

From: [Euan Kyle](#)
To: [REDACTED]
Bcc: [Bradley Cato](#)
Subject: RE: Information request #4
Date: Thursday, 5 November 2020 8:15:00 AM
Attachments: [A long but important message - Redacted total.pdf](#)
[image001.jpg](#)
[image002.jpg](#)
[Recipients - Any sender Redacted 2.pdf](#)
[Recipients - any sender - total Redacted.pdf](#)

05/11/2020

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Request for Information – Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

We refer to your official information request dated 25 September 2020 for all correspondence from members of the public and/or media to elected officials and/or the CEO between 1 September and 25 September 2020 regarding the Mayor's alleged misconduct and purchasing of a property.

The information you have requested is enclosed. However, we have withheld some information under section 7(2)(a) of the LGOIMA to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons and under Section 7(2)(g) in order to maintain legal professional privilege.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact us.

Regards,

Euan Kyle
Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Private Bag 31912, Lower Hutt 5040, New Zealand
T 04 570 6702 W www.huttcity.govt.nz

From: Euan Kyle
Sent: Thursday, 22 October 2020 1:29 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Information request #4

22/10/2020

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted],

Request for Information – Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987

We refer to your official information request dated 25 September 2020 for all correspondence from members of the public and/or media to elected officials and/or the CEO between 1 September and 25 September 2020 regarding the Mayor’s alleged misconduct and purchasing of a property.

We have decided to grant your request. However, due to the large amount of personal identifiable details that require redaction, it will take us some time to prepare the information for release. We will send you the information by 6 November 2020.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely,

Euan Kyle

Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Private Bag 31912, Lower Hutt 5040, New Zealand
T 04 570 6702 W www.huttcity.govt.nz

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 7:53 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: A long, but important message + Invitation :)

Hello Comrade Campbell,

Stuff all this- I've got you a solution . Drinks and Dinner !!

Please check your diary and can you give [REDACTED] the pleasure of having you and [REDACTED] over for drinks and dinner on any Saturday evening in October.

Check with [REDACTED] and let's lock in an overdue session- What say?

Cheers and keep up the lovely work.

Regards

[REDACTED]

On 04 September 2020 at 18:39 Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

I am writing to you this evening to clarify the purchase of my family home in Wainuiomata.

As a Councillor and as Mayor I have always been transparent, upfront, and honest about issues – it's an approach I consider to underpin everything I have done since I was elected to the Wainuiomata Community Board in 2010.

However, it's still a bit unusual to be in a position to have to talk to you about the home my wife Laura and I purchased last year in Wainuiomata.

Along with my mother and father in law, my wife and I were fortunate enough to buy a beautiful home with some land on Upper Fitzherbert Road.

We were looking for something rural, with the ability to accommodate Laura and me, as well as her mum and dad. Ultimately we were also looking with a view to a future family, and room to grow.

When we were looking to move at the end of 2018, we looked at houses right across the Hutt. It will not surprise you that being Wainuiomata born and bred, I was pretty keen to keep living locally. We viewed a handful of houses in Wainuiomata, and we put offers on two houses that were not accepted.

In December of that year, our real estate agent reached out and suggested we take a look at the home we now live in. We didn't fall immediately in love with it after looking at the online listing, so didn't pursue it at the time and continued looking at other options.

After Christmas that year, we saw that the house was still for sale. We asked the listing agent to setup a viewing. Soon after we viewed it a second time with Laura's mum and dad, and then after that things moved quickly (as they do), and we put in an offer in February 2019 which was declined in favour of another purchaser. Later that month, the first offer fell through and we were invited to make another offer, which was accepted.

When we purchased the home, I also emailed Council officers advising them of the house purchase and invited them to raise any issues. There were no legal issues identified, and I was given general advice on how to best manage homeownership in terms of Council's planning processes.

So – why am I telling you all of this?

When I was standing for Mayor last year, and close to the election, a number of my political opponents were busy making a number of allegations about the purchase of our family home.

For those who aren't familiar with the Upper Fitzherbert area in Wainuiomata, it has long been identified as a potential site for housing development. It is one of the few remaining areas of rural land in the Hutt, where large scale housing development is possible.

This was flagged in the Hutt City Council's Urban Growth Strategy in 2012-2032. People have also, for years, advocated for a second access way in the area, in part to support the development of housing.

Regardless of these long term visions, there are no plans or budget in the pipeline to rezone the area to allow for development of this scale. In fact, Council staff confirmed this when they released all information related to Wainuiomata North in December last year.

Despite much of the thinking and reports being public, my opponents claim I learned about detailed plans as a Councillor, and then sought to buy a house in an area where I would financially benefit.

Along with staff, councillors, and stakeholders at the end of 2018 I did attend a session run by consultants who described work as "blue sky thinking", and were in part based on potential development plans from 1976.

My political opponents said I had received detailed private briefings about potential development. According to them, I then used that information to pursue a private sale for our home.

Those things aren't true.

But still, my political opponents wrote a complaint to authorities, and then aggressively shopped the story around to journalists in Wellington and all the way up to Auckland.

This was all happening in late August and early September, just before voting in the local body elections opened. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out the allegations had a political motivation to them.

I spoke at length with journalists, answering questions, providing information – and the journalists, in turn, spoke to Hutt City Council staff, the real estate agents we dealt with, our neighbours, local government experts, and anyone else they needed to speak to in order to test the veracity of the claims being made.

Every single journalist and news editor declined to print the story. There was simply nothing in it, and no facts to back up the allegations that were being made.

The authorities also assessed what was being alleged, and declined to look at the matter any further.

So, again – why am I telling you all of this?

It has now been about a year since that group of people started to shop the story around about our family home.

So it was a bit surprising to learn recently that journalists had again been approached, with the same allegations, by the same people, seeking to inflict the same damage.

Today I've decided I've had enough of this kind of politics.

While I know who is behind the complaints, there's no benefit in naming them. I know they have a political axe to grind, and that the allegations have time and again been debunked.

And it's not that I am above reproach, or questions being asked. Questions have been asked. A lot of them. I've been upfront and honest about absolutely everything. It speaks for itself that there hasn't been anything of substance to report on.

But instead of continuing to go over these things again, by journalists who are seeing half-baked allegations for the first time, I'm going to explain them to you directly.

Some people say that “explaining is losing”. I personally give the public a lot more credit than that, and think people are smart enough and experienced enough to make their own judgments. In this circumstance, I'm confident the facts speak for themselves.

I was elected Mayor last year with a promise to always be open and transparent, and to tell things how they are. This might mean that we may not always agree, but you can be confident I've listened and been upfront with you in response.

As many will know, buying a home is generally a happy time in your life. Instead, my family has been under constant stress from these allegations which have, and continue to come up.

Rumors and innuendos are not what people are interested in, nor is petty and dirty politics. The people I speak with want their elected officials to focus on the issues that matter. Housing, infrastructure, our environment, and building back better from COVID-19.

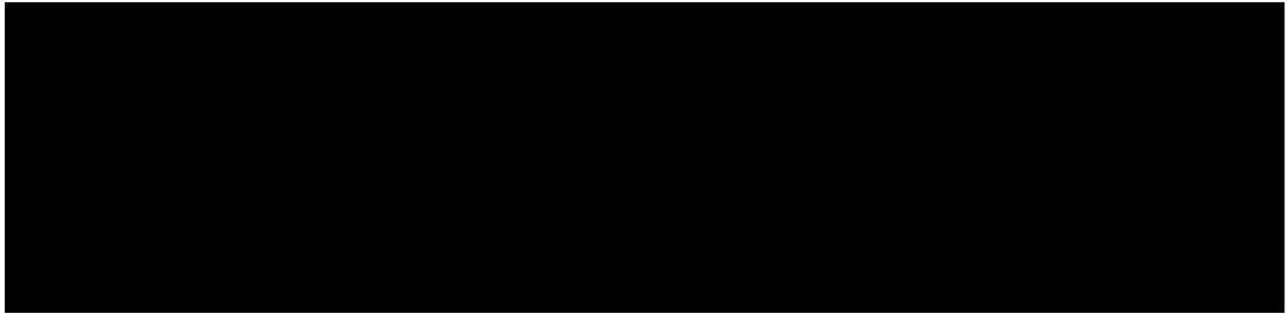
Those issues will always be my focus, and will continue to be my focus. Part of this is directly addressing this issue, which is a distraction from everything else.

So there it is. The story of my family home purchase in about 1000 words.

And if you have any questions at all, don't hesitate to flick me a message, or send me an email. I'll do my best to respond to everyone.

Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 15 September 2020 1:33 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

No explanation needed but thank you for the email. Power of the media. Read the correction and no apologies.
Best wishes for you and your whanau.

[REDACTED]

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From: Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2020 6:39:12 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: A long, but important message

Hi [REDACTED]

I am writing to you this evening to clarify the purchase of my family home in Wainuiomata.

As a Councillor and as Mayor I have always been transparent, upfront, and honest about issues – it's an approach I consider to underpin everything I have done since I was elected to the Wainuiomata Community Board in 2010.

However, it's still a bit unusual to be in a position to have to talk to you about the home my wife Laura and I purchased last year in Wainuiomata.

Along with my mother and father in law, my wife and I were fortunate enough to buy a beautiful home with some land on Upper Fitzherbert Road.

We were looking for something rural, with the ability to accommodate Laura and me, as well as her mum and dad. Ultimately we were also looking with a view to a future family, and room to grow.

When we were looking to move at the end of 2018, we looked at houses right across the Hutt. It will not surprise you that being Wainuiomata born and bred, I was pretty keen to keep living locally. We viewed a handful of houses in Wainuiomata, and we put offers on two houses that were not accepted.

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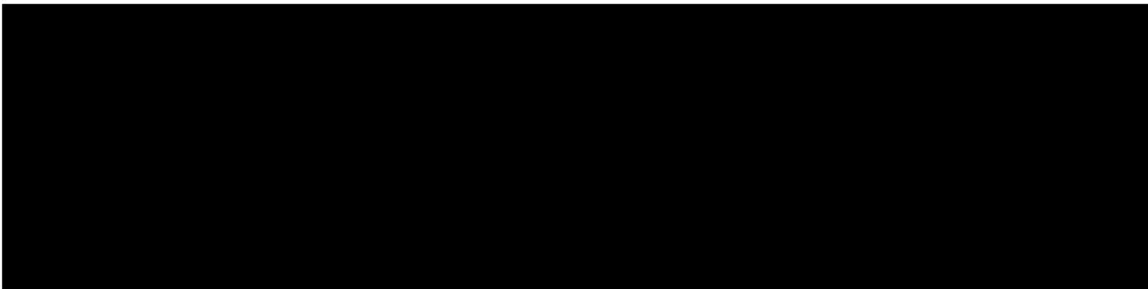
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And if you have any questions at all, don't hesitate to flick me a message, or send me an email. I'll do my best to respond to everyone.

Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 11 September 2020 1:57 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Kia kaha Campbell, love your work :)

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020 at 18:39, Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

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Along with my mother and father in law, my wife and I were fortunate enough to buy a beautiful home with some land on Upper Fitzherbert Road.

We were looking for something rural, with the ability to accommodate Laura and me, as well as her mum and dad. Ultimately we were also looking with a view to a future family, and room to grow.

When we were looking to move at the end of 2018, we looked at houses right across the Hutt. It will not surprise you that being Wainuiomata born and bred, I was pretty keen to keep living locally. We viewed a handful of houses in Wainuiomata, and we put offers on two houses that were not accepted.

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And if you have any questions at all, don't hesitate to flick me a message, or send me an email. I'll do my best to respond to everyone.

Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt



--


[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 11 September 2020 11:40 AM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Dear Mr Mayer, Campbell Barry,
Don't some people have anything better to do than to try stirring.
As the Bible says, wipe the dirt from your feet {used in respect of an unfriendly town]
Hold your head up high and leave that person to dig deep holes for themselves, without your help.
I pray a blessing over your new home and your family, for protection, health and happiness.
:-).

On Fri, Sep 4, 2020 at 6:39 PM Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

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Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 11 September 2020 11:21 AM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

So pleased you put this on local social media I sincerely hope your family are relaxing a lot more knowing you have a lot of support.
Just keep on being transparent double up on copies of important documents and receipts and the dirty politics will soon be washed away.

Kia kaha
[REDACTED]

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020, 6:39 PM Mayor Campbell Barry, <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

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We were looking for something rural, with the ability to accommodate Laura and me, as well as her mum and dad. Ultimately we were also looking with a view to a future family, and room to grow.

When we were looking to move at the end of 2018, we looked at houses right across the Hutt. It will not surprise you that being Wainuiomata born and bred, I was pretty keen to keep living locally. We viewed a handful of houses in Wainuiomata, and we put offers on two houses that were not accepted.

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Today I've decided I've had enough of this kind of politics.

While I know who is behind the complaints, there's no benefit in naming them. I know they have a political axe to grind, and that the allegations have time and again been debunked.

And it's not that I am above reproach, or questions being asked. Questions have been asked. A lot of them. I've been upfront and honest about absolutely everything. It speaks for itself that there hasn't been anything of substance to report on.

But instead of continuing to go over these things again, by journalists who are seeing half-baked allegations for the first time, I'm going to explain them to you directly.

Some people say that "explaining is losing". I personally give the public a lot more credit than that, and think people are smart enough and experienced enough to make their own judgments. In this circumstance, I'm confident the facts speak for themselves.

I was elected Mayor last year with a promise to always be open and transparent, and to tell things how they are. This might mean that we may not always agree, but you can be confident I've listened and been upfront with you in response.

As many will know, buying a home is generally a happy time in your life. Instead, my family has been under constant stress from these allegations which have, and continue to come up.

Rumors and innuendos are not what people are interested in, nor is petty and dirty politics. The people I speak with want their elected officials to focus on the issues that matter. Housing, infrastructure, our environment, and building back better from COVID-19.

Those issues will always be my focus, and will continue to be my focus. Part of this is directly addressing this issue, which is a distraction from everything else.

So there it is. The story of my family home purchase in about 1000 words.

And if you have any questions at all, don't hesitate to flick me a message, or send me an email. I'll do my best to respond to everyone.

Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 8 September 2020 10:43 AM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Thanks for keeping me up to date. You still have my vote .

Cheers [REDACTED]

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020, 6:39 pm Mayor Campbell Barry, <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

I am writing to you this evening to clarify the purchase of my family home in Wainuiomata.

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Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 8 September 2020 5:33 AM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Hi Campbell

I voted for you and the new team as I wanted change. I was rapt with the election result and what I've seen since.

Thanks for front footing the press article with your Facebook one. That put me in the picture.

As my boss told me once "today's newspaper is tomorrow's fish n chip paper"

Keep up the good work mate.

Regards

[REDACTED]

On 4/09/2020, at 6:39 PM, Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

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Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 7 September 2020 6:21 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Campbell, thanks for owning the issues around this and speaking up - it's clearly been frustrating.

You are the first councillor in my 24 years of living in the Hutt Valley to front up - whether that be to talk about local issues with local people outside of the council chamber, or in this latest circumstance to front foot some ugly questions generated at a politically convenient time. Keep fronting up - it is making a difference and people are taking notice.

I imagine you are going to get further vitriol about this given it's so close to the elections - I just wanted to say *kia kaha* Campbell to you and yours.

[REDACTED]

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020 at 18:39, Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

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[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Monday, 7 September 2020 12:47 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: RE: A long, but important message

Kia ora Mayor Campbell Barry

On behalf of Whai Oranga thank you for your email which is very humble.

