

Submission to the 2006 Draft Annual Plan

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I wish to talk to the main points in my written submission at the hearings.



The issue: **New Brighton revitalisation**

It appears that the Draft Plan allocates \$764,000 to New Brighton Commercial Area Development for the current year (p. 84). It appears that no funding is available for the higher priorities of the New Brighton Revitalisation Plan 2002.

Therefore it appears that current development plans are contrary to the approved plans for the development of New Brighton.

Specific action the Council should take: **The New Brighton Revitalisation Master Plan 2002 should be implemented as set out, beginning with the Beach Park.**

Why that should be done:

1. It is of great concern and dismay for most local residents and many business owners that it is recommended that roadworks commence this year, ahead of other tangible improvements. (See Update, p. 2: 'Slow-road')

Since this report was written, discussions with individual shop owners regarding the road layout has delayed the works, but since funding is available, this element of the plan seems fairly likely to proceed.

2. The Master Plan list of areas for development was approved by full Council as 'in priority order'. (See p. 5, NB Revitalisation Project Update)

Unfortunately, a number of claims have been made in the Update, which do not give a true picture of the current situation. The following points outline the anomalies.

-None of the 'priorities' listed under Beach Park (Update, p. 1) have commenced. It is objectionable that 'Cenotaph Work' is being used here to constitute part of the Beach Park Plan (Update, p. 2), since a cemetery is never part of a park, and it is certainly not one of the approved elements of the Beach park, but something begun earlier. Please note that since the pier was built, the New Brighton foreshore has not had even a sheltered picnic area where visitors and locals can relax.

- Private development of an area of the foreshore has not commenced as claimed. Issuing of Registration of Interest documents is as far as this aspect has gone. I understand that no viable projects have been put forward.

- No arts and entertainment focus has commenced as stated, although local artists were allowed to use an empty shop for a time; they now pay a commercial rental.

- No other 'Key Areas for development' have been commenced in any tangible way, as claimed, apart from the controversial roadworks plan for the Central Business District. The CBD redevelopment is listed as third priority in this list and the fourth or fifth in other lists of priorities or key areas in the Master Plan.

-It therefore seems untrue and highly misleading to claim that Council did 'progress the whole revitalisation issue on a number of fronts', and other statements to that effect, (see Update, p.1, par. 2) and 'Good progress is being made on a number of fronts' (p.3).

3. In January 2002 an agreement was made by 200 locals, Council members, and other interested people, 'That any development in New Brighton must begin on the foreshore'.

At this public 'consultation' meeting, a 'taskforce' was given the go ahead to produce the 'revitalisation' plan, and much discussion produced the usual results as per many other meetings and reports of the past 10 years: the need for recreational facilities, good amenities, shelter and landscaping, etc.

At the conclusion of the meeting it was agreed by all, as the major outcome of that meeting, 'that any development must begin on the foreshore'.

(A Petition to remind Council of that agreement was presented to the Burwood/Pegasus Community Boards' first meeting this year but has not been responded to.)