

STRATEGY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
Committee meeting 22nd November 2012

Tena koutou tena koutou tena koutou katoa

Nga mihi nui ki a koutou

Ki te tanagata whenua o Te Upoko o Te Ika a Maui

Rau rangatira ma tena koutou

Your worship, councillors, Wellingtonians

Our waterfront has a long history, with the current redevelopment emanating from the great dissatisfaction over its direction, some 12 years ago. Many Wellingtonians rejected the notion of our harbour edge being covered with out of scale blank sided monoliths, that bore no relationship with their adjacent marine surroundings. I agreed. The council in its wisdom set up a process that to this day has resonated across New Zealand, and why? Because our Waterfront is a success.

Back around the turn of the century the council set up the waterfront Leadership Group representing of a wide range of interest groups including Waterfront Watch, tangata whenua, Wellington community organisations and commercial expertise.

Over many long evenings the Leadership Group met, often with Pauline Swann, Francis Williamson and myself being the only audience. The result was “the Framework” – a consensual community agreement of themes, values and objectives to guide the waterfronts re-development. Reading these objectives and values 12 years later, it is clear that they are as relevant today as they were back then. Sitting along side the Framework was the agreed implementation process AND a method of ensuring a high quality outcomes.(the devil is in the detail) Thank you Karen Wallace.

During the initial years I was a member of the Waterfront Subcommittee and chaired the Waterfront Technical Advisory Group (TAG). The success of the waterfront can be attributed to these people, in particular TAG. Many waterfront development proposals, both buildings and landscape initiatives get presented, as independent projects with no overview. TAGs professional skill has effectively dealt with the contextual complexity and at times crossed swords with the Council, Wellington Waterfront and Objectors whom have deviated from the Frameworks objectives and values.

Just two weeks ago that I was commending to the Invercargill City Council the virtues and successes of the governance and process that has guided development of our waterfront. It takes courage to embark upon a major public space initiative, and the successful ones like Auckland (which took its model from Wellington), Palmerston North, Nelson, New Plymouth and Wellington have worked because

1. They created a plan and process with a short/medium and long term approach
2. The process was inclusive and transparent
3. They had clear checks and balances which are flexible enough to accommodate change
4. They carried through the vision - not with blind faith but with foresight and professional help to understand the end game plan.

All urban design is complex with many competing interests, but the end result is all about people. I look forward to seeing Shed 21 linked with the rest of the waterfront, not marooned by some windy, trailer home, brownfield site in the shadow of the Post Office monolith.

This is a missing tooth in the mouth of Upoko o te Ika. I look forward to seeing a smiling waterfront – as the agreed Framework intended.

Kia ora and thank you

Guy Cleverley