



Picton Smart & Connected – News release April 2015

New website imminent as Picton Smart & Connected swings into submissions

A new website will soon be launched to update Picton residents on the activities of the Picton Smart & Connected Group, such as a raft of submissions members are working on for improvements to the town and harbour.

And for residents without internet access, the group will post news about activities ‘the traditional way’ on noticeboards in the Picton library and other locations. Both avenues should be up and running by the end of April, using a new logo designed without charge by member Richard Briggs.

Feedback and engagement from the community is important, whether online or by traditional methods, says Picton Smart & Connected Chairman Barry Maister, so the Steering Group has been working on ways all sectors can be updated and involved, and provide comment. Members have been voluntarily working on design and content for a low-cost website to disseminate news, with the Marlborough District Council helping with funding, and it’s expected to launch later this month.

Meanwhile, after gathering local feedback, Picton Smart & Connected is putting forward submissions to the council Long Term Plan on major issues like the Picton Library/community hub, the London Quay traffic trial, more recycling in the town, and overdue upgrades to drainage and irrigation on the foreshore.

Mr Maister says it’s clear there is ‘overwhelming public support’ for having the Library/Community Hub on the corner of Dublin and Upper High St, and the Steering Group will add its voice in a strong submission on this, and the need to integrate it with the proposed upgrade to Upper High St.

The Steering Group is also pushing for changes to the London Quay area, so the street design long term is cohesive with other areas, such as the paving, planting and seating already used in the new waterfront precinct, and proposed for Upper High St.

‘We’ve gathered a lot of feedback already which shows Picton people like the waterfront design and want to see it carried through to London Quay, replacing the temporary seating and layout from the traffic trial. There are also traffic and safety issues that need to be addressed.’

For traffic, safety and aesthetic reasons raised by many people, Picton Smart & Connected will make a submission to the council review of the parking-free traffic trial, suggesting that in the short term a loading zone be reinstated, the pedestrian area retained, and some seating be relocated.

On the foreshore, the Steering Group urged the council to include an upgrade to drainage and irrigation when it digs up areas this winter to install new lighting and security CCTV. However, council advised the irrigation would need additional budget and would thus defer the lighting and security programme for another year, so the foreshore working group will now push for it in the long term plan.

‘We’re disappointed that we can’t get these things done in an integrated way, digging up the foreshore only once, but the timeline on this one is too short. It shows how we need long term strategies and co-ordination.’

The Environment working group has just lodged a submission to have more recycling for Picton included in the Waste Minimisation Plan, including recycling in the business district and public areas.

The Steering Group is urging Picton residents and businesses to make their own submissions on these projects to the Long Term Plan, whether in support of or against the Picton Smart & Connected submissions, or forwarding their own ideas.

Freedom camping is also on the Picton Smart & Connected radar, but it is still meeting with different community and business sectors before drafting and publicising a submission to council.

Other activities discussed at the latest meeting include:

- Development of a Picton Strategic Plan, which should be available for discussion by June
- Plans to ensure more involvement and input from local iwi and youth with the steering group
- Forward planning for how Picton will be involve in the 250th anniversary of early contact between Maori and European, with Captain Cook’s arrival in New Zealand
- A public meeting will be held later in the year to update the community on the achievements and future priorities of Picton Smart & Connected

Picton Smart & Connected Steering Group comprises 13 community volunteers, working alongside Picton Marlborough District Councillors, and MDC’s Manager Support Services Dean Heiford to give a coherent voice for Picton through targeted working groups which are open to the community. The working groups are connecting out into the community to bring in skills and knowledge for specific projects.

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