

## 2. DEPUTATIONS BY APPOINTMENT

Prior to the meeting the Chairperson had requested that those undertaking deputations also include a written submission of their deputation. Attached are the deputations of **Mark Munro** (New Brighton Project), **Roger Hunt** (New Brighton Business Association), and **Jean Bagrie** (New Brighton Residents' Association).

**Brian Hill**, representing the New Brighton Residents' Association, was in attendance to outline the Association's perspective on the proposed road through New Brighton Mall. Mr Hill began by clarifying a point raised in the media that the Residents' Association had requested the Council to make a decision on the road.

Mr Hill advised that the Association agreed that issues needed to be discussed, as the proposed road would inevitably delay other works in the Mall. However, the Residents' Association objected to the fact that the City Services Committee had made a decision on the road without prior public consultation.

Mr Hill advised that the Residents' Association's real objection was that there was no evidence to show that a road through New Brighton Mall would be beneficial. There had been no market research done to find out why the Mall was not thriving, and because of this the Association could not understand how a road could be a solution to a problem that was not fully understood. Mr Hill believed that the most important issues included standardising shop hours, rejuvenating shop fronts and addressing car parking issues in Hawke Street. He advised that there had been no action on these priorities as yet, and the Association felt they should have been done immediately to show the Council that the business community was united in its desire to revitalise New Brighton. Mr Hill argued that the business community itself was divided over the issue. He believed that many businesses in the Mall were against the road and many more were still undecided as to the benefits.

Mr Hill believed that consultation on the road needed to be undertaken within the context of many other initiatives. He therefore requested that the Board recommend to the Council that progress be made on issues other than the reinstatement of the road.