The residents' voice for Auckland City Centre.

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WE ARE THE AUCKLAND CITY CENTRE RESIDENTS' GROUP

ACCAB Report

Hi <<First Name>>

CCRG has two seats representing residents on the important Auckland City Centre Advisory Board (ACCAB). The board advises the Auckland Council family on achieving the Auckland Plan, the City Centre Masterplan, and the expenditure of the City Centre Targeted Rates - a 10 year, $200 million development portfolio for the city centre. You can read more about ACCAB here.

November Report

Road safety (or lack thereof) on our city centre streets is in a critical state. Pretty much every time we venture out in the streets, we all see and know this to be true. Over several years, every negative statistic has significantly deteriorated, and 84% of city centre deaths & serious injuries involved vulnerable road users - often residents just trying to get around their city. Auckland Transport presented the grim picture to the board along with many major initiatives that are absolutely essential in our minds, to stem and reverse the carnage. We voiced our strong support for a city-centre-wide 30 kph speed limit, much greater red-light enforcement via more red-light cameras, and much greater prioritisation on safety for pedestrians, cycling, and other active modes. And there are other initiatives also under discussion.Streets need to be 'detuned', our street spaces reallocated and re-prioritised, for people. We want, no demand, streets that are safe for people. AT's presentation and report 'Road Safety in the City Centre' (the good and the bad), can be found HERE.

Regional Facilities Auckland (RFA) run many prominent city centre sites, the Auckland Art Gallery, Aotea Centre, Civic Theatre, the Cloud, and many more – their assets are well over $1 billion –

Of interest for November's upcoming ACCAB meeting will be a presentation of revised city centre project proposals for prioritisation by the board. We of course are always interested in projects that make a targeted and measurable difference to residents, especially in areas that have been poorly served in the past. Much work has been done by the board, on reviewing the assessment criteria against which the City Centre Targeted Rate projects are measured. A comprehensive report on the criteria background, and information maps on how and where in the city centre much of the monies have been spent can be found HERE. It makes for interesting reading.

There is no denying that it is an exciting time to be in the city centre, and all manner of development and transport programs have been presented to the board, (and to the public), many of which are underway or imminently so. At last, many of our long-term ideas in the City Centre Master Plan are now being funded.

The Waterfront is a particular focus at the moment, where we have our eyes on ferry infrastructure, waterfront parks, and dolphins thrown in for good measure. Amongst all this we also need to keep our eyes and minds focused on integrated holistic planning, and not sacrifice that to piecemeal, short term thinking and solutions.

CCRG's perspective is that we need to ensure there is a good spread of expenditure and monies spent on all parts of the city centre.

From a resident's perspective we work at ensuring residents are considered as a priority when development is undertaken and disruptions underway. We see such disruption as an opportunity to change the city for the better – not going back to how it was.

We continue to keep up the pressure to ensure we keep getting more and more usable and safe public space, wherever we can make it in the city centre (not always an easy task!) There are often many competing demands and interests, so we need to make sure the residents voice is heard. So do make sure you have your say in all the various consultations that occur, (and via our usual social channels) and we can get on with building the city we want, one that is great for residents. And in the end, what's good for residents will always be good for the city.

ACCAB meetings are open to the public – Next is Wednesday 21 November.

Agendas & info HERE.

Regards,

Adam Parkinson
Secretary

CCRG sends a massive thank you to Audrey for her hard work and dedication to completing our E News for the past 10 years! She has kept us up-to-date and in the know of happenings in the city. She has recently passed on her online news duties and the committee will keep it going. Thanks again, Audrey!

Annual General Meeting 2018

We've recently held our Annual General Meeting at Ellen Melville Centre. Firstly, it's been a great year at the newly refurbished EMC and we're enjoying the growing sense of community and engagement. Holding our meetings here allows us to be part of the wider community.

This years' AGM covered the Chair's annual report, review of the 2017 AGM minutes, and an update to our rules and policy statements. It was successful in selecting a new committee and representatives for the coming year.

