

ORDINARY MEETING

OF

COMMUNITY HEARINGS PANEL

MINUTES

Time: 9:30am
Date: Thursday, 24 March 2022
Venue: Virtual Meeting

PRESENT

Mayor Foster (Deputy Chair) (via audiovisual link)
Councillor Calvert (via audiovisual link)
Councillor Day (Chair) (via audiovisual link)
Councillor Foon (via audiovisual link)
Councillor O'Neill (via audiovisual link)
Councillor Paul (via audiovisual link)
Councillor Young (via audiovisual link)

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Woolf (via audiovisual link)
Councillor Pannett (via audiovisual link)

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1. Meeting Conduct

1.1 Karakia

The Chairperson declared the meeting open at 9:30am and invited members to stand and read the following karakia to open the meeting.

**Whakataka te hau ki te uru,
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga.
Kia mākinakina ki uta,
Kia mātaratara ki tai.
E hī ake ana te atākura.
He tio, he huka, he hauhū.
Tihei Mauri Ora!**

Cease oh winds of the west
and of the south
Let the bracing breezes flow,
over the land and the sea.
Let the red-tipped dawn come
with a sharpened edge, a touch of frost,
a promise of a glorious day

1.2 Apologies

Moved Councillor Day, seconded Councillor Foon

Resolved

That the Community Hearings Panel:

1. Accept the apologies received from Mayor Foster and Councillor Paul for early departure.

Carried

1.3 Conflict of Interest Declarations

No conflicts of interest were declared.

1.4 Confirmation of Minutes

Moved Councillor Day, seconded Councillor Young

Resolved

That the Community Hearings Panel:

1. Approves the minutes of the Community Hearings Panel Meeting held on 16 March 2022, having been circulated, that they be taken as read and confirmed as an accurate record of that meeting.

Carried

1.5 Items not on the Agenda

There were no items not on the agenda.

1.6 Public Participation

There were no requests for public participation.

2. General Business

(Mayor Foster left the meeting at 10:02am.)
(Councillor Paul left the meeting at 10:30am.)

2.1 New Mount Vic Mountain Bike Trail

Moved Councillor Day, seconded Councillor Young

Resolved

Taunakitanga

Officers' Recommendations

Officers recommend the following motion

That the Community Hearings Panel:

1. Receive the information.
2. Hear the oral submitters and thank them for their submissions.

Carried

Attachments

- 1 Ellen Blake
- 2 Gareth Delux
- 3 Trails Wellington
- 4 Suzi Hume
- 5 Dan Webster

Secretarial note: The following members of the public spoke to their written submissions:

Name	Submission page number
Tim Jones (Living Streets Aotearoa)	10
Ellen Blake	12
Chris Horne	14
Gareth Delux	17
Rod Drury, Izy Alloway, Tom Cappleman (Trails Wellington)	21
Anthony Edmonds, Laura Stewart	19
Jill Ford	23
Suzi Hume	25
Dan Webster	26

Secretarial note: The Chair read statements on behalf of the following members of the public as they were unable to attend the meeting, included in the minute attachments:
Gareth Delux, Suzi Hume, Dan Webster.

The meeting concluded at 10:40am with the reading of the following karakia:

Unuhia, unuhia, unuhia ki te uru tapu nui	Draw on, draw on
Kia wātea, kia māmā, te ngākau, te tinana,	Draw on the supreme sacredness
te wairua	To clear, to free the heart, the body
I te ara takatū	and the spirit of mankind
Koia rā e Rongo, whakairia ake ki runga	Oh Rongo, above (symbol of peace)
Kia wātea, kia wātea	Let this all be done in unity
Āe rā, kua wātea!	

Authenticated: _____
Chair

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MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

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Business

Page No.

2.1 New Mount Vic Mountain Bike Trail

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4.	Suzi Hume	13
5.	Dan Webster	14



Electric bikes are not permitted on Council reserve trails.

Standard bikes can be used on trails marked for bike use.

For more information
phone 499 4444

Absolutely Positively
Wellington City Council
We make it possible

No Entry



STOP



The following submission addresses concerns of myself and fellow residents near the proposed entrance to the new track.

The main concerns of myself and the people living near the entrance are :

- Disturbance coming from noise associated with the use of the track and surrounding area
- Physical disturbance to the natural bush of the area
- Visual disruption from the outlook of homes
- Visual and noise disturbance from night riding
- Increased traffic and reduced parking

The proposed track will be the longest bike priority track on Mt Victoria.

Given Mt Victoria's central location and the nature of the track it will likely be Wellington's most accessible and popular mountain bike track.

There will be a range of riders utilising the track, including school groups, bike tour groups, bike shuttle operators, tourists and so on.

Trails Wellington describe the proposed trail as 'the central, critical project of their vision for Wellington to be a world class mountain biking destination'. They describe the project as 'a 'jewel' in the crown of the mountain biking area that is Mount Victoria/Matairangi"

With the likelihood of this being the most popular track in Wellington, if not the lower north island, we feel it is important to ensure that disruption to the local residents is kept to a minimum,

Whilst we acknowledge the desire for a new mountain bike track from the Trails Wellington group we feel the current proposed entrance is unsuitable.

There is a concern from the residents that the entry point to the track is too close to residential housing and that the start point to the track will be a busy congregation area for meeting and preparing to ride the track, the residents feel that there will be heightened disruption associated with the congregation area and the entrance of the track.

We feel it is important that any disruption caused by the creation and use of the track has a minimised affect on both the ecology and the peaceful natural residential setting of the area.

We feel that moving the track entrance further south and closer to the hospital jumps area will cause less of a disturbance to the natural character of the area and will reduce disturbance to the residents.

Moving the entrance south toward the hospital jumps area is more suitable as it is not close to any residential housing and there is significantly more car parking available.

Moving the track further south will also significantly reduce any noise disruption associated with the track as the topography of the valley quickly widens south of the proposed entrance. whereas the housing near the proposed entrance is situated in a tight horse shoe shaped valley, this shape effectively acts like a natural amphitheater.

Moving the track's entrance closer to the hospital jumps will also reduce the visual impact to residents homes closest to the track as the vertical distance between housing on Hapua St and the track dramatically increases south of the proposed entrance and the gradient of the hill provides

natural bush cover to the site of the track, Whereas the current proposed tracks entrance location overlooks several homes.

There are multiple points of entry between the proposed entrance and the hospital jump area which is not visible from housing.

Moving the entrance of the track south will move the congregation point more to the hospital jumps area which will reduce the possibility of disturbance from both casual users and commercial operators such as Wellington MTB adventures who operate mountain bike shuttle services on Mt Victoria.

Moving the entrance south would also alleviate any overspill of parking into the residential area, Parking for residents near the proposed track entrance on Alexandra Rd has recently been significantly reduced by WCC and residents are now struggling with parking and residential only parking may be required moving forward.

Moving the tracks location further south will also ensure the preservation of the upper forest which is mostly indigenous trees, shrubs and ferns mixed with exotic conifers.

In response to the media article published in the Dominion newspaper and Stuff website on March 21, A Trail Wellington affiliate stated "concerns that the proposed new track would increase noise and light pollution in the area were unfounded, Very few people, if any, would want to use a downhill track in the dark, and bikes were near-silent, unlike cars, which already shared the hill."

The residents agree that whilst it is clear that well maintained bikes are quiet the concern is more of disturbance based on excited and busy human activity associated on and around the proposed track.

The residents are also of the counter opinion that "Very few people, if any, would want to use a downhill track in the dark" the residents feel this view is misguided as night riding is in fact popular, there are many riders who do night riding on Mt Vic trails, there are even commercial operators such as Wellington MTB adventures who specialise in downhill night rides in Wellington including Mt Vic tracks.

A downhill intermediate flow trail is the ideal track for night riding as the lights used for riding are very powerful and light the trail.

For example of the brightness of light measured in lumens, the average car headlight lumen rating is between 2000-4000 lumens whilst a minimum of 1500 lumens is recommended for mountain bike night riding, however appropriate mountain bike lights range from 1500-8000 lumen.

We feel that our request to have the entrance moved south is fair and reasonable, as the combination of the popularity of the track and it's proposed location will cause disruption to the residents, Whilst the reduction of the track's length would have a minimal impact on the total length and quality of enjoyment obtained from the track, whilst preserving the ecology and ensuring the retention of character of this peaceful natural residential setting.

Kind regards / Nga Mihi

Gareth











Kia ora katoa, Ko Suzi toku ingoa

I am a resident within the pedestrian only access of Upper Hapua St and am choosing to make a submission at this community hearing because I feel strongly that the home environment of those of us in this upper Hapua Street will be affected by the proposed Mountain Bike Track.

The Trails Wellington spokesperson has said that this proposed new level 3 track will be popular. I agree that it will be popular, and this popularity means a changed environment for the residents close to the track. We have chosen to live in such an environment for its proximity to nature with the nature experience and for the peacefulness of the environment.

Bryn Dickerson has said on an interview with Stuff, that claims that the track will bring noise pollution are unfounded and he says that bikes are near-silent. The reality is that the riders will bring noise to this pocket of bush, there is a natural amphitheater that will amplify the associated noises and conversation. On busy days of mountain biking there will be wait times with increased noise to the area. This will change the usual peaceful environment in which we live and therefore affect a major aspect of what we value about our homes.

I see the value in recreation for the people of Wellington and have seen the increased popularity for mountain bikers in the new tracks that have been developed, relatively close to us is the "hospital jumps" and this has proven to be very popular with the added value that it is not close to any residents.

This would be a good place to start the Eastern Matairangi bike track, with its close proximity to the jumps track and with parking space here. This starting space is not so close to residential housing with a more substantial buffer of bush between the houses and the proposed bike track, which will reduce visual and sound impacts.

In summary this proposed track with the current start location will impact the local residents and with a short move of the starting point this will significantly reduce the impact and yet still provide a recreation opportunity for mountain bikers.

Ngā mihi nui, Suzi

" Wellington's trail network, particularly Matarangi, is in need of a flagship, all ages trail that can provide young and old with gateway into mountain biking, the outdoors, and conservation. It will provide immense social, cultural, environmental and economic benefits for Wellington."

thanks!

Daniel