

Notes from the Snells Beach Community Meeting

Hosted by: Snells Beach Ratepayers and Residents Association. SBRRA

Date: Monday 5 May 2025 Time: 7.45pm (After the AGM) Location: Salty Dog Inn

Welcome from David Burt – Chairman SBRRA

Present: SBRRA committee – David Burt (Chair), Brian Fehsenfeld (Treasurer), Eileen O'Loan (Secretary), Alana van Boheeman, Troje Botica, Harrison Mitchell

Guest speakers: Tim Holdgate (RLB), Lisa Hampe (AC), Stef Fink (AC)

Members present x 34 + 13 non members

Apologies: Greg Sayers (AC Rodney councillor), Ian Taylor, Diane Taylor, Gary O'Loan, Dave Parker, Andrew Burt, Christina Burt, Robyn Duffy, Fiona Lindsay, Jenny Cardinal, Anouska Brown, Cath Hodder, Jan France, Peter Cacia-Birch, Jackie Russell, Alison Coates

Proxies received x 2 Gary O'Loan, Jennifer Cardinal

Guest Speaker: Lisa Hampe. AC Community Places Lisa.Hampe@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Topic – Welcome back to our Library and Community Centre

- Library is open **NOW**. from Mon 5th May. Please visit
- Community Centre next to be open within 10 working days. Has passed all the safety checks. So won't be long.
- We want the Centre to be our community Living Room. Lisa is open to ideas from the community on how to achieve this with the community.
- A landscaper has been asked to make the outdoor space more attractive – make the outdoor areas a Hub/ destination. Pataka Kai will be returning.
- How to book the Centre – New process – Venue4Hire. A new team to manage the bookings – access to this team will be thru a 24/7 hotline. There is a new App and calendar. The Venue4Hire team will be contacting all previous hirers will details on how to book and the charges that will apply.
- Bookings – you will be able to book the centre up to a year ahead – the new booking calendar year will start in March. Able to book 1 year in advance. Create an account - monthly invoices.
- There is some opportunity for a fee waiver for community building events (ie: no fee to attend events)– please contact Lisa to discuss
- Access will be with a swipe card system.
- Our community Centre will still be the Community Emergency Hub. MECEN (Mahurangi East Community Emergency Network) will have 24hr access (card & Key)
- Annual events can be arranged for big community events – the weekly booking will be stood down for that weekend.
- **Community Opening Celebration Event.** Still being planned. - Probably Matariki weekend **Sat 21 June 2025**. If you wish to be a part of this – contact Lisa or the Library
- **Reminder that Lisa will no longer be involved in the day-to-day booking** – but is avail for contact for help with bookings, fee waivers etc.

Guest speaker: Stef Fink contractor from Mahurangi Wastebusters to AC

- Rodney is moving to a standardised kerbside collection service in line with the rest of Auckland

Dates to remember 18th May – last chance to tell the AC what size bin you may require.

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- 80L for smaller households
- 120L – the default bin that will be delivered if you don't tell the AC which you prefer (2-5 people)
- 240L – the big bin (for larger families) same size as the yellow recycling bin.
- Still to be an orange bag option for the rural zone or where kerbside access is very difficult e.g.: (long long driveway)
- Collection will be weekly – same as the normal recycling day. Kerbside collection not a central collection point.
- Food scraps – no plans to roll out to rest of Rodney at present.
- Northern waste will be contacting their bin subscribing customers closer to the implementation date. Collection of the old bins will be arranged. If you haven't heard from them by mid Aug – then please do contact them, but not before.

Implementation date is 1st Sept 2025

- Green waste – yes you can put into the weekly bin – but recommendation is to put in a designated green waste bin service
- **Any more questions – please contact Stef Fink. Email stef@less.org.nz or ask at the libraries. For those wishing to provide comments and feedback to the council on the new service, the email address is ratesfunded@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.**

Attached below please find the question & answer document sent to Stef prior to this meeting

RLB report: Tim Holdgate

- Great to see the Community Centre back. However, the bottom line has been \$4.5 million. The RLB has now had to adjust the current and future budget.
- Local elections happen in Oct this year. Encourage members of the community to put themselves forward to serve the community. Look at AC website, for more information
- WW wastewater – good progress on the project. Queen Street pipes now underground
- New pedestrian bridge – connects the Transport hub carpark, Heritage Lane, Kowhai Park. Will be officially opened in June.
- Shoreline adaptation plan – now in operation; first priority will be the council assets – then looking at the sea level rise.
- River walkway – under the Elizabeth Rd bridge – project now underway.
- Hill Street – no further progress on this .
- Snells Beach walkway and shorebird proposal – more constructive feedback is needed – Project poorly communicated to community. Project has been put back for further consultation.

