

1. PRESENTATION

Belle Melzer, a member of the Central City Forum, presented a model of residents' workshops as used for the central city revitalisation project. A copy of her written report is attached.

The presentation covered:

- Purpose – “To present the residents’ group workshops as one model of successful consultation and communication”.
- Background – A workshop format to bring the six central city residents’ groups together to ascertain ideas and concerns for their respective areas and for the area within the four avenues.
- Format, preparation and process of workshops – An evolution over the last year to meet the needs of residents and staff (City Council) alike. (See also diagrams as part of attached document.)
- Next steps – Transition. Workshops have changed from a means of generating ideas and concerns into monitoring projects resulting from discussions.
- Why has this been a successful model?
 - working together with staff to focus on ideas and concerns and to progress action together;
 - timing;
 - focus;
 - developmental process combined with management process.

Belle concluded her presentation with one definition of consultation to consider:

“As defined in *Wellington International Airport Ltd – v – Air New Zealand Ltd* High Court No CA23/92 (NZLR Reference [1993] 1 NZLR 671). Judgement date 24-9-92. Year 1992. Judicial Review/Court of Appeal.

S6 The leading case on consultation generally. The elements of consultation can be summarised as including but not limited to the following:

- Consultation involves the statement of a proposal not yet finally decided upon.
- Consultation includes listening to what others have to say and considering responses.
- Sufficient time must be allowed and a genuine effort must be made.
- There must be enough information made available to the party obliged to consult, to enable the consultee to be adequately informed so as to be able to make intelligent and useful responses.
- The party obliged to consult must remain open-minded and be ready to change and even start afresh. However, the party consulting is entitled to have a working plan already in mind.
- Consultation is an intermediate situation involving meaningful discussion.
- The party obliged to consult holds meetings, provides relevant information and further information on request, and waits until those being consulted have had a say before making a decision.

Consultation is not:

- Merely telling or presenting, or
- Intended to be a charade, or
- The same as negotiations, although a result of consultation could be an agreement to negotiate.”

Belle responded to questions and discussion points, including:

- Involvement of elected representatives through the Council’s committee structure.
- The twinning of residents’ groups with Council staff beneficial to all.
- Mayoral Forum has assisted the strengthening of links between the inner-city residents’ groups and the Council.
- The building of relationships has been highly appropriate and important.
- The groups have gained a better understanding of the Council’s structure and its management.
- The partnerships created have enabled a positive approach to be taken with matters of mutual interest to the Council and communities.