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# Council *Kaunihera* OPEN MINUTES

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Minutes of a meeting of the Council held in Council Chamber, Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton and via Audio Visual link on Wednesday 14 September 2022 at 9.33am.

## PRESENT

<b>Chairperson</b> <i>Heamana</i>	Mayor P Southgate
<b>Deputy Chairperson</b> <i>Heamana Tuarua</i>	Deputy Mayor G Taylor
<b>Members</b>	Cr M Bunting Cr M Gallagher Cr R Hamilton Cr D Macpherson Cr K Naidoo-Rauf Cr M Donovan Cr A O'Leary (exclusively via audio visual link) Cr R Pascoe Cr S Thomson Cr M van Oosten Cr E Wilson

<b>In Attendance:</b>	Lance Vervoort – Chief Executive Andrew Parsons - Executive Director Strategic Infrastructure Dan Finn - People, Safety & Wellness Manager Rebecca Whitehead – Unit Director – Community Services Maria Barrie – Parks and Recreation Manager Alice Morris – Principal Planner Keiran Horne – Strategic Risk and Assurance Chair
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<b>Governance Team:</b>	Amy Viggers – Governance Lead Carmen Fookes – Senior Governance Advisor Tyler Gaukrodger – Governance Advisor
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*Tame Pokaia opened the meeting with a karakia. A minute of silence was then observed to acknowledge the passing of Queen Elizabeth II.*

- 1. Apologies – Tono aroha**  
There were no apologies.

**2. Confirmation of Agenda – *Whakatau raarangi take***

**Resolved:** (Mayor Southgate/Cr Bunting)

That the agenda is confirmed noting that:

- a) the late Attachment 1 (Public Realm Design Guidelines Final Document) for item C11 (Recommendations from Public Excluded Committee Meetings) is accepted. The attachment was circulated under separate cover to enable the most up to date information to be included; and
- b) the late Item C19 (Infrastructure Acceleration Fund – Central City Proposal) is accepted. The Item was circulated under separate cover to enable the most up to date information to be included.

**3. Declarations of Interest – *Tauaakii whaipaaanga***

No members of the Council declared a Conflict of Interest.

**4. Public Forum – *Aatea koorero***

**Margaret Evans (TOTI Charitable Trust)** spoke to item 19 (Notice of Motion – Founders Theatre Site) in support of the notice of motion and the proposed process. She provided letters of pledges from Robin Ratcliffe and John Gallagher that were circulated to members and attached as **Appendix 1 and 2** of the minutes. She responded to questions from Members concerning written funding proposals and operating budget works.

**Harry Mowbray** spoke to item 19 (Notice of Motion – Founders Theatre) noting his support for the retention of the Theatre Building. He outlined the similar work he was undertaking to repurpose buildings as a way to preserve history and how this work could be funded.

**Robin Ratcliffe** spoke to item 19 (Notice of Motion – Founders Theatre) noting his previous work to restore another site into a community and public space and his view that it is possible and preferred to refurbish of the Founder’s Theatre. He responded to questions from Members regarding operational funding and budget, timing required to create detailed business plan, and funding towards repurpose.

**Raymond Mudford** spoke to item 19 (Notice of Motion – Founders Theatre), noting his support of the notice of motion and proposal, and the demand for community hubs in the city. His written submission was circulated to members and attached as **Appendix 3** of the minutes. He responded to questions from Members concerning cost to build a new building.

**Rudi du Plooy** spoke to item 19 (Notice of Motion – Founders Theatre) noting his support of the notice of motion and proposal, the value of the Founder’s Theatre, and passion of the community to preserve the Theatre. His written submission was circulated to members and attached as **Appendix 4** of the minutes.

**Kevin Macdonald** spoke to item 19 (Notice of Motion – Founders Theatre) noting his support of the notice of motion and proposal, the opportunity to refurbish founders theatre to become a community centre, examples of refurbishment in Hamilton, woodworking guild purpose and contributions, alternative community group options, and timeline required to create a new community centre. His written submission was circulated to members and attached as **Appendix 5** of the minutes. He responded to questions from members concerning alternative community centre locations.

