

ON-STREET PARKING THREATENED FOR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES

AGM — THURSDAY 26 MAY 2022 — THORNDON SCHOOL HALL - ALL WELCOME

Liveability arises from a complex array of interlaced characteristics, needs and amenities which are balanced so that lives and livelihoods are enhanced for the entire community. How we travel around, and access properties is a significant consideration.

Notwithstanding the walkability of Thorndon and its proximity to the CBD there remains a critical need to also enable various types of vehicle parking, especially at property frontages. This is obvious to property and business owners, or anyone concerned with transport logistics and for curbside parking, for example to maintain residences or service a business.

WCC has released a few details for unprecedented changes across the city but has not carefully consulted on these details with everyone directly impacted. Yet WCC know the changes are substantial, having immediate consequences for liveability and livelihoods, yet they are pressing ahead regardless without careful and meaningful consultation on the detail. This alarms many residents because the details always reveal the most problematic consequences.

Significant routes through Thorndon and Pipitea are shown on the map. Any changes to on-street parking on these routes may have a ripple effect in adjacent streets.

CYCLE WAY IN TINAKORI ROAD

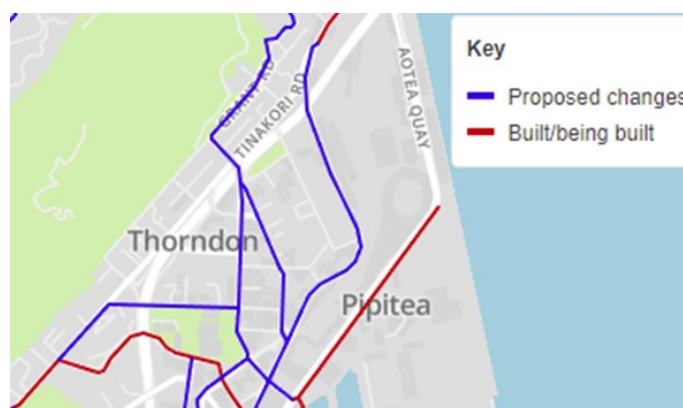
Part of the Council's Paneke-Pōneke cycle way plan involves installing cycle lanes in Tinakori Rd, Bowen St and Whitmore St. All parking will be eliminated in Tinakori Rd from Glenmore St to the traffic lights at Bowen St, the detailed plans are at www.transportprojects.org.nz/botanic.

Work on this section of the cycle way is due to begin in September.

There is widespread concern that this plan, in creating an expressway from Karori to the City, will drastically affect the Tinakori Village and its environs. Vehicles supplying businesses will not have access and customers in cars will be prevented from stopping.

Visitors, trade and delivery vehicles will be unable to stop outside homes along the route. Access to parking to visit the Botanic Gardens, Lady Norwood Rose Garden, Anderson Park and the Sound Shell will be severely curtailed.

A petition started by Thorndon General Store and carried in several other businesses, seeking to stop the removal of all parking, has so far garnered several hundred signatures. A meeting on site on 21st March, attended by some thirty residents and business owners plus the Mayor and our three Ward Councillors, and City Council staff, heard from several speakers, including pro-cycling ones. The Mayor and Councillor Pannett agreed that some amendment to the plan could be considered and invited a submission.



Extract from WCC's Bike Network Map

A small group convened and has drafted a counter-plan, which has been circulated to many residents and businesses in the area before being sent to Council. In brief, the plan asks that the downhill clearway currently in place be retained (i.e. from 7-9 a.m. on weekdays) and designated for cyclists during that time and that an additional clearway be installed in the opposite direction from 4-6 p.m. on weekdays. To further protect the safety of cyclists and pedestrians, the 30 k.p.h. speed restriction should be extended to the main entrance to the Botanic Gardens and cross hatching be painted at the intersection of Tinakori Rd and Patanga Cres.

We believe the changes being proposed will still meet the objectives of the Paneke-Pōneke Cycle Way plan while protecting the livelihoods of businesses, the utility of residents and the amenity of the Botanic Gardens.

