PALMERSTON NORTH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the

COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL MEETING [PART I PUBLIC], HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, PALMERSTON NORTH ON:

WEDNESDAY 7 MAY 2014, 9.00AM, 12.00PM, 4.30PM AND 7.30PM
THURSDAY 8 MAY 2014, 9.00AM, 12.00PM AND 4.30PM
FRIDAY 9 MAY 2014, 9.00AM

A meeting of the Committee of Council (Hearing of Submissions on the Draft Annual Plan 2014/15 (Year Three of the Ten Year Plan (2012/22)) was held at 9.00am on Wednesday 7 May 2014.

The meeting adjourned at 10.45am and resumed at 12.00noon. The meeting adjourned again at 1.52pm and resumed again at 4.30pm. The meeting adjourned again at 6.20pm and resumed at 7.30pm. The meeting adjourned again at 9.40pm and resumed at 9.00am on Thursday 8 May 2014. The meeting adjourned again at 10.33am and resumed again at 12.00noon. The meeting adjourned again at 1.39pm and resumed again at 4.30pm. The meeting adjourned again at 6.32pm and resumed again at 9.00am on Friday 9 May 2014.

Present:
9.00am – 7 May 2014
The Mayor (Jono Naylor) and Councillors Susan Baty, Rachel Bowen, Adrian Broad, Vaughan Dennison, Leonie Hapeta, Jim Jefferies, Ross Linklater, Duncan McCann, Billy Meehan, Annette Nixon, Aleisha Rutherford and Tangi Utikere.

Apologies:

Councillors Lew Findlay, Grant Smith and Chris Teo-Sherrell.

Present:
12.00noon – 7 May 2014
Councillors Duncan McCann (in the Chair), Susan Baty, Rachel Bowen, Adrian Broad, Vaughan Dennison, Leonie Hapeta, Jim Jefferies, Ross Linklater, Billy Meehan, Annette Nixon, Aleisha Rutherford and Tangi Utikere.

Apologies:
The Mayor (Jono Naylor) (for lateness) and Councillors Lew Findlay, Grant Smith and Chris Teo-Sherrell.

The Mayor (Jono Naylor) entered the meeting at 12.52pm at the conclusion of submission
77. He was not present for submissions 36 and 40.

Present: 4.30pm – 7 May 2014
Councillor Aleisha Rutherford (in the Chair), The Mayor (Jono Naylor) and Councillors Susan Baty, Rachel Bowen, Adrian Broad, Leonie Hapeta, Ross Linklater, Jim Jefferies, Duncan McCann, Billy Meehan, Annette Nixon and Tangi Utikere.

Apologies
The Mayor (Jono Naylor) (For early departure) and Councillors Lew Findlay, Annette Nixon (for early departure), Grant Smith and Chris Teo-Sherrell.

Councillor Vaughan Dennison entered the meeting at 4.37pm during consideration of submission 98. He left the meeting again at 6.05pm at the conclusion of submission 74. He was not present for submission 1.

The Mayor (Jono Naylor) left the meeting at 5.30pm at the conclusion of submission 47. He was not present for submissions 74, 79 and 1.

Councillor Annette Nixon left the meeting at 5.58pm during consideration of submission 79. She was not present for submissions 79 and 1.

Present: 7.30pm – 7 May 2014
Councillor Tangi Utikere (in the Chair), The Mayor (Jono Naylor) and Councillors Susan Baty, Rachel Bowen, Adrian Broad, Vaughan Dennison, Leonie Hapeta, Jim Jefferies, Ross Linklater, Duncan McCann, Billy Meehan and Aleisha Rutherford.

Apologies:
Councillors Lew Findlay, Annette Nixon, Grant Smith and Chris Teo-Sherrell.

Councillor Susan Baty left the meeting at 9.35pm during consideration of submission 103. She was not present for submission 103.

Present: 9.00am – 8 May 2014
Councillor Leonie Hapeta (in the Chair) and Councillors Susan Baty, Rachel Bowen, Adrian Broad, Ross Linklater, Jim Jefferies,
Duncan McCann, Annette Nixon, Aleisha Rutherford and Chris Teo-Sherrell.

Apologies:
The Mayor (Jono Naylor) and Councillors Vaughan Dennison (for lateness), Lew Findlay, Billy Meehan, Grant Smith and Tangi Utikere.

Councillor Vaughan Dennison entered the meeting at 9.07am during consideration of submission 99. He was present for all submissions.

Present:
12.00noon – 8 May 2014
Councillors Rachel Bowen (in the Chair), Councillors Susan Baty, Adrian Broad, Vaughan Dennison, Leonie Hapeta, Jim Jefferies, Ross Linklater, Duncan McCann, Annette Nixon, Aleisha Rutherford, Chris Teo-Sherrell and Tangi Utikere.

Apologies:
The Mayor (Jono Naylor) and Councillors Lew Findlay and Grant Smith.

Present:
4.30pm – 8 May 2014
Councillors Adrian Broad (in the Chair), Susan Baty, Rachel Bowen, Vaughan Dennison, Leonie Hapeta, Jim Jefferies, Ross Linklater, Billy Meehan, Annette Nixon, Aleisha Rutherford, Chris Teo-Sherrell and Tangi Utikere.

Apologies:
The Mayor (Jono Naylor) and Councillors Lew Findlay, Duncan McCann and Grant Smith.

Present:
9.00am - 9 May 2014
Councillors Chris Teo-Sherrell (in the Chair), Susan Baty, Rachel Bowen, Adrian Broad, Vaughan Dennison, Leonie Hapeta, Jim Jefferies, Ross Linklater, Duncan McCann, Annette Nixon, Aleisha Rutherford and Tangi Utikere.

Apologies:
The Mayor (Jono Naylor) (for lateness and early departure) and Councillors Lew Findlay, Billy Meehan and Grant Smith.

The Mayor (Jono Naylor) entered the meeting at 9.28am at the conclusion of submission
19. He left the meeting again at 10.40am during consideration of submission 103. He was not present for submissions 88, 19, 103 and 81.

4-14 Hearing of Submissions on the Draft Annual Plan 2014/15 (Year Three of the Ten Year Plan 2012/22)

The Committee considered submissions on the Draft Annual Plan 2014/15 (Year Three of the Ten Year Plan 2012/22) together with supporting oral statements and including additional tabled material.

The following persons appeared before the Committee and made oral statements in support of their submission and replied to questions from elected members, the additional points being:

9.00am Wednesday 7 May 2014

Paul O’Brien (96):

Mr Paul O’Brien spoke to his submission and made the following additional comments:

− When the proposal was first discussed for a covered stand to be erected at Arena the project group did not realise that it had to be included in the Annual Plan.

− The main purpose of the covered stand was to protect the patrons at Arena at no cost to the Council. It was to be a semi-temporary stand with a life span of approximately eight years, to enable Council time to research a more permanent solution.

