



## Committee Meeting MINUTES

Tuesday 25th June, Island Bay Community Centre  
7.15-7.45pm Committee only  
7.45 – 8.30 pm

### Welcome and apologies

**Chair:** Sheila Hart

**Minute taker:** Sheila Hart

**Committee Members in attendance:** Kirsten Matheson, Andrew Lourantos, Iliesa Tora (on Zoom for first 30 mins)

**Apologies:** Catherine Inder, Sandra Procter, Sonya Cameron, Kirsty Smith, Mark Henderwood, Jeff McDonald, Alex McGibbon

**Invited guests:** Ray Chung

**Residents:** Tina Hakaraia, Alex Dwyer, David Bolt, Fran de Gregorio, Chris Wratt, Bruce Gadd, Elena McDairmad, Peter and Peter (apologies do not know surnames).

The Chair opened the meeting with a karakia and welcomed the committee members to the meeting. Only 4 present, not a quorum, but Ray invited so continued for the general discussion aspect.

### Minutes and action points from previous meeting

Minutes confirmed as a true and accurate record of the May meeting. Proposed by Sheila, seconded by Andrew

#### Action points

**Island Bay sign** – There was an action point from the last meeting to share information in the monthly email newsletter regarding the proposal from Wilde Signs to produce a new sign to be erected on the Parade, by Dover street (on currently there in a state of disrepair). The team at Wilde signs has asked for this to be delayed until they had made some progress with the WCC application and it is looking like a more definite proposal.

Andrew advised that he had not seen the sign (Chairs note: *the sign image and proposal were on the agenda for the February 2024 committee meeting. The proposal and sign image were circulated to the committee as part of that agenda and discussed at that meeting, with the outcome of no support as it was a costly proposal and not a priority*).

Confirmed that the new proposal does not come with any cost to IBRA or the community, but there will be a small logo indicating designed and donated by Wilde Signs.

Once progressed further will communicate the proposal to the community via our newsletter.



Further discussion about who owns the current one, previously identified as The Lions, they were emailed in March. There is no Island Bay Branch.

#### **Constitution Update**

Discussion to moved to email with presentation at next meeting, given lack of quorum and early arrival of residents for the open section.

#### **Inviting guests to meetings**

A reminder to all if inviting guests to meetings (non-Island Bay/Southgate Residents) please advise the chair in advance. This will avoid the situation that occurred at the last community update meeting where Northern Ward Councillors attended but were not given speaking time.

#### **Open meeting 7.30-8.30pm**

##### **General discussion**

A member of the community arrived indicating a desire to to discuss the cycle way and parade upgrade. The chair indicated this was not a discussion item for the meeting tonight. However, this was no barrier to continuing the discussion about it and the lack of consultation since it began many years ago.

There was discussion about what had been done by previous committees, challenging the process of the consultation, which was not successful in changing the implementation of the cycleway, but did cost over \$80,000.

Sheila suggested that there are a range of views in the community, likely represented by a bell curve for frequency, and the council have to do their best to listen to those opposing views at each end, along with the majority that sit in the middle.

The resident did not feel it was worth submitting on the long term plan because the council does not listen, they are a dictatorship. Sheila suggested there is a difference between not being agreed with and not being listened to, which was not received well.

Andrew suggested that we wait for Ray Chung and others to arrive to hear the concerns, agreeing that it was a dictatorship and no one in Island Bay wanted the cycleway or the upgrade. He then proceeded to describe his concerns at what he was witnessing locally:

1. Lady in Bluebell crying because she was having to lay off staff
2. Shops losing business because there is no parking
3. People getting tickets in IB New World and then going into the store and shouting at the check out staff, making the ladies in there cry
4. Lots of abuse flying around, the aggravation and violence is a health and safety issue in the supermarket
5. Observed a courier in town that was laughing, when he asked why they were laughing he indicated they were laughing because a cyclist had been knocked off. Sheila asked him to clarify why he was telling this story, he said he was trying to demonstrate the culture of cyclists is being destroyed because there has not been any negotiation with cyclists about



the segregation that is occurring due to the separated cycleways. He explained that the physical separation is contributing to the aggravation.

Kirsten commented that we cannot blame road works/cycleways etc for poor behaviour, people need to take responsibility for their actions.

Sheila noted that Andrew makes the same statements at most meetings, and asked Andrew that, rather than shouting at committee meetings, what would be his solution for all what he just described. He said to stop what was going on outside on the parade and return the parade to what it was before, Sheila asked how he would achieve that given it is almost completed. Sheila perceived that voices were quite elevated and it was hard to have an actual discussion. Andrew claimed it was always the response by the chair to claim shouting/poor behaviour when he or others tried to voice their concerns, he claimed it was the same response every time a male raises their voice that a woman claims aggression.

The next few minutes of the meeting contained language that cannot be printed!

Sheila suggested that as a community we have a responsibility to support our local businesses. If people want to drive 10 minutes to Countdown in Newtown rather than park on Derwent and walk 5 minutes to New World Island Bay that is their choice, and they are making a choice to do that.

There was some talk about the attempt to battle climate change and the need for alternative modes of transport to be catered for.

This just circulated back to the damaging effects of the loss of carparks and the negative impact of this, Andrew feels that all this anger and aggression would go away if we had the parade restored to its former state.

There was further discussion initiated by another resident, that had just arrived, on the role of the Island Bay Residents' Association to represent the views of the residents and that currently it was not fulfilling this role. She suggested that IBRA could approach New World and ask for them to allocate some of their car parks to village businesses.

This general discussion ceased as several other residents, and Ray Chung arrived.