**Grant Taylor** (Waikato Woodworkers Guild) spoke to item 19 (Notice of Motion – Founders Theatre) in favour of the notice of motion and proposal. He outlined the time spent looking for alternative community venues, the need for community hubs, the opportunity for fine arts display, creation of another visitor destination, cost to community groups in using multiple buildings. His

written submission was circulated to members and attached as **Appendix 6** of the minutes. He responded to questions from Members concerning other location options, membership of Waikato Woodworkers Guild, physical space required, and space available within suggested building design.

Item 9 (Confirmation of the Infrastructure Operations Committee Open Minutes - 9 August 2022) after item 4 (Public Forum) at the request of Elected Members.

**5. Confirmation of the Infrastructure Operations Committee Open Minutes - 9 August 2022**

Cr O'Leary provided an update on the Climate Relief Fund which had been discussed within the 9 August 2022 Infrastructure Operations meeting, noting that this action had now been completed.

***Staff Action:** That the Infrastructure Operations Committee 9 August 2022 meeting be reflected to include both the Chair and staff in writing the letter to Minister of Transport in the staff action for item 11 (Cycling Improvement Opportunities for 2022/23).*

**Resolved:** (Cr O'Leary/Cr Thomson)

That the Infrastructure Operations Committee confirm the Open Minutes of the Infrastructure Operations Committee Meeting held on 9 August 2022 as a true and correct record.

Item 6 (Confirmation of the Hearings and Engagement Committee Open Minutes - 21 June 2022) after item 9 (Confirmation of the Infrastructure Operations Committee Open Minutes - 9 August 2022) at the request of Elected Members.

**6. Confirmation of the Hearings and Engagement Committee Open Minutes - 21 June 2022**

Cr Wilson provided an update on the Speed Management Plan hearing at the 21 June 2022 Hearings and Engagement Committee meeting. He responded to questions from Members concerning the resolutions of the meeting.

**Resolved:** (Cr Macpherson/Cr Hamilton)

That the Council confirm the Open Minutes of the Hearings and Engagement Committee Meeting held on 21 June 2022 as a true and correct record.

Item 14 (Confirmation of the Community Committee Open Minutes - 30 August 2022) after item 6 (Confirmation of the Hearings and Engagement Committee Open Minutes - 21 June 2022) at the request of Elected Members.

**7. Confirmation of the Community Committee Open Minutes - 30 August 2022**

The Parks and Recreation Manager provided an update on the opening of Fairfield Hall.

**Resolved:** (Cr Macpherson/Cr Hamilton)

That the Council confirm the Open Minutes of the Community Committee meeting held on 30 August 2022 as a true and correct record.

**8. Confirmation of the Council Open Minutes - 18 August 2022**

Staff confirmed the Department of Internal Affairs has approved Council's request for an extension of time or deadline waiver of the Three Waters Reform – Better Off Funding Agreement Tranch 1. This maintains all options for Council post-election.

**Resolved:** (Cr Macpherson/Cr Hamilton)

That the Council confirm the Open Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 18 August 2022 as a true and correct record.

**9. Confirmation of the Environment Committee Open Minutes - 2 August 2022**

**Resolved:** (Cr Macpherson/Cr Hamilton)

That the Council confirm the Open Minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 2 August 2022 as a true and correct record.

**10. Confirmation of the District Plan Committee Open Minutes - 4 August 2022**

**Resolved:** (Cr Macpherson/Cr Hamilton)

That the Council confirm the Open Minutes of the District Plan Committee meeting held on 4 August 2022 as a true and correct record.

**11. Confirmation of the Economic Development Committee Open Minutes - 11 August 2022**

**Resolved:** (Cr Macpherson/Cr Hamilton)

That the Council confirm the Open Minutes of the Economic Development Committee Meeting held on 11 August 2022 as a true and correct record.

**12. Confirmation of the Community Grants Allocation Sub-Committee Open Minutes - 16 August 2022**

**Resolved:** (Cr Macpherson/Cr Hamilton)

That the Council confirm the Open Minutes of the Community Grants Allocation Sub-Committee meeting held on 16 August 2022 as a true and correct record.

**13. Confirmation of the Finance Committee Open Minutes - 23 August 2022**

**Resolved:** (Cr Macpherson/Cr Hamilton)

That the Council confirm the Open Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held on 23 August 2022 as a true and correct record.

