

HARRISON STREET FLATS REDEVELOPMENT

Housing is a top priority for Wellington with the city needing an estimated 30,000 more homes by the year 2043. My role at Council is to deliver on the 10 year Housing Strategy and realise the vision of All Wellingtonians Well Housed. The Housing strategy has streams of work across the entire housing continuum including social and Affordable Housing. I was the manager for Council's social housing team (City Housing) when the Harrison Street flats were decanted due to being earthquake prone in 2017. So, prior to starting this work I was well aware of these properties and their location in the heart of one of Wellington's most vibrant communities.

I'm very proud of the work which Ben Keegan, the project manager for this site, has carried out so far and I'm also very grateful to the local community for their patience and for supporting the work that's been done so far. With so many different community facilities sharing this street it was important that we worked with the community, the site's neighbours and the school's contractors to ensure the works were carried out with minimal disruption and as safely as possible. The input from the local community on this was vital. It allowed Ben to address the concerns that you brought to him and shape the works to meet the needs of the area. So, thank you for taking the time to engage with us and I hope we can continue this relationship as we move into the next stage of this project, the redevelopment of the site.

On the redevelopment itself; as a wee update we are currently working with City Housing to cost and assess options to build more social housing on this site. I realise sometimes it can feel like such work takes a little too long but we need to make sure that we are delivering the right kind of housing to meet the demand both now and in the years to come. At the same time everyone at the Council is keen to see this project progress as quickly as possible and we are working to make this happen. While we are busy doing this work, with the local community in mind, we have granted use of the parking spaces on the site to the school's contractors to assist them to lessen the impact of their works on the area.

The team and I are excited about coming back to you later in the year with plans for this site that will add to this unique community, and I look forward to continuing the conversations we have had so far.

Thank you again.

John McDonald
Housing Development Manager
Build Wellington