− A lot of businesses had been supportive of the idea, either by way of monetary involvement or “in kind” payments. While those offers were now “off the table”, the companies were receptive to being re-approached should the project to move ahead.

− It was envisaged that cost to demolish the temporary stand would be covered by Council as the project moved to a more permanent structure.

− Mr O’Brien was in contact with Council and Arena Manawatu Management as a representative for those wishing to have the stand built.
Housing Advice Centre (44):

Representing the Housing Advice Centre, Manager, Ms Sue Swinburne spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:

- There was still an obvious need for one and two bedroom houses at an affordable cost that were close to the city. Housing New Zealand only provided housing for the severely disadvantaged, therefore many fail the initial Housing New Zealand interview and were forced to look at the open market.

- The Housing Advice Centre kept their own data based on advertised rentals in the area. In September 2013 there were 73 one and two bedroomed houses listed with an average rent of $244; December 2013, 25 listed at an average of $208 and in March 2014 there were 60 listed with an average rent of $195 per week.

- Council housing made a huge difference to those tenants who may have disabilities or were in the older age bracket as these groups often struggled to find suitable housing.

- A high number of Maori were using their services and the Housing Advice Centre currently worked alongside some of the key Maori providers but were keen to work with more.

- The Housing Needs Monitoring Group meet approximately eight times per year and this was a good opportunity to share information, identify key issues and take some action.

- Were supportive of the WOF, however would like to see a graded system implemented, similar to what is used for eating establishments. The system that was currently under trial was prescriptive and geared toward the ideal house. It was noted that some houses would never receive a WOF, however people would still choose to live in them as they were more affordable.

Freyberg High School (48):

Representing Freyberg High School and Ross Intermediate, Mr Robert Elder spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:

- Freyberg School was built in 1955 and was built for a high proportion of students and teachers that biked to school. The way people move around the city now had changed. Currently
the school provided 180 bike stands for a roll of 1,300 students.

- Freyberg High School and Ross Intermediate school day started at approximately the same time, with the finish time having a slight difference.

- The two schools would like to work with Council Roading Officers to consider solutions to the problem. Mr Elder noted that this would involve major traffic engineering considerations and could be included in the 10 year plan.

Matthew Willey (53):

Further information (PowerPoint presentation) was tabled at the meeting for circulation to elected members.

Mr Matthew Willey spoke to his submission and made the following additional comments:

- The science behind fluoridation was fragile.

- There were a number of ways that community fluoridation was undermined by anti fluoridation groups, such as:
  
  - The use of social media to propagate misinformation regarding fluoride.
  
  - Repeated attempts at litigation, such as South Taranaki.
  
  - Scaremongering – for example listing extreme health issues that may arise from using fluoride.
  
  - Manufacturing and maintaining false scientific controversy – highlighting part of reports that did not give the full story.
  
- Council should retain the practice of water fluoridation and put in place measures to help offset the continued programme of misinformation.

- Council should promote impartial information regarding fluoride by having more information on the website and articles in the Square Circular.
Palmerston North Women’s Health Collective (73):

Representing Palmerston North Women’s Health Collective, Mrs Jean Hera spoke to the submission, and made the following additional comments:

- Broadway Avenue was a concern and it was great to see groups such as Passionate About Broadway taking the initiative to revitalise the area, however Council needed to be thinking of ideas to support these groups.

- Legal Highs was going to be a big issue and now that they were banned the community would have to deal with the consequences of that.

- Supportive of waste minimisation and were concerned that Council would no longer be recycling plastic bags. Money should not be the driver for this service as the issue was sustainability.

Horizons Regional Council (83):

Representing Horizons Regional Council, Mr Nic Peet, Ms Kate Ritani, Ms Helen Kelly and Councillor Pat Kelly spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:

- The relationship with Palmerston North City Council was important to enable both Councils to deliver services to the community.

- There were 33 schools involved in the EnviroSchools programme, six of them were from Palmerston North City area. The schools supplied the resources and found alternative sponsorship ie donations from the community.

- Three district councils provided funding to the programme of approximately $1,000 per council.

Melva Widdowson (25):

Mrs Melva Widdowson spoke to her submission and made the following additional comment:

- Suggested that unwanted plastic bags be given to Te Manawa as they had many uses for them. Rubbish could be wrapped in newspaper to reduce the use of plastic bags.
Les Baty (76):

Mr Les Baty spoke to his submission and made the following additional comments:

- Broadway Avenue had once been a flourishing street until The Plaza had been established.

- The area on Main Street from the old Library Building to Downtown and The Square from Main Street towards Broadway had no overhead cover and there was a perception there was nothing to see beyond where the verandah stopped.

- By creating a verandah over these areas it would create a visual queue to keep moving through to Broadway Avenue and Downtown.

12.00pm Wednesday 7 May 2014

D J Ireland Ltd (36):

Further information was tabled at the meeting for circulation to elected members.

Representing D J Ireland Ltd, Mr David Ireland spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:

- Concern was expressed regarding the carry forwards in the Annual Plan and its impact. The Council needed to refocus and requested the Chief Executive and Senior Management Team to find at least $2 million savings. The financial situation was that serious and there was no way around the issue. He also expressed concern regarding the way interest rates were rising; for a person with a $300,000 mortgage the increase per year would be at least $1,500. There had been a general upward trend of costs imposed on the community. Fuel increases had a flow on effect with transport, use of vehicles and cost of appliances.

- Council’s attention was drawn to the manufacturing industry in the region and how it had largely been transferred to either Auckland or Australia which was having an impact on the community.

- Concern was further expressed regarding the impact that earthquake prone buildings were having on the business community, noting that the old New Zealand Electricity Department building had been sold for $530,000 considerably less that its rateable value of $910,000. The building’s rating
was E on the Council’s list of earthquake prone buildings. The devaluing of business properties would have a flow on effect on residential properties.

- He believed there were opportunities for the Council to seek funding for projects without impacting on the community, ratepayers were too hard up.

- He was in favour of the buses being relocated in The Square and believed it offered a safer environment, creating safety by numbers with more eyes in The Square. He would like the new location of the buses to be permanent.

- He challenged the Council to find a solution to the high costs.

Mr Tom Shannon (40):

Further information (PowerPoint presentation) was tabled at the meeting for circulation to elected members.

Mr Tom Shannon, together with Messrs Bill Russell, Lance Bickford and Wiremu Te Awe Awe, spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:

- The purpose of the submission was to bring to the Council’s attention the Manawatu George Biodiversity Project which was in collaboration with a number of organisations, including the Rangitane O Manawatu, Destination Manawatu and Department of Conservation among others.

- The vision was to attain national recognition of the Manawatu Gorge as a special place for all to visit and experience the natural and unique diversity it had to offer. The project’s purpose was to sustain, enhance, and preserve the unique area on into the future for many generations to enjoy. The experience of being there would create awareness in people of how precious and unique our environment was.

