

Waitemata Local Board Chair Richard Northey's Report to the February 18th 2020 Waitematā Local Board Meeting

The Waitemata Local Board has continued careful work on its proposed Annual Budget for the 2020/21 Financial year and on our Local Board Plan for the next three years. We are commencing getting ideas from the community on these important

local issues at Uptown Sounds on 15 February, the Myers Park Medley on 16 February, a youth hui called Seeding our Future on 20 February, the Central City Network on 27 February, Beating the Bounds on 29 February, a Climate Change Workshop on 11 March, Pasifika on 14 March, together with formal hearings with groups on 3 March at the Board Office and, as usual,



Figure 1 Picture from past Myers Park Medley

seeking written or digital communication

from anyone for a month from mid-February. I want the Board to provide increased support for local practical projects that further our Board's declaration of a climate heating emergency and look forward to proposals from the community on what we could support. We are also keen to hear what more we can contribute on homelessness issues, parks development, environmental enhancement and to implement the recently completed Parnell Plan. We are also actively seeking out the views of people and groups that don't normally participate in such consultations.

In terms of the Local Board Plan our initial thinking is to give specific recognition and priority to Maori identity and culture in our outcomes and objectives. We also propose to infuse the need for action on the climate heating emergency not merely in our environmental objectives but throughout our Board Plan.

I am delighted that all Board members are proving to be committed and hardworking and that they are taking up the challenges and opportunities in the new portfolios we allocated at our Board meeting on December 3 with enthusiasm and determination.

I was privileged to be able to break my holiday and return to Auckland and attend the celebration of the life of the late Gerry Hill.

The 27 Jan St Jerome's Laneway Annual Music Festival in Albert Park once again proved to be a great event with fine music for those who attended. However there were repeated concerns about noise levels from local residents and the Central City Residents Group. This annual event still needs careful consideration to minimise noise levels and the time up to which PA and packing in and out noise is permitted, given complaints from residents. Previous concerns about the Diwali Festival appear to have

effectively been mitigated by events organisers working closely with local residents, so this ought to be possible in future with the Laneway Festival.

There are important wider questions about noise levels, particularly at night, both with events and with construction activity in the Central City that will need to be addressed over time.

The Central City has been busy with construction activities in its streets over this period. Although this is disruptive now for travellers, it is worth it to achieve the major improvements for all forms of transport users that will result.

The sudden closure of the Leys Institute Library and Gymnasium late in December was a major shock for me and the other Board members. It was the result of a decision by expert Council staff.

We quickly passed an emergency resolution to provide a public library service as soon as practicable in Three Lamps at 14 Jervois Road and understand this will be available from 16 March. It should operate from there for at least the next three years and will have the same opening hours as the Leys Institute Library had. I asked for, and received assurances, that all Leys institute staff have retained jobs with the Council. Also, the previous users of the gymnasium have all been found reasonable places to operate from, particularly in the Freeman's Bay Community Centre. All Board Members have agreed with me that they are keen that the Leys Institute buildings will be fully restored for public use, but it will take quite a while to determine if and when that is practicable.

I have liaised with Bob Tait of Friends of the Earth, who is opposed to the closure, on Dec 13, Jan 17 and at Gerry Hill's funeral on 11 Jan. I have also done so with Tania Donniani of Gym kids, the major user of the Leys Institute Gymnasium, on Jan 7 about utilising alternative venues including the Freeman's Bay and Ponsonby Community Centres. I have also communicated with John Hill of the St Mary's Bay Association on January 13 and David Abbott and Dirk Hudig from the local residents' associations on 31 Jan and 4 February to find out their concerns and to share our knowledge and aspirations about the state and future use of the Leys' Institute.

During this period when Board Members would normally be on holiday I worked with the relevant Portfolio Holders on the board to draft and approve detailed submissions and feedback on quite a range of government bills and discussion papers that affected the Waitemata Local Board area and also on Local Government New Zealand's Discussion Paper on Localism and Democracy.

Community Portfolio Activities

At the first Board Meeting I have been appointed the portfolio holder for community development and community facilities. Some activities under this heading have been.

