

## Submission on the Hutt City Council Annual Plan 2014

On behalf of the Normandale Residents Association

### Summary

We support the overall intent of the projects intended to rejuvenate the city, but have some reservations about the detail of components of the plan. In particular:

**Urban growth strategy.** We consider that the emphasis placed in the annual plan on proposed 'green fields' development in rural parts of the city misses the essential point of the strategy – that it is intended to be an *urban* growth strategy. The strategy as presented in last year's annual plan provided an integrated approach that included changes to the district plan to facilitate smaller footprint housing units as well as low/ medium rise apartment buildings within the existing urban environment.. We note the success of this approach elsewhere, and the fact that a major green field development in Kelson has been lying idle for years. We suggest therefore that the emphasis of the urban growth strategy should be on the integration of high quality apartments and high density multi story houses within the CBD and immediately adjacent areas rather than outlying areas where there is no demonstrable demand and which are likely to attract wasteful forms of development that impact adversely on the overall long term sustainability of the City.

### Submissions on specific items and projects

**Avalon Park.** We support the proposed expenditure, and the commitment to make this venue a regional destination.

**Civic centre** We strongly support option 3F for the redevelopment of the Civic centre. We consider that the opportunity to carry out work of this nature occurs very infrequently and that it behoves us to ensure that the result is not only practical and a worthwhile addition to the City's facilities, but an iconic development that future generations can be proud of. Based on the limited information available within the planning document, we also consider that option 3F provides a far more flexible and community orientated space, and that it's integration with existing hard and soft infrastructure is far superior.

**Riddiford Gardens** We strongly support this development

**Hutt River trail** We strongly support this expenditure and submit that this work should be started in the 2014/15 financial year and that expenditure is brought forward as required to enable this.

**Substandard roading** We consider that the 'sub standard' roads in Normandale are fit for purpose. They are adequate for the volume and type of road users. We consider that upgrading would have negative unintended consequences, in particular increased vehicular traffic speeds and increased incentive for use by HGV traffic. We also note that the current road bed of Normandale road has historical significance for the City and any changes would destroy this example of our heritage. We support the initiative by the Roading division to instead provide better pedestrian / vehicle separation at a greatly reduced cost. We would

like to see this policy used to extend and improve the current footpath from Poto Road corner to the start of the rural section of Normandale Road.

**Wheelchair friendly routes** Whilst we support this initiative, we believe that the concept presented is too narrow in focus. The issue is not specific to the disabled, but to all pedestrian and non-vehicular users. We consider that this policy should be widened to provide a pedestrian and cycle friendly network throughout the city and especially within the CBD. We consider that a properly integrated pedestrian network would of itself meet the needs of those using wheelchairs.

We also consider that better integration of the cycle network within the city with trunk routes such as the Petone – Ngauranga cycleway is required. We suggest this should be given a high priority. We also consider that to support this, the work on the Wainuiomata Hill shared path and the Eastern Bays walkway be brought forward to commence in the 2014 / 15 financial year. We consider that if necessary, funding for these projects should be offset by delaying work on the Urban Growth strategy roading improvements.

**Solid waste** We are concerned that the measures of success for this group do not include any related to re-cycling or waste reduction and submit that these be added for the 2014/15 report.

#### **Proposed new charges**

We note with concern the proposed introduction of charges for a disability assist/companion dog. We consider such a move unethical. The council should not be imposing costs on the disabled for use of something that assists them. If this logic were followed, there should be a charge on all wheel chair users, since making provisions for their use is a cost to the city.

Second the introduction of a \$59.50 charge for a 'responsible owner' property inspection. We consider that the council should be encouraging people to take this path not putting financial barriers in the way. Since the saving per year to a dog owner if the status is granted is \$25, it implies a three years payback period before the owner sees any benefit.

#### **Detailed submissions concerning Normandale**

We consider that although not a specific expenditure item, maintenance of the road verges from Normandale overbridge to the junction of Normandale Road with Miromiro road should be improved. Currently slips have not been managed, and it appears that mechanical mowing is still being carried out resulting in further spread of Tradescantia. We request that a formal planting schedule be prepared in consultation with Residents' groups to establish a low maintenance and attractive shrubbery with weed suppressing capabilities.

In addition we note that the recently completed work at Poto Road corner will require scheduled maintenance to prevent gorse growth, and request that this be explicitly included in the funded work schedule for the next five years.

#### **Consultation on the Petone Arena.**

There is little interest in this project in Normandale. We consider that the location of the Westpac Stadium at the regions transport network hub makes it the obvious venue for large spectator events. We are concerned that this project will further restrict city reserves open to

public access. We are also unconvinced that the proposal is financially viable, based mainly on the problems of public transport access and potential competition from events at the Westpac stadium.

For and on behalf of the Normandale Residents Association

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "P. Matcham" followed by a horizontal line ending in an arrowhead.

P. Matcham

President