



Submission of Civic Trust Auckland

Albert-Eden Draft Local Board Plan

8 August 2011

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We wish to speak in support of our submission at a public hearing.

Introduction

Civic Trust Auckland (CTA) is a non-profit public interest group, incorporated in 1968, with activities and interests throughout the greater Auckland region.

The aims of the Trust include:

- Protection of natural landforms
- Preservation of heritage, in all its aspects
- Encouragement of good planning, for the city and region.

CTA agrees with the priorities proposed in the draft local board plan.

Valuing our Heritage

- 1) We support the Albert-Eden Board in valuing heritage and are very pleased to see “Valuing our Heritage” is the first of the nominated priority areas.

Green Heritage

- 2) The plan makes a statement saying the local board will advocate for care of regionally significant mountains. The local board should be lobbying for local input and control of management of our volcanic cones, with access to appropriate funding.
- 3) The Albert-Eden Board should actively engage with local groups who already advocate for volcanic cones, e.g. Friends of Maungawhau and the Auckland Volcanic Cones Society.
- 4) Existing heritage features in parks should be valued, preserved and protected – i.e. rock walls, architectural features, memorials, etc.
- 5) In valuing our coastline, the local board should advocate for improved water quality in our harbour.

Built Heritage

- 6) We support the board's focus on heritage as a major part in creating the identity of Albert-Eden.
- 7) We support the focus on village centres and the ability for the community to be able to walk to local shops and services.
- 8) We support the plan to record our built heritage. This recording should then proceed into having identified built heritage added to the council heritage schedule, actively sponsored by the local board.
- 9) We support the board's intention to advocate for a planning environment that acknowledges and protects heritage. The local board should be an active participant in the planning process and should make recommendations along these lines for inclusion in the Auckland Council's spatial and unitary plans.
- 10) We urge that local boards are appropriately resourced for their consideration of notification of resource consent applications.
- 11) The board should advocate for and actively maintain the existing stock of villas and bungalows, keeping the harmonious streetscapes of heritage housing stock.
- 12) Areas of collective heritage amenity should be identified to ensure any neighbouring development is sympathetic to the existing character areas.
- 13) The local board should advocate for a precautionary approach to development involving unidentified heritage, with the council having the resources to give discretionary protection.
- 14) The local board should advocate for Council to undertake an independent audit of the process for heritage protection, to determine what should be done to improve controls, processes and practices. Heritage identification should be able to be determined consistently in accordance with the Resource Management Act s.6 f.
- 15) The local board should be proactive in promoting heritage upgrades and adaptive reuse for built heritage.
- 16) The local board should advocate for and initiate incentives for heritage protection and upgrades, such as: the establishment of historic districts, rates relief for scheduled buildings, flexibility in planning rules for adaptive reuse, rates relief for heritage projects and a comprehensive approach to earthquake issues.

Transport

- 17) CTA supports the promotion of public transport services to encourage local patronage.
- 18) We support provision of more cycle and bus lanes, with an investigation into how well combined bus and cycle lanes work.
- 19) The local board should advocate for more hybrid and electric buses. There should be more frequent services and perhaps smaller buses on more cross-town routes.
- 20) Buses should allow easy carriage of bicycles, pushchairs and luggage, to assist commuters to use more public transport.

- 21) We support initiatives to encourage cycling in the Albert-Eden area. The local board should consult with cycle advocacy groups such as Cycle Action Auckland.
- 22) There should be a permanent easy to use public cycle hire for use throughout the city, and supported by the local board.
- 23) We support more extensive use of bus lanes and that they are extended through village centres during peak hours.
- 24) We urge the local board address the traffic issues around St Luke's Westfield. This is a major cross-town east/west arterial road, which is becoming systematically congested. This is due to huge volumes of shopping traffic clogging up the major highway, and it now takes three sets of lights to just drive past the mall, leading to congestion.
- 25) Likewise, we have major concerns about traffic flows if Westfield St Luke's mall is able to proceed with its plans to substantially increase the size of the present mall and the local board should advocate for the local community against this unnecessary retail development.

Growth and Development

- 26) We support the renewal of Mt Albert village centre and other village centres in the Albert-Eden area. The protection and enhancement of heritage needs to be considered as an integral part of any renewal project.
- 27) We support creating events to foster economic activity in the area. Events could be based around or enhance the heritage character. Heritage can be an integral part of enhanced economic activity in the area.
- 28) We support the adaptive reuse and refurbishment of existing building stock, as it will enhance heritage protection.
- 29) Guidelines around suitable types of refurbishment and reuse of existing heritage buildings should be a board initiative. Referral to the Urban Design Panel and the Heritage Advisory Panel should be encouraged.
- 30) Areas of collective heritage amenity should be identified to ensure any neighbouring development is sympathetic to the existing character areas.
- 31) There is widespread concern about large mega malls and the proliferation of big box retail, such as the St Luke's Megacentre. These developments are usually of poor built quality, with little architectural merit, and create pedestrian, parking and traffic issues.

Recreation and Community Facilities

- 32) We support the protection and enhancement of green space for recreation.
- 33) Existing heritage features in parks should be valued, preserved and protected – i.e. rock walls, architectural features, memorials, etc.
- 34) Volcanic cones are an important part of the parks network in Albert-Eden and their protection and management should be a priority.

- 35) The Albert-Eden Board should actively engage with local groups who already advocate for volcanic cones, e.g. Friends of Maungawhau and the Auckland Volcanic Cones Society.
- 36) There should be a management plan for Owairaka, concentrating on preserving the existing landscape and heritage features.

Making a Stronger, Sustainable Community

- 37) We support the promotion of the local area through events, particularly those that will highlight our natural and built heritage.
- 38) We support the initiation of sustainability projects in the local area.
- 39) All developments in the local area should be encouraged to be built according to green design and sustainability criteria.

Date of submission: 8 August 2011

Signature:



Secretary, Civic Trust Auckland