AC Report: Cr Greg Sayers

Greg sent thru a document to be read at the meeting – please see the document at the end of the minutes. Very similar to the report tabled at last community meeting.

SBRRRA committee - Issues and project updates

- **Paper Road** – Hamatana Road. Committee member Troje Botica & MECEN have investigated this. The Hamatana paper road finishes at the Hamilton Farm – no further access available. The team are now investigating another paper road from Muncaster to Grange St.
- **Nikau School.** Committee contacted the School – no immediate change to lease is planned.
- **Speeding cars in neighbourhood.** From the previous meeting in March – we were encouraged to contact the police. They can access the SB camera /Arabella Lane. Committee has investigated this following community initiative. **Community Cam** is a voluntary, not for profit community initiative where people can register a property with **Snells Beach Ratepayers and Residents Assoc. Inc./ Snells Beach Community Assoc.**
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CCTV, and upload CCTV <https://www.communitycam.co.nz/> . Committee will investigate as future guest speaker option.

- **Flying Fox repair** : At last, this is now fixed – although it was damaged again over Easter – but now ready for happy flying.
- **Skatepark renewal**: the planned update may be impacted by the blowout of the Community Centre project. We are still awaiting a final decision. SBRRA will continue to push for this renewal.
- **Shorebird sanctuary proposal update**

2x notices of motion were received prior to the meeting

1: From Stan Armiger: I will be proposing in the minutes of the March meeting "after a robust discussion followed" I would like to add " a show of hands was called for and the vast majority of those attending were in favour of retaining the walkway."

**Revised wording in italics to replace the wording in previous summary statement.
In March meeting summary**

- **Submission made by SBRRA committee in favour of this change but with some further suggestions of amendments. Member Stan Armiger then presented an overview of the local petition opposing this change... Robust discussion followed. *An informal show of hands was called for from the floor – many attendees at that meeting were in favour of retaining the existing path.* . RLB will make the final decision, and all the community have a right to have their say. Stan will be attending the RLB meeting on Wednesday 19th March**
- Further discussion on the AC proposal. Concern was voiced by many that this issue has divided our community with some of our community members being threatened online and in person, and a further comment was made that a compromise solution needed to be found.

2: From Stan Armiger: I would like to propose that the SBRRA's approval for the walkway be rescinded to allow for further discussion before a final decision is made."

Stan agreed to withdraw this motion as all the submissions had been made and it is now with the RLB for a decision.

David Burt (chair) reminded the meeting that while the Association supported an improved habitat for the shorebirds, we had not expressed support for the removal of the pathway – instead the Association had suggested an alternative solution with a path to the western side of the stream with new information /interpretation signage and public facilities.

Pest Free Snells

- Pest Free Snells has been in the community for 4 years now. Very successful. 300 local traps, 8 traplines in Goodhall Reserve and along the shoreline. Up to 3,000 predators eliminated.
- PestFreeME – long term project for our whole peninsula. 10-15 yr project. Bring back the birds e.g.: kiwi
- A virtual fence has been drawn – from Snells Beach Rd – to Hamatana road –up to the Highfield Reserve – a barrier space.
- A successful grant to increase the trapping in this buffer area - \$5,000. Aim to increase the number of traps. We will be asking for volunteers to trap or host a trap in our backyard in Sept.

WALG – Peter Sinton (Chair)

- Aim to represent all the RnR groups in the area.
- Change to structure of group – now 2 divisions to the group.

Technical group- looking at the big changes that are happening.

- No infrastructure is being done before new developments happen.
- Be available to provide advice to RnR groups

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Liaison Group

- work with the RnR groups and local communities. What do the communities want and the changes they will support.
- Thinking ahead – Unitary plan is up for review in 2026
- Hugh Briggs has written some recent articles published in the Mahurangi Matters – encourage all to read. <https://www.localmatters.co.nz/profile/hugh-briggs/>

From Robyn Duffy – Fluoridation & water pipe replacement

- Robyn has been communicating with Watercare re the fluoridation of Rodney Water supplies
- Also - No replacement of the old water pipes on Snells Beach Road – unless there is a major leak within last 2 years.

Mahurangi East Road slip – Maury Purdy concern re a new crack in the road – left hand lane before Arabella Lane. Could the SBRRA committee investigate and contact council for remediation before too late?