25, 26, 28 November, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10 and 11 Dec Express Fit, Fitness Programme and Pilates sessions at the YMCA.

25 Nov Meeting with Hamish Keith and other community members and Jennifer Ward-Lealand to organise launch of the Franklin Road lights; Ponsonby Community Centre Annual Meeting.

27 Nov Auckland Museum Function to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of its opening.

28 Nov I contributed to the meeting of the Central City Network.

1 Dec Participated in the ceremony to turn on the Franklin Road Christmas Lights by introducing celebrity actor Jennifer Ward-Lealand. These introductory remarks are attached.

2 Dec Meeting of City Centre Residents' Group.

4 Dec Housing Call to Action meeting of housing workers and providers. Annual General Meeting of the University of Auckland Society which re-elected me as Deputy-Chair and David Abbott to the Executive.

5 Dec Karangahape Road Business Association's wonderful First Thursdays event including the performance by the Auckland Street Choir.

7 Dec Ponsonby Business Association Market Day; Functions for Labour's Auckland Isthmus Hub and of the Auckland Central Electorate Committee.

9 Dec Re-elected as Chair of the Auckland Community Housing Trust as its Annual General Meeting.

11 Dec Farewell function for Professor Elsie Ho, the retiring chair of Asian Family Services, followed by the Annual General Meeting of Asian Family Services where I was reappointed to its board.

11 Dec Tenants' Protection Association function. Opening of exhibitions at Studio One: by Dana Dadi, Marcia Soanes, Linda Cook, and by Marjorie McLean's students.

23 Jan Discussion with Viv Beck about Heart of the City issues

Parks, Sports and Recreation Activities and Liquor Licence Application

25 Nov Guided tour with staff of the area of Western Springs Park that contains the pine trees.

13 Dec Opposed proposed new off licence application for Fresh Value Supermarket at 127 Hobson Street.

13 Dec Discussions about Ngati Awa's relationship with Western Springs Park.

17 Dec Responses to residents about dog policy in Basque Park.

18 Dec Response to Graeme Atmore about delays in the completion of the new changing rooms in Grey Lynn Park.

20 Dec response to complaints about the temporary closure of the Sentinel Road toilets.

6 Jan Approval of landowner consent in Albert Park for the temporary installation of the Queer Pavilion in March.

15 Jan Submission opposing an off-licence application for a supermarket opposite the Auckland City Mission; submission on an application to compress the timetable for when concerts at Western Springs may occur.

21 Jan Correspondence re the consent conditions for the Laneway Festival in Albert Park.

22 Jan Landowner consent for water and wastewater works in Alberon Park

Waitematā Local Board General Activities

During this period the Waitemata Local Board activities I have taken part in have included:

25 Nov Meeting with Nicki Kaye MP; meeting with Waitemata Board staff re current issues; and meeting with Councillor Pippa Coom.

26 Nov Waitemata Local Board Induction session followed by Board workshop.

29 Nov Waitemata Board Chair's Profile Article written and submitted to The Hobson (Attached)

2 Dec Chair and Deputy-chair's weekly meeting with Waitemata Board staff.

3 Dec I chaired a practice meeting and then the first full meeting of the Waitemata Local Board. We made grants to 15 local organisations, appointed all Board members to lead portfolio topic areas and to represent the board on, or liaise with, a range of business and community organisations, and decided on our local content to consult

on our annual budget for next year. My message from the chair in this consultation material is attached.

4 Dec Meeting with Martin Leach, editor of the Ponsonby News.

5 Dec Meeting regarding the Ponsonby Park project. Interviewed by CABAC Manager Kate Anderson for the Auckland CAB Survey Project. Discussion with Graeme Roberts of the Gibraltar Crescent Owners' Association about their efforts to protect four mature oak trees on the neighbouring Summerset Property.

6 Dec With Alex Bonham had meetings with Dirk Hudig and Don Matheson of the Herne Bay Residents' Association and then with David Abbott of the St Mary's Bay Residents' Association.