Chair - Noelene Buckland
Deputy Chair - Emily Reeves
Secretary - Adam Parkinson
Treasurer - Fiona McLaughlin

Committee - Sri Maxwell, Michael McKeown, Antony Phillips, David Roos, Kathy Ross, Mik Smellie

We're looking forward a action packed 2018 with more progress being made in the city centre and thank everyone for their hard work last year.

Competition Time!

Onzo is launching scooters in Auckland on this December! To celebrate the launch, Onzo and CCRG are giving away a $30 Onzo account credit!

We're looking for your best social media photo of you in in fancy dress on an Onzo scooter. Bonus points if your photo is in the city centre. Tag Onzo and CCRG in your post with #OnzoCCRGfancydress. Fun and creativity encouraged. Be sure to be safe and courteous on out there.

Read more about Onzo here and read a recent survey of e scooter users in Portland here.

The winner will be announced in our January 2019 E News.

Lightpath Festival
Te Ara I Whiti
Saturday, 1 Dec from 5pm - 9pm

bells on! CCRG will be supporting this event and engaging with the public at the bike valet. Stop by with your bike for a chat.

This is the second annual Lightpath Festival. It is a free, family-friendly evening celebrating this iconic addition to our city and the joy of people-friendly streets. You can experience entertainers, music, art, food, and bike fun along Lightpath/Te Ara i Whiti and Canada St, just off K Rd.

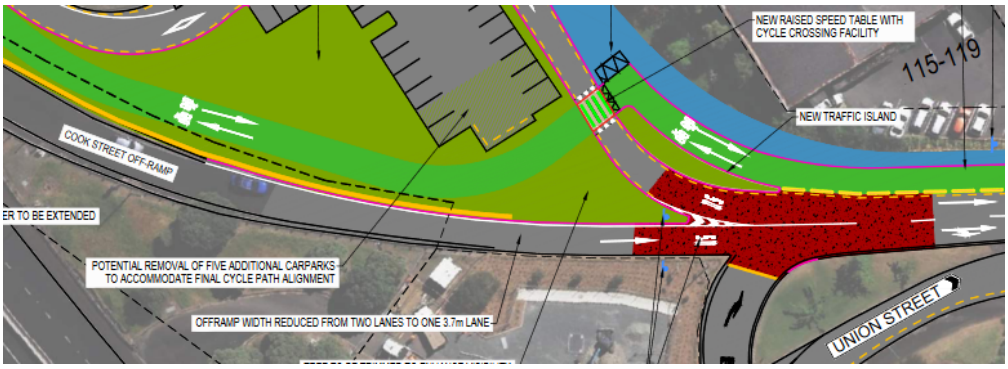
If you want to volunteer with CCRG at this event with us email us here.

CCRG Portfolio Updates

City Centre Life

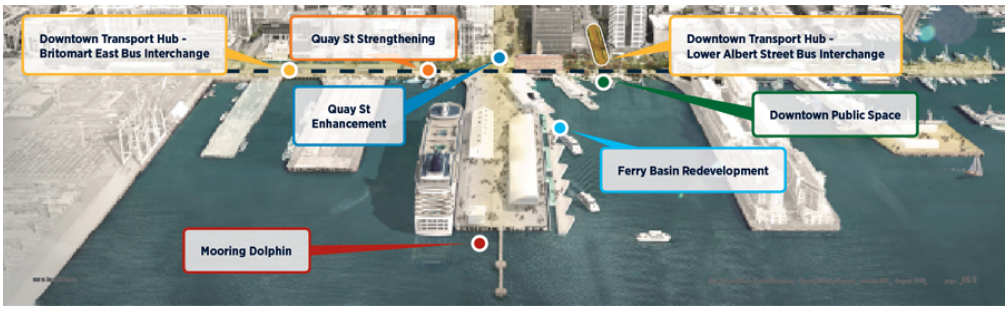
Event management and noise in the city has been a hot topic over the last few weeks. We received a number of social media messages over the long weekend about noise continuing into the early morning hours. We have listened and contacted the Waitemata Local Board and our Community Police contacts to see how this type of noise can be better managed. This will not be an immediate solution but without feedback nothing changes. Be sure to let us know when you need support.