- The establishment of the project was largely through an informal working relationship focusing on the ecological restoration; visitor accessibility and recreational opportunities and cultural heritage. The work that had been undertaken had created biking trails and walking tracks; an area to be enjoyed by a wide range of users; links to Ashhurst Domain and the City; and Whatonga and Te Homonga Mauga.

- At present the project was looking at branding and promotion; marketing and trialling a mini bus service. It was believed that the opportunities and collaboration were wide and that it was
more than just creating walking tracks. It was envisaged that the project would provide a regional community and visitor iconic experience with linkages to the Manawatu national cycleway, Manawatu River pathway, Ashhurst Bridge clip on and mountain bike opportunities.

Manawatu Chamber of Commerce (77):

Representing the Manawatu Chamber of Commerce the Chairperson, Mr Andrew McLean, the Chief Executive Officer, Ms Stephanie Gundersen-Reid, and Board Members, Blair Alabaster and Peter Frizzell, spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:

- Concern was expressed regarding fragmentation and the need for greater collaboration between the Council, organisations and the business community to work together to ensure a positive experience for businesses contemplating locating to Palmerston North.

- It was believed that a number of Council funded community organisations were working in silos and there was a lack of definition of core roles and key outcomes in respect to Vision Manawatu and Destination Manawatu. There should be a more regular reporting mechanism put in place to ensure a greater transparency. It was suggested that the economic review should identify some of these issues and the Manawatu Chamber of Commerce was looking forward to working with Manawatu District and Palmerston North City Councils.

- Concern was also expressed regarding the development levy the Council imposes. There had been feedback from the business community who believed that the levy was arbitrarily imposed and stifled business growth. The Manawatu Chamber of Commerce would like the Council to explain the rationale of the levy and the value from it.

The Mayor (Jono Naylor) entered the meeting at 12.52pm

Jennifer Moss (78):

The submission incorporated a petition with approximately 119 signatures. The prayer of the petition read:

"I support this submission by Jennifer Moss for the Council to take the lead to make Palmerston North 'free' of non-biodegradable plastic bags."
Ms Jennifer Moss spoke to her submission making the following additional comments:

- Expressed concern regarding the flood of plastic bags the community was swimming in. She believed that the Council was in a position to employ experts to investigate and suggest action steps. She asked that the Council not wait until the Government took the lead and gave examples of towns and cities world-wide who had taken up the lead to move away from using plastic bags.

- Ms Moss commented that plastic created toxic pollution at every stage of its existence, from manufacture, use and disposal. Plastic was a material that the earth could not digest. Every bit of plastic that had ever been created still existed, including the small amount that had been incinerated and had become toxic particulate matter.

- Consumption of disposable plastics whether bags, bottles or straws had spiralled out of control. The items may be used over a limited period of time but their remains would last forever. Plastic bags had only been around for 50 years and it was not known how long it took to break down but it had been estimated between 500 and 1,000 years.

- It was believed that the ideal would be to encourage people to use reusable bags made from natural, compostable materials. She suggested that an average cloth bag would save using a least 1,000 plastic bags. There were many options for reusable bags including corn-starch and paper.

- It was believed that supermarkets and high street chain stores were the biggest barrier for a community going plastic bag free for various reasons. However proof of community support could influence these companies to changing their preference for plastic bag use. An example being a survey carried out in North Berwick, Scotland, it showed that 98% of respondents agreed shops should cease providing plastic bags and the outcome was that Tesco withdrew plastic bags from its North Berwick store.

- It was suggested that the Council should launch a campaign to get residents interested and as a public relation exercise hand out a cloth bag per household as part of the launch.

- It was believed paramount that the community took action to curb the plastic bag flood and that the Council showed leadership with retailers by making it compulsory for retailers to provide biodegradable bags for a small charge to the
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consumer, adding that education was vital, as there had been many years of habit to change.

- The collection of signatures was not hard to get, people were only too willing to sign the petition.

Katherine Gibbs (107):

Ms Gibbs spoke to her submission and made the following additional comments:

- It was suggested that the Council look ahead and found funds to buy land for reserves instead of selling off the land. The density of housing in Ashhurst was increasing therefore there was more need to have green spaces.

- Reserves in high density housing areas should have reserves within two to three minutes’ walk away, not just a green space but an area fit for the purpose. The recently built housing estate provided a green space however the proximity to neighbouring properties was not ideal for kicking a ball. The Council should not rely on developers to provide green spaces.

- The use of the Pit in Ashhurst would be prohibitive for children under the age of 10 years as it was located in a high traffic area.

- Once the land was sold it was gone and the Council would not have the funds to buy back in the future.

- Sections were getting smaller and smaller therefore it was essential to provide reserves where children could play. A number of children prefer to use ipads than to play outside and it was suggested that there would be a battle to get them out to enjoy physical exercise. Concern was expressed regarding the change in children’s recreational habits in the longer term.

- It was suggested that signage for some of the less known reserves in Ashhurst could become a competition.

Scott Southwood (95):

Mr Southwood spoke to his submission and made the following additional comments:

- He supported the cycle track being extended from the City to Longburn and suggested that the project should be brought forward.
He advised that he had approached local businesses to assist with funding however he was hindered because of the lack of knowledge about the proposal. Businesses were not willing to contribute without better information on the extension of the cycle track.

It was believed that with the growth of the City towards Longburn and the growth of industry in Longburn the cycle track would be well used by recreational cyclists as well as a preferred mode of transport to and from work.

Lila Matheson (105):
Ms Matheson spoke to her submission and made no additional comments.

David Parham (188):
Mr Parham spoke to his submission and made the following additional comments:

- He believed that the Council’s current financial situation was created by the previous Council and the current Council needed to find its feet before it was able to grapple with the budget. He added that it was symptomatic and a world-wide phenomenon.

- He urged the Council to upgrade local bypass roads off State Highway 3 and away from Napier Road, suggesting the upgrade investigation of the bypass roads should be on this year’s annual plan.

- A new bridge across the Manawatu River at Staces Road kept getting deferred. It was believed that earlier concepts were too ambitious and the Council needed to find an interim solution.

- He commented on the recent boundary change and believed that the Council should urbanise the area between Hendersons Road and Ashhurst or create a separate village.
4.30pm Wednesday 7 May 2014

Jan Hayter (98):

Representing Jan Hayter, Kay Goodburn, spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:

- She thanked the Council for the crossing in Grey Street which took two years to obtain.

Councillor Vaughan Dennison entered the meeting at 4.37pm

- Feedback should be obtained from people with disabilities when assessing the quality of crossings and footpaths.

- A wheelchair bound resident always wore a helmet because of past incidences where crossings and footpaths had been causative of her falling out of her wheelchair.

- That there was concern that all street corners would be upgraded to be like the Grey/Princess Streets crossing which was impossible to use for those in a wheelchair.

- That approaching a crossing on an angle did not assist despite people in an electric wheelchair being very clever at manoeuvring.

Palmerston North City Safety Advisory Board (68):

Representing the Palmerston North City Safety Advisory Board, Inspector Brett Calkin, spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:

- The issue of lighting had deteriorated since the survey conducted in July 2012.

