

Notice of Motion: Albert Eden Civic Square Plan: Protecting Albert Edens Publically owned land for Civic Squares in Balmoral and Greenwoods Corner

Background

The Albert Eden ward is fortunate to have been settled in immigrant waves from 1870 to present day. City founders and later Mt Albert and Mt Eden Borough and then City Councils secured land in the hearts of our historic town centres of Mt Eden, Sandringham, Balmoral, Greenwoods Corner, Pt Chev, Eden Valley and Kingsland. Latterly this Local Board secured land for the Mt Albert 'village square' which will be realised in 2021 when the lease on that land expires and the Board will proceed to give Mt Albert its 'village square' heart next to the rail station.

The Unitary Plan has been finalised and our town centres will change dramatically over the next 10 years. The Unitary Plan has allowed for extensive urban intensification in all our town centres. The 'civic village squares' will be important gathering points for all our new homeowners as they 'shop local' 'meet their neighbours' and catch public transport.

Wikipedia tells us: 'A **town square** is an open public space is commonly found in the heart of a traditional **town** used for community gatherings. Other names for town square civic centre, city square, urban square, market square, public square, piazza, plaza, and town green.

Most town squares are hardscapes suitable for open markets, music concerts, political rallies, and other events that require firm ground. Being centrally located, town squares are usually surrounded by small shops such as bakeries, meat markets, cheese stores, and clothing stores. At their centre is often a fountain, well, monument or statue. '

Light rail and trams down our main arterial roads of Sandringham, Dominion, Mt Eden and Manukau Roads have been planned over the next 5-30 years. Most of our town centres are on these arterials.

It is the intention of this Board that all its historic town centres have 'civic village squares'. Those which need immediate work to identify and secure land are Balmoral and Greenwoods Corner.

"a. That the Albert Eden Local Board as the holder of Council delegations for 'place making' advocacy, support and advocate for its historic town centres to have public land set aside and ear marked for town centre village squares.

b. Notes the 'village or civic squares' in Kingsland, Eden Valley, Mt Eden, Sandringham, Pt Chev and the publicly bought underlying leased land set aside in Mt Albert to be developed 2021-2.

c. Further notes that the Civic Squares in Sandringham and Mt Eden and Pt Chev have been planned and funded as part of the Albert Eden Local Boards town centre upgrade budgets over the last six years.

d. Notes that there are two missing town centres 'village squares' in the Albert Eden Local Board area, Balmoral and Greenwoods Corner.

e. Agrees that it is short sighted for Council to sell public land in town centres that will over the next 5-15 years be needed to complete the Albert Eden Civic Square network.

f. To that end this Board identifies Balmoral and Greenwoods Corner as top priority and request budget of \$20,000 from 2016/7 is allocated in the work plan to undertake the "Albert Eden Civic Square Plan" which includes identifying public land available, identifies planned development under the Unitary Plan including resource consents already notified, and a timescale for when the land will likely be needed for the civic square."

Moved Glenda Fryer

Seconded Peter Haynes



Civic Square in Sandringham town centre



Essex Civic Square in Mt Eden behind the Mt Eden shops



Kingsland Civic Square



Ballantyne Square Civic Square in Eden Valley



Pt Chevalier Civic Square



The underlying lease of this land was bought by Council four years ago and set aside for the Mt Albert Civic Square to be developed when the present lease expires 2021-2