**14. Confirmation of the Dog Control Hearings Panel Open Minutes - 24 August 2022**

**Resolved:** (Cr Macpherson/Cr Hamilton)

That the Council confirm the Open Minutes of the Dog Control Hearings Panel Meeting held on 24 August 2022 as a true and correct record.

**15. Confirmation of the Open Minutes of the CE Review Committee Meeting - 6 September 2022**

**Resolved:** (Cr Macpherson/Cr Hamilton)

That the Council confirm the Open Minutes of the CE Review Committee Meeting held on 6 September 2022 as a true and correct record.

**16. Confirmation of the Elected Member Open Briefing Notes - 10 August 2022**

**Resolved:** (Cr Macpherson/Cr Hamilton)

That the Council confirm the Open Briefing Notes of the Elected Member Briefing held on 10 August 2022 as a true and correct record.

**17. Chair's Report**

Mayor Southgate spoke to her report thanking the Chairs and Deputy Chairs for their work on their respective portfolios, as well the Councillors who were retiring. She responded to questions from Members concerning feedback received on the Water Services Entity Bill submission.

**Resolved:** (Cr Southgate/Deputy Mayor Taylor)

That the Council receives the report.

**The meeting was adjourned from 10.43am to 11.09am.**

**18. Recommendations from Open Committee Meetings**

Mayor Southgate thanked the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Strategic Risk and Assurance Committee for their work this term. The Strategic Risk and Assurance Chair then introduced the report, noting some key work undertaken within the triennium.

**Financial Performance & Strategy Report to 30 June 2022**

**Resolved:** (Cr Pascoe/Cr van Oosten)

That the Council:

- a) approves the capital movement as identified in paragraph 33 of the 30 June 2022 Capital Portfolio Monitoring Report;
- b) approves the significant forecast adjustments as set out in paragraphs 59 to 60 of the staff report; and
- c) approves the revised Financial Strategy position for Debt to Revenue, Net Debt and Balancing the Books as set out in paragraphs 62 to 64 of the staff report.

**Disability Policy – 2022 Review and Action Plan**

**Resolved:** (Cr Bunting/Cr Naidoo-Rauf)

That the Council approves the updated Disability Policy.

**Strategic Risk and Assurance Committee – Annual Self Review**

**Resolved:** (Cr Pascoe/ Cr van Oosten)

That the Council receives the report.

Item 19 was deferred to be taken later in the meeting at the discretion of the Chair.

**19. Report from the Strategic Risk and Assurance Committee - Safety and Wellness**

The report was taken as read.

**Resolved:** (Cr Donovan/Mayor Southgate)

That the Council receives the report.

**20. River Safety Project Funding Update**

The Unit Director – Community Services introduced the report, noting the river drowning statistics provided, the actions approved for mitigation within the 14 June 2022 Community Committee meeting and the external funding decisions that were to be yet to be received. She responded to questions from Members concerning alternative funding opportunities, the purpose of City Safe presence and messaging based on the staff recommended option, funding, nationwide communication strategies and water safety initiatives, swimming at Wellington Street beach, school education programmes and development, and the legal responsibility that sat with Regional Council.

**Resolved:** (Cr Bunting/Deputy Mayor Taylor)

That the Council:

- a) receives the report;

- b) approves **Option 3** (of the staff report), funding for the trial of increased riverside presence by City Safe Staff if the current funding application is not successful, noting that the River Safety Education Trial and Part 2 of the Communications Strategy would not be completed unless Council received external funding;
- c) approves \$76,000 be redirected from River Infrastructure funding (available 2022/23 and 2023/24) to enable b) above
- d) note that staff will provide an update to the incoming Council on the Waikato Regional River Forum, including projects led and funded by other stakeholders including neighbouring and Regional Councils.

**The meeting was adjourned from 11.48am to 11.54am during the discussion of the above item.**

**21. 2022/23 Heritage Fund Allocation**

The Principal Planner took the report as read and responded to questions from Members concerning earthquake funding and proposed allocation.

**Resolved:** (Cr Gallagher/Cr Bunting)

That the Council:

- a) receives the report; and
- b) approves the allocation of the 2022/23 Heritage Fund to the recipients as set out in **Attachment 1** of the staff report.