- That he was mindful of the considerable amount of money that the Council had already expended over the past 10 years with CCTV, for example, but it was being let down by the lack of under veranda lighting.

- The Council meeting the cost of monitoring the CCTV was incredibly valuable and he did not want to see that situation change.

- Police were continually on the radio talking to people monitoring the cameras ensuring hot spots were regularly patrolled and the police were directed to the right areas to prevent trouble.
That the Council should be putting lights onto buildings regardless of whether the building was not owned by the Council as previously reliance had been placed on building owners to leave their lights on but now 80% of the CBD was in darkness.

That building owners were requested approximately 18 months ago to turn their lights on but it did not happen and the issue was far too important to the City to leave the issue of lighting to building owners. There was resistance by building owners due to the state of the economy as they were paying the electricity costs and maintenance/repair costs. Building owners had disconnected the lights to save on costs and they did not see lighting as their responsibility.

In other parts of New Zealand which had the best community lighting, that lighting had been paid for by the local authority.

With LED lighting and new technology the right type of light was now cost effective.

Cycle Aware Manawatu (54):

Further information (PowerPoint presentation, video and document entitled “What can an Active Transport Board offer Palmerston North?”) were tabled at the meeting for circulation to elected members.

Representing Cycle Aware Manawatu, Mr Matthew McKenzie, Ms Leonie McKenzie and Mr Anthony Behrens, spoke to the submission and made the additional comment that Palmerston North’s sister city, Missoula, had a Cycle Pedestrian Advisory Board and they recommended the same for Palmerston North.

Palmerston North SafeCity Trust (47):

Representing Palmerston North SafeCity Trust, Steve Williams, spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:

That SafeCity hosts could always be present as opposed to the police.

The SafeCity host programme would benefit from improved lighting in the CBD and The Square as the presence of authority would be very visible with improved lighting which would prevent crime.
– Improving lighting was also a key factor to improving the effectiveness of CCTV cameras.

– That SafeCity hosts were rotated and were stationed in the watch-house of the police station.

– That a CCTV’s camera’s typical lifespan was approximately seven years which could be stretched out longer but that could result in issues of unreliability, it was more cost effective to upgrade and obtain better technology.

– That there were 14 cameras and one person could adequately monitor that number of cameras but it would be more difficult for one person to monitor if the number of cameras was increased.

– That there had been ongoing conversations with building owners/ retailers who did not want to know about the lighting issue as it was community lighting not shop lighting. There was resentment in spending money to make the community safe.

– That while building owners could see the benefit of council funded lighting it was of little benefit to them when the shops were closed as there were no window shoppers at 2am but it could prevent soiling in shop door entrances.

The Mayor (Jono Naylor) left the meeting at 5.30pm

**Elizabeth Smith** (74):

Further information (PowerPoint presentation) was tabled at the meeting for circulation to elected members.

Ms Elizabeth Smith and Ms Nicky Armstrong spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:

– That some building owners were walking away from buildings in Broadway Avenue as it was uneconomic to earthquake proof the building so those buildings could be converted into gardens.

– That paint companies could be approached for donations so buildings could be painted in heritage colours.

– That The Regent Theatre be used, at no cost, as a traditional movie theatre on the weekend which was not terribly expensive and would be a good fundraiser.
That Broadway Avenue be closed off on Sundays for school activities or old fashioned games.

That research on the history of Broadway Avenue had been conducted and was available. Photographs were available from the library.

That placemaking needed to come out into the street for a more physical presence.

Mr Pat Kelly had washed all the windows of empty shops in Broadway Avenue and was paying for someone to continue that every month.

That Broadway Avenue had a strong heritage and the Council needed to be involved as the retailers could not do it by themselves.

People would visit if Broadway Avenue was a heritage place which would result in the return of more retailers.

**Lorna Johnson and Simon Coom (79):**

Further information (PowerPoint presentation) was tabled at the meeting for circulation to elected members.

Ms Lorna Johnson and Mr Simon Coom spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:

That Dogday Sunday commenced two years ago and there was not a place for dog owners to meet at the one time in Palmerston North.

This was not a new concept as there were dogs parks all over New Zealand, including Levin.

Councillor Annette Nixon left the meeting at 5.58pm

That a dog park was a great area to train dogs but it needed to be big enough to void overcrowding or alternatively multiple smaller parks could be established.

That the fence would not need to be higher than 6 foot and it would not have to be deer fencing, the fence just needed to act as a deterrent and dog owners were still responsible for controlling their dog.
– That there was an expectation that the Council would meet the cost of maintaining the dog park and a committee of interested people could be established to look after maintenance issues.

– That the creation of a dog park could be a staged approach, where you started with having a fenced area, water and waste disposal and developed further over time.

Councillor Vaughan Dennison left the meeting at 6.05pm

**Democrats for Social Credit (1):**

Representing Democrats for Social Credit Mr Chris Good spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:

– That the Council should encourage Financial Transaction Tax to tax the financial sector in place of Goods and Services Tax.

– That he was advocating for the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system in order to reach a wider demographic and to provide consistency.

**7.30pm Wednesday 7 May 2014**

**Fluoride Action Network Inc (2):**

Further information (PowerPoint presentation) was tabled at the meeting for circulation to elected members.

Representing Fluoride Action Network, Ms Mary Byrne, spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:

– Concerned that the Ministry of Health did not provide unbiased and objective information. The group did not believe it was right to possibly help some people at the expense of making others sick. Fluoride was not a nutrient but a highly toxic substance.

– This year the medical journal, the “Lancet” published an article by Grandjeanan Landrigan that classified fluoride as a substance that was known to be toxic to the developing brain. There was some valid criticism of these studies as they did not prove conclusively that fluoride caused any neurological effects, however there were no studies to say say it did not.

– Dr John Spencer, a fluoridation researcher and promoter from Australia had recently been to New Zealand and had said that in Australia they were concerned about the high level of dental fluorosis and was advocating for a change of behaviour, such
as: not using toothpaste until 18 months old, and then only smear child strength toothpaste on teeth and spitting out but not rinsing.

- At a recent High Court ruling in regards to New Plymouth Council Judge Hansen stated “for many years it was believed that (fluoride) worked systemically. It is now generally accepted that it works topically”.

- In New Zealand only 22 out of 67 Councils had some form of fluoridation programme.

**Pat Buckley (64):**

Further information (PowerPoint presentation) was tabled at the meeting for circulation to elected members.

Mr Pat Buckley spoke to his submission and made the following additional comments:

- Believed that it was our own responsibility to look after our own health and the health of our children. Mr Buckley had a son who he believed was affected by the toxic level of fluoride in the water.

- The Department of Health and Division of Dental Health genuinely believed the fluoridation of water supplies in New Zealand would solve the prevalence of caries in both children and adults, however this had proven to present a very different picture.