9 Dec With Kerrin Leoni met with Waitemata Board staff to plan for the week ahead.

10 Dec Waitemata Local Board induction, then workshop followed by the annual Board Chair's shout.

20 Dec Approved and signed off, with Kerrin Leoni, an Emergency Resolution to lease premises at 14 Jervois Road to continue the provision of public library services in Three Lamps consequent on the Council staff experts' decision to close the Leys Institute on safety grounds because it is at risk of collapse in the event of an earthquake. Raised several issues and questions with staff, many of which were responded to in the report concerned.

20 Dec Drafted Board feedback on the Ports of Auckland application to dredge and dump material in the Hauraki Gulf area.

23 Dec Drafted monthly article for the Ponsonby News. Final form tweaked and sent on 19th January. This is attached. Contributed to the Board submission on the government's review of the Resource Management Act.

28 Dec Interviewed by Xindong a PhD candidate in Urban Planning at Auckland University for his thesis on Neighbourhood Character and Urban Intensification in Freeman's Bay.

9 Jan Attended the funeral of John Wigglesworth, who was on the Auckland City Art Gallery Board with me, at St Mary's Church on Parnell Road.

11 Jan Attended a celebration of Gerry Hill's life at the Grey Lynn RSC, with celebratory bubbles.

21 Jan Approved an urgent decision on our Board's Submission on the government discussion document, Reducing Waste: A More Effective Landfill Levy to which I and several other Board members provided content.

22 Jan I drafted a proposed Board submission on LGNZ's Localism Discussion Paper.

23 Jan I attended a meeting of the Karangahape Road Business Association with the CRL Alliance and Auckland Transport on progress with their developments in the area. Corresponded on the McKelvie Street Festival.

24 Jan Signed off the urgent decision by the board on its feedback on the government's discussion paper: Resource Management Review Panels Issues and options.

28 Jan Waitemata Local Board Workshop. This included discussions on a Board response to LGNZ's Localism Paper, consideration of our appointments to community liaison groups, work on the content of, and engagement on, our local board plan, progress on the 254 Ponsonby Road project, options and parameters for the use of the Myers Park cottage once repaired, issues related to the Western Springs pines Project, and an innovation in the form of a series of conversations with the local board with important local community organisations.

29 Jan Signed off the urgent decision on our submission on Local Government NZ's Localism Discussion Paper; updated my declaration of interests; met Council policy development staff about the forthcoming review of Council's Gambling Venues Policy; and met Panuku staff to discuss waterfront development issues including planning for Wynyard Point and its future park and forthcoming celebrations of the opening of the three open spaces we recently named: Amy Daldy Park, Urunga Plaza and Freda Barnes Park.

31 Jan Drafted a proposed Board submission on the Urban Development Bill

3 Feb Worked on the draft Outcomes and Objectives for the Local Board Plan

4 Feb Waitemata Local Board Workshop. This workshop discussed the issues in the Urban Development Bill and the Infrastructure Funding and Finance Bill. We did further work on the proposed Outcomes and Objectives in our next local Board Plan. We were briefed, and asked questions, about the closure of the Leys institute and Gymnasium and on the research about to be undertaken on other Council buildings that appear not to meet earthquake standards. We discussed opportunities for engagement with people on developing the Local Board Plan, ideas for the development of Basque Park and of Heard Park, and issues with commuter parking at Point Erin Reserve and Victoria Park and were briefed by Auckland Transport and also by the NZTA, the agency responsible for the proposed Northern Pathway across the Harbour Bridge.

5 Feb provided material for The Hobson.

7 Feb Extraordinary Meeting of the Board which adopted the Board's Feedback on the Urban Development Bill, feedback which I had drafted after Board members discussion.

Auckland Council and National Activities

In this period the meetings and events I took part in included:

27 Nov Finance and Performance Committee Workshop re the proposed 2020/21 Budget.

2 Dec Auckland Council Elected Members Symposium.

4 Dec Further Finance and Performance Committee Budget Workshop.

9 Dec Chaired the Peace Foundation's International Affairs and Disarmament Committee Teleconference Call.

9 Dec Meeting of Auckland Local Board Chairs. They elected me as their representative on the National Council of Local Government New Zealand.

9 Dec Officiated at a Citizenship Ceremony at the Auckland Town Hall where 517 delighted Aucklanders were granted New Zealand citizenship.

