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2 April 2025

NPDC City Centre Stakeholder Comms – Rough Sleeping Action

Kia ora koutou,

In February we sent out an overview of the work we are doing to address challenges in our CBD. Thank you to the Taranaki Chamber of Commerce for distributing this for us. We mentioned that we would provide regular updates on this work, so we are following up now with some further developments.

In addition to this update, you will have received an invitation from the Chamber of Commerce to attend a forum addressing these issues on Wednesday 9 April with Mayor Holdom. Please visit the Chamber website to register.

- **YMCA Shelter Approved:** On 1 April Elected Members approved a grant to support the establishment of a men's night shelter at the New Plymouth YMCA. The YMCA has a long history of providing social support both in New Zealand and internationally, and YMCA New Plymouth has developed a detailed plan for construction and operation of a shelter for twenty rough sleepers, within YMCA's existing premises.

A shelter will not be a permanent home or completely resolve the issues the community faces due to homelessness. The proven model is that by helping restore the dignity of people who have no safe place to sleep, meeting unmet basic human needs and providing support to address individual challenges, it will make a significant dent in this challenge. The aim is to have the shelter operational by winter and plans for a similar facility for women sleeping rough are underway.

- **City Safe Warden Survey:** Since December we have had City Safe Wardens patrolling the CBD as a trial. This initiative was in response to growing concerns and advocacy from the business community. That trial is coming to an end in mid-May so we are keen to hear your feedback on whether the presence of wardens has helped our community feel safer in the CBD and what the service could look like if it continues.

We've put together a survey to capture your views. Click [City Safe Wardens Survey](#) to have your say by 18 April, and feel free to share the link with other colleagues, staff, and customers too.

- **NPDC web page on homelessness:** This is now live and will be updated as projects develop and more information is available. Click [Homelessness](#) to read responses to frequently asked questions on homelessness in our district.
- **Public Places Bylaw Enforcement:** We have responded to concerns regarding personal belongings blocking access to buildings in the CBD using the [Public Places Bylaw](#). Several people have been issued notices requiring removal of materials that are blocking access to buildings and the footpath, and have responded by removing the majority of the belongings. We continue to work with community organisations to identify long-term, practical storage opportunities.
- **YMCA Shower and Laundry Facilities:** New shower and laundry facilities for rough sleepers will open at the New Plymouth YMCA on Thursday 10 April. These facilities were funded by Toi Foundation and are available to men, with women able to access similar facilities at the Salvation Army.
- **Day Space:** Community organisations are exploring options for a “day space” away from retail space and the main street. This would be a place where those sleeping rough can have a meal, spend time during the day, and connect in with support services, and would complement the night shelter. If you are aware of any potential spaces that would be in an appropriate location, please get in touch with us.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to get in touch.

Ngā mihi,



Damien Clark
Manager Community and Economic Development