

OPEN

MINUTE ITEM

ATTACHMENTS

Ordinary meeting of the
Community Services Committee

Thursday 24 September 2015
Commencing at 9.00am
Council Chamber

Civic House

110 Trafalgar Street, Nelson

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Comments for Public Forum of Community Services Committee 24 Sept 2015

I am Mary Gavin, Chair of Broadgreen Society. My written report is on page 10 of your meeting papers

To recap - The Broadgreen Society represents a group of volunteers whose key commitment is to the preservation of Broadgreen Historic House and its contents and to facilitating the enjoyment of the House by all interested people.

We have been doing this for 50 years.

Broadgreen Historic House is recognised locally, nationally and internationally and features in many publications. As recently as last Monday a glowing 5 star review was posted on Trip Advisor by visitors from Tasmania praising the uniqueness of the House and also the services of the guide.

We were disappointed that no member of this Community Services Committee, except the Mayor, accepted the invitation to attend the Society AGM last Friday.

We know that you are busy -

and so are we.

Guides are rostered 7 days a week and provide nearly 3,000 voluntary hours every year, not counting all the extra events and out of hours visits we also support. For example, last Friday we honoured Janette Dimery for 45 years of continuous service as a guide and farewelled Denis Le Cren after 20 continuous years of enormous practical and far ranging work as a committee member.

Referring to my written report – page 10 of your papers

In relation to point A, we were very pleased to have a resolution to the question of winter opening and have now received formal written reassurance that support from NCC staff during winter hours will be available if required – this is an important factor in our Health and Safety plan.

In relation to Point B, I want to remind you that the changes that are to be made under the 4th section of the staff Recommendation – page 11 on your Agenda - are changes to current legally agreed documents so the process must be handled very thoughtfully.

We have received an explanation from NCC staff re the time lines which impact on the ability to consider the Lease negotiations four years prior to the expiry of the Lease.

Nevertheless, the Heritage Activity Management Plan, which is the basis for these restructuring proposals covers 2015-2025, and there are other Agenda items you are considering today which involve financial commitments to events as far away as 2025. I see you are also discussing Lease arrangements in another context today. So we do consider it is

valid for awareness of the Broadgreen Centre Lease to be noted concurrently with the other financial arrangements negotiations. In particular Clause E of the lease agreement is relevant.

Additional to my written report, I would like to comment on the 3rd section of Recommendation [Item 11 on Agenda and p 94 of your meeting papers] which is:

AND THAT commencing 1 November 2015 all revenue from house entrance fees and souvenir sales now be retained by Council and is used to fund heritage promotions, exhibitions and other activities;

We have some reservations about this and in particular the practicality of this time line, **1 November 2015**. The previous curator left in December last year, but it now seems unlikely that a replacement staff member will have been appointed by 1 November or that the financial responsibility renegotiations will have been concluded.

Our concerns are around continuity of the work done by the Society for the last 20 years e.g. the promotion and publicity for Broadgreen House, collaboration on exhibitions and programmes, providing for guides' welfare, expenses etc. Section 5.5 on page 97 refers to increased visitor numbers due to the promotional work of summer tertiary students – these students were recruited, trained, supervised and funded entirely by the Broadgreen Society. We are planning another project this summer.

I suggest that the timeline in this Recommendation is amended.

Conclusion

Initially Broadgreen Society welcomed the opportunities that the restructuring offered but in reality it has been a stressful, uncertain, very time consuming and at times quite an unpleasant experience – which is not what we volunteer for.

We look forward to exciting developments for Broadgreen Historic House and to more positive commitment to whole tourism heritage sector in Nelson.

Open House

10:30am to 4:30pm every day except
Christmas day and Good Friday
Group visits are welcome and should be
arranged by appointment if possible.

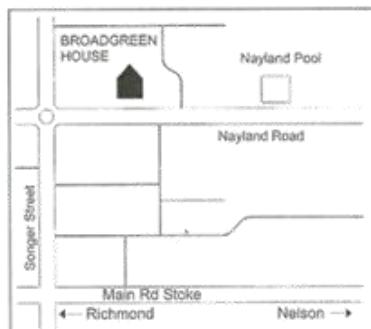
A small charge for entry

Visit our Website at
http://www.geocities.com/broadgreen_house

*We have a quality Meeting room for hire in
The Broadgreen Centre*



View of Nanny's Room



BROADGREEN HISTORIC HOUSE

276 Nayland Rd, Stoke, Nelson, NZ
Ph(03)547-0403 Fax (03)547-0409
email: broadgreen@ncc.govt.nz



A Victorian Family Home

Broadgreen House was built in the mid 1850s and is a
fine example of an early
Cob Home.

All rooms have been faithfully and elegantly
furnished to represent a family home of the period.
care has been taken to preserve the atmosphere of a
lived-in house.