- Dr John Colquhoun worked for the School Dental Service for the Department of Health and gained the position of Principal Dental Officer for the Auckland region. For most of his career he was a supporter of fluoridation. In 1980 he undertook a world study tour of fluoride research and when he returned he theorised that the decreasing tooth decay was due to the use of toothpaste and other products.

- After Dr Colquhoun retired he became publicly opposed to water fluoridation and had started researching other health effects that fluoridation caused. He published an article entitled “The Hastings Fluoridation Experiment: Fact or Swindle” regarding his findings of the experiment in Hastings and Napier, stating that “it was in effect a rigged experiment”.

- If Councillors had any doubt regarding the safety of fluoridation please stop this practice.
Shaun O'Brien (60):

Further information (video presentation) was tabled at the meeting for circulation to elected members.

Mr Shaun O’Brien presented a video of Mr Declan Waugh, an Irish Environmental Scientist, speaking at a gathering in Ireland on the fluoridation issue.

Julie Buckley (65):

Further information (PowerPoint presentation) was tabled at the meeting for circulation to elected members.

Mrs Julie Buckley spoke to her submission and made the following additional comments:

- Individuals could choose what foods they eat, what we put on our skin and what medicines and supplements we take. However the choice regarding what was put in our water has been taken away. Currently Mrs Buckley travelled to Petone each week to collect water.

- Babies that were bottle fed with powdered formula take in a huge dose of fluoride compared to a baby that was bottle fed. Children were being over exposed to fluoride as studies showed that 30% of children in fluoridated areas have dental fluorosis compared to 15% in non-fluoridated areas. Dental fluorosis was the first outward sign of fluoride poisoning.

- Fluoridated water did not protect children’s teeth, brushing them and not eating sugary foods did.

NZ Health Professionals Opposing Fluoridation (75):

Further information (PowerPoint presentation) was tabled at the meeting for circulation to elected members.

Representing NZ Health Professional Opposing Fluoridation, Ms Lyn Jordan spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:

- There were currently 118 health professionals that were part of the group opposing fluoridation and there were 4,642 international signatories to the “Professionals Statement Against Fluoridation”. 

In March 2014 the New Zealand High Court ruled that it was legal for Councils to fluoridate, this case was now with the NZ Court of Appeals. “Zone 4” Councils had proposed that Local Government New Zealand make a legislative change relieving Councils on fluoridation authority.

The Ministry of Health continued to urge local councils to follow their recommendations, however this was done behind closed doors that did not allow various groups, professionals and experts to ask the hard questions.

There were two solutions to stop tooth decay; introduce school brushing programmes and banning sugar drinks from schools.

Pit Park People Society Inc (84):

Further information (PowerPoint presentation) was tabled at the meeting for circulation to elected members.

Representing Pit Park People Society Inc, Ms Marise Clarke spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:

- The Pit Park projected started 10 years ago, with no certainty of the project progressing. Now there was a partnership with the Council and a Memorandum of Understanding. Relationships were also being developed with other organisations including an ongoing partnership with Massey University.

- There was a huge diversity of people that were involved in the Pit and this was supported by attending various events in the City, such as Festival of Cultures and the Harvest Festival.

- The Pit had seen an increase in bird life, with white faced heron, kingfisher and stilts all being seen. Native plants were also doing well.

- Approximately one third of the area was completed with a lot of ongoing work. There were regular work parties held on the third Sunday of every month and on these days up to twenty people would attend.
Dion Martin (87):

Further information was tabled at the meeting for circulation to elected members.

Mr Dion Martin spoke to his submission and made the following additional comments:

- If Council was supportive of the living wage more skilled workers would come to Palmerston North. Did not want Palmerston North to be seen as a low wage city. If the City declared itself as a living wage city then the private sector would follow.

- As a community we need to advocate for keeping young people in decent jobs and to stop the downward spiral of New Zealand becoming a $2 shop.

George Buchan (103):

Further information was tabled at the meeting for circulation to elected members.

Mr George Buchan spoke to his submission and made the following additional comments:

Councillor Susan Baty left the meeting at 9.35pm

- Requested under LGOIMA, that evidence be shown that the Maori Tax percentage charged within rates demands was done so without supporting documentation to allow this.

- Believed that Queen Victoria’s Royal Charter of 16 November 1840 was our true founding document and first constitution and therefore ought to be celebrated.

9.00am Thursday 8 May 2014

Bruce Wilson (99):

Mr Bruce Wilson spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:

- That buses parking in The Square was an interim measure and he wanted the Council to recognise that The Square was for people not commerce. The City needed to be friendly and safe for pedestrians, buses were not going to make pedestrians feels safe.
Councillor Vaughan Dennison entered the meeting at 9.07am

- That the carparks in The Square could be removed as there were ample alternative carparks close to The Square. The space gained from removing the carparks could be available at all times for special occasions.

- That the footpaths were dangerous as they were not level with driveways and those built in past three years should have met the new requirements but either the contractors had not been told of the change or have forgotten to implement the changes.

- The Council needed to make local people feel comfortable and confident when walking on footpaths which would encourage people to get out and about which would serve as an advertisement for the City.

- That people from all around New Zealand attended the guided walk through the Gorge so the Council should not underestimate the importance of a walking network.

- The Fitzherbert Bridge to Linton pathway was a critically important opportunity and it should be put down as soon as possible as base commanders changed every couple of years and if there was delay cooperation from the Defence Force could evaporate.

- That the dental and medical professions were starting to weigh into the debate on fluoride and the Council should keep fluoride in the City's water and front up against opposition to that proposal.

- That instead of rainwater going into the stormwater system, small rain water storage tanks should be part of new houses so water is caught for use in the garden.

‘Let The Children Live’ Palmerston North Methodist Parish (100):

Representing ‘Let The Children Live’ Palmerston North Methodist Parish, Ms Jill White spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:

- That strong advocacy was required for state housing in Palmerston North. There were empty houses that needed to be demolished and replaced.

- Children needed to be at the forefront of the Council's focus as children were not our future but were our current citizens. There needed to be a strong focus on children and their needs in both the Annual Plan and 10 year Plan.
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- That the insulation of houses was an important health issue and because the Government was pulling out of funding insulation the Council should look at providing funding.

Destination Manawatu (101):

Further information (PowerPoint presentation and booklet entitled “A great place to live”) was tabled at the meeting for circulation to elected members.

Representing Destination Manawatu, Chief Executive, Mr Lance Bickford, and Communities Executive, Mr Shivarn Stewart spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:

- The Te Apiti Manawatu Gorge project was a huge opportunity as there was nothing else like it in New Zealand so close to a major city and there were big plans to work with the biodiversity group to market it.

- The linking of five national cycleways would be marketed to tourism.

- There was a need to look at the City’s facilities, the City hosted the first major convention centre and thought needed to be given to the future as it was important to the economy.

- ‘The Page’ magazine focused on what was around the City with key messages about living in Palmerston North.