**The meeting was adjourned from 12.22pm to 1.12pm.**

**22. Notice of Motion - Founders Theatre Site**

Staff responded to questions from Members concerning the community groups proposals, public consultation to date, community facilities availability and needs which were to be identified in the audit, the pledges received during public forum submissions, retrofitted buildings, new community facilities funding, community facilities renewals, the previous resolution, cost to Council, and the injunction process and delay implications.

**Resolved:** (Cr Macpherson/Cr O'Leary)

That the Council:

- a) requests staff to continue with the options report for community facilities in central Hamilton, to be reported back in March 2023, and to include:
  - i. a needs analysis for community space in central Hamilton;
  - ii. a business case for the establishment or development of a community hub;
  - iii. consideration of proposals by Momentum and other potential financial partners;
  - iv. consideration of the Founders site, and other potential sites in central Hamilton;
- b) the report will include:
  - i. independent analysis of capital and operational budgets;
  - ii. a financing plan for each option considered;
  - iii. consideration of benefits and disadvantages of each option;
  - iv. recommendation(s) on the optimum option(s) for a central Hamilton community hub;
- c) the 12 May 2022 decision on the 'Founders Theatre Upgrade Project' will not be acted on prior to consideration on the report in a) and b) above, and will remain the active Council decision until and unless it is superseded; and

- d) requests the Chief Executive work with the Mayor Elect to form a Reference Group, that includes the Mayor and relevant 2022-25 Elected Members, who will be tasked to review the development of the options report in part a) and b) above.

**Deputy Mayor Taylor, Crs Bunting, Hamilton, Naidoo-Rauf and Donovan Dissenting.**

**23. Resolution to Exclude the Public**

**Resolved:** (Mayor Southgate/Cr Wilson)

**Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987**

The following motion is submitted for consideration:

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely consideration of the public excluded agenda.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution follows.

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reasons for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
C1. Confirmation of the Council Public Excluded Minutes - 18 August 2022	) Good reason to withhold ) information exists under ) Section 7 Local Government	Section 48(1)(a)
C2. Confirmation of the District Plan Committee Public Excluded Minutes - 4 August	) Official Information and ) Meetings Act 1987 )	
C3. Confirmation of the Infrastructure Operations Committee Public Excluded Minutes - 9 August 2022		
C4. Confirmation of the Economic Development Committee Public Excluded Minutes - 11 August 2022		
C5. Confirmation of the Community Grants Allocation Sub-Committee Public Excluded Minutes - 16 August 2022		
C6. Confirmation of the Finance Committee Public Excluded Minutes - 23 August 2022		
C7. Confirmation of the Dog Control Hearings Panel Public Excluded Minutes - 24 August 2022		
C8. Confirmation of the Community Committee Public Excluded Minutes - 30 August 2022		
C9. Confirmation of the Elected		

- Member Public Excluded  
Briefing Notes - 10 August  
2022
- C10. Confirmation of the Elected  
Member Public Excluded  
Briefing Notes - 31 August  
2022
- C11. Recommendations from Public  
Excluded Committee Meetings
- C12. City Honours  
Recommendations September  
2022
- C13. Strategic Land Purchase -  
Enderley
- C14. Gully Restoration and Other  
Works (Contract 17160)
- C15. Contract Approvals
- C16. Information Services -  
Performance Framework Closed  
Request for Procurement
- C17. Information Services -  
Milestone (CCTV) Migration and  
Maintenance Contract
- C18. Development Contribution  
Remission Application
- C19. Infrastructure Acceleration  
Fund - Central City Proposal
- C20. Confirmation of the Public  
Excluded Minutes of the  
Council (CE Review Committee  
Matters) meeting - 29 June  
2022
- C21. Confirmation of the Public  
Excluded Minutes of the CE  
Review Committee meeting - 6  
September 2022
- C22. Recommendations from Public  
Excluded CE Review Committee  
Meeting of 6 September 2022

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public, as follows:

- |          |  |                   |
|----------|--|-------------------|
| Item C1. | to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage | Section 7 (2) (j) |
| Item C2. | to prevent the disclosure or use of official   | Section 7 (2) (j) |



	information for improper gain or improper advantage	
Item C3.	to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	Section 7 (2) (j)
Item C4.	to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	Section 7 (2) (j)
Item C5.	to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	Section 7 (2) (j)
Item C6.	to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	Section 7 (2) (j)
Item C7.	to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	Section 7 (2) (j)
Item C8.	to maintain legal professional privilege	Section 7 (2) (g)
	to enable Council to carry out negotiations	Section 7 (2) (i)
Item C9.	to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	Section 7 (2) (j)
Item C10.	to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	Section 7 (2) (j)
Item C11.	to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	Section 7 (2) (j)
Item C12.	to protect the privacy of natural persons	Section 7 (2) (a)
Item C13.	to enable Council to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage	Section 7 (2) (h)
	to enable Council to carry out negotiations	Section 7 (2) (i)
Item C14.	to enable Council to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage	Section 7 (2) (h)
	to enable Council to carry out negotiations	Section 7 (2) (i)
Item C15.	to enable Council to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage	Section 7 (2) (h)
	to enable Council to carry out negotiations	Section 7 (2) (i)
Item C16.	to enable Council to carry out negotiations	Section 7 (2) (i)
Item C17.	to enable Council to carry out negotiations	Section 7 (2) (i)
Item C18.	to enable Council to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage	Section 7 (2) (h)
	to enable Council to carry out negotiations	Section 7 (2) (i)
Item C19.	to enable Council to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage	Section 7 (2) (h)
	to enable Council to carry out negotiations	Section 7 (2) (i)
Item C20.	to protect the privacy of natural persons	Section 7 (2) (a)
	to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	Section 7 (2) (j)
Item C21.	to protect the privacy of natural persons	Section 7 (2) (a)
	to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	Section 7 (2) (j)

- |           |   |  |
|-----------|---|--|
| Item C22. | to protect the privacy of natural persons<br>to prevent the disclosure or use of official<br>information for improper gain or improper<br>advantage | Section 7 (2) (a)<br>Section 7 (2) (j) |
|-----------|---|--|

**The meeting went into a Public Excluded session at 2.50pm.**

**The meeting was declared closed at 5.40pm.**

***Minute Note 14/10/2022:***

*On 14/10/2022 the following resolutions were determined to be released to the public via these minutes and the quarterly update.*

***Information Services - Performance Framework Closed Request for Procurement***

***Resolved:***

*That the Council:*

- a) receives the report;*
- b) approves staff to proceed with a closed Request for Procurement (RFP) for the Performance Framework management software solution and ongoing support; and*
- c) notes that the decision and information in relation to this matter be released at the appropriate time, to be determined by the Chief Executive.*

**Appendix 1**

**Founders Theatre**

8 September 2022

Her Worship the Mayor and Councillors  
Hamilton City Council  
Hamilton

**Rejuvenation of the Founders Theatre**

I support the proposed motion for Council staff to prepare an options paper for the re-purposing of the Founders Theatre (“the Founders”) as a community facility hub.

The hub will provide a community space for use by various community groups for the betterment of those groups and the people of Hamilton they serve.

In support of the proposed motion, I **pledge to contribute services of up to \$500,000.**

The services and/or funds will be applied towards the rejuvenation of the Founders, to make it a “fit for purpose” community space.

I am confident that fellow business acquaintances will also support this project and I undertake to use my best endeavours to attract their support.

With the goodwill of Council and a commitment to work collaboratively together, I believe we can rescue and rejuvenate a much-loved Hamilton Icon.

Yours faithfully  
Modern Transport Group of Companies



Robin Ratcliffe

## Appendix 2

### Founders Theatre

13th September 2022

Her Worship the Mayor and Councillors  
Hamilton City Council  
Hamilton

#### Rejuvenation of the Founders Theatre

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Yours faithfully



John Gallagher CNZM KStJ JP HonD

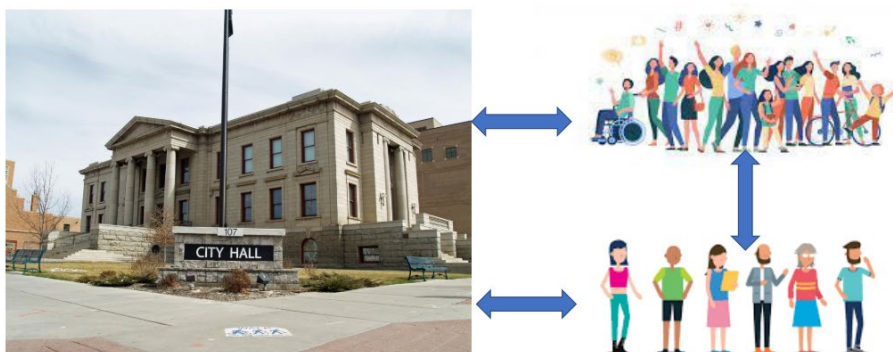
Appendix 3



## Community Hub

- "How to bring democracy and integrity into our future..."
- "How to ensure public engagement in civic affairs"
- "A community hub in the heart of the city..."

