

Ruapuna Community Liaison Committee Media Release

August 2017

The Ruapuna Community Liaison Committee held its meeting on Tuesday evening, 15 August 2017. The committee is provided for in the Christchurch City District Plan to allow local residents and the Ruapuna Car and Speedway Clubs to work together to monitor noise from Ruapuna, ensure compliance with District Plan provisions and proactively minimise its effects.

The committee is made up of three resident representatives, Peter Peterson and Gary Kilday (Templeton Residents Association), Sara Harnett (Quieter Please), Mark Wederell and Keith Cowan (Canterbury Car Club), John Mitchell (Speedway), Jimmy Chen (Christchurch City Council) and Laurie McCallum (Independent Chair). At this meeting John Alps, Environmental Officer, Christchurch City Council and Chris Protheroe from the Car Club were also present by invitation.

Reports were provided by the Car Club and Speedway on the period since the last meeting in May and on their programmes for the coming season. The Car Club continues to manage its race days permitted under the District Plan so as to use more of lower noise category days rather than use up all the high noise days permitted. The figures showed there were some 39 quieter days than allocated. Mark Wederell, General Manager for the Canterbury Car Club noted that by managing events at Ruapuna in relation to noise in this way was a real positive result for the community. He noted it could not be guaranteed to operate in this way every season as only small amounts of noise could spill events over into a higher category. He said the Club would continue to manage noise within what was permitted by the District Plan as one of their noise initiatives and continuing to better understand the noise created at Ruapuna was part of this.

Both clubs also outlined their calendar of events for the coming season (available on the Car Club website). With a cluster of events occurring in the North Island, John Mitchell for the Speedway Club noted there were no national events at Ruapuna over Christmas New Year, as usually occurs.

John Alps, Environmental Officer with Christchurch City Council spoke to the meeting about the 13 complaints received over the past year. Two were Speedway related and the others Car Club. In all cases the clubs were found to be operating within the noise parameters provided, with wind and its direction being the likely cause of noise occurring in the manner complained of. In comparison to some ten years ago the number of complaints was significantly reduced – from over 230 to 13.

John Alps also outlined how the Noise Logger had been decommissioned on 5 August and sent to Auckland for recalibration. It was found to be correctly calibrated and reinstalled on 8 August 2017. In answer to questions Mr Alps assured members that the Logger could not be tampered with being on a tall pole in a locked box in a locked compound. He also assured members that Council staff and after hours contractors were fully briefed on the procedures for handling noise complaints and that he would refresh staff and contractors on the process. Mr Alps was happy to attend further meetings so there could be continuing close liaison between the committee and the noise monitoring and environmental compliance section of the Council.

The Templeton Residents Association Community Day on 29 October 2017 was noted with to support the event.

Keith Cowan retired as a Canterbury Car Club representative to be replaced by Chris Protheroe. The Chairman thanked Mr Cowan for his work with the committee

The committee will next meet in November 2017 but will be in contact by email and phone. Any member may raise matters for discussion and act as a conduit for matters from the wider community.

Laurie McCallum
Independent Chairperson

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