

Date: Wednesday 15 November 2017
Time: 4.30pm
Meeting Room: Local Board Office
Venue: 2 Glen Road
Browns Bay

Hibiscus and Bays Local Board OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

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•This is the 4th time we have approached our community representatives about the alcohol problems in Manly Esplanade which are gradually getting worse year by year. The first time was in 2007. In April 2014 I wrote to Julia Parfitt saying the restricted alcohol ban was not working in our street and we needed a 24 hour ban giving evidence and all the reasons why. We also presented the same request to the board in December last year.

It amazes us that an anonymous Council staff member who sits in an office in Auckland City and looks at a few incomplete, inaccurate reports in an area he doesn't even know, can decide if the ban should be put in place or not. They haven't a clue what we all have to put up with.

• The Police report is not an accurate indication of what is actually happening in our street. **The two police reports detail over 104 incidents in Manly Esplanade over 12 months (and we residents know this is not anything like the true number of incidents that are actually occurring). Yet the officer who has written this report asks you to believe that because the word 'alcohol' is only mentioned once that all the other incidents of assaults, disorder, wilful damage, theft, breach of the peace etc have no alcohol involved. That is an absolute nonsense – most of these incidents will in fact have had alcohol involved with them. How can this officer say otherwise. They simply can't.** We have often seen Youth hide the alcohol when the Police show up. On the Police report surely the bad antisocial behaviour and alcohol go hand in hand. Many calls to the police from residents in our street have not been recorded like the rock thrown through our large lounge picture window and the beer bottles thrown through a neighbour's bedroom window." **The report mentions there are very few problems before 10pm reported. This is because we don't report the many alcohol problems before 10pm as it is legal to drink then. Often they have been drinking well before 10pm and the bad behaviour just gets worse before and after 10pm.**

Also a comprehensive report from many neighbours was taken to the council offices by Glen Hodder last December and have mysteriously gone missing. This contained many emotional reports about the ongoing alcohol issues in our street from various residents. Unfortunately no copies were kept.

•Information you have been given is only the tip of the iceberg.

•We voted you in as our representatives to look after us so please help us by giving us a good night's sleep, peace of mind and helping us feel safe. Please do the right thing by voting for a 24 hour Alcohol Ban and let us feel safe in our homes. You have no idea what a 24 hour ban will mean to the quality of our lives and YOU have the power to do this.

We have neighbours in our street who moved away earlier this year because of the stress in their lives due to the antisocial behaviour and feeling terrified in their home. They had had enough. We all get really anxious as we feel like prisoners in our houses.

•Our lives are being affected by the antisocial behaviour due to the consumption of alcohol outside our houses that are only about 5 metres from the narrow road. Our bedrooms and living areas are only a few metres away from the car park. Surely we have the right to sleep without constant disruption.

•We have many elderly neighbours and some new immigrants that are terrified in their houses but won't ring the Police. Like our 93 year old resident on the road frontage who had drunken youth banging loudly on her lounge window for help at 2am after one of them had badly cut his hand on a beer bottle that he had smashed.

I don't ring the police any more but go out several times a night in the summer months (and winter sometimes) because I have been woken up and can't sleep. I get really anxious as to what reaction I am going to get from drunken youths. Do we lie awake in bed and put up with the disruption for an hour or two after ringing the Police looking out our window witnessing all the terrible behaviour or do we deal with the problem straight away. I am sure I have defused many potential fights and assaults. In my report it shows I did this more than 20 times in 4 months and I believe I saved many Police call outs.

•Our marriage is being seriously affected by all this. Neil and I have been married for 43 years and lived in the Bays for 40 years. We have had so many arguments because of me getting in and out of bed all through the night and early morning and going out into the street in my dressing gown to speak to drunk young people. Apart from our constant disrupted sleep he is really worried I will be assaulted. I want to move but why should we have to move from our dream home.

We have to put up with:

•People urinating in our gardens, in the 2 walkways, on our fences and even on the beach during the day and at night.

•Many youth turning up with friends loaded with alcohol in their cars and then proceeding to have a party in our street with very loud music and antisocial behaviour. In a residential area.

- We've had rocks and beer bottles thrown through our windows and at a neighbour's glass balustrade.
 - Abuse and assault if we approach drunken youth.
 - Many fights have broken out in the street over the years.
 - We wake up to broken bottles and cans strewn all over the road and beach along with lots of rubbish that we have to clean up in the morning.
 - We have to watch drunken youth during the day abuse runners and walkers on the road and beach, especially women and Asians.
 - We watch people vomit on the road and beach .
 - We've had Graffiti sprayed all over one side of our house bordering our driveway.
- We have to be careful what we say and do in case of retaliation. I have even looked out our downstairs bedroom window a few times to almost come face to face with young guys urinating in our garden outside the bedroom window and I can't say anything!
- How would all of you like to have all this nonsense going on right outside your houses once a week let alone several times a week like we do? We are dreading this Summer.

One Sunday two drunken youths who had been drinking for a couple of hours outside our house, downed their shorts and mooned in broad daylight at two elderly people sitting quietly in their car while our grandchildren watched on. Do we want these things happening in our community? How many more alcohol related incidents happen that we don't see!

My 4 month report is only a small glimpse of what goes on. I'm not standing at the window 24/7 to see what is happening outside. A lot of wet weather in March and being away for a few weeks has a bearing on my 4 month report too.

- This has been going on for years and it's not just a few things happening recently.

There are many 24 hour liquor bans areas in Auckland and not many of them have their houses as close to the road as we do in our small street. How many 24 hour alcohol ban areas have been contested? None! So why can't you all support us with your vote.

- A councillor has told us that when he met with the Browns Bay police last week they said they are totally supportive of a 24 hour Ban in our small no exit street .

We are now fed up and getting desperate. We're at our wits end what to do about the alcohol fuelled problems and antisocial behaviour in our street.

Does it take a bad assault or even a death in our street for our community board to take our request seriously? What more do we have to do to prove to you we need your support?

Please listen to what residents in your community are telling you.

We have a right to feel safe in our homes and enjoy our beautiful environment so I beg you to listen to what we are saying and make the right decision.