11 Dec Council's Planning Committee Workshop on the Resource Management Act Review.

12 Dec Chaired the Annual Meeting and Board Meeting of the Problem Gambling Foundation Group, where I was re-elected Chair.

29 Jan Chaired an Executive Meeting of the PGF Group.

ATTACHMENT 1

Richard Northey's introduction of Jennifer Ward-Lealand for the Franklin Road Christmas Lights

Thank you very much Eric. I know Eric well because we undertake the Express Fit programme at the Pitt St YMCA every Tuesday and Thursday morning.

Hello to Councillor Pippa Coom, my fellow Waitemata Board Members Graeme Gunthorp and Adriana Christie, MP Nicki Kaye, Santa and founder Roscoe.

This event is a wonderful donation by the residents of Franklin Road to provide this joyous experience for the children and families of Auckland. This is its 26th successive occasion, starting with one resident setting up a nativity scene. The Waitemata Local Board is very proud to be continuing to sponsor these Franklin Road Christmas Lights.

I am privileged to be given the opportunity of introducing Jennifer Ward-Lealand, a local actor who I very much admire, who will formally turn on the Christmas Lights.

Richard Northey Waitemata Local Board Chair Profile Piece Set questions for The Hobson

What neighbourhood do you live in? How long have you lived there?

I live in an apartment in Hereford Street off Karangahape Road in Newton. I have lived there for two and a half years. I moved there from Onehunga and have previously lived in Churton Street in Parnell.

What is your working background?

I have been a City Councillor and an MP. I run a consultancy for public and community sector organisations. I have worked for the Arts Council as Local Authority Liaison Officer; for the Internal Affairs Department as Community, Recreation and Youth Adviser; for Auckland University as Lecturer first in Political Studies and then in Planning, and as a Builders Labourer.

Why did you stand for this role?

Because I believe I have the skills, knowledge, experience and outlook to develop and implement good decisions for the city centre and the inner suburbs. Because I want to help make Auckland a better, safer and more enjoyable place for all its residents, visitors and businesses to live, work and play in.

What board portfolios are you responsible for?

Community Development and Parks, Sport and Recreation.

What do you consider to be the top two projects you will initiate and complete in your role to directly benefit the community?

The redevelopment and activation of Heard Park to be a great space for people who live in or visit Parnell.

Developing and progressively implementing the Laneways Plan in Newmarket.

Tell us something about yourself that will surprise your community.

When I was 14, I won the Auckland Astronomical Society Prize for my research project on The Moons of the Solar System.

ATTACHMENT 2

If you were prime minister what would you do to improve Auckland?

Give the Auckland Council and Auckland residents the power together to decide their own future rather than having transport and other big issues decided instead by CCOs.

What is your favourite escape in Auckland?

The Central City Library.

Tell us a little about your family.

My wife Robyn has worked in health all her working life from being a dental nurse to being Manager of Aged Care and Disability Services until she retired this month after serving 9 years on the Auckland District Health Board. Son Andrew lives in Leys Crescent and runs a software development business. Daughter Fiona lives in Singapore and teaches primary school. Youngest daughter Miranda lives in Melbourne and is a radiographer. We have eight grandchildren.

Message from the chair

I am pleased to present our proposed priorities for the Waitematā Local Board Agreement. This document sets out what we plan to deliver and advocate for in the 2020/2021 financial year based on the clear direction set by the previous local board and, more recently, from what we heard in the lead up to the local body elections.

We want to take practical action in response to Auckland Council's declaration of a climate change emergency. We intend to continue waterway restoration programmes and we have adopted an Urban Ngahere (Forest) Strategy. Your practical ideas for retaining and extending our vital tree cover are welcomed and we also propose expanding the Eastern Bays Songbird Project into Parnell and Newmarket.

We are committed to turning the community's vision of 254 Ponsonby Road becoming a neighbourhood park into a reality. This project remains as our major capital project.

We will continue to support local economic development initiatives and propose to investigate the feasibility of a targeted rate for Newmarket to help fund projects from the Newmarket Laneways Plan. This would be subject to further consultation if the targeted rate proposal proceeds.

