



Minutes of Newtown Residents Association October Meeting – Monday 16 October 2023

Present: Rhona Carson (Chair) Carol Comber (minutes), Jane Patterson, Michelle Wolland, Sam Somers, Annabelle Bristed, Chris Goldsbury, Dave Jenkins, Hilary Watson, Joyce Gibson, Kevin Lethbridge, Leaha North, Wendy Blue, Steve Dunn, Tom Law, Michelle Wolland, Alan Murray, Penny Sturgess, Don McDonald, Cr Nurreddin Abdurahman. Visitor: Merania Roa.

Apologies: Cr Laurie Foon, Steve Cosgrove, Pat Bolster

Merania Roa

Merania was the candidate for Vision NZ in the recent Rongotai Election. She came to the meeting to thank us for the invitation to our Meet The Candidates meeting, and to tell us about the mahi she is involved with for Legacy and Manup. She enjoyed her election campaign and said that Newtown people were very respectful. Sam passed on his thanks to Vision NZ for being very respectful participants in 'It's in the Ballot'.

Kāinga Ora

People are slowly moving into the new Owen Street apartments. Resource consent applications are being made for subdivisions to create separate titles at 131 Coromandel Street and other properties. Michelle is keen to see a copy of the Ecological Report, for the Coromandel Street property that has a lot of birdlife.

WREMO Newtown Emergency Response Practice

Leaha reported that there was a small group of about 6 people at this event on Sunday 8th October, not quite enough for what Katie had planned. They watched a film and reviewed the local places section of the Hub Guide. The event was well advertised; we are not sure why there was not a better turnout.

Carrara Park Toilets Petition

The petition gathered 392 signatures, indicating strong support for installing toilets. Rhona and Steve C spoke to Council to introduce the petition. Both Cr Abdurahman and Cr Foon noted the strength of the community interest. Both councillors are very supportive. Cr Abdurahman proposed a motion, seconded by Cr Foon, to direct officers to investigate options for the low-cost provision options of toilets at Carrara Park in the 2024-34 Long-Term Plan. This was passed unanimously.

A standard park toilet costs around \$400,000, with annual running costs of \$45,000.

Water Leaks & Pigeons

The Community Patrol has reported 165 leaks across parts of the city. The leak in Riddiford St by MSD is unsightly. Cr Abdurahman will follow-up. Michelle reported that the Rhodes Street leak has been fixed after many months. Joyce said the pigeons living above an air vent by MSD are dropping a lot of poo on the footpath which is a health hazard – can we find out who is responsible for cleaning this up each day? If this is private land it is more difficult to enforce. Councillors are happy to have a discussion with the owners. Cr Abdurahman suggested following up with Rula Awad, BID Manager at WCC.

Berhampore and Newtown Parking Scheme

A large part of the meeting was devoted to talking about the Berhampore and Newtown Parking Scheme, based on the Parking Policy 2020. The consultation closed on 8th October. Rhona has made a submission on behalf of the Association, thanks were expressed by members. The focus of the policy is parking for residents and short-stay visitors.

There has been quite a bit of frustration with this consultation:-

- It was consulted on together with the Berhampore and Newtown Cycleway, and yet the parking scheme discussions began several years ago, and are quite separate from the discussions about the cycleways.
- In the original Parking Policy discussions (2019-2020), Council agreed to a process of area-based planning - this has not happened. Each street has its own idiosyncracies, which people need the opportunity to talk through and to understand the ramifications before the scheme is adopted.
- Despite some public consultation, the scheme has not been well socialised by the Council
- We would like an extension to the consultation period to try to bridge some of these gaps

If abandoned cars are reported, it will be at least 28 days before they are towed away.

Under the new scheme, there are no resident parking permit stickers (the permits are applied for online, with no 'permit' sent out), this means that parking wardens can tell who has parked illegally, but neighbours have no way of verifying this.

The use of the online permit system gives rise to questions about whether paid parking will be introduced?

Visitor parking is useful, but if you cannot register someone on the day they visit unexpectedly, the system is somewhat impractical.

Traffic Resolutions – the various changes to the road markings, etc. will be notified as Traffic Resolutions, this is another chance to give feedback.

Feedback about the Newtown to Basin Reserve bike and bus lanes.

The turn from Hall Street into Riddiford Street is a trap for unsuspecting drivers because the 24/7 bus lane signage is not obvious. Drivers need to move into the centre lane to avoid an infringement notice. This issue needs to be raised in the feedback currently being sought by WCC.

Rhona will explore options for further consultation with officers and councillors about the parking scheme.

The next meeting is on Monday November 20th – the last meeting for the year.