



Submission on the Parnell Plan

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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
- Promoting protection of heritage value of sites, buildings, places or areas
- Encouragement of good planning for the city and region.
- Promotion of public interest in the environment

1. CTA supports the Parnell Plan in principle. The plan seems ambitious, with so many ideas and projects proposed, a clear process to achieve it should be articulated, including a prioritised list of actions to be taken, delivery lead, responsibility for leading delivery, key stakeholders to consult with and proposed timing of delivery.

2. As Parnell is Auckland's first suburb, the unique aspects of this place are deserving of protection, preservation and enhancement. Future architectural design and future retail need to be of high quality and compatible in order to preserve and enhance Parnell's existing character.

3. We strongly support the statement on page 17 that "Part of Parnell's appeal to residents and business is its unique character and identity. This should be enhanced through excellent urban design in both the public and private realm."

4. The objectives identified in the Parnell Plan are all important. It is difficult, however, from the preamble, to comprehend any rationale as to the prioritisation of those objectives. Perhaps in the final document some re-prioritisation of those objectives be considered. Turning to page 14,

the first objective one reads under the title “Our Vision and Objective” is Objective 5: Respect, recognise and protect our cultural heritage.” As historic heritage and RMA section 6(f) and a matter of national importance, this objective might be considered for elevation from its bottom place.

5. Under Objective 5, it is our view that it is more important to “Support the protection, restoration and adaptation, where appropriate, of heritage buildings” than “Celebrate our collective stories, our heritage places and their contribution to our identity” as we would rather have a heritage building exist and be used, and celebrate its existence, than be left with only a picture and a story about it, once it has gone or has been so altered as to lose its significance.

6. Also under Objective 5, we do not see that currently Parnell’s Māori heritage is particularly visible, so we see this strategy as an important one.

7. An aspect of the plan that appears to be deficient is the recognition of the treescape of Parnell or any protection put in place for its trees. There are a great number of significant trees clearly visible within local vistas, and Objective 4, which is intended to care for, “protect and enhance our natural environment should be extended to provide for those treescapes. There are protected viewshafts from the Waitemata Harbour to the Auckland Museum. From the steps of the museum itself, there are views back out across the city and harbour towards Rangitoto. Some of the trees along Domain Drive could be considered for judicious pruning in order to retain some of what might be considered an iconic viewshaft from the steps of the museum to Rangitoto Island.

8. We support the proposed plantings alongside the Waipapa Stream and the walkway to the Auckland Domain and the train station, and the opening up of the stream.

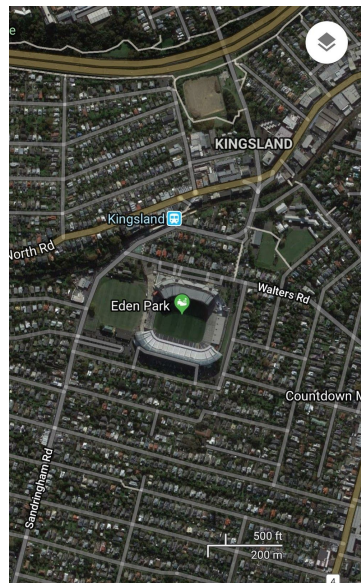
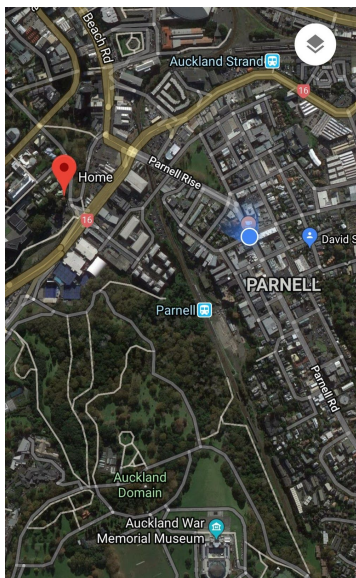
9. We see the potential of the train station as a cultural and social place and support the proposal for an artists’ collective to occupy the station.

10. CTA supports the active transport modes and we support consultation with local businesses and residents if any changes are proposed to make the streets of Parnell safer for cyclists.

11. We agree that “The Strand lacks amenity and is dominated by traffic” (page 13), so we would support any efforts to remedy this. Efforts should be made to retain what little remains of existing character buildings.

12. We potentially disagree with the unsubstantiated statement that “Our green and open spaces are under used,” depending on what spaces are being referred to. The point of open spaces is that they are open, nothing much happens in them most of the time (in terms of human activity) and that they not built on. “Underused” can too easily be re-categorised as disposable so that underused becomes unusable.

13. Objective 3 is about our use and enjoyment of spaces. The plan on page 20 identifies a number of projects and ideas. There's a pop-up library kiosk proposed on the left of that plan. Here's another idea for over in that vicinity ... On the former Carlaw Park land now stands tilt slab budget student accommodation. The owner of that land should demolish those buildings and re-site those students into new development within the land bounded by Sandringham Rd, Walters Rd, Cricket Ave and Riemers Ave. That land could be rezoned residential following the demolition of Eden Park stadium. While not popular with some, such demolition would eliminate the adverse effect of having such an activity within a residential neighbourhood. The student presence would be good for Kingsland, particularly the hospitality trade, and the students could take the train a short way to their study.



The relevance for Parnell is that the vacant land at Carlaw Park could provide a solution to the question of where to put a grand new stadium. Put where Carlaw Park was, it would stand on a ground of hallowed sporting legacy. It would be right next to the onramps to the western/northern and southern motorways. It would be right by the newly opened rail station. It would be several hundred metres from the Link bus route connecting Parnell to the city centre ... and a stadium in that position would remove objections to a massive stadium blocking valuable views of the Waitemata.

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Audrey van Ryn'.

Audrey van Ryn
Secretary, Civic Trust Auckland