Visitors are welcome

A1434501

Broadgreen Historic House

Report R 4770 Comments from Gail Collingwood

Speaking for National Council of Women Nelson Branch

Former NCC rep to the Broadgreen Society – approx 12 years

Following Cllr Jo Raine

Cllr Elma Turner

Cllr Betsy Eyre

5 Councillors 1996 – 2015 = 50 years – (These four women were NCW members)

NCW wrote to council in July expressing concern about the proposed winter closing.

The branch, in particular delegates who are also Broadgreen Historic house guides were delighted to hear of the NCC compromise decision allowing the volunteers to get back to guiding and reopen this highly graded historic house.

This is an extremely special house, regarded as a very fine example of this type of construction and graded as such by Heritage NZ. Council should hold the house and contents, in high regard and have a real sense of pride in the ownership of such an important Victorian property.

The responsibility to protect this treasure and deliver against the Heritage NZ obligations to preserve and protect a Category 1 building sits with NCC.

Committed, reliable volunteer guides regard it as a privilege to work at Broadgreen Historic House to have the doors open 363 days each year. Some have delivered their responsibilities as guides with passion and energy for decades.

NCW ask you to value the special contribution these volunteers are making to support the city of Nelson.

The branch also supports the proposal to return to full opening hours Oct - May. It is positive to read in 5.5 that during the employment of student's last summer visitor numbers increased. This outcome is applauded. It is hoped that this example will follow through with the new staff appointment and the collaborative heritage promotion and marketing proposed.

I draw your attention to this brochure produced some time ago – council was not ready at that time to contribute to printing costs – this is a fine example of collaboration, local and right across the top of the south.

The last paragraph of the resolution in the report proposes that a new financial agreement be “negotiated” with the society – however the prior paragraph indicates financial changes commence on 1 November.

These two paragraphs seem to be in conflict with each other and when the attachment is read it would seem the financial change proposed to start on 1 November is pre-emptive of discussions and the proposed negotiations – it is suggested that the paragraph in regard to the retention of fees might be removed as surely it would form part of the new financial agreement yet to be discussed and negotiated?

Since information was in the media in regard to comparative income and expenditure across the three heritage houses, questions have been raised about the management of the houses. 5.3 & 5.4 provides some information that lacks background detail, all three houses have different agreements and deliver differently it is impossible to compare them at the current time.

Although media reports indicate that Melrose House will look for funding assistance from council for toilet upgrades and has done so in the past – surely NCC staff time was allocated for the earthquake strengthening and ground maintenance?

Is the full story able to be told about the works of Cllr Jo Raine, Chairperson John Phillips and long time volunteer committee member Denis Le Cren who raised all the money for the Broadgreen Centre to ensure paid staff had warm dry office space to work in and for the collection to be stored in a controlled temperature room.

In appreciation NCC agreed to pay for electricity, insurance, phone, and water costs to ensure that paid staff are able to work in acceptable health and safety conditions with power and phone connections. Staff previously worked in the small china pantry and the house bathroom both south and east facing, fabrics were stored under beds in non approved conservation conditions.

Other costs for the administration/ancillary building such as carpet cleaning, painting, provision of shelving etc are covered by the Society. These facts are overlooked.

5.15 of the report indicates that the new staff appointment is to work across all four facilities, proposed to be 26 hours per week, Divided by four and allowing travel time 22 km – outcome approx 6 hours per week per facility. Sick days and leave not included. If an exhibition is to be held requiring for example 5 working days (volunteers assisting) would this mean it would be another month before paid staff might be back at Broadgreen Historic house?

To conclude – as a personal comment all the documents refer simply to Broadgreen or Broadgreen House, over time the society has inserted the word Historic as a point of difference from Broadgreen Intermediate School which is referred to in Stoke as Broadgreen.

Might I suggest that consideration is given to including the word Historic in the title for this house and for that matter for the other two houses also? e.g Broadgreen Historic House?

I believe this enhances the status of the buildings and enhances their importance and prominence for Nelson City.

Please value and embrace our heritage it cannot be replaced as Christchurch has found and there are few NCC owned buildings with the exception of Civic house that might ever make heritage status.

Gail Collingwood.



PO Box 8057, Totara St, Victory, Nelson, 7046.

Ph: 546 8381 Email: communityhealth@victory.school.nz or www.victorycommunitycentre.co.nz

10 September 2015

Red Cross Refugees
PO Box 12140, Thorndon,
Wellington 6144

Dear Jenny McMahon

We write to express our deep concern about the planned move of Refugee Services from the central Nelson site where they have been in for many years, to the Tahunanui site. We attended the recent community meeting held here at our centre last week to which your Humanitarian Services Manager Shane La'ulu attended.

We are primarily concerned about the reduction of access for the refugee community, most of whom live in our community called Victory which is at the edge of the CBD. While Tahunanui is "just over the hills" from the CBD, it is not an easy place to access unless a car is used and even then would be a 15 minute drive. The bus service is not particularly regular throughout the day and even then the stop is on the main road and the Red Cross site is about 4-500 metres down. Many of the refugees appreciate being able to go to the current site in town and meet with workers on their own time and terms. Going to Parkers Rd would be a considerable effort and would likely not be undertaken by those that use the support. Many of the mothers carry their babies and toddlers and do not use buggy's or pushchairs, so this would add another difficulty to their already challenging lives.

