



All Members

Friends of the Wellington Town Belt – **Newsletter January 2009**

Introduction

Welcome to 2009. This newsletter focuses on issues that have been of concern to the Friends for some time but, which we are very pleased to report, appear to be progressing towards positive outcomes for the Town Belt.

Wellington Town Belt Bill

A proposal has been in gestation for eight plus years to have introduced to Parliament a draft bill providing surety for protection of the Wellington Town Belt and strengthen opportunities to enhance management in accordance with the Management Plan as was adopted by the Wellington City Council in January 1995.

Much work on drafting the proposed legislation was put in by the Wellington City Council, concerned groups such as the Friends and the former M.P. for Wellington Central the Hon Marian Hobbs. It was not possible for the intended private member's bill to be introduced to Parliament prior to the 2008 General Election. It has however been very encouraging for the Friends during a meeting with the new Wellington Central M.P. Grant Robertson, prior to Christmas, to receive a positive indication that he is committed to working with the Council, other Wellington Members of Parliament, the Friends and other interested community groups to facilitate finalizing of a draft bill for introduction to Parliament.

The Friends and Mr Robertson will as soon as practical now work with the Council to finalise a bill which will be heavily reliant on the considerable input of research and advice committed to the project since at least 2002.

The Friends believe there will be a key role to be played in ensuring all other Wellington Members of Parliament are fully briefed on the intended legislation. As further progress is made members of the Friends will be kept informed and involved in the process to be followed. Any members of the Friends wishing to contribute to this very important project are welcome to contact myself or other committee members.

Bandoliers Building, Mt Victoria

Over the past year there has been some debate over a suggestion a community crèche group that previously operated a crèche from the Crossways building in Pirie Street might be permitted to move to the former Bandoliers Marching Group building adjacent to the Mt Victoria Bowling Club.

The Committee of the Friends had significant reservations about the prospect and particularly the suggestion it was appropriate for a crèche to be established on Town Belt land. Those reservations were based on the understanding of the unique and special status of Town Belt land.

The Committee has been considerably relieved to have received advice that the Wellington City Council had accepted it would not be legally possible for the crèche to be established at the Bandoliers Building on the Town Belt.

Further Information

Please contact me on these or any other issues you have about the Town Belt on tel: 970 7496 (home) or 472 6626 (work) or e-mail jbishop@openspace.org.nz.

John Bishop
Chairperson