Unleashing the power of community: Community Planning in North East Valley

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Why to study community planning in NEV?

• Community planning is effective and successful in addressing and achieving community goals (Green, 2009; Hamdi, 2013; Inspiring, 2013).

• Communities are taking local planning into their hands all around the world (Green, 2009; Hamdi, 2013; Inspiring Communities, 2013).

• There is a gap between community planning and formal planning (Albrechts, 2002; Innes and Booher, 2004).
What is community planning?

**Community perspective**
- initiated by communities
  - Outcome: empowered citizens

**Formal Planning perspective**
- initiated by formal institutions
  - Outcome: better services
What is a community?

• Community of place / Community of interest

• People with ties which bind them psychologically and socially, and the geographical area where they feel connected (Phillips, 2008).
Normative definition
Descriptive definition
North East Valley (NEV)
NEV: a special community

• 1877 the North East Valley borough was proclaimed with 3,500 people aprox (Hendry, 1976).

• Multi-ethnic (see census 2013).

• Including Opoho, Pine Hill and Forrester Park: 8,964 people (census 2013).
Welcome back to another issue! Thanks to all our readers, we are now able to distribute and access to the newsletter of the North East Valley Community Programme.

For those who are new to the community, here’s a brief outline of its purpose and how to get involved:

The purpose of the newsletter is to provide information on community activities and events. It aims to promote and encourage participation in various social and cultural events.

Many residents of our community are interested in joining various clubs and organizations to keep active and involved. If you are interested in joining, please contact us for more information.

Don’t forget to check out the special section on the Old Post Office Revival, including dates and locations.

Thank you for your support and contributions to the community.
Aim:

• To explore the relationship between formal planning and community driven planning

Objectives:

• Explore the values, approaches and relationships between DCC planning and community planning in NEV.
• Examine and assess how asset mapping contributes to building capacity for community planning.
Methodology

- Workshops: Community Asset Mapping with volunteers
- Interviews: NEV project participants and DCC staff
- Participant Observation: My own experience while participating in NEV activities

Data:
- People's self-assessed skills, knowledge, interests, concerns, groups and organizations in NEV
- Data views on the relationship of DCC with NEV and the value of CP
- Data: the researcher's reflections about her experience when participating in NEV activities, recorded on written notes

Analysis
The views on Community Planning

DCC: Community planning is driven by the DCC.

Example: Place Based Planning Approach
The Warehouse Precinct Revitalisation Plan was formulated using input from a wide range of stakeholders.

Initial consultation took place as part of the Urbanism Plus led Central City Framework Plan workshops in May–June 2011. The process included input from DCC staff and councillors, focus groups of retailers and business operators, Your City Our Future stakeholder groups, key property interests and a public workshop. The Central City Framework Plan was consolidated into a web-based Central City Plan which was consulted on as part of the Draft Long Term Plan 2012/2013–2017/2018 (LTP). As a result of the LTP consultation process, budget was added specifically for the first stage of the Warehouse Precinct amenity improvements.

Since then there has been numerous one-on-one discussions with key stakeholders in the Precinct, including building owners, businesses and residents, various DCC departments, and the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA). Two large stakeholder workshops were held in June 2012. The first brought together residents, building and land owners, and businesses in the area, while the second was open to all members of the public. Attendees discussed, sketched, and wrote ideas on to maps, about public open spaces, place-making and events, buildings and uses, and amenity improvements, including their top five priorities and two long-term ‘dreams’.

The key issues and opportunities identified in the workshops by June 2012 were summarized in an issue-by-issue statement of the key issues and opportunities for the Precinct, which forms the basis of the Precinct Plan. The key issues and opportunities are:

1. Pedestrian and cyclist access
2. Public open spaces
3. Event and street activites
4. Buildings and use
5. Amenities

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- Amenities

The workshop feedback documents are available for public review for a further period of time after the Workshop Feedback documents have been submitted to the City Council for consideration in January 2013.

Following public feedback on the proposals, detailed designs for stage one works in 2012/2013 will be developed and presented to the Council for approval.

Left: Residents, businesses, putting events and public were invited to attend a design workshop for the Warehouse Precinct.
Below: Sponser was created to summarize the issues and refine the design strategies.
Insert: Left: Image from the design workshops used to join with the website, and added events, resulted in an idea and the general public.

Principles

The revitalization of the Warehouse Precinct will involve different parts of the Precinct at different times. Areas develop further, investment increases, and funding is available.

In addition to the above vision and aims, the following are the design proposals and assessment of priority play:

Flexible

Flexible changes are made to the Precinct to accommodate new developments and changes in the area.

Incremental

There are dispersed pockets of business and public areas that are redeveloped at different times. These areas are redeveloped at different times to ensure the Precinct continues to support emerging businesses and residents.
The views on Community Planning

NEV: Community planning is driven by the community
Community planning is:

The process of a community figuring out the steps they need to take in order to get to the future that they want. This process is characterised by being holistic, inclusive, representative, participative at a local level, future and process oriented, and it has both formal and informal elements and stages. It can be done with or without the involvement of formal planning institutions.
The benefits of Community Planning

First stage: getting people together.

• People look after each other
• People become visible and connected
• Decreases vandalism and crime
The benefits of Community Planning

Second stage: people developing ideas together.

- Community planning sparks ideas
- Empowerment of community members
- People in need gets better supported
- The community can identify and mobilise its capacity
- Places look better
The benefits of Community Planning

Third stage: people thinking and acting together as a community.

- Better use of space
- The community gets a unified and representative voice
- Is a school of citizenship
- Better economic outcomes
The value of bringing together CP and DCC planning:

• Assess effectiveness of agencies interacting with communities
• More efficiency in the DCC functioning
• Communities get more resilient
• Better perception of DCC by communities
• Projects get better supported and assisted
Conclusions:

Community Planning when driven by communities is:
Holistic, inclusive, representative, participative at a local level, future
and process oriented.

The view on community planning does impact on the outcomes of it.

Institutional learning is a challenge for both communities and
formal planning institutions.
Unleash the power of community!
Kia ora!
Gracias!
Thank you!

Questions?