



PIPPA COOM

The much anticipated opening of Parnell Train Station in March signalled the beginning of a significant transformation in the Waipapa valley, which has been many decades in the making. As train services increase we can look forward to improved connections to the Auckland Museum, The Domain, and Parnell Village; a Board-funded path from the station through to Carlaw Park; the old Parnell tunnel opened up as a greenways connection through to Newmarket; the establishment of a heritage and tourist precinct in the refurbished train station building, and the ongoing regeneration of Waipapa Stream by volunteers and Council.

The station area development and vision for the valley as a whole, is an example of the kind of projects that the Waitemata Local Board looks to include in our three year plan. All local boards finalise a plan to set local priorities and determine what initiatives are funded, they then seek public input to ensure the plans reflect community aspirations. A public consultation process on draft plans began late last month, and ends June 30.

The draft Waitemata Local Board Plan 2017 presents a vision for the next three years and a series of projects that, with community support, we would like to progress in order to enhance our area. For example, over the next three years in the Hobson area, we propose to continue our care for Waipapa Stream and extend that onto Newmarket Stream, another waterway in need of ecological restoration. We will be looking to ensure there is budget to implement The Domain Masterplan including improved pathways; empower the community to support community-led initiatives such as "Tomorrow Parnell" and work with Auckland Transport, Council and developers, to better integrate new developments with streetscape upgrades, such as the area around lower St Georges Bay Rd.

There are a variety of ways to have your say on the draft Waitemata Local Board Plan; online, in person, by post, by email, via social media or at an event. A summary document and feedback form will be delivered to every household.

Information sessions and Have Your Say events:

Come along to find out more about local board plans, ask questions and give feedback:

- Central City Library - Wednesday 31 May, 10am-noon
- Grey Lynn Library - Thursday 8 June, 10am - noon
- Leys Institute Library - Thursday 22 June, 10am - noon

The more formal Have Your Say events include opportunities to present to the board. Thursday 1 June, 6-8pm, Waitemata Local Board office, 52 Swanson St, and Wednesday 7 June, 6-8pm, Grey Lynn Community Centre, 510 Richmond Rd

We look forward to hearing from you.

- Pippa Coom, chair, Waitemata Local Board
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