CYCLE OUR WAY TO ZERO CARBON?

Bike Network publicity uses headlines like: 'More Wellingtonians commuting by bike – helping reduce city emissions. Councillor Iona Pannett, Chair of WCC's Planning and Environment Committee, says *switching to a lower-carbon commute is a practical way Wellingtonians can personally take climate action, and contribute to the city's goal of net zero carbon by 2050.* Deputy Chair, Councillor Tamatha Paul also says *Wellingtonians have been very clear. They want local action in response to the climate and ecological emergency.*

Our community is motivated by many things including climate change. Already our cars remain parked when walking or cycling (or another transport mode) is a viable option. This is great but cycling alone will not contribute a lot to reaching carbon zero. Plus there remain many reasons why on-street parking is important at or near Thorndon properties.

Footnote: the Council has been briefed that about 34% of Wellington's emissions come from transport, but what also needs highlighting is that those emissions are largely from the operation of the **port** and the **airport**. Cycling's contribution along the proposed bike network is going to have only a slight effect.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THORNDON QUAY?

The Thorndon Quay Collective has been formed by a group of business owners, users and interested parties who are affected by the Council's plan to radically change the layout along Thorndon Quay and the Hutt Rd. This is to accommodate cyclists, pedestrians, and buses.

Already 50% of what were parallel parks have been removed by the Council and the remaining angle parks have been made parallel to the curb which removes nearly 50% of the angled parking capacity. In future a much heavier hand will attempt to remove more parks along the Quay between Mulgrave St and the Hutt Rd/Tinakori Rd intersection.

Bus lanes, pavement for pedestrians, bicycle lanes and planter boxes will fill much of this presently wide and safe throughfare in and out of the city. If all recommendations are followed, then Thorndon Quay will have only 13% of the car parks it started with last year.

The impacts predicted on those who conduct business in this area are serious with unintended consequences likely. Thorndon Quay is very much a service area. There are many deliveries and pick-ups that will create a high risk as vehicles cross from the road into businesses or as items are conveyed to their transport from many of the light industrial businesses along the route.

Precedents have already been set by the Council in the troubled and costly building approach and fix in Island Bay and the taking away of parks in Riddiford St and Adelaide Rd.

The Council prefers to trial this approach, at some expense, rather than first participate in meaningful discussions on these details with affected residents and businesses. WCC's tactical preference is to install first and then invite comments on *experiences or consequences*. The Council informed the Newtown business owners that the changes would be made to the streets and then after that a review would be undertaken of effectiveness and efficiency. Thorndon Quay and Hutt Rd are in for the same approach from the Council.

On the 23 December 2021 the Thorndon Quay Collective filed an application to have a judicial review of the Wellington City Council's decision 'TR53-21' Thorndon Quay Pipitea – 'Convert angled parking to parallel parking'. This judicial review will look at this single issue. The hearing is set down in the High Court for 25 July 2022.

tqc.org.nz



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

THORNDON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

ALL WELCOME

Guest speaker: Chris Kirk-Burnnand MNZM

Thursday, 26 May - 6:30pm for a 7pm start
8.45pm finish.

Thorndon School Hall, 20 Turnbull St.

Meet fellow residents and learn about your community.

Also see thorndon.org.nz

QUEENS PARK – 2022 – A YEAR OF JUBILEE CELEBRATION FOR TWO QUEENS

2022 is an important year for Queens Park.

It is the 125th anniversary of the naming of the Park in honour of Queen Victoria at the time of her Diamond Jubilee in 1897.

It is also the year of our current Queen's Platinum Jubilee, recognising 70 years on the Throne.

There is a story published in the Evening Post during World War 2, which described a meeting between the then Princess Elizabeth and some New Zealand Airmen who had been invited for tea with the Princess. Following this the Princess instructed the sending of some acorns from Windsor Great Park for planting in Wellington's Queens Park.

There is no record that, during the wartime period, the acorns sent on Princess Elizabeth's instructions were planted in the park.