Meeting closed 9.12pm

Next Community Meeting Monday 7th July 2025. 7.30pm Betty Paxton Room

Snells Beach Community Roundup

A brief roundup from some of our local community groups. Contact SBRRA secretary if you wish to promote your community group next time

Snells Beach Community Roundup

Highfield Garden Reserve and Donkey Society Inc

- We are fundraising to build an all-weather shelter over one of our picnic tables
- Our local SB 4 Square supermarket is having a collection at the till. They will match donations \$ for \$. We would appreciate the community supporting us if they can. So watch out for the donation box in the next month or so.
- Recently the on site donation iron maiden was tampered with – the thieves were unsuccessful thank goodness

Snells Conservation

- **Snells Conservation riparian planting day.** [Snells Conservation](#) volunteers have a small number of plants that we need to get in the ground to protect and enhance the tidal stream at the northern end of Snells Beach.
- Contribute to this ongoing legacy project that is rewilding a saline wetland area and enhancing biodiversity in an important element of a coastal ecosystem.
- **Sat 17 May 2025. 9am – 11am. Meet at 70 Kokihi Lane (Nikau School)**
- We will be planting no matter what the weather does.
- Please wear sturdy CLEAN closed-in shoes, and bring water, snacks, hat and appropriate clothing for the weather
- Bring along CLEAN garden gloves and spades. Some will be available.
- There will be morning tea when the mahi is completed.
- **[Registration is essential](#), to ensure we have enough kai and to keep you up-to-date on event details. <https://events.humanitix.com/snells-conservation-riparian-planting>**

Waste bin collection - Further info from Stef Fink about our rubbish collection changes.

Questions and Answers previously put to Stef from members before the meeting.

Q: What about a food Waste collection. Snells has none Warkworth do ? Is this on the plans for the future in Snells Beach

A: Paraphrased from MoE's website:

In November 2022, the then Government agreed to 5 policies to improve household recycling:

- **Standardizing the materials collected in household recycling (done)**
- **Introducing a council household recycling service to all urban areas**
- **Introducing a council household food scraps service to all urban areas (all urban areas cover over 1000 residents in Rodney, which would have included Snell's Beach)**
- **Data reporting for private household recycling providers**
- **A performance standard for household recycling and food scraps diversion.**

Of the 5 policies, only standard materials for household recycling has come into force (February 2024). The current Government has decided that the remaining four policies will not go ahead at this time. Stakeholders will be kept updated if changes are made.

NB: Snell's Beach residents are welcome to drop off food scraps free of charge to Less Waste.

Q: Will the service AKL council provides be an improvement on Northland waste existing one.. Northland Waste also donates to the local Hospice - it will be sad to see that revenue stream dry up for the Hospice

A: Council are standardizing waste services in Auckland so that every property receives the same:

- **level of service**
- **types of bins**
- **payment options.**

The portion of your rubbish bag sales is 10c from each bag, you can make donations directly to Hospice if you'd still like to ensure that they are receiving ongoing support.

Q: We only put out 1 orange bag per fortnight - therefore it seems the 80L bin would be our option. However - we have heard a rumour...that collections may be moved to a fortnightly basis. Is this correct and if so - When.

A: This is just a rumour, I haven't been told anything about moving to a fortnightly collection so am unable to provide any information on this. See the next answer for more detail.

Q: If the collection is moved to fortnightly - can we change our bins for no extra charge.

A: This was being considered for urban areas that had food scraps collections, because up to 50% of what was going into landfill bins was food scraps. The rationale was that with 50% less going into rubbish bins, the council may have been able to reduce rubbish collections to fortnightly. However, this has not progressed. And as we don't get food scraps collection (apart from Warkworth), this wouldn't apply to us.

Q: Are we able to include green waste in the bins e.g.: Garden weeds, lawn clipping, small branches

A: You are technically able to put green waste into your council landfill bin, however as landfills are anaerobic, this organic matter will take a long time to break down. We would encourage you to look at a garden waste bin service (depending on where you live, Northland Waste may service your area, or you can take green waste yourself to Less Waste or Northland Waste to be composted).

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Report from Cr Greg Sayers for SBRRA meeting Monday 5th May 2025

My apologies I cannot be with to this evening. I hope this following message maybe interesting for understanding at few important items currently happening within the Auckland Council.
I would like to address two things – the COO model; Council's overall financial performance.

1.

- There will be **MAJOR CHANGES WITHIN THE COUNCIL OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS**

In 2010, the government chose to establish Council Controlled Organisations (CCOs) in Auckland to deliver Council services, done so without the public's input or consultation. These CCOs included WaterCare, Eke Panuku (property development), Tataki Auckland (promotes economic growth), Ports of Auckland, as well as establishing Auckland Transport as its own statutory body, granting it full control over all local roads and significant delegated powers equivalent to a regional council. It is a misnomer to call Auckland Transport, or any other of these organisations, a Council Controlled Organisation – as they are not controlled by elected members, and therefore not ultimately accountable to Auckland's ratepayers.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of each Council-Controlled-Organisation is accountable to its own Board of Directors, who are then, in theory, accountable to Auckland Council. However, this accountability is merely by way of updating the Council. Basically, each Board of Directors fully governs its own CCO.

