
ORDINARY MEETING

OF

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

Time: 9.15am
Date: Thursday, 23 April 2015
Venue: Committee Room 1
Ground Floor, Council Offices
101 Wakefield Street
Wellington

Business

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**5.2 Outcome of public notification - proposed reserve revocation,
23 Batchelor Street, Newlands**

1. Tabled information - Karen McNamara

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Council Committee

RESERVES ACT 1977 NOTIFICATION – BATCHELOR STREET, NEWLANDS

Thank you for providing the opportunity for us to raise additional matters to our submission on paper. Unfortunately we cannot make the Council meeting.

There are two matters we wish to raise in relation to the matter that were not included in our submission.

Matter one: Council's role in park and ride facilities.

Paragraph 31 of the report noted that it was not Council policy to establish such a 'park and ride' facility. However, under the Northern Growth Management Framework the Council address the need to improve and increase park and ride options for Johnsonville (page 25). Specifically, the Council notes on page 22 of the Framework that it will support initiatives including 'expanding the park and ride facilities at Johnsonville railway station and consolidating land use in the centre'. If it is Council policy in relation to Johnsonville transport issues to become involved in Park and Ride matters - it would seem odd that it is not the same in relation to Newlands Park and Ride issues.

The Council has a clear interest in good urban development which includes integrated transport networks.

Commitments to park and ride commuters

The new matter which we wish to raise to the Council's attention is the commitments the Council made when selling Council land to allow for New World in Newlands to be built. Council Report 1215/53/IM dated 9 December 2009 for the Regulatory Processes Committee which discussed the Road Stopping issues around the sale of the land to Foodstuffs (Newtown Holdings Ltd) raised the potential concerns by the public about the current land use for an unofficial park and ride and the report stated:

'To mitigate concerns [around loss of park and ride facilities in MacMillian Court] that are likely to be raised regarding the impact on car parking, it is not proposed to launch the road stopping proposal until investigations into alternative provision as part of the redevelopment have advanced to a stage that could give some members of the public comfort that the Council has adequately address the car parking issue'.

Unfortunately the road stopping proposals continue to be progressed and the matter of commuter parking largely disappeared off the subsequent papers dealing with the issue. In the end the Council did not provide any comfort to the community that its loss would be made up for. The Council has yet to 'adequately address the car parking issue'.

The only mention of park and ride facilities for the Newlands Mall area we can find is in the Newlands Plan as a maybe 'long term issue' (5 to 20 years).

Batchelor Street and the reserve have become the next 'unofficial' park and ride spot and now that is under threat. But what do those that use the area do in the time waiting between now and the 'long term' 'maybe' park and ride facilities in the Newlands Plan?

The Council cannot expect the public to trust them if private interests are the only winners in Council land deals and the community interests wait in the 'maybe' 'long term' (5 to 20 years)' category to be 'adequately' addressed.

Our recommendation is to delay decisions on the sale of the land until the Council can be satisfied that it has honoured its commitments to the community around the Newlands Mall land deal and it has an alternative park and ride facilities to cover between now and the 'long term' 'may be' of the Newlands plan.

Thanks for your consideration.

Karen McNamara (on behalf of Anthony and Karen McNamara, owners of 20 Bachelor Street, Newlands).