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**ERA Newsletter - March 2015**

Welcome to the March edition of the Ellerslie Residents’ Association (ERA) newsletter.

**ERA Public Meeting 23 February**On Monday 23 February, the ERA in association with the Orakei Local Board held a public meeting to discuss the Auckland Council’s 10 year financial plan, including the Mayor’s proposal to levy additional funding for transport. Residents heard from both Orakei Local Board Chair Desley Simpson and Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board Chair Simon Randall. ERA Chair Bryan Johnson presented on the council’s financial performance and highlighted a concerning rise in spending and debt. Residents voiced their opposition to new taxes in light of increasing council spending, particularly on staff and other governance activities. These concerns were outlined in the ERA Long Term Plan submission, accessible on the ERA website: <http://www.ellerslieresidents.co.nz/>

**Next public meeting 18 May**On Monday 18 May, the ERA will hold its second public meeting for 2015. This meeting will be committed to discussing crime and security issues in Ellerslie. We will have a presentation from the New Zealand Police and residents will have the opportunity to ask questions about policing and issues in the area.

**ANZAC Day commemoration**   
The Ellerslie Business Association will be holding a special ANZAC memorial unveiling at 1pm on Tuesday 31 March at the Ellerslie War Memorial Hall. The memorial is a major part of our suburb’s remembrance of all those who have participated in overseas wars. All are welcome.

**Michael’s Ave Park upgrade**Resurfacing of the lower fields at Michael’s Ave Park continues. Current expectation is that the fields will be operational in October this year. However, funding for the final phase, upgrade of the carpark, has been removed. ERA continues to advocate for the reinstatement of this project in next year’s funding allocation. ERA encourages all residents to contact Councilor Brewer, Orakei Local Board representatives and Auckland Council staff to ask that funding be returned as was proposed.

**Motorway widening Ellerslie to Greenlane**  
The New Zealand Transport Agency advises that a temporary 80km speed zone will apply alongside works extending the section of city-bound motorway between Ellerslie and Greenlane from three to four lanes. The speed limit is expected to remain in place until next year when the works will be complete.

**ERA meetings with Auckland Transport and NZTA**The ERA has been advocating for improved transport in and around Ellerslie and has met recently with representatives from Auckland Transport, NZTA, Kiwirail and the Ministry of Transport. Local MP Sam Lotu-Iiga helped facilitate a meeting with officials which we hope should lead to an improvement in rail services and we are in good communication with NZTA on improving motorway access.

**Ellerslie Domain Clubrooms**The Ellerslie Eagles Clubrooms are in immediate need of renovation. The club has generously offered to open the facility to wider community use should a renovated facility have capacity. This is a major opportunity for recreational and other activities in our suburb and the club has recently received confirmation that there is funding for an assessment of renovation work.

**Please send us your contact details**  
If people receiving the emailed version of this newsletter have not responded to our request for physical address and phone number, can they please send us that information. We need this to record our membership and keep you informed off upcoming public events.