### Community Connections and City Hall



## Today's Challenges

- Community Group subscription \$10 to \$30 per year
- Commercial venues are too expensive
  - Example Hotel conference rooms start at around \$90 per day)
- Community venues are reducing
  - Example Age Concern building
- Cost of Living impact – prices rising by at least 7%
- Where can a small start-up business go?
- Where can small part-time enterprise share their skills with others?
- Where can small community groups meet & greet with dining?

## The Big Question?

- What about repurpose the existing Founders building for the community?
  - It is not a Theatre (That is the Regional Theatre purpose)
  - It is not competing with the private sector
- It Provides
  - Space for the individual community Committees/Boards to meet collectively
  - Office Space for small enterprise start-up businesses
  - Temporary Display space for small art enterprises
  - Place for community meet and greet occasions
  - Centralisation of CBD community services
  - A place that CBD homeowners can call home

## Benefits

- Close to the Transport Centre
- Place where Community can discuss and initiate proposals
- Place where Community and City Hall can debate proposals
- A key element in the need for vibrancy in the City.
  
- A place where environmental improvements can be trialled and promoted.
- A place for fun.

Appendix 4



Rudi du Plooy <savethefounderstheatre@gmail.com>

**The Bellamy Brothers**

5 messages

**Judy Seale** <judyseale1@gmail.com>  
To: savethefounderstheatre@gmail.com  
Cc: Scott Adkins <scott@adkinspublicity.com>

Fri, Feb 12, 2021 at 7:10 AM

Hi Rudi,

Scott Adkins forwarded your email to me for reply regarding the Bellamy Brothers since I handle all their International Tours. Below is a message from David Bellamy on behalf of the Bellamy Brothers.

We wish you the best of luck in saving the theatre. Such a difficult time for everyone around the world due to COVID. We're hoping to re-schedule the Bellamys proposed tour to Australia and New Zealand to November of 2022. Would love to meet you if that happens.

All the best,  
Judy Seale  
[www.judysealeinternational.com](http://www.judysealeinternational.com)  
615-872-2122 office  
615-397-8777 mobile

MESSAGE FROM THE BELLAMY BROTHERS:

**Hi Rudi,**

**So sorry to hear about your dilemma with the Founders Theater. We do remember very fondly playing there and wish you luck with your campaign to save it.**

**While there's not a lot we can do from afar, you have our best wishes and we hope you'll be successful and we send the folks in Hamilton our love.**

**Best Regards**

**David Bellamy**

**Bellamy Brothers**

**Rudi du Plooy** <savethefounderstheatre@gmail.com>  
To: Judy Seale <judyseale1@gmail.com>

Fri, Feb 12, 2021 at 3:17 PM

Hi Judy,

Thank you so much for sending us this very positive response. We are always careful what we put out on social media and for that reason I want to ask if we may post your Email on our FB page and Website or would you prefer to make a quotable statement that we may use?

Thanks again, our team was visibly excited about your Email.

Rudi  
+64 21 300 770  
[Quoted text hidden]

**Judy Seale** <judyseale1@gmail.com>  
To: Rudi du Plooy <savethefounderstheatre@gmail.com>

Fri, Feb 12, 2021 at 4:37 PM

## Appendix 5

I would like to say thank you for giving me the opportunity to present to you. I am here to ask for some Common Sense.

HCC has started a great recycling programme and we are all being encouraged to be environmentally friendly and reuse things and here we have HCC hell bent on demolishing a very good building. We should be looking at reusing not knocking down.

I see a golden opportunity for Founders to be used as a hub for like-minded groups, particularly in arts & crafts.

The location is central and within the CBD. There is going to be infil-housing within the city, and I can see that Founders will be ideally suited to support the occupants of these.

