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Liam Hodgetts

Chief Planning Officer

cc Councillors Abdurahman, Foon, Pannett, Rodgers & Young; Claire Nolan (Newtown group); Richard Murcott (TRA)

Kia ora Liam, and Councillors

Thank you for the enormous amount of work your planners and staff contributed to the recent District Plan hearings. On behalf of some interested submitters, I want to encourage you to follow up several important recommendations made by the Independent Hearings Commissioners (IHP) relating to heritage.

In particular, the IHP considered several proposals for new heritage areas (Newtown, Hay St and Thorndon) where submitters contributed heritage assessments from expert Michael Kelly, and which had the significant support of local residents and property owners.

For example, Claire Nolan's Newtown group submitted Michael's study on Green and Emmett Streets, and Donald McLean and Normanby Streets, which includes Newtown's very oldest and first developed residential areas (dating from the 1870s). The IHP determined (paras 698-700) that "the buildings in those streets appear to be of historic heritage and are suitable for further study and assessment as a heritage area". That view was shared by the WCC's heritage expert Moria Smith and by District Plan Team Leader Adam McCutcheon, and widely supported by residents including the Newtown Residents Association. The IHP recommended "Council to undertake further assessment on the proposed areas with a view to amending the area through a future Plan Change if appropriate."

For Thorndon, the IHP recommended that "Council consider carrying out community consultation and a heritage study of Thorndon" (paras 656 & 703 etc), and important recommendations were made (paras 688-692) based on Michael's Hay St Heritage Study.

HPW would like to see WCC follow up those recommendations, perhaps starting with Newtown, with a view to decisions being taken about inclusion in any upcoming wash up plan change. I understand it's timely to consider that matter, given the report due on the follow-up work programme.

Last week in a walk around Newtown with Councillors Foon and Abdurahman, we enjoyed meeting local residents who support their local initiative. Pukehinau /Lambton Councillors will walk around Hay St with Michael next week, and you or your staff are welcome to join with them.

Nga mihi nui

Felicity Wong
Chair, Historic Places Wellington

For reports see: IHP Submitter Materials, Stream 3; Supplementary Evidence - Combined - Michael Kelly:

<https://wellington.govt.nz/-/media/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/district-plan/proposed-district-plan/files/hearing-streams/03/submitter-evidence/supplementary-evidence-combined--kelly-275-182--fs111-233--fs82-412.pdf>