- They wanted to learn of the barriers to working and studying in Palmerston North and highlight the benefits of working, living and studying here.

- With reference to the tabled booklet “A great place to live”, they were working with different organisations to avoid replication and the booklet would be personalised for various organisations. They sought feedback from the councillors on what, if anything, was missing from the booklet.

- That 70 families from AgResearch were to relocate to Palmerston North and because those families did not want to leave their current residences it was important to get things right to avoid losing skilled people overseas. Julie Bowe was to work with AgResearch families to assist in introducing those families to the City.

... the meeting adjourned at 9.55am ...
... the meeting resumed again at 10.05am ...
Manawatu Tenants Union (94):

Representing Manawatu Tenants Union, Mr Kevin Reilly spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:

- The refugee centre in Feilding was being knocked over and that should be stopped by the Council.
- That it was undecided what would happen to the land Housing New Zealand houses were situated on once the houses had been demolished but it was clear that the houses would not be rebuilt by Housing New Zealand.
- That 87% of housing in New Zealand was privately owned and housing was the cornerstone of family life.
- In the past six months he had been dealing with 12-15 families some of which split up because they earned too much money whereby $600.00 per week was minimal when there was a wife and four children.
- The number of homeless families was increasing with the waiting list for houses growing whereas Housing New Zealand was demolishing houses.
- That there was a lack of affordable housing and a private/public partnership to build affordable housing could be a solution.
- That he did not think that the Council could afford an ambitious housing agenda but the Council could build affordable homes and provide 3% to 5% loans.
- Renting was here to stay and the vast majority of people would never be able to buy.
- There was a need for two bedroom flats.

Bryan Ibell (149):

Bryan Ibell spoke to his submission and made the following additional comments:

- Tanks blended into the house and did not occupy a great deal of space.
- It was a win win situation as less water would be used and people would have the freedom to use the water in their gardens.
A long term view needed to be adopted and this was an opportunity for the Council to lead the way and do something innovative.

Existing house owners needed to be encouraged to install a tank.

The cost of the supply and installation of a tank could be reduced in a new subdivision when buying/installing in bulk.

12.00pm Thursday 8 May 2014

Environment Network Manawatu (104):

Representing Environment Network Manawatu, Ms Sharon Stevens spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:

- There were a number of hotspots in the city that required work to enable good active transport. Commitment to transport and active transport did require money but meant that those who were less fortunate had better options.

- Supported the reduction of plastic bags. In her hometown in United States of America plastic bags were not given out and waste minimisation was something Council had room to improve. Waste reduction was better than good recycling. Palmerston North had taken leadership nationally with the sustainability strategy, now that they had the vision in place, it was time to put it into reality.

- A full community recycling centre would be of benefit. Currently individuals had to travel to a number of sites, such as, Just Zilch, Ferguson Street Recycling centre and ARC to recycle various items. To have one centre, as in Nelson, would make it easier to reuse and recycle.

Ian Wishart (108):

Mr Ian Wishart spoke to his submission and made the following additional comments:

- There were shortcomings around the world in the way that the science around fluoridation was completed. We did not have a good science process to approach the fluoridation issue.
There was a need to keep monitoring any adverse health affects from fluoridation and the Ministry of Health should acknowledge they were keeping an eye on things.

Friends of the Palmerston North City Library (106):

Further information (PowerPoint presentation) was tabled at the meeting for circulation to elected members.

Representing Friends of the Palmerston North City Library, Ms Midge Minot and Mr Bruce Thompson spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:

- The current barcode system in the Library was outdated and when required fixing it proved difficult as the machines were no longer made and therefore parts were hard to find.

- With the new Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system a large number of books or an entire shelf could be read in one sweep. This system had been proven as had been used for the last ten years at other libraries.

- A feasibility study completed by the group estimated that the payback time would be 2.56 years. Other benefits over this time would be additional staff time to carry out tasks such as; helping customers, teaching in “makerspaces” and “fabrication labs” and also time for IT training for staff.

Sustainable Living Trust (89):

Representing the Sustainable Living Trust, Ms Stewart Harrex spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:

- Palmerston North was a leading city in its quest to become sustainable and the City’s goals could be condensed to reflect that.

- There was no need to place a lot of restrictions on buildings, such as house sizes. A lot of the covenants placed on properties were based from other cities and this did not convert to Palmerston North. It was good to see that the Council planning department had employed a lot of younger people that had visions for the City and were receptive to new ideas.
Kiwi Income Property Trust (124):

Representing Kiwi Income Property Trust, General Manager - The Plaza, Mr Andrew Heaphy, spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:

- Begging was becoming more of an issue, with beggars becoming more aggressive. Plaza staff do move beggars on, however this only meant they relocated to a different area of the CBD. The night patrol had at times found people sleeping in carparks.

- Currently the Plaza was at 100% occupancy rate but acknowledged that at times it had been hard to attract businesses to Palmerston North.

Central Football (117):

Representing Central Football, Chief Executive Officer, Mr John McGifford, spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:

- In 2011 Central Football had an annual turnover of approximately $900,000 and a staff number of two. Currently the annual turnover was $1.5 million and there were now five staff employed.

- For Football in the Central region to continue to develop and grow an artificial turf was required. This could be done as a centre of excellence with other facilities included such as changing and administration rooms.

- Possible locations could be Arena, where Marist Sports Club currently had ground space or at Massey University.

4.30pm Thursday 8 May 2014

Manawatu Mountain Bike Club (51):

Further information (PowerPoint presentation) was tabled at the meeting for circulation to elected members.

Representing the Mountain Bike Club, Mr Peter Wells, spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:

- The Club had created 9.5km of new trails between 2011 and 2013. The total cost being $36,000 with the Club contributing
nearly $10,000 and 550 man-hours in volunteer time. A key success of this had been the Kahuterawa Challenge events in 2013 and 2014. The Kahuterawa Road car park overflowed most weekends this summer.

- It was believed that creating mountain bike trails at Te Apiti created three iconic venues in the region, being Arapuke Forest Park; Manawatu Gorge Trail and Meridian Te Apiti Trail. All these venues were within easy access to Palmerston North. A multi-day experience could be created from these venues, lengthening visitors stay and spend. A survey carried out by the Club suggested that 25% of visitors would be from outside of Manawatu and Tararua.

- It was suggested that there were a number of off road cycling tracks that could be developed.

- The current process of clearing trails in the Arapuke Forest Park with a digger and hand finishing by volunteers had been extremely economical. With a cash outlay of $3.60 per metre and a volunteer input of approximately $2.40 per metre, trails built to date were estimated to cost $6.00 per metre. This compared with estimates of $10 per metre in Rotorua and $15 per metre in Wellington.

- In the next 12-months, most of the easier terrain would have had trails developed. As steeper slopes were encountered, trails would have to be built more by hand and at a cost of $10 plus per metre could be expected, but the total length of those trails would not be as long as the trails already built.

- Given the popularity of the area with the new trails the Club requested the Council improve the car parking facility at Kahuterawa Road end to at least double its current capacity. Also the Club would like the sightlines on the corners leading to the car park to be improved.

- The Club urged the Council to allocate $10,000 towards trail re-construction costs and the Club would endeavour to match the sum through fund raising. It was a big part of the committee’s goal to raise funds.

- The Club had investigated taking on prisoners and those in community detention to assist with the construction of the trails, however it was not feasible given the limited resources and the need to supervise to ensure the work was properly carried out.
The trails users were more tolerant of each other that would be encountered on the City’s river walkway. In Wellington 50 to 60 walkers could be using the trails along with the Mountain Bikers with no conflict of activity.

Harvey Jones (80):

Further information was tabled at the meeting for circulation to elected members.

Mr Jones spoke to his submission and made the following additional comments:

- It was suggested that the funding of $160,000 allocated to the Mulgrave Street walkway be allocated to the planning and development of a bridge over the railway to link from the Ashhurst Domain extended pathway.

- There had been ongoing issues with part of the walkway to link up Durham Reserve with the Ashhurst Domain via a path under the railway bridge.

- It was not believed to be a problem with a proposal to sell reserve land bordering the Pit for residential use and made sense. It could improve safety with houses around it. Children often used the area to play.

Peter J Fowell (91):

Further information was tabled at the meeting for circulation to elected members.

Mr John Fowell Treasurer and Junior Convenor of the Ashhurst Pohangina Rugby Football Club, spoke to his submission and made the following additional comments:

- Concern was expressed regarding the state of the car park to the Ashhurst Lincoln Park. The car park was well utilised most days with the Athletic Club, Scout and Cub Club and the Tae Kwon Do Club.

- It was estimated that it would cost approximately $70,000-$73,000 to reseal the car park, excluding preparation work, and it was hoped that the Council could allocate this sum.
The Rugby Club had the people to provide the man power to develop the Deer Park and enhance the overall Lincoln Park facility. The Club had submitted a sketch of the paving project for Council consideration along with the Council’s proposed plan.

It was envisaged that the Deer Park could be opened to accommodate extra car parking. Car parking at present spilled over into Lincoln Street.

Julie S Stibbs (92):

Further information (PowerPoint presentation) was tabled at the meeting for circulation to elected members.

Ms Stibbs spoke to her submission and made the following additional comments:

- Concern was expressed regarding inflatable playing equipment, adding that the equipment was dangerous to users as the inflatables tended to collapse while users were on them and at times lifted with the wind.

- Ms Stibbs presented statistics which identified that in 2012 there were approximately 382 injuries related to bouncy castles and it was suspected more injuries occurred but were not reported. A total of $74,300 was paid out by ACC which was a marked increase from the $1,000 paid out in 2002.

- It was suggested that there should be a review of standards for anchoring inflatable equipment, improved emergency plans and training of staff in the event of a collapse.

- Ms Stibbs supported the cycle path between Palmerton North and Longburn and the continuation of the Youth Space programme.

Bunnythorpe Community Committee (72):

Further information was tabled at the meeting for circulation to elected members.

Representing the Bunnythorpe Community Committee, Chairperson Mr Athol Gibson, and Committee member Ms Jo Jamieson, spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:
Bunnythorpe was struggling to establish a village identity. Since the inception of Mugby Junction and Bunnythorpe there had been a division through no fault of those living in the area. It had been further complicated by the mergers that had taken place by Kairanga, Oroua Counties and latterly the Manawatu District Palmerston North City Council merger. It was hoped that with the proposed community facility being established the area would once again become the vibrant village of the past.

Communication within Bunnythorpe was difficult, numerous postal areas and Bunnythorpe not receiving the free newspaper, The Tribune, or the Manawatu Standard contributed to the last of information sharing. It was noted that the outcome of the draft Annual Plan Hearings would be reported in the Council’s newspaper, The Square Circular, this newspaper was not available to the majority of residents either.

Concern was expressed regarding:

- the lack of security lighting for the public toilet which was believed to be a safety issue and should be addressed urgently;
- the lack of suitable playing equipment for young children in the Play area and nothing had been implemented regarding the BMX track;
- an open drain located at Campbell Road and Dutton Street. This was viewed as a potential safety hazard and it was believed that the lack of drainage was due to the outlet pipe sited higher than the inlet pipe. The pooling of water worsened in winter time; and
- Sight lines on Stoney Creek Road towards Clevely Line and Parrs Road. The road was a 100k speed limit area and there was a lack of safe walking space. From the 70k speed limit sign towards Bunnythorpe there was also no safe walking space other than driveways and there were open drains pedestrians had to contend with. Also from Clevely Line towards Parrs Road there was an obscured dip making the corner dangerous.

Malcolm Frith (97):

Further information was tabled at the meeting for circulation to elected members.

Mr Frith spoke to his submission and made the following additional comments:
Concern was expressed regarding consultation. It was believed since the loss of Wards and Ward meetings there had been no meetings held by councillors where the public could bring issues or concerns to the attention of Council. There was little in the way of finding out what was happening in the community, for example the Esplanade Aviary/Wildlife Recovery Centre; Memorial Park among others.

No opportunity had been given for the public to be heard on their opinions on how their money should be spent. The Council seemed to have stepped back about eighteen years.

He questioned when did the National Walkway Te Ataroa become part of the national Cycleway of New Zealand and what public submissions were sought on its establishment.

Concern was expressed regarding the temporary site for the Intercity Bus Terminal in The Square. It seemed the Council made its decision with no consideration to the public consultation process undertaken in 2012. In the Horizons Regional Council 2011 report entitled “The Proposed Major Upgrade of Palmerston North Transport Terminal Facilities” proposed scheme options were provided for consideration. He expressed particular concern relating to clauses 5.29 and 5.30 on page 17 of that report. No consideration was made to the sustainable city strategy, the urban design strategy or the passenger numbers. A simple solution would have been to place the Busses in Main Street up from the existing bus services on the Downtown roadside with the loss of some car parks and no infrastructure costs incurred.

The City needed to investigate a different way of dealing with the final waste products. It was not acceptable to discharge any waste into the Manawatu River, and it was questioned why waste products could not be disposed of on land. There was low bacteria rate and dry sludge could be burnt or used as a fibre source. Methane gas could be used to generate electricity. He suggested that the Council needed to look at innovative ways to become more sustainable for the future. It was further suggested that the Council burn the city’s waste in high intensity furnaces. This could also generate power.

It was believed that the frog parking system should be abandoned with the return of a simple pay and display. It was suggested that the frog parking system would cost the ratepayer more and more money with very little return.
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- Concern was expressed regarding some projects which had exceeded their original budget including the Cycle Walkway, temporary bus terminal and Globe Theatre. It seemed the ratepayers were viewed as an external funding source to cover these shortfalls. The overspending was reflected in the rates and were unaffordable to many ratepayers.

- It was believed that there was a notable drop in service in the area of footpaths and street cleaning.

Manawatu Scottish Pipe Band Inc (93):

Representing the Manawatu Scottish Pipe Band Inc, Chairman Mr John Cotton and Secretary, Mr Laurie Dalton, spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:

- The Band was seeking funding to cover administrative costs, which included increased insurance and maintenance costs. It was hoped with the grant from Council it would allow the Band to direct its subscription and tuition fees back into the development and education of its members.

- The Manawatu Scottish Pipe Band attended a number of events and on ANZA Day the band paraded at 13 such events in the regions. It was believed that this demonstrated community development in action. The band’s focus was on leadership and youth development which also had a community development outcome.

- The Band hosted the Jenny Mair Highland Square Day competition on an annual basis attracting an average of 18 bands. This brought significant income to the city.

9.00am Friday 9 May 2014

Joseph Poff (88):

Mr Poff spoke to his submission and made the following additional comments:

- He offered a vision of Palmerston North. He believed that the City could be self-sufficient using its own locally generated renewable energy. The Council should engage with Massey University to provide innovative solutions to non-fossil fuel generation and transport. This would assist in slowing climate change but also provide material and economic benefits to the City in terms of employment, rates and help re-establish city
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pride. He believed that Palmerston North was in a unique geographic location and destined to be the capital of renewable electricity generation in New Zealand.

- For this to happen, the Council needed to change its attitude and become more business focused. Current observation from both the community and outside of Palmerston North was that the Council was anti-business.

- He believed that the noise issue currently under litigation with the owners of Te Rere Hau Wind Farm should cease as the measurements had consistently demonstrated a compliance with the consent conditions. He questioned what the legal costs associated with the case were; what costs had been incurred engaging Acousafe Ltd; where the funds were coming from in the budget as it was not clearly identified; and what the total budget cost was for the planned High Court proceedings schedule for August 2014.

- He suggested that the money being spent in pursuing appeals would be better spent on improvements to Palmerston North and for the benefit of the rate payers. A 0% rate rise would be well received city wide. He added that in these times of austerity and adversity it would be in the interest of Palmerston North not to carry on with a lawsuit that did not benefit anyone.

- Mr Poff declared he had a financial interest in the Te Rere Hau Wind Farm and a foundation shareholder, and that he lived very close to it and was also a stakeholder in the Turitea Wind Farm.

- He requested the Council to stop any further legal harassment of New Zealand Wind Farm Ltd, and should further expenditure be considered then he requested that a full public disclosure of the facts be made, including a list of recorded complaints, and detail of the perceived justification for embarking upon further legal process be presented for discussion and vote.

- He hoped that his submission would prompt questions to be asked. Ratepayers could not afford the continuous rate increases which the Council delivered every year. He looked forward to living in a prosperous, growing city which could be proud of its renewable electricity generation assets.
John Gardner (19):

Mr Gardner spoke to his submission and made no additional comments.

The Mayor (Jono Naylor) entered the meeting at 9.28am

John Bent (82):

Mr Bent spoke to his submission and made the following additional comments:

- It was suggested that the organisations who were producing and distributing junk mail should be levied the Uniform Annual General Charge and not the recipients of the unwanted mail.

- Cat owners should provide adequate fencing and means to keep their cats on their own property, similar to what dog owners were required. Cats carried disease which could be transferred to children.

Palmerston North City Environmental Trust (85):

Representing the Palmerston North City Environmental Trust, Ms Nikki Pindur, spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:

- The Trust was looking at ways to introduce solar heating panels in schools. Schools were bulk funded for heating water and power. Solar panel heating was viewed as something in addition to the funding allocation and the funding needed to be sourced from the community. Ashhurst School was interested in the proposal. The Ministry of Education was also interested in the proposal however schools were slow to move towards a more sustainable investment because of costs including the ongoing maintenance costs.

- The Trust believed that significant biodiversity improvements could be implemented more quickly if moderate investment was provided to implement green and pest control. Planting and landscaping was relatively easy but volunteers did not enjoy weeding or site preparation. The Trust proposed that schools may take up the weeding as a working bee activity to raise funds. It was envisaged that this activity would build up over time and the benefit would be seen.
Trevor M Kirk (90):

Mr Kirk spoke to his submission and made the following additional comments:

- Concern was expressed regarding the lack of promotion of the City causing the loss of business and job opportunities in the City and lack of visitors. He wanted to see free parking in the weekends from 6.00pm Friday to 7.00am on Monday.

- Concern was also expressed regarding the issue of bird droppings on parked cars in Broadway Avenue’s shopping area. People would get upset if the bird population was removed however something needed to be done.

- Concern was further expressed regarding the condition of the Esplanade Aviary. He had seen better aviaries in private gardens.

- He would not want to see the cost for the new rides and water playground at the Lido pool to be in excess of $50-$60 per family as it would preclude many families from enjoying the facilities.

Michael J Shepherd (102):

Mr Shepherd spoke to his submission and made the following additional comments:

- Concern was expressed regarding the condition of the Lincoln Park car park. As a member of the Ashhurst Athletics Club he confirmed there were approximately 130 members using the car park along with those members belonging to the Rugby Club and Tae Kwon Do Club. The field itself was well maintained, the only thing spoiling it was the condition of the car park. People attended the park from as far away as Taihape.

- He understood that the asphalting of the car park was programmed in the Annual Plan however nothing had been done to date and it was believed that the programme had been deferred. It was suggested that the asphalting needed to be prioritised as the potholes were a safety issue.

- The Council was congratulated on the completion of the Ashhurst/Palmerston North cycleway link. It was suggested that the Council provide a clip-on to the Manawatu River Bridge at Ashhurst as the road was dangerous. This would also provide access to the George track.
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The Mayor (Jono Naylor) left the meeting at 10.40am

- Concern was expressed regarding discretionary powers in respect of subdivisions. Although living next door to a property which was subdivided he was not advised of the subdivision going ahead. The permitted minimum requirement for subdividing the section was breached. The house was erected and then sold off. It was never envisaged that the property could be subdivided. The trees lining the boundary fence were now a safety concern.

Globe Theatre Trust Board (81):

Representing the Globe Theatre Trust Board, Chairperson Mr Stephen Fisher and Board Member Denise Servante spoke to the submission and made the following additional comments:

- It was estimated that the building of an access way linking both theatres for mobility impaired patrons would cost approximately $100,000. At present wheel chaired patrons were required to wait until everyone else was seated before they could be ushered into the theatre and that was on acceptable.

- Concern was expressed regarding comments suggesting that the car park was not necessary. The Trust disagrees with that suggestion and reminded Council that the car park was necessary and very important to the safety of patrons in the evenings.

- The Trust was confident that it could match the Council $1 for $1 to raise the funds to install the new disability access way.

The COMMITTEE REFERRED all material to the Committee of Council meeting on 3 June 2014 for its consideration in the first instance.

The meeting finished at 11.05am

CONSIDERED THIS 3rd DAY OF JUNE 2014

CHAIRPERSON