

Wellington Community Association

Meeting 1: Welcome Meeting October 5th, 2022, Wellington Heritage Museum

More than forty people attended the first, welcome meeting, of the association where the idea and origins of the WCA were presented and people were asked why they wanted such a group. Attendance was lower than would have been otherwise because due to it being the pre-election period there were other meetings at the same time in Wellington-on-the-Lake and Picton.

Welcome and Powerpoint presentation (on website) by Diane Riley, Joanna Green and Jennifer Armstrong (members of the group who have laid the ground work for founding an association).

Questions from the Audience

1. Can business owners who are also members be residents? Answers by the audience seemed to reflect the opinion that they could as long as any conflict of interest was declared. Issues such as these to be addressed by WCA board once formed.
2. What is happening by way of development at the Wellington harbour? It was agreed that more needs to be made public about this [and this will be posted on the website].
3. More statement than question: with respect to development, elected officials seem to have a defeated and defeatist attitude (David vs Goliath); a sense of “what can we do”, and despair. Comment that councilors are eaten alive by developers. The response by Diane Riley and others was that by being defeatist we are giving into a sense of learned helplessness and it becomes a self-fulfilling situation. We can, and must, make things change by taking an active role.
4. Sustainability of Health Care system: What will Shire Hall do to ensure that developers shoulder some of the responsibility for procuring Health Care services and attracting Health Care provider to the County?
5. Fire services are also stretched thin as it is, without an increase in population.
6. What can be done about the extensive nature of Cork and Vine (Caitlin Corporation) development? It was pointed out that this is not a new development but a reincarnation of an earlier project proposal by Caitlin Corporation. This proposal included a golf course (it was noted that even in a recent, supposedly revised, presentation, the golf course was still part of the slides that were presented). It was noted that the main part of the Caitlin application is by no means a “done deal”: the land has been bought but the final plans have not been approved for it.

7. Comment that tonight is about getting the WCA off the ground and that we should be careful that it does not become an “us and them” situation with respect to the current residents and the residents of the new developments.

8. Boundary question: why extend boundaries beyond the strict ward boundary to a geographic one? Many people in audience thought that boundary should go beyond a ward one, whilst remaining strictly defined. It was agreed that this was meant as a matter for discussion, to be determined once the association is started and a board is being formed. Questions of who can vote on what matters (e.g., ward vs more general ones) will also have to be determined as future meetings.

9. Water issues: water developments and water bills were raised a number of times in the meeting. One person asked why he still gets a water bill when his water is shut off? Another question was raised about the spiraling costs of the water tower and so forth. All these issues will need to be addressed by the association.

Next meeting: October 18th for all candidates question and answer, with as many of the candidates as possible in addition to the three for the ward of wellington. Audience to send in any questions to the website so that they can be categorized and will be posed by the moderators.

Next, formative association, meeting: early November, to be announced on website and in the Times. At the formative meeting, matters of what the association boundaries should be, who can vote on what, formation of a board, roles, committees and other basics of creating a not-for-profit organisation will be addressed.

County FM 99.3 was represented at the meeting; they will have election night coverage.

Meeting adjourned at 8.10pm.

Next meeting: October 18th, 7-9pm, All Candidates Meeting

Early November: Doing the foundation basics for the Association.