

COMMUNITY MEETING

PROPOSED COMMUTER CYCLEWAY TO CITY THROUGH THE EASTERN SIDE OF BERHAMPORE GOLF COURSE

IMPACTING Island Bay, Berhampore & Newtown

Wellington City Council is planning construction of a commuter cycleway, to take south coast cycle traffic more safely and sustainably into the CBD. It is anticipated and planned that this will encourage more use of cycles for commuting and also for recreation. It is expected to double commuter cyclist numbers at peak hours.

The south coast commuter cycleway proposals have been on the Council agenda since 2012, following cycling lobby representations. Several routes are being investigated, but the preferred route appears to be through the eastern side of the Berhampore golf course; entering at Dover St., through the golf course and on to Russell Terrace and Riddiford St. Newtown.

This is the eastern route, and a considerable amount of investigation and preliminary planning has gone into this route. Other routes – an Adelaide Rd upgrade and a western route, are identified as “alternate”; although it appears the western route would have the most benefits and least impact on our community and the green belt. Already architects, engineers, a project manager and consultants have been appointed, feasibility studies carried out and budgets earmarked.

Local residents, businesses and sporting clubs will all be seriously impacted by the changes that a commuter cycleway with high volumes of cycle traffic will bring. While it is desirable to encourage cycle commuting and provide a safe environment for cyclists, the route selected and detailed design, must be balanced against the cost to the wider community, and in the case of some of the potentially affected sports clubs, the impact on the cultural and recreational assets that they represent and of course on residential parking.

Council held a meeting for cycling supporters in Island Bay in August 2013, but there has no meaningful consultation with our wider Island Bay, Berhampore and Newtown communities to date. Council propose to request public submissions in March.

This public meeting is to inform our local communities, preparing the ground for full and effective community submissions at that point.

The information we have uncovered on these proposals, has raised a number of issues the community need to be aware of and to have our say on.

For the eastern route, they are as follows:

- Road safety issues with traffic turning across Adelaide Rd. in the morning, and in the evening coming down off the golf course with momentum gathered on the steep hill, and

running out onto Adelaide Rd. There are also significant safety issues with cycling across an active golf course.

- Impact on residents' amenity, access and road safety in Dover Street, the street proposed for entry and exit. Dover Street is a narrow no-exit street.
- The impact on resident parking throughout the affected areas.
- The impact on businesses operating in the affected streets (which includes Riddiford St., Newtown).
- The safety issues and loss of amenity to golfers, walkers and the general public, around dual use of the eastern side of the Berhampore Golf Course as both a golf course and highly trafficked cycleway.
- The impact on the wider "green belt" environment of a dual carriage cycleway 2.2 m. wide through the golf course. Including changing the open grassed character of the area, use by motorbikes etc., undesirable group behaviour after dark, vandalism, rubbish etc.

As a community it is critical we have the opportunity to be fully informed and have our say. Island Bay, Berhampore and Newtown residents, associations and local businesses; make sure your views are considered. Join us for a community meeting on the evening of **27 February 2014** at Mornington Golf Club rooms, 80 Stanley St., Berhampore at 6.00 pm.

Speakers will include:

- Welcome - Ray Tuffin, President Mornington Golf Club (MGC)
- Councillor Paul Eagle, southern ward councillor and chair of WCC's Community, Sport & Recreation committee – the big picture
- A senior Council Officer outlining the commuter cycleway proposals; their status and implications, and what comes next: the submission process and timetable.
- Ray Tuffin, President MGC – impacts and implications for the Club and golf course.
- Ralph Wilkinson, Dover St. residents' group. Impact on local communities and the alternatives.
- Questions from the floor.
- Summing up - Councillor Paul Eagle

The most important thing is for YOU to be there, finding out what this is about and forming your views. For more information see Berhampore Golf Club web site –

www.morningtongolf.co.nz