

## Waiouru Community Meeting

Sept 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016

### Waiouru Community Centre

16 members of the public  
6 staff (including CE)  
4 elected members (including Mayor)

Mayor opened the meeting, spoke about possibilities arising from Accelerate 25 and emphasised that Council sees Waiouru as the Southern gateway to the district.

The Mayor acknowledged the passing of John Compton on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September. John held strong relationships with both Council and the Army Museum. A moment of silence was observed.

CE (Clive) briefly spoke about the Long Term Plan process and the ability for communities to seek funding/partnership with Council for development through that process.

Lt Col Dave Harvey spoke about “Plan Mere”. He talked about the following points:

- The military base is being returned to its original purpose as a training camp. Cadets/officers/staff will mostly be transferred to other locations.
- Most Army personnel are “commuters”. They are therefore part of the target audience for any town development.
- A significant portion of the current military area (barracks, mess, etc.) will become non-restricted area. Potential for this to be developed into an “Army Experience” for travellers. This would/could include Nat. Army Museum as the gateway to the military camp, National Army Marae as well as the cemetery, chapel and other facilities. Development of public “interest circuits” within the camp perimeter.
- Possibility of using Army land to cater for campervans (Camp Road)

Tracy Puklowski, Director of the National Army Museum, spoke about plans for developing the museum.

- Museums have a transformational impact on communities.
- This financial year the focus is on
  - re-doing the entryway to the museum, make it stand out from the road for passers-by,
  - Integrating an iSite into museum entrance (ambassador role for wider region).
  - Installation of an electric vehicle charging station.
- Future plans:
  - Immersive, experience-based access to some of the collections (see 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet point above).

Clive then opened a brainstorm session for meeting attendees to give their ideas on what could be done in Waiouru to develop the town, and where Council might be able to assist with this. The following is a collation of all the ideas brainstormed (unedited and in no particular order):

- Gum tree stump soldiers
- Area by police station – picnic tables, surplus army vehicles, APC
- 3 junction town
- Street lights “soldier theme”

- Activities for kids – visitors?
  - Play equipment
  - Mini golf
  - Shooting range
- Known franchise food for concourse visitors
- Long Term Plan strategy refresh
- iSite
- Partner with Ohakune/Raetihi for events
  - Mid-winter celebration
  - Market Days (driven by businesses. Timing important! Council to help)
  - Easter Carnival
  - Army hosted, Council support
- Signage – update and new, including banners
- Underpass across SH1/pedestrian crossing
- Selfie frame for mountain shots (part of Playground)
- GATEWAY (WAHAROA)
  - Promotion at toilets site
  - Physical manifestation of soldiers
  - Number crunch on cars going to Taupo
  - Location of various stopping attractions
- Campervan infrastructure
- Financial Museum support, ie. TePapa/Wellington Council
- Hangi/entrance to cultural experience (NA Marae)
- Identity on SH4, tanks etc.
- Put Ruanui Street up for tender, campground

Drawbacks, things that need improvement:

- Higher levels of service for toilets
- Bus shelter floods
- Waster water and water infrastructure pipes
- BP truck stop + Caltex: rubbish, fencing, garden area. Needs bins.
- Toilet sign for night travellers, neon on our (Council?) land
- No dog stop by police area (\*Note: will discuss further as part of Bylaw conversation later in year)
- Change District Plan rules re. signage.

Mayor closed the meeting with reassurance to the community that the ideas gained tonight would be acted upon by Council.