



Council Long Term Plan Meeting

At last month's Normandale Residents' Association meeting, councillors from both Greater Wellington Regional Council and Hutt City Council presented an update on the challenges and opportunities facing both councils as they prepare their long term plans for the next ten years. A summary of the points made during the meeting is below.

From Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC)

Councillor Quentin Duthie advised the GWRC yearly budget, with an operating expenditure of \$580 million, and a capital expenditure of \$220 million, is roughly divided as: 64% for Metlink, 24% for environmental and flood protection, 10% for bulk water supply, and 6 % for regional strategic partnerships.

Bulk Water Supply - Ultimately, we're taking too much water from the Hutt River. Because of this, the plans are to expand the Te Mārua storage lakes, (cont. over pg)



GWRC member Quentin Duthie (right) listens to questions from the floor.

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Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this paper do not necessarily reflect those of the committee. ***Note:** Copy deadline is the 25th of preceding month.

Next NRA meeting:
16th May 2024 7:30pm
at St Aidan's on the Hill.
All association members
welcome.

(Council Long Term Plan Meeting cont.) on land already purchased. This would have a price-tag of \$2 million.

Transport

- Currently there aren't enough buses to seat everyone- especially in the city.
- 30% of the Metlink bus fleet is now electric, but GWRC have had to slow the purchase of future electric buses and keep the old diesels to allay costs.
- Fares (across trains and buses) have been increased by 10% this year.
- There has been a successful trial in Tawa of having an 'on-demand' style of bus route, similar to Uber. However, the proposal to expand the trial has been delayed due to costs.
- Some bus routes are running too well - e.g. the route 150 bus covering the Western Hills is often full or over capacity during peak hours.

GWRC is looking into gaining more control over Wellington's public transport by expanding ownership of bus depots in future, providing long term savings. Within their Long Term Plan, this was one of the key pieces GRWC were seeking resident feedback on.

From Hutt City Council (HCC)

Chris Parkin (Western Ward councillor) advised the \$68 million Naenae Pool project is progressing well.

Rates - HCC are considering a rates remission of \$250 on top of the present \$750 rates a year for low income households.

The leaky pipes situation - There's 235 km of old piping that will need to be replaced. The aim is to replace 30 km per year with new plastic pipes.

Bins - HCC are considering providing additional green waste bins for residents at an additional cost. This proposal was challenged by Normandale residents in the meeting who already compost their waste at home.

Cross Valley Connection - The projected cost for it is \$189 million, which will be paid for by the current government, as it has been considered a road of national significance.

(left picture) Chris Parkin presents key points from HCC's Long Term Plan.



(right picture) HCC councillors Simon Edwards and Chris Parkin with Normandale resident Brad Field.



Preparation for the AGM- 20th June at 7:30pm at St Aidan's

The Normandale Residents Association is an incorporated society, and to comply with the new Incorporated Societies Act (2022) we have to re-register. To do this our constitution must be updated to meet the requirements of the new Act.

Over the last few month your President and committee have gone through the requirements with a fine tooth comb, and matched up the new bits with the existing to create a draft constitution for you to consider.

The draft has to be approved by the members at the AGM. As it is quite a long document, it will be impractical to go through it clause by clause on the night, so we would request you to become familiar with it before the AGM, and make a note of any specific clauses you wish to be discussed. The following link will give you access to the draft. <https://tinyurl.com/2wu24eth>

If you have any questions you would like to ask before the AGM, please send them to Normandale.residents@gmail.com so that we can address them and make the actual meeting as simple as possible.

Wines of the world at Western Hills Wine Society

The cooler months ahead are a great time to enjoy red wines from around New Zealand and the world. The Western Hills Wine Society offers wine tastings in a cosy and friendly atmosphere close by in Maungaraki.

Wines to be tasted at club nights during winter include a selection from Central Otago, the Hawke's Bay, and overseas. Club president Michael Kuus says tastings give the opportunity to sample many wines not on supermarket shelves and available only direct from wineries.

"Worldwide there are more than 1400 vine varieties used to make wine (Italy wins with about 377 varieties) but sadly you will typically encounter eight to 10 at the supermarket due to commercial realities," says Michael. "There are a few dozen varieties being used (by passionate winemakers) to produce wine in New Zealand but to experience these you have to visit the winery cellar door or alternatively join a wine tasting club. There is more to life than sauvignon blanc, pinot gris, chardonnay, merlot, syrah, and pinot noir – life is too short to drink boring wine," he says.

Club evenings are held in the Maungaraki Community Centre supper room on the first Wednesday evening of the month. The meetings, 7.30pm for 8pm, are covered by a liquor licence. Visitors 18 and over always welcome. Admission is \$15 per person.



Word of the Month:

- Adumbrate**
 A. Fall suddenly
 B. a charismatic fool
 C. To foreshadow
 D. Humble oneself

Last month's word:

- Hegira**
 B. exodus



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