#### **Ray Chung – Northern Ward Councillor, introduced by the chair and given the floor**

Started by acknowledging that he felt there was not a good relationship between council officers and community engagement with local residents. He has attended several meetings in Wadestown recently to try and hear what the residents actually want.

He has come to Island Bay to hear what the residents of Island Bay want, what they want for the parade, whether we feel like the council officers are listening to us and what you think the changes should be.

He then talked to the LTP (the following is a summary of Ray's commentary and represent his views and numbers):

1. He is voting against the LTP and the 19% increase in rates, there is so much cost in there.
2. For example, two years WCC owed \$4million, 4% of rates were for servicing these loans. This year WCC owes \$1.5billion and we will be paying 24% of our rates on servicing the loans. It gets even worse with the proposed LTP because WCC need to borrow \$2.6billion to pay for it, so we will be paying 40% of our rates on the loan servicing.



3. In his opinion, many of the projects are of dubious benefit:
  - a. Zero waste and organic waste collection
    - i. We need 4x rubbish to mix with organic waste so it decomposes at a rate that facilitates lower emissions/gas productions
    - ii. So introducing organic waste bins, so cost of bins
    - iii. New organic plant up the coast to manage the organic waste
    - iv. The cost of this year on year is huge, millions
    - v. He thinks a much better solution is compost gardens managed locally in the community.
  - b. Garden mile
    - i. \$173million allocated to this
4. Many of the residents he has been speaking to are asset rich, but cash poor. The proposed rates increase will be very hard for them to manage. He suspects that many of the council officers and other councillors to not understand the impact of the rates increase on individuals.
5. Ray is canvassing central government to reintroduce the requirement for new builds to have minimum parking requirements as part of the build. This was challenged by a resident as 'terrible economics'. Ray did not believe this to be the case.
6. 3 weeks ago CEO and CFO briefed the councillors on the sale of the airport shares as part of the LTP, they stated that S&P (rating agency) said that if we don't share the airport shares we will be \$450million in the hole, so we will either have to find \$450million in savings and this will result in a down grade our credit rating, this means all new money we borrow and current loans will have a higher interest rate. Ray was not at this meeting, but clarified some of the details, he does not believe S&P would have said such a thing, because they are a rating agency. But there was a report (? The name of this) last year that said WCC was spending more than it's revenue, therefore they either had to increase revenue, or decrease spending. In this report there was no reference to the airport shares and whether they should be sold. So he believes that the information given to councillors was done in a way to attempt to steer their decision making. It's not just the airport shares, it's lots of other things connected to it.
7. Intensified living is not wanted by people moving to NZ, they want large homes with gardens. Some discussion around options for denser living that meets the needs of the communities living in them – apartments not the solution for all (especially given the cost of the property and body corp fees)

#### **Questions:**

#### **What happens if the long term plan is not voted for?**

If not voted for on Thursday, then it means there is no new LTP, the old one still remains, but he updated 3 year component will not be updated, the existing plan will just be carried over and they have 3 months to work on a new one. WCC will not be able to implement any of the proposed rates increases/planned work that is included in the LTP, so rates in July will be the same as current. He feels there has been a lot of fear mongering and misinformation about what will happen if the LTP is not ratified.



**What is a LTP? What is the legal requirement for it?**

It is a requirement under The Local Government Act. 10 year plan, reviewed every 3 years.

**The LTP is based on revenue from a growing population, has the negative growth in Wellington been factored in?**

Ray talked to the fact that the LTP was based on 2016 census data, but should be referencing the census data that came out last week that showed wellington had a net growth of -46 residents (no where near the 50-80,000 projected growth by 2030).

**Future proofing, the council officers come in and say we are 'future proofing it' but what are we future proofing it for? We have not even got to the crux of the infrastructure issue. So who are we future proofing it for, they will have to be very wealthy. My children won't be able to afford to live here.**

Ray talked about the mass rapid transit route that had been suggested for IB and how poorly thought out it was (where population would live, where stations would be located), and that we do not have a big enough population to support it.

**You are running for Mayor and you seem to have some good ideas, why are you not listened to? Is our council dysfunctional?**

Ray acknowledged that they often don't agree, but he wouldn't call it dysfunctional. He did not believe getting the Zealandia portfolio best suited his experience and skills, which would be better suited to infrastructure.

**Can we come back to Island Bay, what is happening out there is a nightmare. How do we fight this and fix the issues and get the car parks back which are stopping people functioning? How do we stop all our children leaving?**

Ray agreed with the comments and said that the biggest problem is that the Council officers to not listen to what the residents want.

**How do we restore the balance where communities have the say rather than the council? That is afterall what they are, public servants, they should be serving our communities.**

In Ray's opinion the council does not listen to communities and that is the problem. There was discussion around Council officers not attending IBRA meetings, with a resident stating that they never come to our meetings. Ray echoed that this was problem also reported in Thorndon Quay.

*Chairs note – Council officers have attended several IBRA meetings in person, the last in April 2024 as part of the community update, when 5 attended to provide an update and answer questions.*

**What do residents of IB have to do to stop the work from continuing along the parade?**

Not answered due to time.

There were lots more questions, but we ran out of time to answer them in the meeting. Residents were encouraged to adjourn to the Walrus Bucket list to continue the discussion, whilst supporting local.



#### **Date and time of next meeting**

Tuesday 23rd July Committee meeting Island Bay Community Centre, 7-7.45 Committee only, 7.45-9pm Open.

Tuesday 27th August Community Update Meeting, Wellington South Baptist Church, 7-9pm

## Action running sheet

Date	Actions	Who	Status
Mar/Jun	IB sign proposal	Sheila	Ongoing

\* Items that are crossed out will be removed following the next meeting