Mayor Campbell Barry, you have demonstrated your great work through action and working with the people and we thank you and your team for your contributions and hard work and difference you make in our community.

We are proud of you as Mayor and leader in our community. You are also a person too and member of our community and leader to others across the Hutt Valley with a family and you have goals and inspirations and we wish you all the best in achieving this.

Ngaa mihi nui

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

E: [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz>
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And it's not that I am above reproach, or questions being asked. Questions have been asked. A lot of them. I've been upfront and honest about absolutely everything. It speaks for itself that there hasn't been anything of substance to report on.

But instead of continuing to go over these things again, by journalists who are seeing half-baked allegations for the first time, I'm going to explain them to you directly.

Some people say that "explaining is losing". I personally give the public a lot more credit than that, and think people are smart enough and experienced enough to make their own judgments. In this circumstance, I'm confident the facts speak for themselves.

I was elected Mayor last year with a promise to always be open and transparent, and to tell things how they are. This might mean that we may not always agree, but you can be confident I've listened and been upfront with you in response.

As many will know, buying a home is generally a happy time in your life. Instead, my family has been under constant stress from these allegations which have, and continue to come up.

Rumors and innuendos are not what people are interested in, nor is petty and dirty politics. The people I speak with want their elected officials to focus on the issues that matter. Housing, infrastructure, our environment, and building back better from COVID-19.

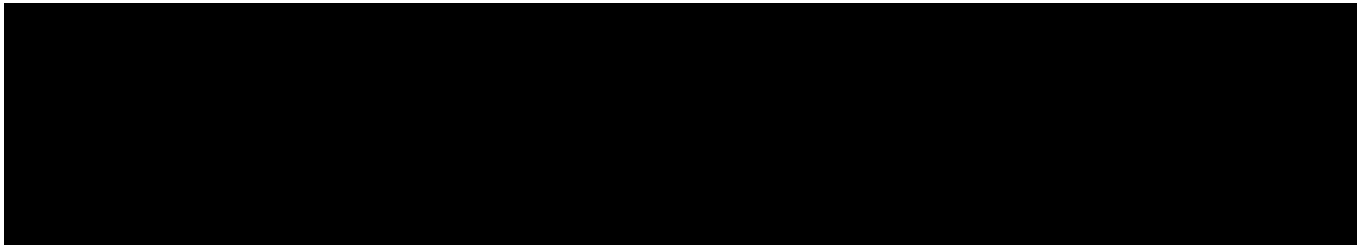
Those issues will always be my focus, and will continue to be my focus. Part of this is directly addressing this issue, which is a distraction from everything else.

So there it is. The story of my family home purchase in about 1000 words.

And if you have any questions at all, don't hesitate to flick me a message, or send me an email. I'll do my best to respond to everyone.

Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 7 September 2020 10:45 AM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Hi Campbell,

Best wishes to you and your family.

PS - a road and rail / light rail tunnel into the "nui" and a seamless connection to the Hutt Valley railway system would be awesome. Perhaps an elevated rail line along the foreshore.

-----Original Message-----

From: Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz>
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: Fri, Sep 4, 2020 6:39 pm
Subject: A long, but important message

Hi [REDACTED],

I am writing to you this evening to clarify the purchase of my family home in Wainuiomata.

As a Councillor and as Mayor I have always been transparent, upfront, and honest about issues – it's an approach I consider to underpin everything I have done since I was elected to the Wainuiomata Community Board in 2010.

However, it's still a bit unusual to be in a position to have to talk to you about the home my wife Laura and I purchased last year in Wainuiomata.

Along with my mother and father in law, my wife and I were fortunate enough to buy a beautiful home with some land on Upper Fitzherbert Road.

We were looking for something rural, with the ability to accommodate Laura and me, as well as her mum and dad. Ultimately we were also looking with a view to a future family, and room to grow.

When we were looking to move at the end of 2018, we looked at houses right across the Hutt. It will not surprise you that being Wainuiomata born and bred, I was pretty keen to keep living locally. We viewed a handful of houses in Wainuiomata, and we put offers on two houses that were not accepted.

In December of that year, our real estate agent reached out and suggested we take a look at the home we now live in. We didn't fall immediately in love with it after looking at the online listing, so didn't pursue it at the time and continued looking at other options.

After Christmas that year, we saw that the house was still for sale. We asked the listing agent to setup a viewing. Soon after we viewed it a second time with Laura's mum and dad, and then after that things moved quickly (as they do), and we put in an offer in February 2019 which was declined in favour of another purchaser. Later that month, the first offer fell through and we were invited to make another offer, which was accepted.

When we purchased the home, I also emailed Council officers advising them of the house purchase and invited them to raise any issues. There were no legal issues identified, and I was given general advice on how to best manage homeownership in terms of Council's planning processes.

So – why am I telling you all of this?

When I was standing for Mayor last year, and close to the election, a number of my political opponents were busy making a number of allegations about the purchase of our family home.

For those who aren't familiar with the Upper Fitzherbert area in Wainuiomata, it has long been identified as a potential site for housing development. It is one of the few remaining areas of rural land in the Hutt, where large scale housing development is possible.

This was flagged in the Hutt City Council's Urban Growth Strategy in 2012-2032. People have also, for years, advocated for a second access way in the area, in part to support the development of housing.

Regardless of these long term visions, there are no plans or budget in the pipeline to rezone the area to allow for development of this scale. In fact, Council staff confirmed this when they released all information related to Wainuiomata North in December last year.

Despite much of the thinking and reports being public, my opponents claim I learned about detailed plans as a Councillor, and then sought to buy a house in an area where I would financially benefit.

Along with staff, councillors, and stakeholders at the end of 2018 I did attend a session run by consultants who described work as "blue sky thinking", and were in part based on potential development plans from 1976.

My political opponents said I had received detailed private briefings about potential development. According to them, I then used that information to pursue a private sale for our home.

Those things aren't true.

But still, my political opponents wrote a complaint to authorities, and then aggressively shopped the story around to journalists in Wellington and all the way up to Auckland.

This was all happening in late August and early September, just before voting in the local body elections opened. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out the allegations had a political motivation to them.

I spoke at length with journalists, answering questions, providing information – and the journalists, in turn, spoke to Hutt City Council staff, the real estate agents we dealt with, our neighbours, local government experts, and anyone else they needed to speak to in order to test the veracity of the claims being made.

Every single journalist and news editor declined to print the story. There was simply nothing in it, and no facts to back up the allegations that were being made.

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So, again – why am I telling you all of this?

It has now been about a year since that group of people started to shop the story around about our family home.

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Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 7 September 2020 9:34 AM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Hi Campbell,

If you had bought anywhere in the Hutt your detractors could have said a similar thing.... given how much property prices have gone up and changes to the District Plan. The proposed second road from Wainui was public knowledge at least 10 years ago.

Best wishes,
[REDACTED]

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020 at 18:39, Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

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Along with my mother and father in law, my wife and I were fortunate enough to buy a beautiful home with some land on Upper Fitzherbert Road.

We were looking for something rural, with the ability to accommodate Laura and me, as well as her mum and dad. Ultimately we were also looking with a view to a future family, and room to grow.

When we were looking to move at the end of 2018, we looked at houses right across the Hutt. It will not surprise you that being Wainuiomata born and bred, I was pretty keen to keep living locally. We viewed a handful of houses in Wainuiomata, and we put offers on two houses that were not accepted.

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Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 7 September 2020 8:57 AM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: RE: A long, but important message

Sorry I mean Campbell

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 7 September 2020 8:56 am
To: Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: A long, but important message

Do not worry Barry I have your back we are seeing some very nasty politics and I know who and what these people are up to

From: Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 6:39 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: A long, but important message

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 7 September 2020 8:56 AM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: RE: A long, but important message

Do not worry Barry I have your back we are seeing some very nasty politics and I know who and what these people are up to

From: Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 6:39 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: A long, but important message

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Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 7 September 2020 8:19 AM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Talofa Campbell

I'm really sorry to hear this has been a stressful time for you and your whanau.

I had no idea about any of this. I appreciate your honesty and back you 100%.

Keep your head up

Alofa Tele
[REDACTED]

On Friday, 4 September 2020, Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

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While I know who is behind the complaints, there's no benefit in naming them. I know they have a political axe to grind, and that the allegations have time and again been debunked.

And it's not that I am above reproach, or questions being asked. Questions have been asked. A lot of them. I've been upfront and honest about absolutely everything. It speaks for itself that there hasn't been anything of substance to report on.

But instead of continuing to go over these things again, by journalists who are seeing half-baked allegations for the first time, I'm going to explain them to you directly.

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And if you have any questions at all, don't hesitate to flick me a message, or send me an email. I'll do my best to respond to everyone.

Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 7 September 2020 1:24 AM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Thank you for your update. Sorry to hear that some people like to miss inform others. Kia kaha

On Fri, Sep 4, 2020, 6:39 PM Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

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However, it's still a bit unusual to be in a position to have to talk to you about the home my wife Laura and I purchased last year in Wainuiomata.

Along with my mother and father in law, my wife and I were fortunate enough to buy a beautiful home with some land on Upper Fitzherbert Road.

We were looking for something rural, with the ability to accommodate Laura and me, as well as her mum and dad. Ultimately we were also looking with a view to a future family, and room to grow.

When we were looking to move at the end of 2018, we looked at houses right across the Hutt. It will not surprise you that being Wainuiomata born and bred, I was pretty keen to keep living locally. We viewed a handful of houses in Wainuiomata, and we put offers on two houses that were not accepted.

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Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 6 September 2020 6:37 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Kia Ora Campbell

After reading your letter I had long thoughts then felt I needed to respond to your panui. I really felt for you, and also sad for both you and your wanau to having to go through what you are all currently experiencing at the moment. In my opinion I think whatever's been said and done, those people involved that have or are still pursuing those allegations against you, I'm afraid they are not going to stop or go away. If that was me I would make a public apology and ask the people that I serve for forgiveness for the decisions that had been made all done unintentionally, on a positive note nobody's been hurt, maybe you are feeling it. How I have looked at the scenario if anything it has stopped both sides developing (Queen st) and where you and your wanau are currently living, who knows in years to come development will happen anyway I have witnessed changes over 50yrs, my wanau have lived here for over fifty five years our [REDACTED], at the moment housing developers are making a killing its no deference to joe blogs purchasing a house today .and than profiting. Campbell in my opinion to enable you and your wanau to move on, you need to kick it in the but now. You still have our and many others help and support, keep your head high and carrying on and try your best focus on looking after the people in our City, you know the people you can trust pull them in together to help and support you. I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday if you want to postpone the occasion let me know it's all ok. Be Kind Be Safe Takecare We are all in this together

Piki te Kaha 🙏

Piki te Ora 🙏

Piki te Maramatanga me te Rangimarie 🙏

(Be strong in your health and your Faith and be humble)

He aha te mea nui o te ao

(What's is the most important thing in this world)

He Tangata tis people

He Tangata tis people

He Tangata tis people

Ngamihinui

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On 4/09/2020, at 6:39 PM, Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 6 September 2020 2:52 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Thanks Campbell for your openness and honesty - I am glad that I voted for you as mayor. It is sad that your family has been put through all this hooaaa - I wish you all the best in your family home.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

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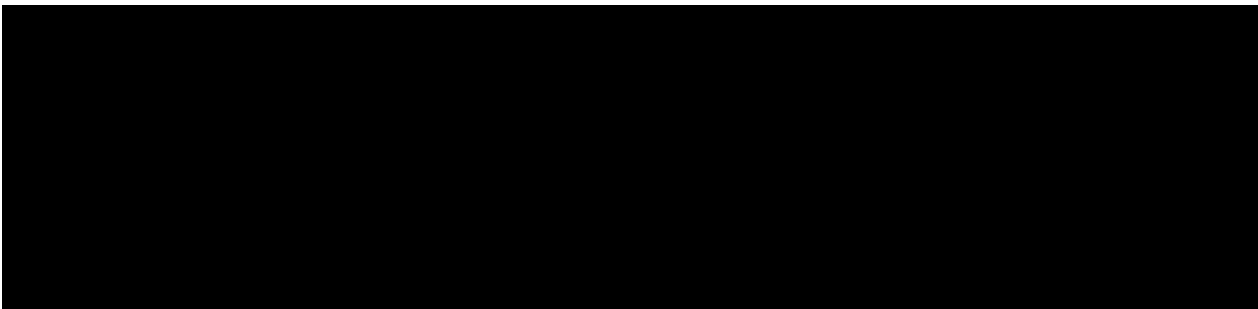
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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 6 September 2020 1:42 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: RE: A long, but important message

Hi Mayor Campbell

Thanks for taking the time to explain the recent publicity which I had just read before opening your email. It always helps to understand the other side of the story, and you have gone to some effort to do that.

I am sorry your own home purchase has been an unpleasant experience for you and your family members. It highlights the sensitivity associated with holding elected office. I have no time for dirty politics and no time for mischievous media reporting. I hope time will support your position on this.

My understanding is that the development of this area for residential housing has been shelved. The article in the Dom Post implies that decision was made partly because of your transaction. If development of the area stays off the agenda for some considerable time then your position will be justified. On the other hand, should Council recommend development to the area in a way that substantially increases values, especially if under your tenure as Mayor, then it will come under further media scrutiny.

This is a complex issue and I wonder if your side of the story went public would it make matters better or fuel further debate? I can't advise you on that but I do respect your efforts to put the records straight and I hope you get to enjoy the peace and quiet around your new home.

I look forward to catching up again some time. Sorry we didn't get a chance to chat on my last visit to the chambers.
Kind regards

[REDACTED]

From: Mayor Campbell Barry [mailto:campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz]
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2020 6:39 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: A long, but important message

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And if you have any questions at all, don't hesitate to flick me a message, or send me an email. I'll do my best to respond to everyone.

Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 6 September 2020 9:38 AM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Mōrena Campell

Thank you for reaching me before yesterday's Dompost.

I can imagine how hard it is to enjoy your home with this kind of attack going on. Moving into your first home should be joyful.

I have always appreciated your honesty and transparency. Also I'm grateful for the way you care about the people and environment of our valley, hills and coast.

There is huge support for the way you work and I feel certain you can come through this patch designed to tip up your waka.

Ka mahi te tawa uho ki te riri.
Well done, you whose courage is like the heart of a tawa tree.

Kia kaha!
Noho ora mai

[REDACTED]

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020, 6:39 PM Mayor Campbell Barry, <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

I am writing to you this evening to clarify the purchase of my family home in Wainuiomata.

As a Councillor and as Mayor I have always been transparent, upfront, and honest about issues – it's an approach I consider to underpin everything I have done since I was elected to the Wainuiomata Community Board in 2010.

However, it's still a bit unusual to be in a position to have to talk to you about the home my wife Laura and I purchased last year in Wainuiomata.

Along with my mother and father in law, my wife and I were fortunate enough to buy a beautiful home with some land on Upper Fitzherbert Road.

We were looking for something rural, with the ability to accommodate Laura and me, as well as her mum and dad. Ultimately we were also looking with a view to a future family, and room to grow.

When we were looking to move at the end of 2018, we looked at houses right across the Hutt. It will not surprise you that being Wainuiomata born and bred, I was pretty keen to keep living locally. We viewed a handful of houses in Wainuiomata, and we put offers on two houses that were not accepted.

