

BEFORE THE INDEPENDENT HEARING PANEL

IN THE MATTER of the Resource Management
Act 1991

AND

IN THE MATTER Proposed Plan Change 9 to the
Operative Hamilton City District
Plan

AND

AND IN THE MATTER Session 2 - Historic Heritage
Areas

STATEMENT OF DEBORAH FISHER
DATED 13 OCTOBER 2023

1. The purpose of this statement is to respond to matters regarding Historic Heritage Areas (HHAs) raised by Mr Richard Knott, dated 22 September 2023 specifically in relation to the proposed Fairview Downs HHA.
2. As previously stated in my submission and representation to the session 1 hearings I have lived in Fairview Downs most of my life. I am shocked and confused by some of the statements regarding alterations to the area and the failure to acknowledge any local sense of community. This area has barely changed from when I lived here as a child, even most of the fences are the same, nothing has changed.

MR KNOTT'S WRPS APP7 ASSESSMENTS FOR AREAS PROPOSED BY SUBMITTERS

49.I consider that the degree of change which has taken place in each diminishes their significance against the 'historic qualities' criteria, as the changes reduce the ability to appreciate the historic qualities significance of the areas.

I am struggling to understand what changes Mr Knott is referring to as he also states

52. the subdivision pattern remains true to the original.

HISTORIC HERITAGE ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE - FAIRVIEW DOWNS

Design

3. There have been few changes and infill is limited

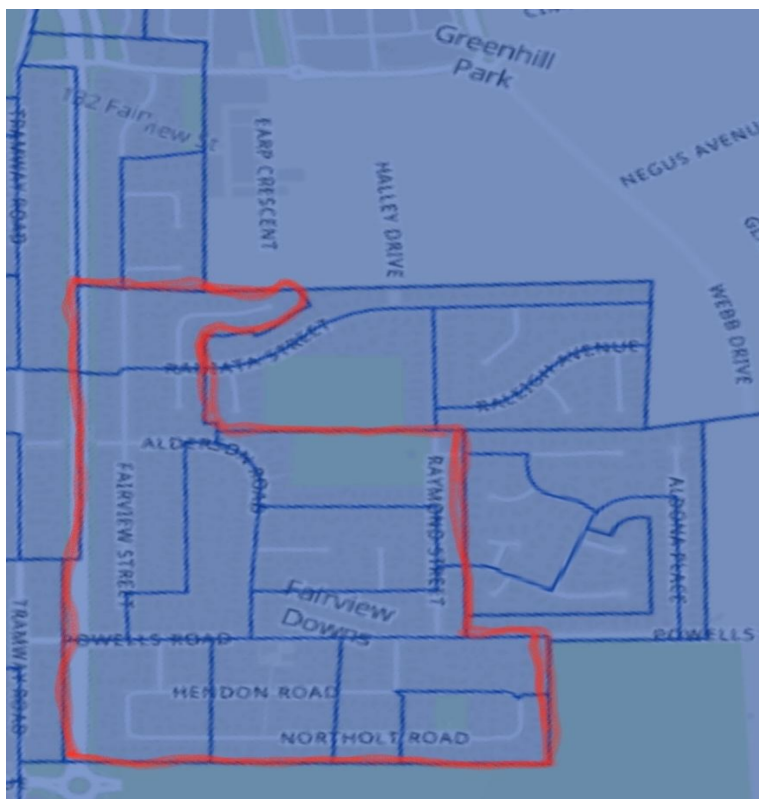
Summary of Heritage Values

4. The subdivision pattern remains true to the original
5. There has been very little change to houses in the area and it appears Mr Knott is referring to landscaping changes made, particularly fences.
6. Many of the fences in the area have always been here and most of the tall fences are generally more recent to meet animal control requirements for family dogs.
7. Currently my 6ft fence, which was built before I purchased the property is deteriorating due to age and a replacement or alteration will need to be considered. At the same time for the last 20 years the vegetation on my neighbour's property was so overgrown it was difficult to see the house. However recent property maintenance has since cleared this up and the house is now visible.
8. Under Mr Knott's assessment the house that isn't visible because of vegetation is acceptable but mine isn't because of a fence, yet neither house has changed.
Landscaping, vegetation and fencing is a cosmetic alteration to a property and should not diminish the heritage value of houses when it can be altered or removed.

9. Historic Heritage Assessment Template

Cultural Qualities

10. The place or area is a context for community identity or sense of place, and provides evidence of cultural or historical continuity. Mr Knott states "The area does not exhibit these qualities." I respectfully disagree.
11. There are 10 identified original owners still living in the houses they built and another 8 2nd generation residents, most in their parents/grandparents' homes. Four of my neighbours have lived in the area for the last 20 years and recent chatter on the local Facebook page shows an interest in local history and comments about not moving.
12. The response received to the petition attached to my submission shows how strongly my community cares about our neighbourhood.
13. 2018 Census information for the area was obtained. It is not possible to narrow this any further than the area shown and does include some houses excluded from the HHA. Census data shows this area has 1368 residents with 388 aged 0-14 and 980 adults and teens over 14 years old.



Census Question

" How long have you lived at your usual residence "

0 years	1-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	15-29 years	30+ years	Total
288	471	225	150	138	96	1368

Of the 980 over 14 years of age 234 people 24% had lived in the area for 15 years or more in 2018 with 10% living in the area for 30+ years.

There is a strong sense of community in the area and I would suggest that a quarter of residents over 14 years old being long term (15+ years) supports this statement.