The synergies of crafts being together, as businesses do at Innovation Park, will generate benefits (creativity) to the city and the community. Look how Innovation Park has grown since starting, but also what it has contributed to the city.

The Waikato Guild of Woodworkers has for the last four years been looking at options as the hall the Guild owns does not fit the requirements of the club as the city population continues to expand and also the Guilds long-term goals. The contribution of the Guild and members to Hamilton is evident in the carvings in HCC foyer and at the Hamilton gardens. There are many and varied craft groups in Hamilton and they will all continue to contribute to the city community if given a central “meeting hub”.

Leadership from HCC has been woeful in helping or long-term planning for any arts & crafts location, building or the HUB, in fact as far as I can see there has been no planning for arts & crafts. While HCC supports organisations such as sporting bodies and more recently the Pacifica Trust, there has been little support for arts & crafts when all these groups develop and enhance the community we live in and pay rates to build. Let’s cover all interests, not just some.

### **So what are the options for the community?**

1. Option of doing nothing is not acceptable.
2. The guild could join in the Norris Ward project which was designated a Creative Crafts location approx. 12 years ago, but there is no space and an unwillingness



in present tenants to involve other groups With HCC having no plans to utilise Founders, it will be another 12 years, that is close to 25 years before this can come to fruition, with what seems to be no leadership and no plan.

This to me seems to be the crux of the problem. There is no plan, other than demolition of Founders Theatre. What happens then? What is the Plan B. We have not heard of any, so this is why I say HCC has been very remiss, there has just been procrastination which is evident in the senior living building.

The cost for a range of clubs to society, carrying on as they are, is greater for them than in a HUB and there are mutual benefits of them being together. I believe an Arts and Crafts HUB is the best option for capital, ongoing expenses, and getting members and public involved. The Founders Theatre building is ideally suited for it.

I would like to think that given the opportunity of having differing arts & crafts in the same location will lead to having benefits and the ability to be it being a bit like the TV programme “The Repair Shop” – where citizens can take items of family/historic value in to be repaired and that citizens have access to learning and involving themselves in the multitude of craft skills in this city and surrounds, thus promoting a strong community identity - not trash it. So, we get recycling and not dumping of items.

I liken Councils to Aircraft carriers. They take a lot of time to slow down and turn around. Given that we are meeting today indicates that there has been a slowing down on the thoughts of demolishing Founders Theatre and I suggest the time is now right for turning around.

So please bring some common sense to this debate and say no to demolishing a good building.





Kevin Macdonald

## Appendix 6

### HCC presentation 14<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Our club has been looking for over 4 years for new premises to suit our club members requirements. Those requirements also take into account the population of Hamilton increasing, a maturing population and people's **well-being** the core reason of providing adequate club facilities. We have considered many different locations, buildings and options. As our enquiries have progressed, we realised that a "**Creative HUB for Arts and Crafts**" was the best option moving forward for Hamilton City and our members.

Founders is the best by far to suit those needs and at less capital cost, less operating costs for all the groups involved and a quicker completion of the project as it is recycling a vacant building with the location suiting the city and the groups that would use its facilities.

Our AIM is for a facility that combines the TV Repair Shop and its arts and crafts with the benefits of synergies that Innovation Park makes to businesses, the community and the vibrancy of Hamilton City.

We believe this will help the city become a place to visit, just like the Hamilton Gardens, while helping the Arts and Crafts cater better for the Well Being of the members of the clubs and groups involved and the public enjoying the resulting creativity.

We also wish to incorporate a Fine Wood Arts display, that could involve other crafts and become another focus for inspiring Hamilton residents, but also visitors to Hamilton as the Hamilton Gardens have contributed to the city.

The cost of operation, capital, repairs and maintenance individually to clubs and groups operating around the city is far greater than working together in 1 location that the Founders building will allow. These cost savings will help ensure the success of these clubs and groups, but the whole HUB.

#### **In summary:**

There is a need that HCC has not met.

The clubs/ groups are trying to do their best for members and the city.

It will reduce the costs for the groups involved compared to present situation.

It is less capital than any other option

Can be completed in an acceptable timeframe

It is Eco friendly by recycling a sound building

We have the financial backing of benefactors

This project will add to the vibrancy of the city