In December of that year, our real estate agent reached out and suggested we take a look at the home we now live in. We didn't fall immediately in love with it after looking at the online listing, so didn't pursue it at the time and continued looking at other options.

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When we purchased the home, I also emailed Council officers advising them of the house purchase and invited them to raise any issues. There were no legal issues identified, and I was given general advice on how to best manage homeownership in terms of Council's planning processes.

So – why am I telling you all of this?

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Regardless of these long term visions, there are no plans or budget in the pipeline to rezone the area to allow for development of this scale. In fact, Council staff confirmed this when they released all information related to Wainuiomata North in December last year.

Despite much of the thinking and reports being public, my opponents claim I learned about detailed plans as a Councillor, and then sought to buy a house in an area where I would financially benefit.

Along with staff, councillors, and stakeholders at the end of 2018 I did attend a session run by consultants who described work as "blue sky thinking", and were in part based on potential development plans from 1976.

My political opponents said I had received detailed private briefings about potential development. According to them, I then used that information to pursue a private sale for our home.

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Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 6 September 2020 7:14 AM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Bless you and your family. The political arena can be a rough and dirty one full of using communication and resources to tear each other down, by some people, it drives me mad.
I'm a [REDACTED] for a living, I feel passionately and deeply that people should focus all that energy into positive change, collectively working together for the issues and causes rather than destructive silos.

[REDACTED]

I applaud your honesty and don't agree that explaining is negative. Sometimes it's not necessary. But in this case I believe you have done the right thing to put the record straight.

I have a simple saying that is a bit juvenile but helps me not get so wound up about the "haters"

Haters going to hate, potatoes going to potato.

Keep focusing your time and energy on your larger base of those who voted for you, the issues and changes you want to make.

If there is no substance to the slander, call them to account publicly for evidence and leave it at that.

Dirty politics is such a waste of space.

Bless you for all you do.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 6 September 2020 1:02 AM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Campbell

I will not take any notice of any rumours or any petty and dirty politics. People should learn to mind their own business and look in their own backyard's.

You have and will always get my vote as I know that you are doing a great job.

Good luck in all that you do and take care of yourself and your family.

Regards

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Kind regards,

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Mayor of Lower Hutt

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2020 9:09 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Hi Campbell - Having been involved in [REDACTED] for over 50 years, I have a lot of sympathy for you. Everyone knew about that area as a potential growth area about a decade ago, but it was ruled out categorically for a number of good reasons at the time. It may come back, who knows, but in the meantime life goes on and people have the right to make decisions to sell and to buy at current market rates. Nothing underhand in that whatsoever. Hold your head high and enjoy your property! [REDACTED]

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2020 6:39:03 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: A long, but important message

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2020 8:27 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: A long, but important message

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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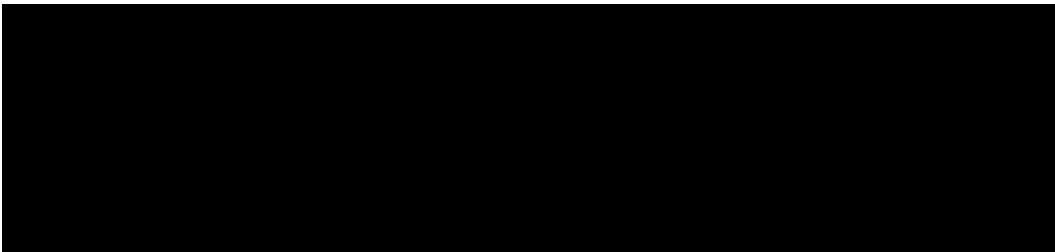
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And if you have any questions at all, don't hesitate to flick me a message, or send me an email. I'll do my best to respond to everyone.

Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2020 6:51 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Gossip is gossip. Don't buy into it and don't acknowledge it again.

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020, 18:39
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: A long, but important message

Hi [REDACTED],

I am writing to you this evening to clarify the purchase of my family home in Wainuiomata.

As a Councillor and as Mayor I have always been transparent, upfront, and honest about issues – it's an approach I consider to underpin everything I have done since I was elected to the Wainuiomata Community Board in 2010.

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Along with my mother and father in law, my wife and I were fortunate enough to buy a beautiful home with some land on Upper Fitzherbert Road.

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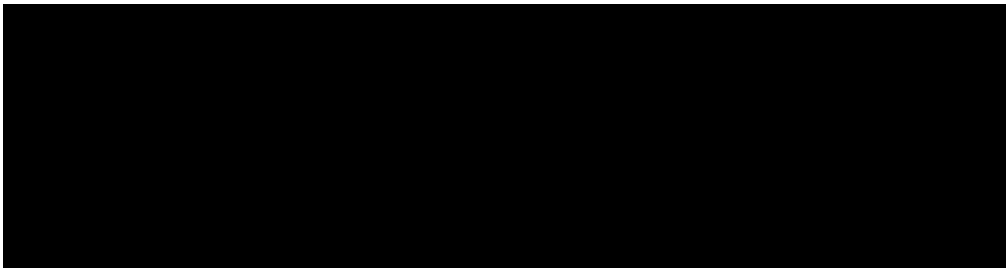
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Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2020 6:46 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Thank you personally have NOT heard anything like that within our friends.
Hope that you get treated the same as anyone of us With respect.
cheers [REDACTED]

----- Original Message -----

From: "Mayor Campbell Barry" <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz>
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: 4/09/2020 6:39:05 pm
Subject: A long, but important message

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2020 5:40 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

OK SIR. GOOD LUCK. THANK YOU.

On Fri, Sep 4, 2020, 6:39 PM Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2020 5:36 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Its an interesting read. Are you going to subdivide the land now or in the future or keep as a whole for your family ? Would your intentions for it silence those accusing?

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Rumors and innuendos are not what people are interested in, nor is petty and dirty politics. The people I speak with want their elected officials to focus on the issues that matter. Housing, infrastructure, our environment, and building back better from COVID-19.

Those issues will always be my focus, and will continue to be my focus. Part of this is directly addressing this issue, which is a distraction from everything else.

So there it is. The story of my family home purchase in about 1000 words.

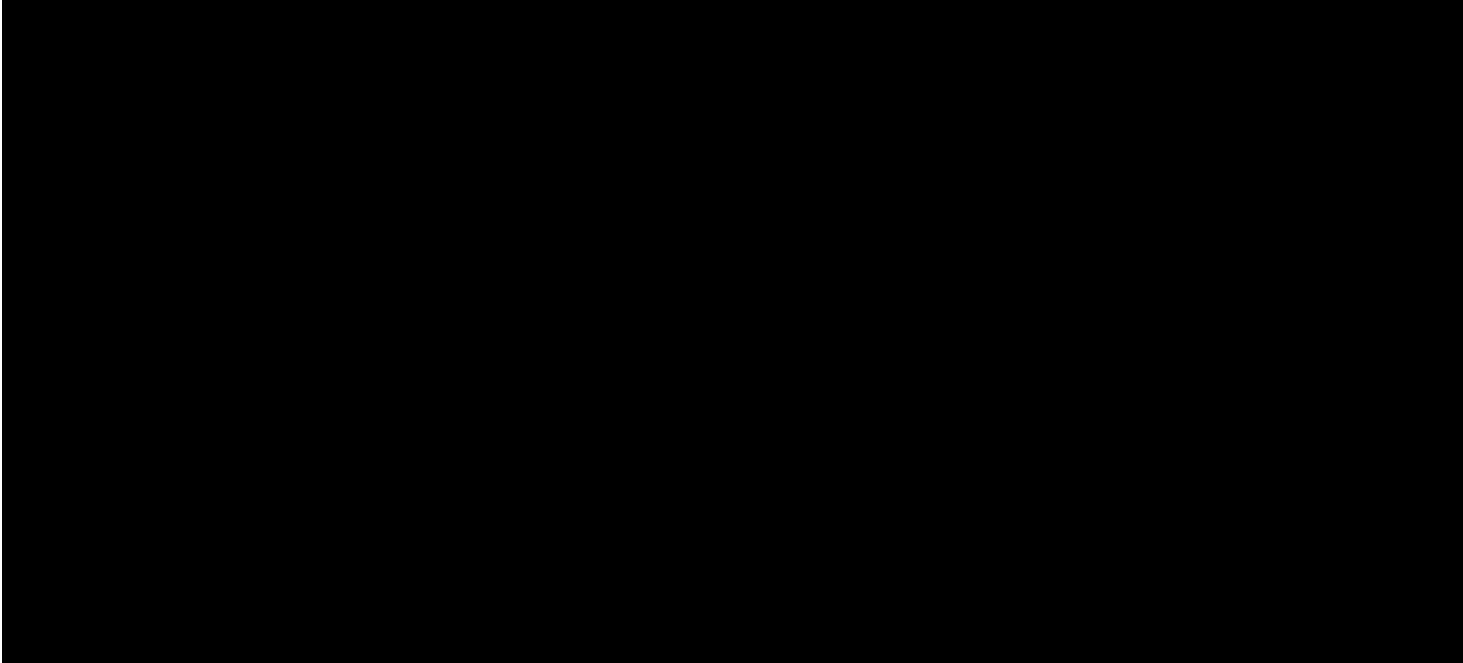
And if you have any questions at all, don't hesitate to flick me a message, or send me an email. I'll do my best to respond to everyone.

Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

[REDACTED]
Saturday, 5 September 2020 5:10 PM
Campbell Barry
Re: A long, but important message



On Fri., 4 Sep. 2020, 6:39 pm Mayor Campbell Barry, <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

I am writing to you this evening to clarify the purchase of my family home in Wainuiomata.

As a Councillor and as Mayor I have always been transparent, upfront, and honest about issues – it's an approach I consider to underpin everything I have done since I was elected to the Wainuiomata Community Board in 2010.

However, it's still a bit unusual to be in a position to have to talk to you about the home my wife Laura and I purchased last year in Wainuiomata.

Along with my mother and father in law, my wife and I were fortunate enough to buy a beautiful home with some land on Upper Fitzherbert Road.

We were looking for something rural, with the ability to accommodate Laura and me, as well as her mum and dad. Ultimately we were also looking with a view to a future family, and room to grow.

When we were looking to move at the end of 2018, we looked at houses right across the Hutt. It will not surprise you that being Wainuiomata born and bred, I was pretty keen to keep living locally. We viewed a handful of houses in Wainuiomata, and we put offers on two houses that were not accepted.

In December of that year, our real estate agent reached out and suggested we take a look at the home we now live in. We didn't fall immediately in love with it after looking at the online listing, so didn't pursue it at the time and continued looking at other options.

After Christmas that year, we saw that the house was still for sale. We asked the listing agent to setup a viewing. Soon after we viewed it a second time with Laura's mum and dad, and then after that things moved quickly (as they do), and we put in an offer in February 2019 which was declined in favour of another purchaser. Later that month, the first offer fell through and we were invited to make another offer, which was accepted.

When we purchased the home, I also emailed Council officers advising them of the house purchase and invited them to raise any issues. There were no legal issues identified, and I was given general advice on how to best manage homeownership in terms of Council's planning processes.

So – why am I telling you all of this?

When I was standing for Mayor last year, and close to the election, a number of my political opponents were busy making a number of allegations about the purchase of our family home.

For those who aren't familiar with the Upper Fitzherbert area in Wainuiomata, it has long been identified as a potential site for housing development. It is one of the few remaining areas of rural land in the Hutt, where large scale housing development is possible.

This was flagged in the Hutt City Council's Urban Growth Strategy in 2012-2032. People have also, for years, advocated for a second access way in the area, in part to support the development of housing.

Regardless of these long term visions, there are no plans or budget in the pipeline to rezone the area to allow for development of this scale. In fact, Council staff confirmed this when they released all information related to Wainuiomata North in December last year.

Despite much of the thinking and reports being public, my opponents claim I learned about detailed plans as a Councillor, and then sought to buy a house in an area where I would financially benefit.

Along with staff, councillors, and stakeholders at the end of 2018 I did attend a session run by consultants who described work as "blue sky thinking", and were in part based on potential development plans from 1976.

My political opponents said I had received detailed private briefings about potential development. According to them, I then used that information to pursue a private sale for our home.

Those things aren't true.

But still, my political opponents wrote a complaint to authorities, and then aggressively shopped the story around to journalists in Wellington and all the way up to Auckland.

This was all happening in late August and early September, just before voting in the local body elections opened. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out the allegations had a political motivation to them.

I spoke at length with journalists, answering questions, providing information – and the journalists, in turn, spoke to Hutt City Council staff, the real estate agents we dealt with, our neighbours, local government experts, and anyone else they needed to speak to in order to test the veracity of the claims being made.

Every single journalist and news editor declined to print the story. There was simply nothing in it, and no facts to back up the allegations that were being made.

The authorities also assessed what was being alleged, and declined to look at the matter any further.

So, again – why am I telling you all of this?

It has now been about a year since that group of people started to shop the story around about our family home.

So it was a bit surprising to learn recently that journalists had again been approached, with the same allegations, by the same people, seeking to inflict the same damage.

Today I've decided I've had enough of this kind of politics.

While I know who is behind the complaints, there's no benefit in naming them. I know they have a political axe to grind, and that the allegations have time and again been debunked.

And it's not that I am above reproach, or questions being asked. Questions have been asked. A lot of them. I've been upfront and honest about absolutely everything. It speaks for itself that there hasn't been anything of substance to report on.

But instead of continuing to go over these things again, by journalists who are seeing half-baked allegations for the first time, I'm going to explain them to you directly.

Some people say that "explaining is losing". I personally give the public a lot more credit than that, and think people are smart enough and experienced enough to make their own judgments. In this circumstance, I'm confident the facts speak for themselves.

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And if you have any questions at all, don't hesitate to flick me a message, or send me an email. I'll do my best to respond to everyone.

Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2020 5:05 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

I back you 100%. .

I'm not a fan of the shit stirring that the Blue Party are getting into.

Especially that smug fat face from Petone. He looks like a mini Jerry Brownlee.

Cheers [REDACTED]

On 04 September 2020 at 18:39 Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

I am writing to you this evening to clarify the purchase of my family home in Wainuiomata.

As a Councillor and as Mayor I have always been transparent, upfront, and honest about issues – it's an approach I consider to underpin everything I have done since I was elected to the Wainuiomata Community Board in 2010.

However, it's still a bit unusual to be in a position to have to talk to you about the home my wife Laura and I purchased last year in Wainuiomata.

Along with my mother and father in law, my wife and I were fortunate enough to buy a beautiful home with some land on Upper Fitzherbert Road.

We were looking for something rural, with the ability to accommodate Laura and me, as well as her mum and dad. Ultimately we were also looking with a view to a future family, and room to grow.

When we were looking to move at the end of 2018, we looked at houses right across the Hutt. It will not surprise you that being Wainuiomata born and bred, I was pretty keen to keep living locally. We viewed a handful of houses in Wainuiomata, and we put offers on two houses that were not accepted.

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Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2020 4:01 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

.....Well said Campbell.....

[REDACTED]

On Friday, 4 September 2020, 06:39:16 pm NZST, Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

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However, it's still a bit unusual to be in a position to have to talk to you about the home my wife Laura and I purchased last year in Wainuiomata.

Along with my mother and father in law, my wife and I were fortunate enough to buy a beautiful home with some land on Upper Fitzherbert Road.

We were looking for something rural, with the ability to accommodate Laura and me, as well as her mum and dad. Ultimately we were also looking with a view to a future family, and room to grow.

