



## Minutes of the Meeting of the Newtown Residents' Association, 15 April 2024

**Present:** Jane Patterson (Chair; Minutes) Joyce Gibson, Diane Woods, Stephen Pritchard, Steve Dunn, Cheryl Robilliard, Wendy Blue, Michelle Wolland, Penny Sturgess, Don McDonald, Sam Somers, DM Laurie Foon.

**Guest:** Alex Hockley, CEO of the Wellington Heritage Festival

**Apologies:** Rhona Carson, Steve Cosgrove, Carol Comber.

Jane Patterson chaired the meeting in the absence of Association President Rhona Carson.

### Agenda

#### Wellington Heritage Festival

Alex Hockley covered off the plans for this event relating to Newtown. No additional initiatives arose out of the meeting.

#### Long Term Plan

Councillor Laurie Foon outlined key issues in the long term plan and the indicative rates rise as a result. Rates are projected to increase by 18% which includes 1.6% to cover the cost of sludge treatment.

At this stage they are looking at \$1.8 billion for water – the priority will be drinking water and fixing leaks.

New systems for collecting waste and recycling are proposed with a goal of zero waste. Currently 50% of emissions are from the landfill (presumably Council emissions). They are aiming for a smaller landfill extension than initially proposed and a 50% reduction in waste by 2030. There will be bins rather than bags and an organics collection (food and green waste).

The Council is currently only insured for 26% of its assets and insurance is increasingly expensive. It is currently weighing up selling all, a percentage or none of its shares in Wellington Airport. This is with the intention of spreading risk outside of Wellington given the possibility of a significant earthquake. The money raised would be invested elsewhere, possibly a green perpetual fund.

The list of areas where funding could be cut does not affect Newtown. There is still provision for toilets in Carrara Park and a park (without a building) on the Bowling Club site. She also said that the NRA might like to suggest that the Council put aside money for another park in Newtown. She suggested that a NRA submission concentrate on these and also the proposal for parking charges in suburbs (If this latter item is not enacted then rates could rise by a further 1%).

There will be a webinar on 2 May and submissions are due by 12 May.

The meeting ended at 9.00.