Transport



Safety improvements for Cook St have been delayed slightly as the project under goes a business case review. The project has proposed a redesign of the road to slow vehicles down, add much needed pedestrian crossings, and brings a new bike lane to connect Victoria Park with Nelson St. CCRG supports

Waterfront



With recent announcements from Council about some of the exciting developments taking place in the city centre the CCRG is enthusiastic about being involved in these discussions as they all impact on public space in one way or another. Particularly important to residents and pedestrians, is public open space, and our city centre is woefully short of this compared to international standards i.e. 4 hectares per 1,000 population, so with 50,000 residents living in our city centre now we should have 200,000 hectares of public open space. We don't have anything like that amount but we do have a wonderful waterfront and that is where the CCRG believes we should be developing new quality public open space.

Our position on public space is that they are the identifiers of cities – these are the places we all enjoy, remember, photograph, play, meet others, and relax in, irrespective if which city we find them. That is why we think planning for the waterfront has to be included in the City Centre Master Plan as a single refreshed document that provides for a connected maritime city. Our waterfront needs to be a part of everyone's lives not fenced off for commercial purposes. We need to plan for, and develop, world class public open spaces between the city and waterfront and then along the waterfront. That is why we are pushing hard for Queens Wharf to be our primary public waterfront space so that Queen Street finishes at the northern end of Queens Wharf – a single, quality, connected public open space that Aucklanders can identify with and be proud of.

We also need to have carefully planned spaces for cruise ships, marine events like the Americas Cup, Ports of Auckland, the fishing fleet, recreational boating, the Daldy and of course lots of ferry terminals with space for future ones. What we do not want to see is any of these being provided for at the expense of public open space which is what has happened in the past e.g. Princes Wharf. We cannot support mooring dolphins for that allow cruise ships to extend 90 metres into the harbour from the end of Queens wharf that will also require a bus motorway down to middle of Queens wharf when cruise ships are berthed. Neither should be accept any extensions into the harbour where the ferry terminals are now because we will need all of that space for future ferry services. That is why we are pushing hard for Queens Wharf to be our key public open space and not be compromised by commercial cruise ship operations that should be redeveloped on Captain Cook wharf as part of the Ports of Auckland functional responsibility. Review the Downtown Programme Brochure from AT here. Be sure to pass on your feedback on the changes to AT here.

If you have feedback you would like us to act on, contact us.

Red Hat Community Dinners

26 November

That's Amore

Italian pizzeria

Shop 2M, The Metropolis

See you there at 6pm

December

Location TBD

Red Hat dinners are open to everyone to attend. Keep an eye out on Facebook for more details. Bring your friends and join us for some city centre community.

CCRG welcomes all city residents to join us in working to promote the liveability & quality of the city centre for all of its 50,000+ residents, & to nurture the growth of its community.

TAKE ACTION - JOIN CCRG

Upcoming CCRG Meetings

- 3rd December, 6pm at Ellen Melville Centre
- January - No meeting

Explorer Christmas in the heart of the city

It's feeling like Christmas here in the city centre now that the giant Sants is on his perch at the corner of Queen and Victoria Streets thanks to Mansons TCLM with giant baubles and presents, illuminated stars and fairy lights are beginning to pop up in public spaces through the city centre.

Tick off your Christmas shopping list close to home this year with our recommendations from some of the best stores in the city centre. From those who are hard to buy for or the person who has everything, to the young ones in your life, or your significant other, we have everyone covered with these gift suggestions.

As well, as the yearly event traditions here in the city centre like Handel's Messiah and the Auckland City Mission's Christmas lunch, this year there'e a new celebration in town. Head out into the strees and shops from 5-9pm on Thursday 20 December for Late Night Christmas, with over 80 stores open late for a free Christmas street festival. Over 25 street performances are scheduled across the vent in Queen Street, Elliott Street, and High Street districts with acts like Latinaotearoa, the K-POP dance group, Tamashi Taiko drummers, and more including circus, opera, choirs, and brass bands. Britomart will be open late too with delicious Street Kai on Takutai Square, along with gift wrapping and music by Play it Strange.

Head to Heart of the City for everything Christmas in the city.

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