When we were looking to move at the end of 2018, we looked at houses right across the Hutt. It will not surprise you that being Wainuiomata born and bred, I was pretty keen to keep living locally. We viewed a handful of houses in Wainuiomata, and we put offers on two houses that were not accepted.

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Today I've decided I've had enough of this kind of politics.

While I know who is behind the complaints, there's no benefit in naming them. I know they have a political axe to grind, and that the allegations have time and again been debunked.

And it's not that I am above reproach, or questions being asked. Questions have been asked. A lot of them. I've been upfront and honest about absolutely everything. It speaks for itself that there hasn't been anything of substance to report on.

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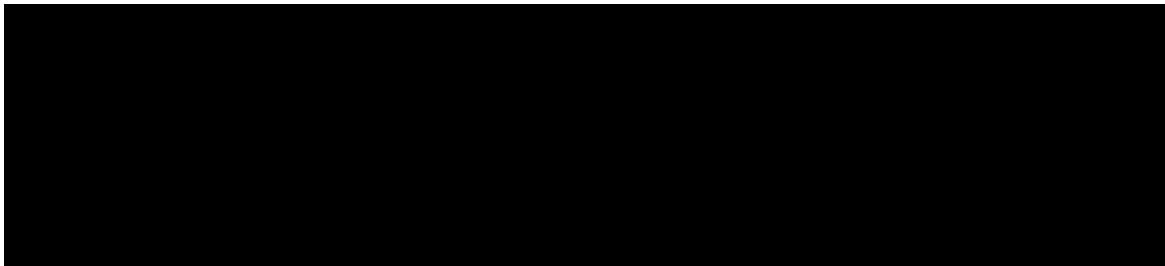
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And if you have any questions at all, don't hesitate to flick me a message, or send me an email. I'll do my best to respond to everyone.

Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt



[REDACTED]

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

[REDACTED]
Saturday, 5 September 2020 2:10 PM
Campbell Barry
Re: A long, but important message

Thank you Campbell, honestly there was no need for this, but respect your reasoning. All the best:)

Nga mihi
[REDACTED]

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020 at 6:39 PM, Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

I am writing to you this evening to

clarify the purchase of my family home in Wainuiomata.

As a Councillor and as Mayor I have

always been transparent, upfront, and honest about issues – it's an approach I consider to underpin everything I have done since I was elected to the Wainuiomata Community Board in 2010.

However, it's still a bit unusual

to be in a position to have to talk to you about the home my wife

Laura and I purchased last year in Wainuiomata.

Along with my mother and father in

law, my wife and I were fortunate enough to buy a beautiful home with some land on Upper Fitzherbert Road.

We were looking for something

rural, with the ability to accommodate Laura and me, as well as her mum and dad. Ultimately we were also looking with a view to a future family, and room to grow.

When we were looking to move at the

end of 2018, we looked at houses right across the Hutt. It will not surprise you that being Wainuiomata born and bred, I was pretty keen to keep living locally. We viewed a handful of houses in Wainuiomata, and we put offers on two houses that were not accepted.

In December of that year, our real estate agent reached out and suggested we take a look at the home we now live in. We didn't fall immediately in love with it after looking at the online listing, so didn't pursue it at the time and continued looking at other options.

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all of this?

When I was standing for Mayor last

year, and close to the election, a number of my political opponents

were busy making a number of allegations about the purchase of our

family home.

For those who aren't familiar with

the Upper Fitzherbert area in Wainuiomata, it has long been identified

as a potential site for housing development. It is one of the few

remaining areas of rural land in the Hutt, where large scale housing

development is possible.

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Council's Urban Growth Strategy in 2012-2032. People have also, for

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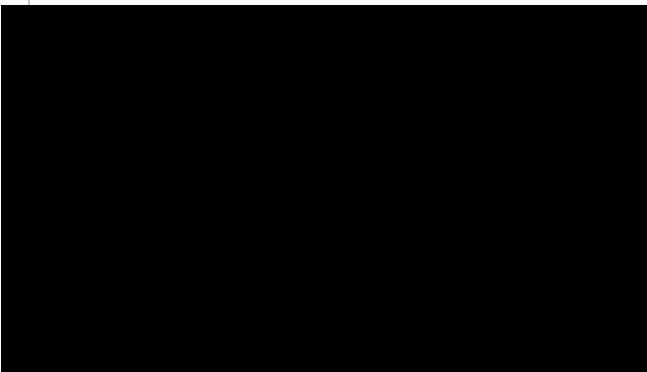
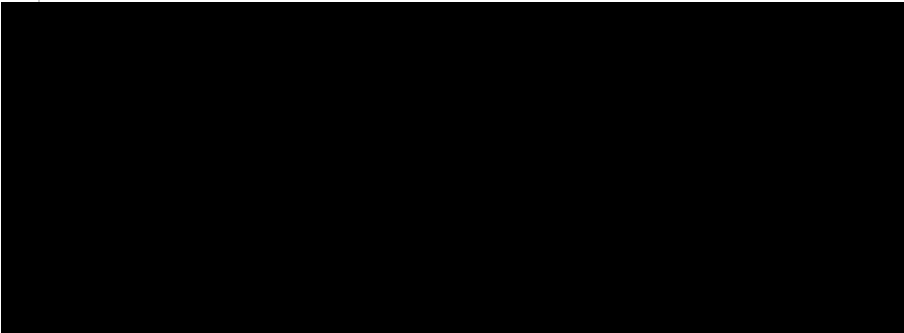
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And if you have any questions at all, don't hesitate to flick me a message, or send me an email. I'll do my best to respond to everyone.

Kind regards,

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Mayor of Lower Hutt



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2020 1:38 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Your house has nothing to do with me - none of my business - don't want to know

Sent from my iPhone

On 4/09/2020, at 6:39 PM, Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

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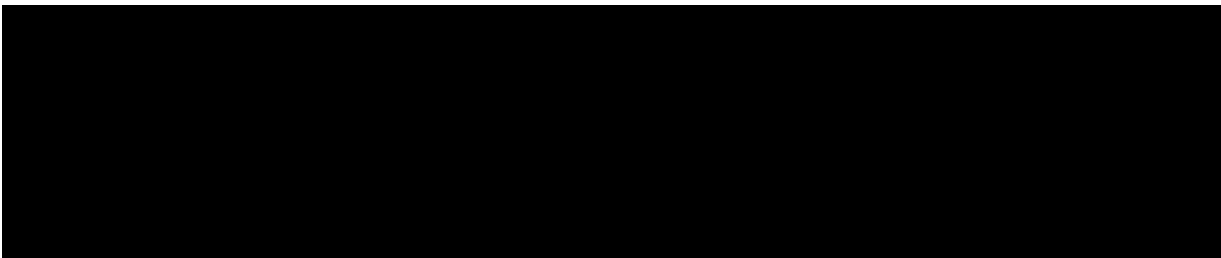
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Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2020 1:34 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: RE: A long, but important message

Hmmmm!

I didn't know.
I don't care.
Just keep on being a great mayor.

Be well

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: Mayor Campbell Barry [mailto:campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 6:39 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: A long, but important message

Hi [REDACTED],

I am writing to you this evening to clarify the purchase of my family home in Wainuiomata.

As a Councillor and as Mayor I have always been transparent, upfront, and honest about issues – it's an approach I consider to underpin everything I have done since I was elected to the Wainuiomata Community Board in 2010.

However, it's still a bit unusual to be in a position to have to talk to you about the home my wife Laura and I purchased last year in Wainuiomata.

Along with my mother and father in law, my wife and I were fortunate enough to buy a beautiful home with some land on Upper Fitzherbert Road.

We were looking for something rural, with the ability to accommodate Laura and me, as well as her mum and dad. Ultimately we were also looking with a view to a future family, and room to grow.

When we were looking to move at the end of 2018, we looked at houses right across the Hutt. It will not surprise you that being Wainuiomata born and bred, I was pretty keen to keep living locally. We viewed a handful of houses in Wainuiomata, and we put offers on two houses that were not accepted.

In December of that year, our real estate agent reached out and suggested we take a look at the home we now live in. We didn't fall immediately in love with it after looking at the online listing, so didn't pursue it at the time and continued looking at other options.

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2020 1:29 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Thank you Mayor Campbell Barry I appreciate your honesty, keep up the great work, you still have my support.

[REDACTED]

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020, 6:39 PM Mayor Campbell Barry, <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2020 12:55 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Hi Campbell,

It is indeed very annoying and sad that you and your family have to put up with these bad taste political antics from desperate opponents.

I have found you to be a very transparent and upfront Mayor which I'm sure is highly appreciated by all the Hutt City communities. You have done a great job to date and I look forward to seeing the Hutt reap the rewards of your hard work in the future.

I wish you all the very best in the upcoming elections and also wish you and your family happiness always.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

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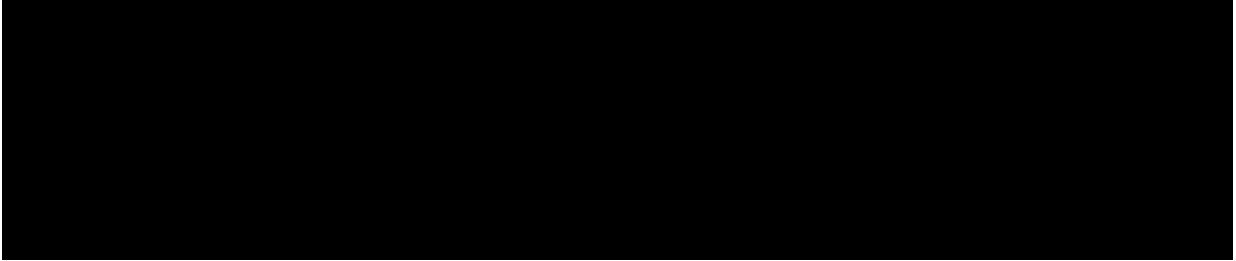
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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2020 12:50 PM
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Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Kia ora Campbell,
So sorry you have been treated this way and thank you for explaining what has happened, in the hope that opposition to your way of operating which is to be commended, is not to be tainted with personal attacks on not only you but your family as well.

Ka kite ano
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

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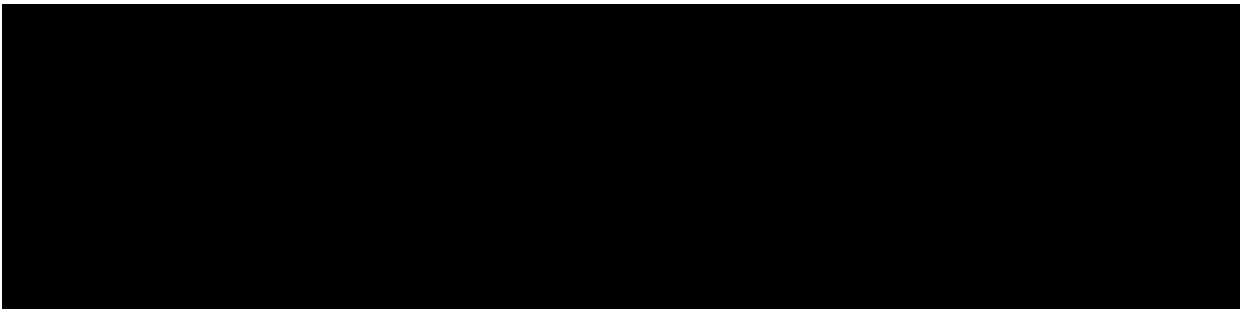
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And if you have any questions at all, don't hesitate to flick me a message, or send me an email. I'll do my best to respond to everyone.

Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2020 12:47 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: RE: A long, but important message

Hi Campbell

Don't worry about these sort of people. I am sure you have done everything above board just like the rest of us. Unfortunately there are people who will cause you trouble as they have nothing better to do.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Mayor Campbell Barry](#)
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 6:39 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: A long, but important message

Hi [REDACTED],

I am writing to you this evening to clarify the purchase of my family home in Wainuiomata.

As a Councillor and as Mayor I have always been transparent, upfront, and honest about issues – it's an approach I consider to underpin everything I have done since I was elected to the Wainuiomata Community Board in 2010.

However, it's still a bit unusual to be in a position to have to talk to you about the home my wife Laura and I purchased last year in Wainuiomata.

Along with my mother and father in law, my wife and I were fortunate enough to buy a beautiful home with some land on Upper Fitzherbert Road.

We were looking for something rural, with the ability to accommodate Laura and me, as well as her mum and dad. Ultimately we were also looking with a view to a future family, and room to grow.

When we were looking to move at the end of 2018, we looked at houses right across the Hutt. It will not surprise you that being Wainuiomata born and bred, I was pretty keen to keep living locally. We viewed a handful of houses in Wainuiomata, and we put offers on two houses that were not accepted.

In December of that year, our real estate agent reached out and suggested we take a look at the home we now live in. We didn't fall immediately in love with it after looking at the online listing, so didn't pursue it at the time and continued looking at other options.

After Christmas that year, we saw that the house was still for sale. We asked the listing agent to setup a viewing. Soon after we viewed it a second time with Laura's mum and dad, and then after that things moved quickly

(as they do), and we put in an offer in February 2019 which was declined in favour of another purchaser. Later that month, the first offer fell through and we were invited to make another offer, which was accepted.

When we purchased the home, I also emailed Council officers advising them of the house purchase and invited them to raise any issues. There were no legal issues identified, and I was given general advice on how to best manage homeownership in terms of Council's planning processes.

So – why am I telling you all of this?

When I was standing for Mayor last year, and close to the election, a number of my political opponents were busy making a number of allegations about the purchase of our family home.

For those who aren't familiar with the Upper Fitzherbert area in Wainuiomata, it has long been identified as a potential site for housing development. It is one of the few remaining areas of rural land in the Hutt, where large scale housing development is possible.

This was flagged in the Hutt City Council's Urban Growth Strategy in 2012-2032. People have also, for years, advocated for a second access way in the area, in part to support the development of housing.

Regardless of these long term visions, there are no plans or budget in the pipeline to rezone the area to allow for development of this scale. In fact, Council staff confirmed this when they released all information related to Wainuiomata North in December last year.

Despite much of the thinking and reports being public, my opponents claim I learned about detailed plans as a Councillor, and then sought to buy a house in an area where I would financially benefit.

Along with staff, councillors, and stakeholders at the end of 2018 I did attend a session run by consultants who described work as "blue sky thinking", and were in part based on potential development plans from 1976.

My political opponents said I had received detailed private briefings about potential development. According to them, I then used that information to pursue a private sale for our home.

Those things aren't true.

But still, my political opponents wrote a complaint to authorities, and then aggressively shopped the story around to journalists in Wellington and all the way up to Auckland.

This was all happening in late August and early September, just before voting in the local body elections opened. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out the allegations had a political motivation to them.

I spoke at length with journalists, answering questions, providing information – and the journalists, in turn, spoke to Hutt City Council staff, the real estate agents we dealt with, our neighbours, local government experts, and anyone else they needed to speak to in order to test the veracity of the claims being made.

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It has now been about a year since that group of people started to shop the story around about our family home.

So it was a bit surprising to learn recently that journalists had again been approached, with the same allegations, by the same people, seeking to inflict the same damage.

Today I've decided I've had enough of this kind of politics.

While I know who is behind the complaints, there's no benefit in naming them. I know they have a political axe to grind, and that the allegations have time and again been debunked.

And it's not that I am above reproach, or questions being asked. Questions have been asked. A lot of them. I've been upfront and honest about absolutely everything. It speaks for itself that there hasn't been anything of substance to report on.

But instead of continuing to go over these things again, by journalists who are seeing half-baked allegations for the first time, I'm going to explain them to you directly.

Some people say that "explaining is losing". I personally give the public a lot more credit than that, and think people are smart enough and experienced enough to make their own judgments. In this circumstance, I'm confident the facts speak for themselves.

I was elected Mayor last year with a promise to always be open and transparent, and to tell things how they are. This might mean that we may not always agree, but you can be confident I've listened and been upfront with you in response.

As many will know, buying a home is generally a happy time in your life. Instead, my family has been under constant stress from these allegations which have, and continue to come up.

Rumors and innuendos are not what people are interested in, nor is petty and dirty politics. The people I speak with want their elected officials to focus on the issues that matter. Housing, infrastructure, our environment, and building back better from COVID-19.

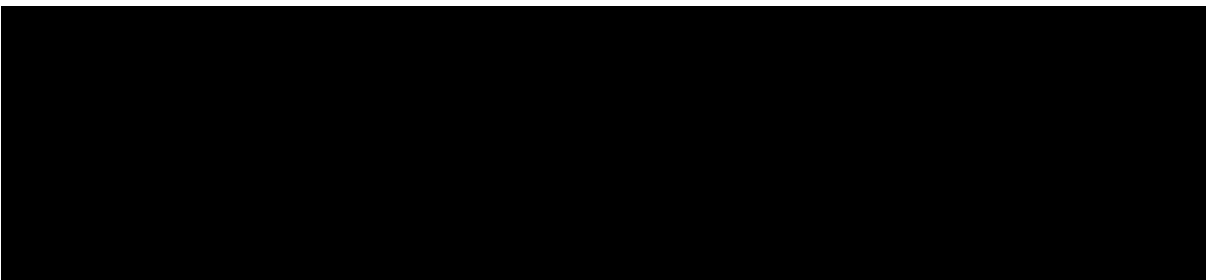
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Kind regards,

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Mayor of Lower Hutt



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2020 12:03 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Don't worry mate true supporters got your back, don't need to be a rocky scientist to know who's behind it.

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020, 6:39 PM Mayor Campbell Barry, <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

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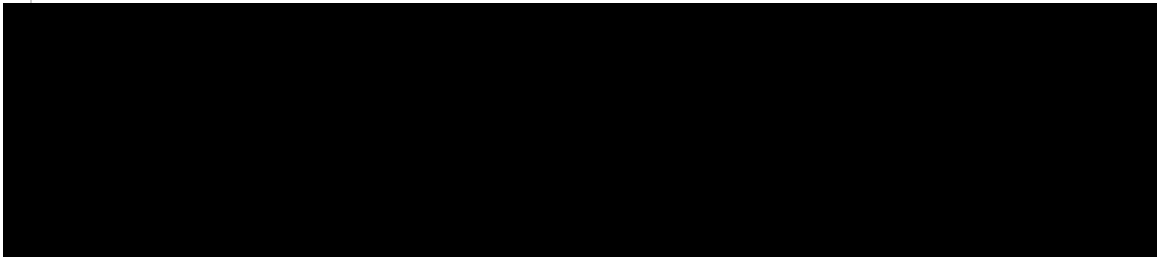
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Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2020 11:49 AM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Kia ora Campbell,
I have just heard about these allegations this morning from my partner [REDACTED], before reading your email. We are quite frankly sick of these silly politics.
I appreciate the time you took to email and give clarity to the allegations.

Just remember what Michelle Obama said in her speech to the 2016 Democratic convention- "When they go low, we go high".

Keep that in your mind.

You are an amazing mayor doing a job with integrity in every possible way.

Naenae people are so pleased to have your tautoko/ support.

Keep doing what you do so well.

We appreciate you.

Ngaa mihi mahana

[REDACTED]

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020 at 18:39, Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

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Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2020 11:31 AM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Hi Campbell

I looked up in that area as well and could have bought a house there. Im not Wainuiomata born and thought I'd never want to live here but i love it here. Awesome community and ive got a lovely solid home on Parenga Street.

The point is I could have bought there so had the same option as you did. All I know is your doing a good job so wouldn't worry as I can see improvements all over the place. Im pretty optimistic about our future and that of Aoteroa as a whole.

Kind regards
[REDACTED]

On 4/09/2020 6:39 PM, Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2020 11:30 AM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Hey Campbell,

I'm sorry this has been going on for you. Thanks for the email.

Also, though unrelated, I just wanted to give you a heads-up that I have this morning lodged a LGOIMA request to be told a.) how much funding is available for activation in Naenae, and b.) how that funding can be accessed by the public and is being allocated by the council.

Evidently you have been signing off on large amounts for activation in my suburb, which is great. But regrettably, the officers responsible for spending this money seem not to have done so, and will not be forthcoming to anyone who asks about how much is available (I understand up to \$100k rolled over from last year alone, or was perhaps reabsorbed, or spent on consultants maybe? - I don't know).

Concerningly, it also appears there is no process in place for deciding who gets the money, other than individual officers deciding and/or (maybe, one day, perhaps) hand-picking a panel to decide. Nor any clear or well-advertised process for people to apply for it. Without proper process, this money will either not be spent at all, or not be spent properly, when as you know it is desperately needed in Naenae, and rightfully belongs here.

Obviously the LGOIMA process is at arm's length from you, as it should be, but I imagine there are things you can do in your role as mayor to establish proper process around the activation monies for Naenae, and ensure that these monies are indeed injected into the community. I am just doing what I can as a resident.

Kind regards,
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While I know who is behind the complaints, there's no benefit in naming them. I know they have a political axe to grind, and that the allegations have time and again been debunked.

And it's not that I am above reproach, or questions being asked. Questions have been asked. A lot of them. I've been upfront and honest about absolutely everything. It speaks for itself that there hasn't been anything of substance to report on.

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As many will know, buying a home is generally a happy time in your life. Instead, my family has been under constant stress from these allegations which have, and continue to come up.

Rumors and innuendos are not what people are interested in, nor is petty and dirty politics. The people I speak with want their elected officials to focus on the issues that matter. Housing, infrastructure, our environment, and building back better from COVID-19.

Those issues will always be my focus, and will continue to be my focus. Part of this is directly addressing this issue, which is a distraction from everything else.

So there it is. The story of my family home purchase in about 1000 words.

And if you have any questions at all, don't hesitate to flick me a message, or send me an email. I'll do my best to respond to everyone.

Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2020 11:25 AM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Kia ora mr campbell,

Thank you for the constant updates as a naenae resident I appreciate it, I just want to say that you have done well for the Hutt city, you also owe us no explanation but good on you for doing it anyway, you got my vote when you were elected and it will continue while you are in office, one thing I know about you is that you are honest and you are here for the people, we need people like you in our government if our kids have someone like you fighting for them my heart can settle, sorry to hear about this situation with your whanau home not really something anybody wants over them when finding your place, but kia kaha, keep shining your light keep it bright for us to follow, just needed to send some aroha....

Mauriora

[REDACTED]

On Friday, 4 September 2020, 06:39:12 pm NZST, Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

I am writing to you this evening to clarify the purchase of my family home in Wainuiomata.

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However, it's still a bit unusual to be in a position to have to talk to you about the home my wife Laura and I purchased last year in Wainuiomata.

Along with my mother and father in law, my wife and I were fortunate enough to buy a beautiful home with some land on Upper Fitzherbert Road.

We were looking for something rural, with the ability to accommodate Laura and me, as well as her mum and dad. Ultimately we were also looking with a view to a future family, and room to grow.

When we were looking to move at the end of 2018, we looked at houses right across the Hutt. It will not surprise you that being Wainuiomata born and bred, I was pretty keen to keep living locally. We viewed a handful of houses in Wainuiomata, and we put offers on two houses that were not accepted.

In December of that year, our real estate agent reached out and suggested we take a look at the home we now live in. We didn't fall immediately in love with it after looking at the online listing, so didn't pursue it at the time and continued looking at other options.

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Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2020 11:06 AM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Thanks for the email, i did read the story on stuff today and wondered. Glad you took the time to reply :)
Hope you and your family are enjoying your new home!

[REDACTED]

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020 at 18:39, Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

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Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2020 10:47 AM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Kia ora Campbell

I assume these people are on the political right. Social media comments show so clearly that right-leaning people are just nastier than left-leaning people. Unsurprising to me.

Kia kahane
[REDACTED]

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020, 6:39 pm Mayor Campbell Barry, <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

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Kind regards,

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2020 10:43 AM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Dear Mayor,
You still have my 100% support. Why, because you have always been transparent in all your interactions with us. I'm a blue supporter but even when you acknowledged that you are a red supporter before the council elections I still voted for you, why because of your honesty and transparency. I vote for the person not the politics.

Today's news and tomorrow's fish and chip paper ☐ might be an old saying but it will blow over.

Keep up the hard work you are doing. You are very much supported by many.

Regards [REDACTED]

On 4/09/2020, at 6:39 PM, Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

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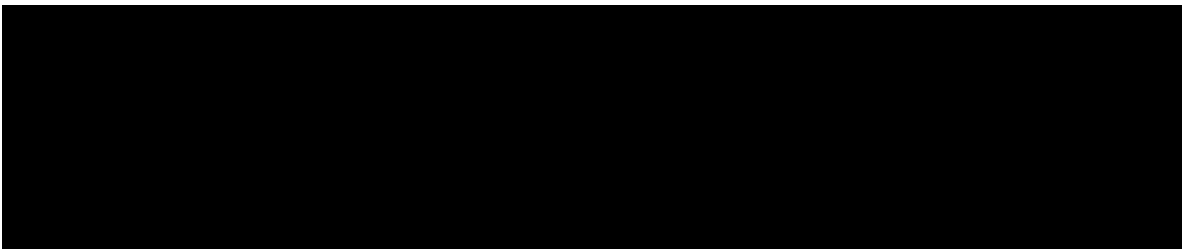
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So there it is. The story of my family home purchase in about 1000 words.

And if you have any questions at all, don't hesitate to flick me a message, or send me an email. I'll do my best to respond to everyone.

Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2020 10:30 AM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

All the best Campbell. And bugger your opponents. I know what they're like!

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

On 4/09/2020, at 6:39 PM, Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

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However, it's still a bit unusual to be in a position to have to talk to you about the home my wife Laura and I purchased last year in Wainuiomata.

Along with my mother and father in law, my wife and I were fortunate enough to buy a beautiful home with some land on Upper Fitzherbert Road.

We were looking for something rural, with the ability to accommodate Laura and me, as well as her mum and dad. Ultimately we were also looking with a view to a future family, and room to grow.

When we were looking to move at the end of 2018, we looked at houses right across the Hutt. It will not surprise you that being Wainuiomata born and bred, I was pretty keen to keep living locally. We viewed a handful of houses in Wainuiomata, and we put offers on two houses that were not accepted.

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Regardless of these long term visions, there are no plans or budget in the pipeline to rezone the area to allow for development of this scale. In fact, Council staff confirmed this when they released all information related to Wainuiomata North in December last year.

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This was all happening in late August and early September, just before voting in the local body elections opened. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out the allegations had a political motivation to them.

I spoke at length with journalists, answering questions, providing information – and the journalists, in turn, spoke to Hutt City Council staff, the real estate agents we dealt with, our neighbours, local government experts, and anyone else they needed to speak to in order to test the veracity of the claims being made.

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Today I've decided I've had enough of this kind of politics.

While I know who is behind the complaints, there's no benefit in naming them. I know they have a political axe to grind, and that the allegations have time and again been debunked.

And it's not that I am above reproach, or questions being asked. Questions have been asked. A lot of them. I've been upfront and honest about absolutely everything. It speaks for itself that there hasn't been anything of substance to report on.

But instead of continuing to go over these things again, by journalists who are seeing half-baked allegations for the first time, I'm going to explain them to you directly.

Some people say that "explaining is losing". I personally give the public a lot more credit than that, and think people are smart enough and experienced enough to make their own judgments. In this circumstance, I'm confident the facts speak for themselves.

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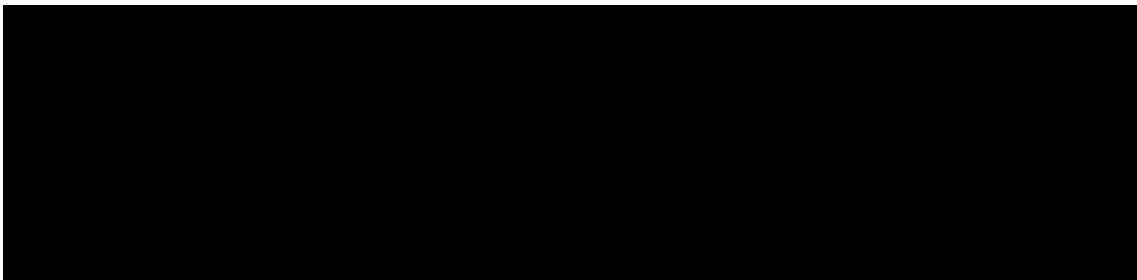
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Kind regards,

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2020 8:51 AM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

I imagine most people will appreciate your intention, re this message. I do. It takes courage to trust your gut and decide for yourself that explanation can be a useful option.

On Friday, 4 September 2020, 06:39:08 pm NZST, Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

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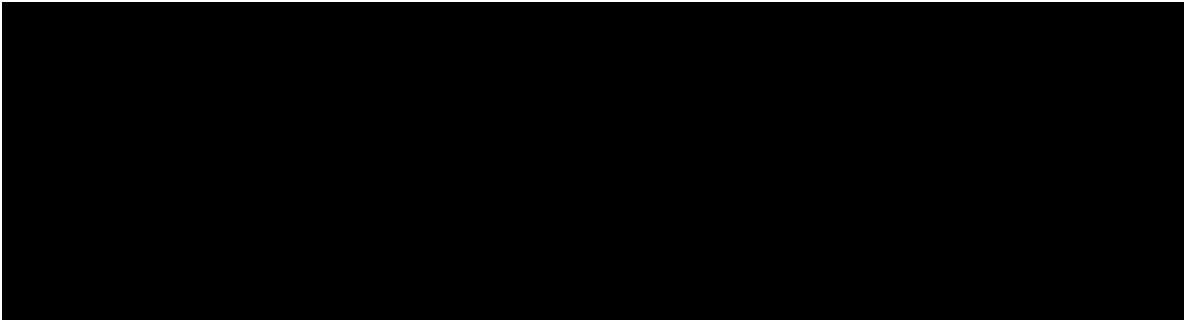
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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2020 8:22 AM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Thanks for taking the time share whats going on. People need to get over themselves n get on with the job at hand. Look after one another how can i help you how can we help each other. We keep doing that doing the right thing you will be the better person. Keep up the great work and I wish you and your family all the very best in your home. Take care and God bless you

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2020 8:08 AM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: RE: A long, but important message

Hi Campbell,

Sorry to hear that you and your family have been given a rough ride over the purchase of your home.

Don't worry it will blow over eventually and be old news.

Kind Regards

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While I know who is behind the complaints, there's no benefit in naming them. I know they have a political axe to grind, and that the allegations have time and again been debunked.

And it's not that I am above reproach, or questions being asked. Questions have been asked. A lot of them. I've been upfront and honest about absolutely everything. It speaks for itself that there hasn't been anything of substance to report on.

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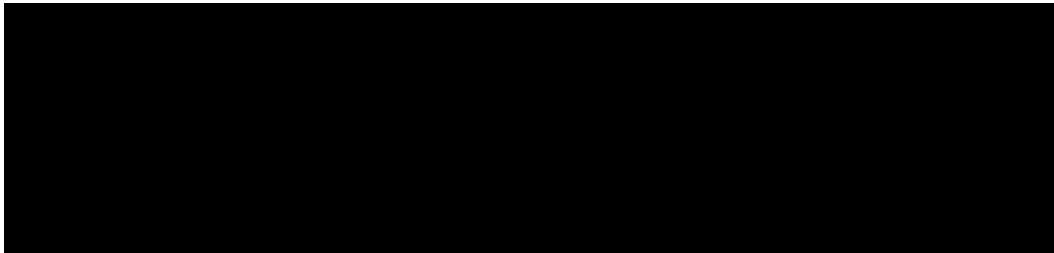
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So there it is. The story of my family home purchase in about 1000 words.

And if you have any questions at all, don't hesitate to flick me a message, or send me an email. I'll do my best to respond to everyone.

Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt



Virus-free. www.avg.com

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2020 6:59 AM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Hi Campbell,

Thank you for your detailed email. So sad you and your family have to endure this. Unfortunately there will often be a few rotten apples in the barrel. You have our full support and hope you can continue to rise above the negative mud singers.

Cheers [REDACTED]

On Friday, 4 September 2020, Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

I am writing to you this evening to clarify the purchase of my family home in Wainuiomata.

As a Councillor and as Mayor I have always been transparent, upfront, and honest about issues – it's an approach I consider to underpin everything I have done since I was elected to the Wainuiomata Community Board in 2010.

However, it's still a bit unusual to be in a position to have to talk to you about the home my wife Laura and I purchased last year in Wainuiomata.

Along with my mother and father in law, my wife and I were fortunate enough to buy a beautiful home with some land on Upper Fitzherbert Road.

We were looking for something rural, with the ability to accommodate Laura and me, as well as her mum and dad. Ultimately we were also looking with a view to a future family, and room to grow.

When we were looking to move at the end of 2018, we looked at houses right across the Hutt. It will not surprise you that being Wainuiomata born and bred, I was pretty keen to keep living locally. We viewed a handful of houses in Wainuiomata, and we put offers on two houses that were not accepted.

In December of that year, our real estate agent reached out and suggested we take a look at the home we now live in. We didn't fall immediately in love with it after looking at the online listing, so didn't pursue it at the time and continued looking at other options.

After Christmas that year, we saw that the house was still for sale. We asked the listing agent to setup a viewing. Soon after we viewed it a second time with Laura's mum and dad, and then after that things moved quickly (as they do), and we put in an offer in February 2019 which was declined in favour of another purchaser. Later that month, the first offer fell through and we were invited to make another offer, which was accepted.

When we purchased the home, I also emailed Council officers advising them of the house purchase and invited them to raise any issues. There were no legal issues identified, and I was given general advice on how to best manage homeownership in terms of Council's planning processes.

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This was flagged in the Hutt City Council's Urban Growth Strategy in 2012-2032. People have also, for years, advocated for a second access way in the area, in part to support the development of housing.

Regardless of these long term visions, there are no plans or budget in the pipeline to rezone the area to allow for development of this scale. In fact, Council staff confirmed this when they released all information related to Wainuiomata North in December last year.

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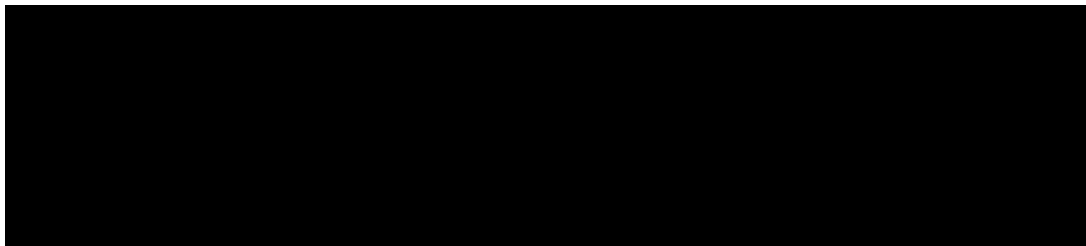
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Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2020 6:55 AM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Campbell,

I read your details about your home purchase.

The trouble with political opponents is that many judge you by what would have motivated their behaviour had they been in that position.

Everything is fine.

Enjoy the alpacas. Oh, and your wife's ministrations too.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

On 4/09/2020, at 6:39 PM, Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

I am writing to you this evening to clarify the purchase of my family home in Wainuiomata.

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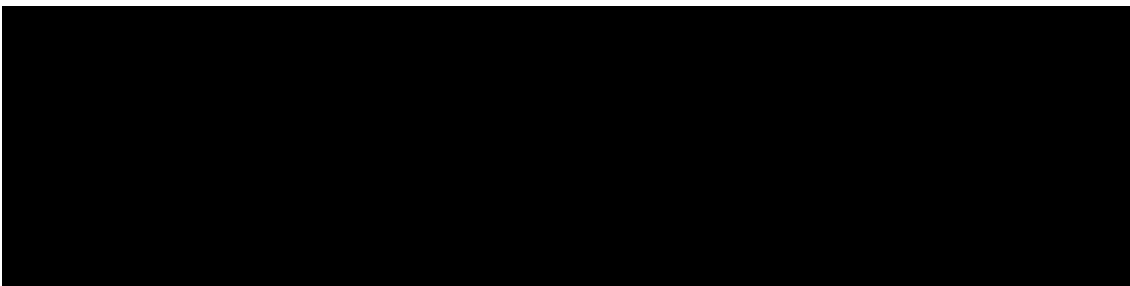
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Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2020 2:58 AM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Thank you for your email. I believe that when people start trying to undermine yourself or any politician it's generally because they don't have the nous or ability to promote themselves in a favourable light. The fact that they need to resort to dirty tactics speaks volumes. You have our continued support. 😊😊

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020, 6:39 pm Mayor Campbell Barry, <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2020 12:30 AM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Campbell, first and foremost the upper fitzherbert area needs to be rezoned. It has nothing to do with you at all. You need to get behind it 100 percent and make it happen. Rezoning will advance the second access into Wainuiomata and can only benefit Wainuiomata in the long term. Don't derail this process for political expedience. You should also push hard on the Petone to Grnada link and cross valley through Whites Line. You're on the right track. Wainuiomata is up and coming and it would be foolish to impede it for a political stoush.

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
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DONT EVEN...Im not reading it and dont you ever think you have to justifye yourself to anyone!!!!!!😞😞😞😞😞😞😞😞

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From: Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2020 6:39:06 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: A long, but important message

Hi [REDACTED],

I am writing to you this evening to clarify the purchase of my family home in Wainuiomata.

As a Councillor and as Mayor I have always been transparent, upfront, and honest about issues – it's an approach I consider to underpin everything I have done since I was elected to the Wainuiomata Community Board in 2010.

However, it's still a bit unusual to be in a position to have to talk to you about the home my wife Laura and I purchased last year in Wainuiomata.

Along with my mother and father in law, my wife and I were fortunate enough to buy a beautiful home with some land on Upper Fitzherbert Road.

We were looking for something rural, with the ability to accommodate Laura and me, as well as her mum and dad. Ultimately we were also looking with a view to a future family, and room to grow.

When we were looking to move at the end of 2018, we looked at houses right across the Hutt. It will not surprise you that being Wainuiomata born and bred, I was pretty keen to keep living locally. We viewed a handful of houses in Wainuiomata, and we put offers on two houses that were not accepted.

In December of that year, our real estate agent reached out and suggested we take a look at the home we now live in. We didn't fall immediately in love with it after looking at the online listing, so didn't pursue it at the time and continued looking at other options.

After Christmas that year, we saw that the house was still for sale. We asked the listing agent to setup a viewing. Soon after we viewed it a second time with Laura's mum and dad, and then after that things moved quickly (as they do), and we put in an offer in February 2019 which was declined in favour of another purchaser. Later that month, the first offer fell through and we were invited to make another offer, which was accepted.

When we purchased the home, I also emailed Council officers advising them of the house purchase and invited them to raise any issues. There were no legal issues identified, and I was given general advice on how to best manage homeownership in terms of Council's planning processes.

So – why am I telling you all of this?

When I was standing for Mayor last year, and close to the election, a number of my political opponents were busy making a number of allegations about the purchase of our family home.

For those who aren't familiar with the Upper Fitzherbert area in Wainuiomata, it has long been identified as a potential site for housing development. It is one of the few remaining areas of rural land in the Hutt, where large scale housing development is possible.

This was flagged in the Hutt City Council's Urban Growth Strategy in 2012-2032. People have also, for years, advocated for a second access way in the area, in part to support the development of housing.

Regardless of these long term visions, there are no plans or budget in the pipeline to rezone the area to allow for development of this scale. In fact, Council staff confirmed this when they released all information related to Wainuiomata North in December last year.

Despite much of the thinking and reports being public, my opponents claim I learned about detailed plans as a Councillor, and then sought to buy a house in an area where I would financially benefit.

Along with staff, councillors, and stakeholders at the end of 2018 I did attend a session run by consultants who described work as "blue sky thinking", and were in part based on potential development plans from 1976.

My political opponents said I had received detailed private briefings about potential development. According to them, I then used that information to pursue a private sale for our home.

Those things aren't true.

But still, my political opponents wrote a complaint to authorities, and then aggressively shopped the story around to journalists in Wellington and all the way up to Auckland.

This was all happening in late August and early September, just before voting in the local body elections opened. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out the allegations had a political motivation to them.

I spoke at length with journalists, answering questions, providing information – and the journalists, in turn, spoke to Hutt City Council staff, the real estate agents we dealt with, our neighbours, local government experts, and anyone else they needed to speak to in order to test the veracity of the claims being made.

Every single journalist and news editor declined to print the story. There was simply nothing in it, and no facts to back up the allegations that were being made.

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So, again – why am I telling you all of this?

It has now been about a year since that group of people started to shop the story around about our family home.

So it was a bit surprising to learn recently that journalists had again been approached, with the same allegations, by the same people, seeking to inflict the same damage.

Today I've decided I've had enough of this kind of politics.

While I know who is behind the complaints, there's no benefit in naming them. I know they have a political axe to grind, and that the allegations have time and again been debunked.

And it's not that I am above reproach, or questions being asked. Questions have been asked. A lot of them. I've been upfront and honest about absolutely everything. It speaks for itself that there hasn't been anything of substance to report on.

But instead of continuing to go over these things again, by journalists who are seeing half-baked allegations for the first time, I'm going to explain them to you directly.

Some people say that "explaining is losing". I personally give the public a lot more credit than that, and think people are smart enough and experienced enough to make their own judgments. In this circumstance, I'm confident the facts speak for themselves.

I was elected Mayor last year with a promise to always be open and transparent, and to tell things how they are. This might mean that we may not always agree, but you can be confident I've listened and been upfront with you in response.

As many will know, buying a home is generally a happy time in your life. Instead, my family has been under constant stress from these allegations which have, and continue to come up.

Rumors and innuendos are not what people are interested in, nor is petty and dirty politics. The people I speak with want their elected officials to focus on the issues that matter. Housing, infrastructure, our environment, and building back better from COVID-19.

Those issues will always be my focus, and will continue to be my focus. Part of this is directly addressing this issue, which is a distraction from everything else.

So there it is. The story of my family home purchase in about 1000 words.

And if you have any questions at all, don't hesitate to flick me a message, or send me an email. I'll do my best to respond to everyone.

Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 11:14 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: RE: A long, but important message

Kia ora Campbell.

In business and politics there is always going to be people who have an axe to grind because whatever you say or do goes against their own agendas. They will go to all lengths to discredit you, even to the extent of telling outright lies.

Personally, I think you are handling this exactly the way you should, with dignity. This will set you in good stead with all your supporters, and you have more supporters than they do.

I think you are doing a fantastic job. I didn't vote for you but you get it now.

Kia kaha

From: Mayor Campbell Barry [mailto:campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz]
Sent: 04 September, 2020 6:39 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: A long, but important message

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Mayor of Lower Hutt

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 11:13 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Sir
I don't know which PR Consultant you hired, but you've just made me aware of something I had no idea about! I'd have thought this would have come and gone in the next news cycle. You seem to have acted appropriately.

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020 at 18:39, Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

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Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 10:32 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

4th September 2020

Dear Mayor Campbell Barry

Thanks for emailing me and explain the current situation about your personal issues. I appreciate your transparency since day one, but I don't think there's nothing you can concern about it if you know you are doing the right thing and you don't need to waste your energy trying to prove yourself like what you said the truth will come out. But heads up and accomplish more for our Community kia ka. Thanks

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

On 4/09/2020 6:39 pm, Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
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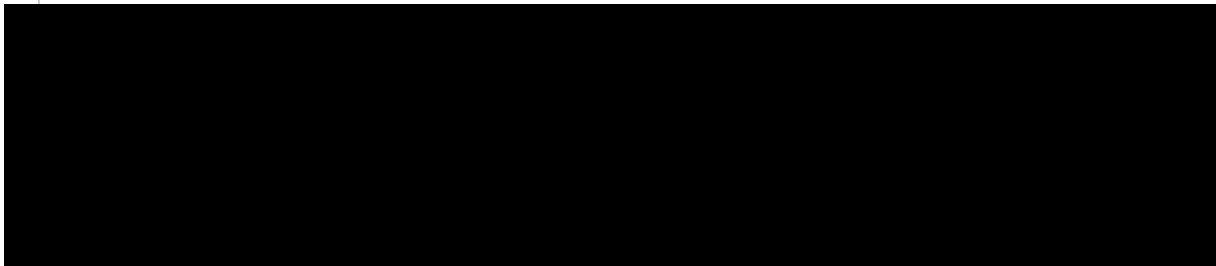
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So there it is. The story of my family home purchase in about 1000 words.

And if you have any questions at all, don't hesitate to flick me a message, or send me an email. I'll do my best to respond to everyone.

Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 10:15 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Dear Mayor,

I am surprised that anyone would challenge your honesty and integrity. Thank you for all you have done for Lower Hutt. Proud to have you as my Mayor.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

On Fri, Sep 4, 2020 at 6:39 PM Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

I am writing to you this evening to clarify the purchase of my family home in Wainuiomata.

As a Councillor and as Mayor I have always been transparent, upfront, and honest about issues – it's an approach I consider to underpin everything I have done since I was elected to the Wainuiomata Community Board in 2010.

However, it's still a bit unusual to be in a position to have to talk to you about the home my wife Laura and I purchased last year in Wainuiomata.

Along with my mother and father in law, my wife and I were fortunate enough to buy a beautiful home with some land on Upper Fitzherbert Road.

We were looking for something rural, with the ability to accommodate Laura and me, as well as her mum and dad. Ultimately we were also looking with a view to a future family, and room to grow.

When we were looking to move at the end of 2018, we looked at houses right across the Hutt. It will not surprise you that being Wainuiomata born and bred, I was pretty keen to keep living locally. We viewed a handful of houses in Wainuiomata, and we put offers on two houses that were not accepted.

In December of that year, our real estate agent reached out and suggested we take a look at the home we now live in. We didn't fall immediately in love with it after looking at the online listing, so didn't pursue it at the time and continued looking at other options.

After Christmas that year, we saw that the house was still for sale. We asked the listing agent to setup a viewing. Soon after we viewed it a second time with Laura's mum and dad, and then after that things moved quickly (as they do), and we put in an offer in February 2019 which was declined in favour of another purchaser. Later that month, the first offer fell through and we were invited to make another offer, which was accepted.

When we purchased the home, I also emailed Council officers advising them of the house purchase and invited them to raise any issues. There were no legal issues identified, and I was given general advice on how to best manage homeownership in terms of Council's planning processes.

So – why am I telling you all of this?

When I was standing for Mayor last year, and close to the election, a number of my political opponents were busy making a number of allegations about the purchase of our family home.

For those who aren't familiar with the Upper Fitzherbert area in Wainuiomata, it has long been identified as a potential site for housing development. It is one of the few remaining areas of rural land in the Hutt, where large scale housing development is possible.

This was flagged in the Hutt City Council's Urban Growth Strategy in 2012-2032. People have also, for years, advocated for a second access way in the area, in part to support the development of housing.

Regardless of these long term visions, there are no plans or budget in the pipeline to rezone the area to allow for development of this scale. In fact, Council staff confirmed this when they released all information related to Wainuiomata North in December last year.

Despite much of the thinking and reports being public, my opponents claim I learned about detailed plans as a Councillor, and then sought to buy a house in an area where I would financially benefit.

Along with staff, councillors, and stakeholders at the end of 2018 I did attend a session run by consultants who described work as "blue sky thinking", and were in part based on potential development plans from 1976.

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But still, my political opponents wrote a complaint to authorities, and then aggressively shopped the story around to journalists in Wellington and all the way up to Auckland.

This was all happening in late August and early September, just before voting in the local body elections opened. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out the allegations had a political motivation to them.

I spoke at length with journalists, answering questions, providing information – and the journalists, in turn, spoke to Hutt City Council staff, the real estate agents we dealt with, our neighbours, local government experts, and anyone else they needed to speak to in order to test the veracity of the claims being made.

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Mayor of Lower Hutt

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 10:03 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Hi Campbell,

Thank you for your email.

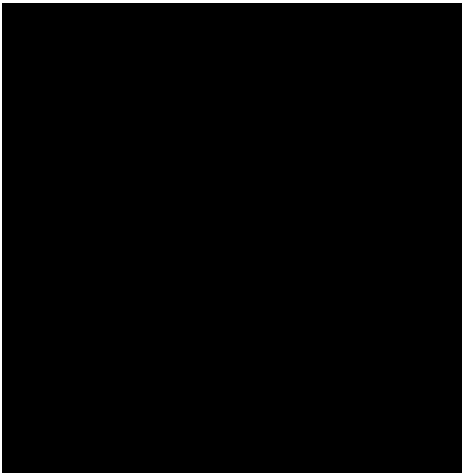
We appreciate the way you have met with us, maintained communications and generally gone out of your way to discuss issues in our community.

You appear to take your responsibilities seriously and value your role as Mayor.

We have no reason to doubt your transparency in this matter.

Light dispels darkness, so keep in the light and you'll be right.

All the best!



From: Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz>
Date: Friday, 4 September 2020 at 6:39 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: A long, but important message

Hi [REDACTED],

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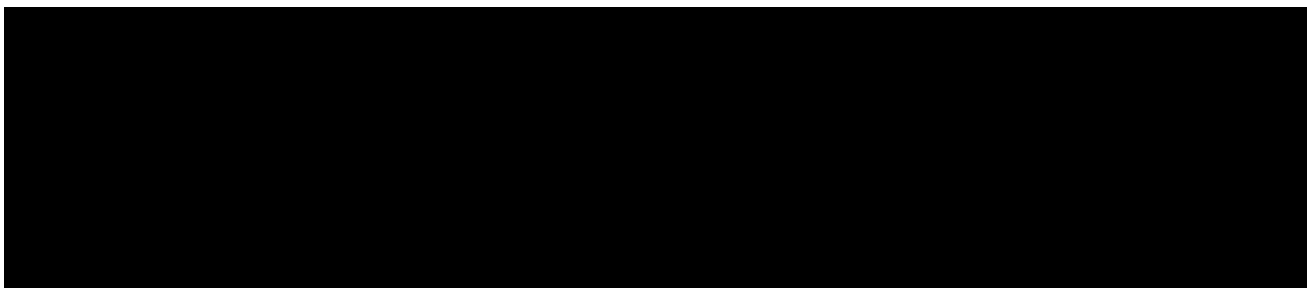
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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 10:00 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Thanks for the transparency Campbell.

Sorry the media and politics have been chafing you. Hope you have a great time
Back in the family home. You deserve happiness.

Cheers

[REDACTED]

On 4/09/2020, at 6:39 PM, Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

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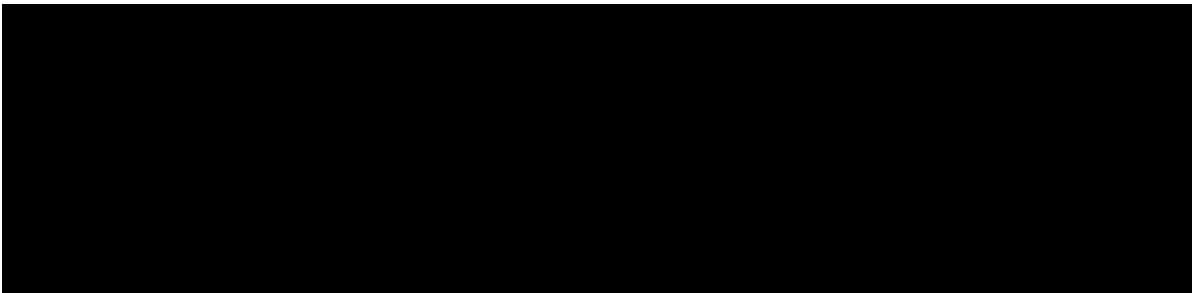
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Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 9:39 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Well done. I appreciate the time you have taken with this letter. You have my support. 🙌 regards [REDACTED]

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020, 18:39 Mayor Campbell Barry, <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 9:37 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Good Evening Campbell,

Sorry that you even have to justify buying land or property!

For opponents to accuse or insinuate that you used insider information to your advantage seems a bit below the belt.

I've had no interaction with you in the past and have very little exposure to the Hutt comings and goings but your email updates are quite refreshing and as far as I'm concerned you're doing the right thing by the community.

Your opponents are using dirty and underhanded tactics and for those of us who are switched on and don't believe everything we see and read through media outlets, we see right through them.

This is easier said than done, but don't spend any more time than you have on addressing them because it's a waste of your time and your giving them exposure they desperately want.

All the best.

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of this kind of politics.

While I know who is behind the complaints, there's no benefit in naming them. I know they have a political axe to grind, and that the allegations have time and again been debunked.

And it's not that I am above reproach, or questions being asked. Questions have been asked. A lot of them. I've been upfront and honest about absolutely everything. It speaks for itself that there hasn't been anything of substance to report on.

But instead of continuing to go over these things again, by journalists who are seeing half-baked allegations for the first time, I'm going to explain them to you directly.

Some people say that "explaining is losing". I personally give the public a lot more credit than that, and think people are smart enough and experienced enough to make their own judgments. In this circumstance, I'm confident the facts speak for themselves.

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Rumors and innuendos are not what people are interested in, nor is petty and dirty politics. The people I speak with want their elected officials to focus on the issues that matter. Housing, infrastructure, our environment, and building back better from COVID-19.

Those issues will always be my focus, and will continue to be my focus. Part of this is directly addressing this issue, which is a distraction from everything else.

So there it is. The story of my

family home purchase in about 1000 words.

And if you have any questions at

all, don't hesitate to flick me a message, or send me an email. I'll

do my best to respond to everyone.

Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 9:28 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

some people are aholes and perhaps envious or jealous of what you have achieved at your young age. Stick to your guns. I was down your way the other day and it's still lovely, what is left of it.
Cheers

On 04 September 2020 at 18:39 Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

I am writing to you this evening to clarify the purchase of my family home in Wainuiomata.

As a Councillor and as Mayor I have always been transparent, upfront, and honest about issues – it's an approach I consider to underpin everything I have done since I was elected to the Wainuiomata Community Board in 2010.

However, it's still a bit unusual to be in a position to have to talk to you about the home my wife Laura and I purchased last year in Wainuiomata.

Along with my mother and father in law, my wife and I were fortunate enough to buy a beautiful home with some land on Upper Fitzherbert Road.

We were looking for something rural, with the ability to accommodate Laura and me, as well as her mum and dad. Ultimately we were also looking with a view to a future family, and room to grow.

When we were looking to move at the end of 2018, we looked at houses right across the Hutt. It will not surprise you that being Wainuiomata born and bred, I was pretty keen to keep living locally. We viewed a handful of houses in Wainuiomata, and we put offers on two houses that were not accepted.

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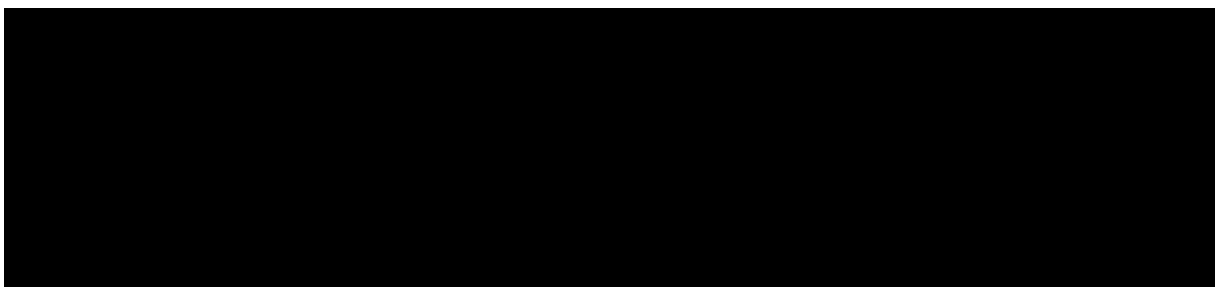
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Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 9:23 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Dear Mayor Campbell Barry,

I am so very sorry to hear your family stressed situation for a long time instead of enjoying the experience of your new family home.

If this problem was caused by the opposition, it's very bad and cruel.

I have known you in the campaign last year and met you two weeks ago, I have faith in you and will support you where ever I and my family can.

Meantime I remember you and your family in my prayers.

You have the benefit of being young. Be courageous.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020, 6:39 PM Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

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Along with my mother and father in law, my wife and I were fortunate enough to buy a beautiful home with some land on Upper Fitzherbert Road.

We were looking for something rural, with the ability to accommodate Laura and me, as well as her mum and dad. Ultimately we were also looking with a view to a future family, and room to grow.

When we were looking to move at the end of 2018, we looked at houses right across the Hutt. It will not surprise you that being Wainuiomata born and bred, I was pretty keen to keep living locally. We viewed a handful of houses in Wainuiomata, and we put offers on two houses that were not accepted.

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Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 9:12 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

It would be great if you could name and shame them without leaving yourself open to legal repercussions. Your doing a great job.

Sent from my Huawei Mobile

----- Original Message -----
Subject: A long, but important message
From: Mayor Campbell Barry
To: [REDACTED]
CC:

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 9:08 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Thanks. Appreciate the detailed explanation. Sorry opponents have had to sink to muck raking. Must mean you are doing a good job for the Hutt. Keep it up.

[REDACTED]

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Laura and I purchased last year in Wainuiomata.

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But instead of continuing to go

over these things again, by journalists who are seeing half-baked

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own judgments. In this circumstance, I'm confident the facts speak for themselves.

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a promise to always be open and transparent, and to tell things how

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As many will know, buying a home is

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under constant stress from these allegations which have, and continue to come up.

Rumors and innuendos are not what people are interested in, nor is petty and dirty politics. The people I speak with want their elected officials to focus on the issues that matter. Housing, infrastructure, our environment, and building back better from COVID-19.

Those issues will always be my focus, and will continue to be my focus. Part of this is directly addressing this issue, which is a distraction from everything else.

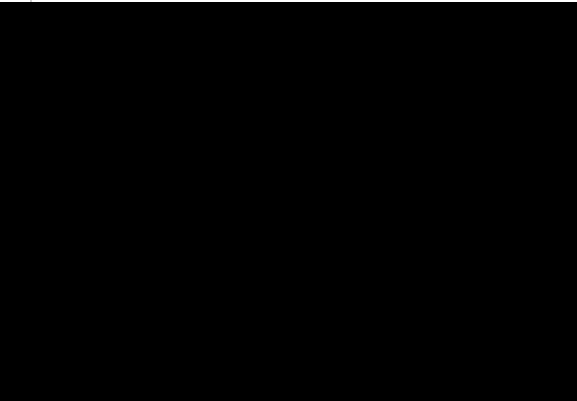
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And if you have any questions at all, don't hesitate to flick me a message, or send me an email. I'll do my best to respond to everyone.

Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

--



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 9:05 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

I like and respect the stance you have taken on this. I voted for you because of your honesty and openness and I do not regret that.

Thanks
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

On 4/09/2020, at 6:39 PM, Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

I am writing to you this evening to clarify the purchase of my family home in Wainuiomata.

As a Councillor and as Mayor I have always been transparent, upfront, and honest about issues – it's an approach I consider to underpin everything I have done since I was elected to the Wainuiomata Community Board in 2010.

However, it's still a bit unusual to be in a position to have to talk to you about the home my wife Laura and I purchased last year in Wainuiomata.

Along with my mother and father in law, my wife and I were fortunate enough to buy a beautiful home with some land on Upper Fitzherbert Road.

We were looking for something rural, with the ability to accommodate Laura and me, as well as her mum and dad. Ultimately we were also looking with a view to a future family, and room to grow.

When we were looking to move at the end of 2018, we looked at houses right across the Hutt. It will not surprise you that being Wainuiomata born and bred, I was pretty keen to keep living locally. We viewed a handful of houses in Wainuiomata, and we put offers on two houses that were not accepted.

In December of that year, our real estate agent reached out and suggested we take a look at the home we now live in. We didn't fall immediately in love with it after looking at the online listing, so didn't pursue it at the time and continued looking at other options.

After Christmas that year, we saw that the house was still for sale. We asked the listing agent to setup a viewing. Soon after we viewed it a second time with Laura's mum and dad, and then after that things moved quickly (as they do), and we put in an offer in February 2019 which was declined in favour of another purchaser. Later that month, the first offer fell through and we were invited to make another offer, which was accepted.

When we purchased the home, I also emailed Council officers advising them of the house purchase and invited them to raise any issues. There were no legal issues identified, and I was given general advice on how to best manage homeownership in terms of Council's planning processes.

So – why am I telling you all of this?

When I was standing for Mayor last year, and close to the election, a number of my political opponents were busy making a number of allegations about the purchase of our family home.

For those who aren't familiar with the Upper Fitzherbert area in Wainuiomata, it has long been identified as a potential site for housing development. It is one of the few remaining areas of rural land in the Hutt, where large scale housing development is possible.

This was flagged in the Hutt City Council's Urban Growth Strategy in 2012-2032. People have also, for years, advocated for a second access way in the area, in part to support the development of housing.

Regardless of these long term visions, there are no plans or budget in the pipeline to rezone the area to allow for development of this scale. In fact, Council staff confirmed this when they released all information related to Wainuiomata North in December last year.