We have asked the Governor General to participate in an event in the Park to recognise the Jubilee Year with trees planted in the Park to recognise the Platinum Jubilee as well as the Mayor to recognise Queen Victoria's anniversary.

At this stage we anticipate that this Queen's Jubilee celebration should be in early October. There will be an update with details of the event closer to the time.

There has also been some great progress on the Park since the last update in the Spring 2021 Thorndon Tribune. Late last year, the Council's Tree Surgeon contractor removed a significant number of deteriorated and dying trees from the Park – the first active tree management activity for some decades! This work is clearly visible in the cleared areas along Grant Rd, but the work extends well into the southern Park area and has made the Park a lighter and more pleasant area for our community to use. There is a very large pile of mulch from the removed trees and our Working Bees will be able to spread this around the Park for some time to come.

Our next Working Bees are on Sunday 22 May and Saturday 18 June at 10am, and we meet near the top of the Park St Steps. We (and the Council) have plenty to do in advance of the Jubilee event and all are welcome to come along.

If you want to be put onto the Queens Park email list to be informed of future Working Bees, please contact Peter@steelfamily.nz.



If you have enjoyed reading this newsletter please consider joining your Residents' Association.

MEMBERSHIP FORM		Thorndon Residents' Association Incorporated Society No. 2174304	
SUBSCRIPTION		\$15 individual or \$30 per household (financial year begins 1 April)	
PAYMENT		ANZ Account 01 0505 0380782 00 Use Surname/Street as Reference/Particulars	
EMAIL your Member details to contact@thorndon.org.nz or complete and POST to PO Box 12282, Wellington 6144			
Name:			
Address:			
Email:			
I am happy to receive newsletters and notices by email: YES / NO (please circle one)			
Phone:		Mobile:	


THORNDON
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

BECOME A MEMBER AT WWW.THORNDON.ORG.NZ

Published quarterly by Thorndon Residents' Association & distributed throughout Thorndon. Proudly supported by Tommy's Real Estate.
Email contact@thorndon.org.nz with comments, suggestions or advertising.

Thank you for your positive feedback and support for myself and Tommy's Real Estate. I have enjoyed the opportunity to be of service to those who have made contact. Please note I am more than happy to provide free market appraisals with absolutely no obligations. If you are interested, please give me a call!



4 Hobson Street

Sale Price **\$2,350,000**
GV **\$1,830,000**



4/24 Patanga Crescent

Sale Price **\$648,000**
GV **\$550,000**



3C/123 Molesworth Street

Sale Price **\$530,000**
GV **\$470,000**



34C Hawkestone Street

Sale Price **\$662,500**
GV **\$380,000**



3A/1 Grant Road

Sale Price **\$450,000**
GV **\$0**



16 Hobson Crescent

Sale Price **\$1,900,000**
GV **\$0**



192 Sydney Street West

Sale Price **\$1,600,000**
GV **\$1,530,000**



4/11 Goring Street

Sale Price **\$825,000**
GV **\$510,000**

MARKET COMMENT

There is no doubt that we are experiencing a change of market conditions with a definite swing from home sellers dictating to a market where buyers have a much greater selection of property to choose from and less competition at negotiating time. As is common throughout the industry, Tommy's can currently offer a greater selection of property for buyers to consider, and this is placing them in a stronger negotiating position now compared to recent times.

It has also slowed the market somewhat with less pressure on buyers to make quick buying decisions.

Buyers are facing a major difficulty however in arranging finance with changes to the bank lending rules tightening and loan applications undergoing far greater scrutiny. All this seems likely to lead to a market correction though we do not anticipate any major reduction in Wellington's median sales prices, particularly for well-presented property in popular locations.

Tommy's City Office sales in early February (20 contracts negotiated in 10 days) indicate that for some buyers and sellers it is still "business as usual" and we expect this momentum to continue. Home sellers should however allow a little extra time when selling.

Everyone wants to live in Thorndon

Very proud to support Thorndon



Contact Barry O'Brien

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