owner Policy, and consideration of this motion:

That Newtown Residents' Association would like to request that the responsible dog owner policy applications start at the same time as notification for licensing occurs.

Moved **Jan/David J**, who outlined that

- There are high costs of registration.
- Getting certified as a responsible dog owner lowers the cost of registration slightly.
- There is a time lapse between certification and registration which further complicates the situation and can add to cost and stress.
- Covid-19 has further complicated the process.

Carried Unanimously.

2. Spatial Plan process, outcome and further action

Martin outlined the activity at our last meeting regarding the Spatial Plan. There was some discussion confirming the Council voting since the last meeting.

Carol has raised support from Mt Cook Mobilised.

Hilary outlined the creation and kaupapa of the Wellington group '*Density done Well*'.

The group plans to encourage discussion and collection of evidence around how city development can be done well. They plan to include all ages and existing residents' groups.

Anna noted that there was a polarising campaign going on regarding support for the National Policy Statement on Urban Development (NPS-UD). There was general agreement that it was good to have a group which was promoting evidence-based planning.

The meeting reaffirmed our support for more affordable housing in Newtown – both rental and permanent - and the preference for Council ownership of affordable and well-designed social housing.

Moved **Hilary/Anna**: *That the Newtown Residents association welcome the development off Density Done Well and would like to keep in touch with this group. [update- the group is now called 'Live Wellington – Live Well' as Density Done Well is a term used by many other groups and has varying meanings.]*

Carried Unanimously

3. An introduction to the development of a District Plan

Martin outlined the history and process of the District Planning Process. There was once one plan for the entire city. This has been broken down to have different rules by suburb. The last time this was done was in 1993. Consultation started in 1994. After many consultations, hearings and appeals it was adopted in 2000. This could have been much faster if there was a wide agreement.

Anna pointed out that there is a suggestion that the Government might be lobbied to speed up the process.

Warwick outlined some interaction with those who had views that contradicted some views of our association in this discussion.

There was a general discussion of other options for lobbying around this issue.

Aaron (formerly a member of Gen zero) advocated that the increasing impacts of climate change in particular meant that higher density of affordable housing and better public transport and more active transport as described in the rationale for the Spatial Plan confirmed his support of the Council decision. The meeting confirmed an enthusiasm for more dialogue with Gen zero and Renters United, and that there were very many points of agreement. It also expressed disappointment with the divisive and orchestrated media treatment of the debates.

There was discussion about what effects the spatial plan changes would have, and over what timeframes, and further consideration of how we got to this point. It was pointed out that the District Plan could end up in the Supreme Court. Other developments such as the water reforms and the replacement of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) with the Natural and Built Environment Act could allow Councils to take a faster more flexible approach to the District Plan – though there were concerns that community protections may be reduced. Support was expressed for the increasing need for accessibility of houses, both for elderly people and those with disabilities. Additional note was made of the need for tailored provision of housing for those with mental health needs who might struggle in more generalist settings.

4. **New Consultation:**

The Government Policy Statement on Housing and Urban Design is open for consultation until 30 July. See

<https://haveyoursay.hud.govt.nz/>

Moved: **Martin / Steve** *That the Association put in a submission to this consultation that is reflective of the discussion at this meeting.* Martin volunteered to lead the development of the submission

Carried Unanimously.

5. **The future of the Workmen's Bowling Club** building now that the club has closed. There was a discussion about this site. There are a wide range of views in the City, ranging from reverting the site to natural bush through to retaining it for community use. An approach has been made by Kai Cycle to use part of the land for more community garden development, which was largely supported. Those at the meeting agreed that there was a shortage of buildings for community use, and that supporting mixed use (rather than bush restoration) was consistent with previous positions our Association has taken on the use of town belt land.

6. **Consideration of Heritage Buildings Places and Objects**

There is a Lego competition associated with this. Discussion was had about how we could support a model of how Riddiford Street could be intensified. Martin offered the time of a student to produce a digital model, for a koha of \$500. (To be discussed by the office holders out of meeting.)

7. **There was a reminder that annual subs are due.**

8. **Meeting finished at 8:53.**