- The CEO of each Council-Controlled-Organisation controls the daily operations and reports to the Board of Directors. There is no control given to the Mayor and therefore no democratic control given to the Auckland ratepayer. Auckland Council's role under the law is one merely of a shareholder. It can appoint the members of the CCO boards and provides each with a Letter of Expectation, which includes direction and targets, to which each CCO responds with a Statement of Intent. Each CCO is "accountable" to the Council through these mechanisms. However, this pseudo accountability is not the same as having control.

Despite progress from various external reviews over the years, many of the challenges identified with the CCO model are still being observed, including concerns about public trust and confidence, strategic misalignment, ineffective democratic accountability, cost-effectiveness and duplication of services.

Unlike previous Mayors, Wayne Brown has taken on the challenge to address whether Auckland Transport, and the other CCO's, has systemic problems that require massive structural change, or whether further "tweaks" to the existing model could address these problems, including gaining control and accountability back to ratepayers.

Any Mayor, councillor or Local Board member who challenges this current set-up, seeking greater accountability of Council bureaucracy, should be applauded rather than criticised. Against the odds they have retained sufficient self-respect to say "no" to a self-fulfilling bureaucratic beast. There are now major efforts underway to re-create greater accountability back to ratepayers from the CCO's, including Auckland Transport. These changes have been jointly led by the Mayor and myself. Called the **CCO Reform program**, it already has the support of central Government's Cabinet as law changes are required to bring AT back under the control of Auckland Council.

2. Now let's talk about **COUNCIL'S OVERALL PERFORMANCE**

How is Auckland Council performing under Mayor Wayne Brown and his election promise to "Fix Auckland"? Financially the Auckland Council Group performed better than it has under previous Mayors. Particularly with the additional challenges from the major storms and devastating weather events, including Cyclone Gabrielle.

Auckland has had a large cost of living impact – with high inflation and interest rates affecting the daily lives of many residents and ratepayers in recent years.

However, the big financial positive is that Auckland Council's costs are now getting under control.

For example, to 1% rates increase raises an additional \$20M. Or put another way, every \$20M of costs saved equals avoiding a 1% rate increase.

In 2024/25 the Council cut \$66M in costs (i.e.: saved an additional 3.3% rates increase), and this was in addition to previously saving accumulatively \$337M over the previous 3 years.

Compared to Napier at a 19% rate increase, Hastings & Otago at 18.8%, Hamilton at 16.5%, Queenstown at 14.2%, Wellington at 12.3% --- the Auckland rates increase of 5.8% is the most modest.

And of all the Council's Auckland has the most pressure on it in terms of population growth, and therefore the need for more infrastructure, more public assets and has more assets it needs to maintain.

The "fat cutting" savings the Council has been making have not resulted in a decrease of Council services.

This also means the Council is back-on-track in terms of being in a good position to tackle some of the bigger physical and financial challenges Auckland has put off for too long.

These include.

- ☐ fixing Auckland's infrastructure

- ☐ increased transport funding and activities to deliver better, more efficient public transport

- ☐ building financial and physical resilience of the region following the major weather events – flood prone areas will continue to flood, however, the flood warning systems have improved as have our local emergency response plans

- ☐ providing fairer funding for local boards – so more local community facilities can be built, and some more rates are spent back where they are collected from.

- ☐ getting Council finances in better shape for the future.

Underpinning this progress, is that council staff and management has taken on board Mayor Brown's determination for there to be a laser-like focus to stop wasting money.

He is not there yet, but he has made a good start within the bureaucracy, including dramatically cutting out the upper management layer.

The Mayor is particularly pleased to see this layer of bureaucracy and duplication removed. This goes hand-in-hand with moves to find savings and reining in operating spending, while not compromising the activities and services the Council provide to Aucklanders.

However, we can still spot, from time to time, Council staff or the contractors not getting things right the first time. Council are far from perfect but the Mayor is working hard to get better value from it for ratepayers.

It has been a good year for the Mayor, and ratepayers, because the Mayor has stemmed an incoming financial tide.

All-in-all, not a bad effort by Mayor Brown during his first term – but of course, there's more to do and he will need to continue to work hard to fix Auckland, and this is why he is running again.... He wants to deliver more for the Rodney ward working with myself, the Rodney Local Board, and our local resident and ratepayer groups such as with Snells Beach and the surrounding area.

Thank you for time to listen to this update, and thank you to the person reading this out ☐

PDF URL: