

## The Strand / Cass Street Hui 6 - Group Minutes

Location: Haratu Kororāreka Marae and Online via Teams

Date: 3.30pm to 5.00pm, 26 March 2026

### Attendees

#### CHAIR

Dr Mike Pratt Sustainable Enterprise Ltd

#### FNDC

Tammy Wooster FNDC Group Manager, Policy and Planning  
James Witham FNDC Manager, Integrated Planning  
Jane Hindle FNDC Member Bay of Islands Whangaroa Community Board  
Janine Worrall FNDC Support Officer, Integrated Planning

#### Roading Working Group Members (voting rights)

Bruce Mitchinson Russell Wharf Trust  
David McKenzie Russell Protection Society  
Debra Rewiri Chairperson of Kororāreka Marae (Tangata Whenua)  
Emily Rust Disability  
Katarina Lavender Disability  
Marsha Davis Tangata Whenua  
Shane Maddren Business

#### Apologies

Adam Cooper Business  
Adam Davey Community  
Jacqui Madelin Community  
Jay Michalick FNDC Team Leader, Growth Planning and Placemaking

| Item | Topic  | Discussion  |
|------|--|---|
| 1.   | <b>General</b>   | <p>Mike summarised that the intent was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review design summaries previously circulated.</li> <li>Work through formal proposals in the order distributed earlier.</li> <li>Progress decisions needed for aesthetic and functional design of Cass Street / The Strand.</li> </ul>  |
| 2.   | <b>Proposal for a Sub-Working Group (Design Focus)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Original idea from Jane and Deb:<br/>A smaller group to rapidly address design/aesthetic decisions due to tight timeframes.</li> <li>Concerns Raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jay (via Mike): Concerned about procedural integrity; a sub-group could exclude wider group participation.</li> <li>David: Worried it would be double handling; prefers full group decisions.</li> <li>Tammy: Wants clarity on purpose, outcomes, required expertise, and process alignment with Council.</li> <li>Others: Want to avoid perception of “new group replacing the existing group.”</li> </ul> </li> <li>Jane and Deb clarified intent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not to bypass the working group.</li> <li>The sub-group would identify detailed aesthetic questions, not make final decisions.</li> <li>Purpose is efficiency and using member expertise (e.g., Bruce/Conal).</li> </ul> <p><i>No formal sub-committee established – agreement that design decisions remain with the full working group.</i></p> </li> <li>Bruce’s Input</li> </ul> |

- Urban design components still required.
  - Costs of external design support could be ~30k, so in-house expertise preferred.
- Outcome / Consensus
- Bruce to expand a consolidated list of design considerations and questions.
  - RRWG will hold a full workshop to resolve outstanding design items collaboratively.

### 3. Procedural and Funding Considerations

- Funding timelines tied to Council's 1 July financial year. Need to progress quickly to enable consultation and maintain eligibility for funds.

### 4. Painting of Shared Space (Raised by Emily)

- Proposal
  - Option A: Block-paint the shared space (current Connell plan).
  - Option B: No large block painting, retain natural/beach-shingle aesthetic.
- Key Points
  - Painting conflicts with heritage guidelines.
  - Painted areas require ongoing maintenance and degrade visually.
  - A marker for entry to shared space can be determined separately.
- Unanimous agreement for no block painting of the shared space (option B).

### 5. Bollard Style (Raised by Emily)

- Proposal
  - Use solid timber bollards, weathered finish, similar to wharf / Duke area.
- General support for natural timber tones.
- Deb emphasised cultural context—opportunity for subtle Māori carving or motifs.
- Concern about cost and complexity if fully carved (Kat).
- Agreement carving should be optional and subtle, depending on cost and feasibility.
- Consensus: Use weathered timber wharf-style bollards, with potential subtle carving pending feasibility and cost.

### 6. Second Disability Car Park (Raised by Kat)

- Proposal
  - Add an additional disability park opposite Russell Fresh (parallel park).
- Strong need identified by several community members.
- Must follow dimensional requirements (3.5m width).
- Parallel option outside Russell Fresh is the only feasible location (Bruce).
- Colour of accessibility marking discussed:
  - Standard blue is internationally recognised.
- Enforcement difficulties noted but accepted as a wider issue.
- Consensus to proceed with creating a second disability car park outside Russell Fresh.
- Subject to:
  - Confirmation by Conal (traffic engineer) re: legal/safety requirements.
  - Any necessary NZTA approvals for marking style.

### 7. Māori Road Art / Design Feature (Raised by Emily, clarified by Deb & Marsha)

- Concept
  - Introduce Poutama pattern as cultural design expression.
- Options Discussed
  - Avoid large painted areas (heritage conflict).
  - Potentially incorporate using existing brick areas at Wharf entrance.
  - Use small-scale integrated aesthetic elements.
  - Must avoid confusing pedestrians about crossing points.
- General agreement that the Poutama design is desirable but requires:
  - More detailed design exploration
  - Examples
  - Practical feasibility
  - Integration with existing brickwork
  - To be addressed at workshop.

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## 8. Design Workshop Planning

- Purpose of Workshop
- Resolve all remaining aesthetic design decisions.
- Compile enough detail to support cost estimates.
- Finalise design principles for inclusion in consultation documents.  
Produce a coherent picture integrating
- Engineering plan (Connell)
- Aesthetic plan (Working Group)
- Signage recommendations
- Entrances, materials, bollards, garden/planter treatments, bins, cultural motifs  
Result will enable Council to:
- Prepare the official consultation document
- Ensure internal approvals (e.g., NZTA, Heritage NZ)

## 9. Next Steps

- Bruce to expand design considerations and prepare guidance.
- RRWG to participate in Workshop on 2 April and finalise design direction.
- Deb to consult carver on timber suitability.
- Costings to be obtained immediately after workshop outcomes.
- Council to prepare community consultation and support costing.

## 10. Meeting Close

- Closed around 5:00pm.

*Next hui 2 April, 2-5pm*

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