The recently completed Open Space Network Plan, Waitematā Play Network Analysis, and park development plans including the Meola Reef Reserve Te Tokaroa and Western Springs Lakeside Te Wai Ōrea Park, will help prioritise investment and activation of our parks. We will continue funding agrichemical-free maintenance of our major parks and want to hear your views on expanding this programme.

Participating in events, arts and recreation helps to create a vibrant, healthy and connected community. Arts funding for TAPAC will continue and we will assess the success of a newly-funded arts space coordinator role. Our popular events, such as the Parnell Festival of Roses and Myers Park Medley, will continue along with support for other local events and community arts programmes. We will continue funding increased opening hours at Grey Lynn Library and the Central City Library. We propose supporting practical actions to address homelessness in our area.

We welcome your views on the above, your feedback is appreciated and directly influences the projects and initiatives we invest in for this wonderful area.

Richard Northey ONZM
Chair, Waitematā Local Board

Article for February Ponsonby News

The new [Waitematā](#) Local Board, including its five energetic new members, has got down to positive work. At our December Business Meeting we approved our discussion material for next year's budget and projects, for public consultation from 21 February to 22 March. We welcome your ideas, particularly on practical actions we should take on the climate emergency and homelessness. This consultation will also seek your views on the Review of the Council Controlled Organisations.

At that meeting we also delegated important roles to all the Board members, who you are welcome to contact in their areas of responsibility.

Alex Bonham leads the Planning and Heritage Portfolio and has Arts, Culture and Events as her co-portfolio. She is on the Karangahape Road Business Association and our link to the Herne Bay Residents' Association.

Adriana Avendaño Christie holds the Parks, Sport and Recreation portfolio and is co-holder of Local Economic Development. She is Board rep on the Ponsonby Business Association, the Grey Lynn Community Centre and Deputy for the Ponsonby Park Project Group. She liaises with the St Mary's Bay Residents' Association.

Graeme Gunthorp is our Transport lead and co-portfolio holder for Planning and Heritage. He represents the Board on the Newmarket Business Association and on the Ponsonby Park Steering group and is our liaison person with the Freemans Bay Residents' Association.

Deputy-Chair Kerrin Leoni holds the Arts, Culture and Events Portfolio with a co-portfolio of Environment and Infrastructure. She is our rep on the Uptown Business Association and liaison person with the Grafton Residents Association.

Julie Sandilands holds the Environment and Infrastructure Portfolio and co-portfolio holder for Transport. She is on the Grey Lynn Business Association and liaison person with the Grey Lynn Residents' Association.

Sarah Trotman has the Local Economic Development Portfolio and is co-holder of the Community Development Portfolio. She represents us on the Parnell Business Association and liaises with Parnell organisations.

I now hold the Community Development Portfolio and am co-holder of Parks, Sport and Recreation. I was appointed to the Heart of the City Board, the Ponsonby Community Centre and am on the Auckland City Centre Advisory Board and the National Council of Local Government New Zealand. I liaise with the Citizens' Advice Bureaux and the City Centre Residents' Association.

On the afternoon of Sunday 16 February, from noon to 4pm, the [Waitematā](#) Local Board hosts the Myers Park Medley, a major public event for us. Myers Park will have exciting music groups, community group and food stalls, and a range of participatory activities for children and families. This annual event is great fun for [Waitematā](#) Local Board residents of all ages, abilities and interests. Come along on the 16th of February.

ATTACHMENT 3

The community organised and Waitemata Board sponsored Franklin Road lights were as spectacular as ever. I was privileged to help Jennifer Ward-Lealand turn them on on December 1.

I was as surprised and saddened as you were to hear of the closure of the Leys Institute because experts have decided it is no longer safe for the public or staff for even a week longer. The iconic Leys Institute has served Ponsonby and Herne Bay wonderfully for a century. I am pleased that the Board has acted to pass an emergency resolution to ensure library services will, from March, be provided at 14 Jervois Road for at least the next three years and that the jobs of all library staff are safe. We will work with you on how best to provide quality library and other services located in this area long-term and to restore Leys Institute for public use.