When we first heard of this possibility of the service being moved, a petition was drawn up by another agency manager in town. VCH staff supported by circulating to people who visited our centre to bring their opinion to what we understood as an impending decision. Over 800 names were signed within 4 days of the petition going out. There was an overwhelming message from those we spoke to ... "Why would they choose to do this?" or "This place won't work for our new NZ'rs". The petitions were collated and presented to Shane on the day of the meeting. We hoped this could help bring the voice of our former refugees to the meeting.

However we were all very shocked to hear that the decision had already been made to move and the meeting with Shane was about an explanation why. There was very strong feeling in this meeting that this decision is primarily based on economics and not for the needs of the community this serves.

We are also concerned to see our colleagues at Refugee Services, all of whom we have close working connections to be in such low morale about this process and the subsequent decision. They are the ones who know the needs of the community they serve and all of them are genuinely concerned about this decision.

If there is any way this decision can be reconsidered placing the needs of former refugees at the centre, we would warmly support it.

Yours sincerely

Kindra Douglas, Director

Cc Shane Lau - Central Humanitarian Services Manager at NZ Red Cross
Gabrielle Humphries - Manager, Nelson Branch Red Cross Refugees

A1431573 *"We provide community-owned, low cost, accessible and appropriate high quality services and activities that support health and wellbeing."*
Peter Riley and Thuang Thuang, Public Forum, Community Services Committee

Red Cross refugee service Tahunanui move 'appalling'



Aiden Williams/Fairfax NZ

The Nelson Red Cross on Parkers Road in Tahunanui.

News that the Nelson Red Cross refugee services will be moving to a site in Tahunanui has outraged both former refugees and their service providers.

Red Cross community services manager for the region, Gabrielle Humphreys confirmed Red Cross would be moving its refugee service offices from its current Bridge St location out to Parkers Road in Tahunanui, where other Red Cross services were housed.

The refugee resettlement programme has been operating from Bridge Street since 2007. The move will happen later this year, or early next year.



Aiden Williams/Fairfax NZ

Burmese migrant Thang Thang.

Humphreys said the move was to save money: "As a charity we operate with limited resources and we recently decided to bring the two offices together in the interests of cost-effectiveness".

The sites together would mean a stronger community service, she said.

Humphreys hoped to have support and input from the wider community to make the transition easy for the people they worked with, however, some were angered at the news.

A1431573 Peter Riley and Thuang Thuang, Public Forum
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Martin de Ruyter/Fairfax NZ

Peter Riley Nelson Community Law.

Burmese former refugee Thang Thang, who was recently elected the chair of the Nelson Refugees Forum, says none of the former refugees he has spoken to wanted the service to move out to Tahunanui.

Many lived in the Victory area and it would be difficult for them to get to Tahunanui to access the services.

"Most people (are) living in Nelson if they are in Tahunanui (it will be) very difficult to communicate with Red Cross people. Red Cross is very useful for us, they are working for us so we really need their support and help so we really want it to stay here in town."

Many refugees did not have their own transport and relied on being able to walk to access the services.

He had spoken to other leaders in the refugee community "no one has agreed to the move to Tahunanui".

Nelson Bays Community Law Service manager Peter Riley said his and other services were outraged with the development.

He said life was not easy for the former refugees, "they are the most vulnerable people in our community."

Forcing them to take two buses to get to the new location was unfair, he said.

"Who is saving money, what are we doing? Taking money off refugees to lower the Government spending?"

He said all the other services for former refugees were in Nelson city, including Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology, English Language Partners, and Community Law.

"They absolutely shouldn't move out there it's just appalling."

Victory Community Centre director Kindra Douglas also wanted to see the service stay in the city.

"We would be very disappointed they even consider this, let alone do it. Many of the families they would be connecting with are in Nelson, in the CBD and many of them live in Victory, that would put them at an arm's distance, that would prevent a lot of people, given they come here and haven't even got vehicles, it's crazy to even consider it.

"It would be a great disadvantage to their client base."

Having an office on a main street may not be cost effective "but there are other options for them within the community."

A1431573 Peter Riley and Thuang Thuang, Public Forum
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She believed the move would cost the service its clients, and Red Cross would have to do a lot to help clients to get to Tahunanui.

"It could be possible they would have an outreach base here (at Victory), we would be very welcoming of field workers using our centre as an outreach base."

Humphreys said Red Cross would meet those who might be affected to make sure that the services it delivered were not adversely affected.

"The focus of our work is and will continue to be the people we work with. Red Cross clients will continue to have access to refugee support services and we will ensure that no one is disadvantaged by the move. While we do currently provide services from our Bridge Street office, we also work with our clients in their homes and communities, and how we continue to best reach our clients will inform our transition."