Despite much of the thinking and reports being public, my opponents claim I learned about detailed plans as a Councillor, and then sought to buy a house in an area where I would financially benefit.

Along with staff, councillors, and stakeholders at the end of 2018 I did attend a session run by consultants who described work as "blue sky thinking", and were in part based on potential development plans from 1976.

My political opponents said I had received detailed private briefings about potential development. According to them, I then used that information to pursue a private sale for our home.

Those things aren't true.

But still, my political opponents wrote a complaint to authorities, and then aggressively shopped the story around to journalists in Wellington and all the way up to Auckland.

This was all happening in late August and early September, just before voting in the local body elections opened. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out the allegations had a political motivation to them.

I spoke at length with journalists, answering questions, providing information – and the journalists, in turn, spoke to Hutt City Council staff, the real estate agents we dealt with, our neighbours, local government experts, and anyone else they needed to speak to in order to test the veracity of the claims being made.

Every single journalist and news editor declined to print the story. There was simply nothing in it, and no facts to back up the allegations that were being made.

The authorities also assessed what was being alleged, and declined to look at the matter any further.

So, again – why am I telling you all of this?

It has now been about a year since that group of people started to shop the story around about our family home.

So it was a bit surprising to learn recently that journalists had again been approached, with the same allegations, by the same people, seeking to inflict the same damage.

Today I've decided I've had enough of this kind of politics.

While I know who is behind the complaints, there's no benefit in naming them. I know they have a political axe to grind, and that the allegations have time and again been debunked.

And it's not that I am above reproach, or questions being asked. Questions have been asked. A lot of them. I've been upfront and honest about absolutely everything. It speaks for itself that there hasn't been anything of substance to report on.

But instead of continuing to go over these things again, by journalists who are seeing half-baked allegations for the first time, I'm going to explain them to you directly.

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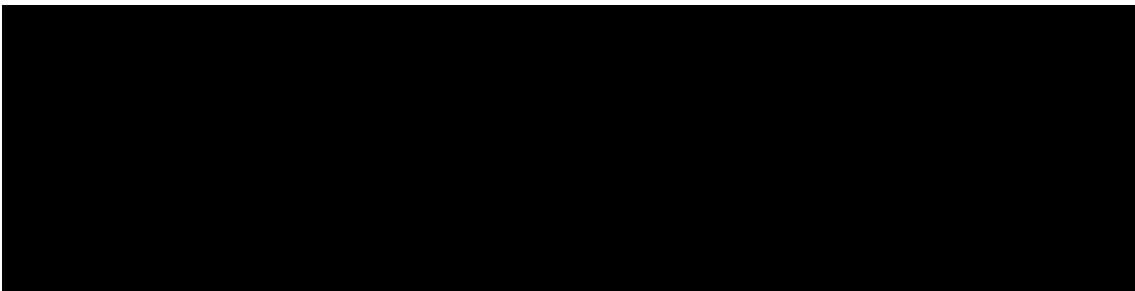
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And if you have any questions at all, don't hesitate to flick me a message, or send me an email. I'll do my best to respond to everyone.

Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 9:02 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: RE: A long, but important message

Thank you and I'm very sorry that you had to write such a detailed explanation. I had never heard of any of this until now and think it is completely ridiculous that you have been put through such a horrible business. Your family home is your private affair and I hope you can soon enjoy it as such. It's very sad that some people waste so much time like this.

[REDACTED] adds:

You have my full support in this and for the great job you are doing as our mayor. Keep your ideals alive and long may you continue to serve us.

[REDACTED]

From: [Mayor Campbell Barry](#)
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 6:40 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: A long, but important message

Hi [REDACTED],

I am writing to you this evening to clarify the purchase of my family home in Wainuiomata.

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And if you have any questions at all, don't hesitate to flick me a message, or send me an email. I'll do my best to respond to everyone.

Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 8:41 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Dear Campbell,

Thank you for sharing this with us. Both [REDACTED] and I are saddened to hear of the stress you and your family have suffered due to these baseless allegations made by your political opponents. We have known you for most of your life and do not believe you would put yourself before your community. You should be able to buy your first home without been criticised over the area you choose to live in. We appreciate all you do for our community and you have our support. Kia kaha Campbell.

Regards

[REDACTED]

From: Mayor Campbell Barry
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2020 6:39 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: A long, but important message

Hi [REDACTED],

I am writing to you this evening to clarify the purchase of my family home in Wainuiomata.

As a Councillor and as Mayor I have always been transparent, upfront, and honest about issues – it's an approach I consider to underpin everything I have done since I was elected to the Wainuiomata Community Board in 2010.

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Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 8:27 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Hey Campbell

Thanks for the email... I voted for you and will again as you are doing whats best for the people and the community.

Hope you and your family enjoy your home and I wish you all the very best.

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

On 04 September 2020 at 18:39 Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

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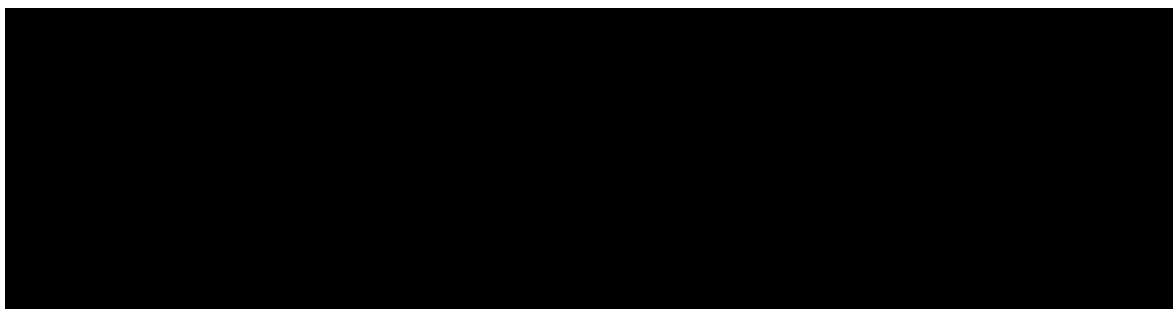
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Kind regards,

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 8:22 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Hang in there Campbell :-)) I hope this rubbish stops soon for you. Regards [REDACTED]

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2020 6:39:07 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: A long, but important message

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Those issues will always be my focus, and will continue to be my focus. Part of this is directly addressing this issue, which is a distraction from everything else.

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Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 8:09 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Hi Campbell

Thanks for outlining this ridiculous situation.

Best wishes to your family and hope you are able now to enjoy your home.

As always you have all my support. We are fortunate to have you as our Mayor.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

On Sep 4, 2020, at 6:39 PM, Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

from COVID-19.

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 8:06 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Dear Cambell

Sorry you have had to spend valuable time going to these lengths to explain a house purchase to ward off political skulduggery- but good on you for front footing it and taking the power away from them. Hopefully, you can now focus back on the good work you are doing for the community.

Kia Kaha

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On 4/09/2020, at 6:39 PM, Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

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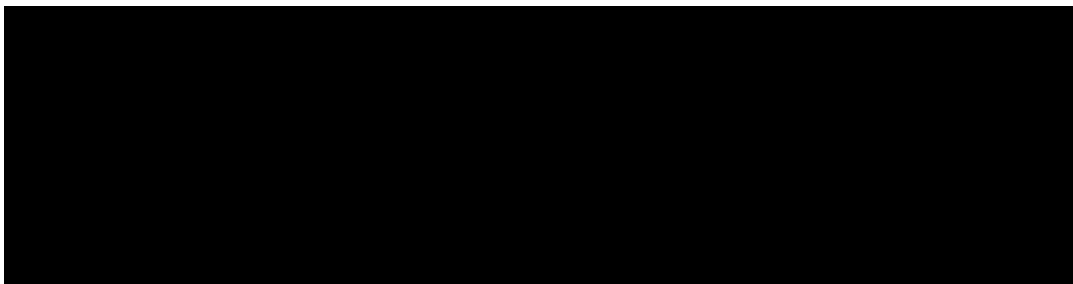
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Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 7:10 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Bloody good of you to out it out there.

Good stuff mate. And hope this makes it clear to them to back the fuck off.

Best regards

[REDACTED]

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2020 6:39:18 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: A long, but important message

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 7:57 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Kia Kaha Mayor Campbell Barry, your doing an awesome job as Hutt City's Mayor.

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020, 6:39 PM Mayor Campbell Barry, <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 7:53 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Kia Ora Campbell

You know in your heart of hearts what is right and you have always come across as a person of integrity, so I wouldn't worry about it! What they sow is what they reap!

You don't have to explain to people who know you, because if you weren't tika it will catch up with you!

Ngā mihi mahana

[REDACTED]

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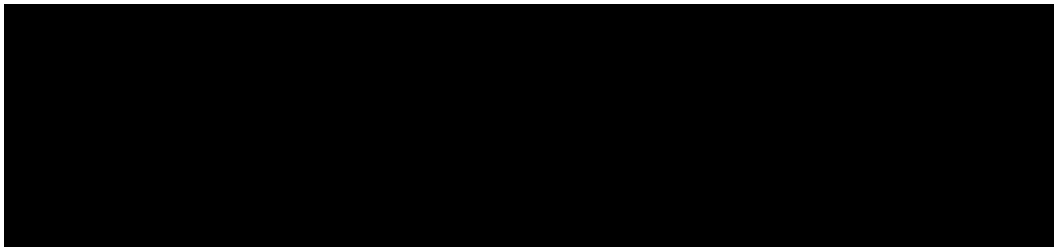
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So there it is. The story of my family home purchase in about 1000 words.

And if you have any questions at all, don’t hesitate to flick me a message, or send me an email. I’ll do my best to respond to everyone.

Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 7:46 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

I hadn't heard anything about this Campbell but sadly it doesn't surprise me. Sorry the excitement of buying your new home had the shine taken off by these deluded and jealous people. I think you are doing a great job as mayor. It's been a very long time since I've been proud to say I'm from the Hutt. There are some powerful interests who must be desperate to see you fail so hope you can stay strong and stare them down. Take care. [REDACTED]

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020, 6:39 PM Mayor Campbell Barry, <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

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As a Councillor and as Mayor I have always been transparent, upfront, and honest about issues – it's an approach I consider to underpin everything I have done since I was elected to the Wainuiomata Community Board in 2010.

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Along with my mother and father in law, my wife and I were fortunate enough to buy a beautiful home with some land on Upper Fitzherbert Road.

We were looking for something rural, with the ability to accommodate Laura and me, as well as her mum and dad. Ultimately we were also looking with a view to a future family, and room to grow.

When we were looking to move at the end of 2018, we looked at houses right across the Hutt. It will not surprise you that being Wainuiomata born and bred, I was pretty keen to keep living locally. We viewed a handful of houses in Wainuiomata, and we put offers on two houses that were not accepted.

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So – why am I telling you all of this?

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Those things aren't true.

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This was all happening in late August and early September, just before voting in the local body elections opened. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out the allegations had a political motivation to them.

I spoke at length with journalists, answering questions, providing information – and the journalists, in turn, spoke to Hutt City Council staff, the real estate agents we dealt with, our neighbours, local government experts, and anyone else they needed to speak to in order to test the veracity of the claims being made.

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Today I've decided I've had enough of this kind of politics.

While I know who is behind the complaints, there's no benefit in naming them. I know they have a political axe to grind, and that the allegations have time and again been debunked.

And it's not that I am above reproach, or questions being asked. Questions have been asked. A lot of them. I've been upfront and honest about absolutely everything. It speaks for itself that there hasn't been anything of substance to report on.

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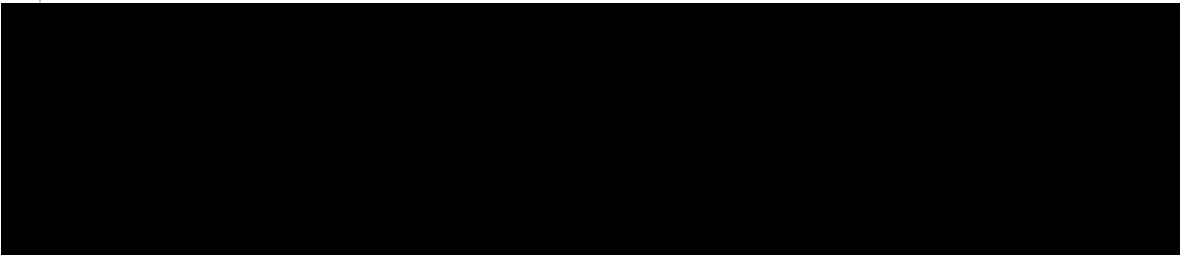
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Mayor of Lower Hutt



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 7:44 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: RE: A long, but important message

Thanks Campbell. You certainly still have my support. All the best, [REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Mayor Campbell Barry](#)
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 6:39 pm
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: A long, but important message

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 7:42 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Wow interesting that you have to go to that extent and I can see why you need to.

Thank you I am Wainui bred lived in Norfolk street, and to be honest the whole Wainui is really up for development. Wainui college and intermediate, the mall area, by parkway college road, besides the Wainui health centre a retirement home, the village Faulke ave.

Good luck if your referee tomorrow have fun this is more important than having to share your house purchase. Glad you did so I get an understanding how the John keys party work.

Good luck 😊

Regards
[REDACTED]

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020 at 6:39 PM, Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 7:40 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Campbell I have no intentions of listening to other peoples allegations and stories i stand behind you 100%

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[REDACTED] I'm not to sure what you are emailing me about please let me know exactly what this is about

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

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So there it is. The story of my family home purchase in about 1000 words.

And if you have any questions at all, don't hesitate to flick me a message, or send me an email. I'll do my best to respond to everyone.

Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 7:31 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Hi Campbell

I'm sorry you and your family have had to deal with this.

Sending best wishes and thank you for being our Mayor.

Best regards and hope to see you around soon.

[REDACTED]

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2020 6:39:07 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: A long, but important message

Hi [REDACTED],

I am writing to you this evening to clarify the purchase of my family home in Wainuiomata.

As a Councillor and as Mayor I have always been transparent, upfront, and honest about issues – it's an approach I consider to underpin everything I have done since I was elected to the Wainuiomata Community Board in 2010.

However, it's still a bit unusual to be in a position to have to talk to you about the home my wife Laura and I purchased last year in Wainuiomata.

Along with my mother and father in law, my wife and I were fortunate enough to buy a beautiful home with some land on Upper Fitzherbert Road.

We were looking for something rural, with the ability to accommodate Laura and me, as well as her mum and dad. Ultimately we were also looking with a view to a future family, and room to grow.

When we were looking to move at the end of 2018, we looked at houses right across the Hutt. It will not surprise you that being Wainuiomata born and bred, I was pretty keen to keep living locally. We viewed a handful of houses in Wainuiomata, and we put offers on two houses that were not accepted.

In December of that year, our real estate agent reached out and suggested we take a look at the home we now live in. We didn't fall immediately in love with it after looking at the online listing, so didn't pursue it at the time and continued looking at other options.

After Christmas that year, we saw that the house was still for sale. We asked the listing agent to setup a viewing. Soon after we viewed it a second time with Laura's mum and dad, and then after that things moved quickly (as they do), and we put in an offer in February 2019 which was declined in favour of another purchaser. Later that month, the first offer fell through and we were invited to make another offer, which was accepted.

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Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 7:29 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Kia ora, Campbell. It's sad that you even have to explain this stuff. You do a wonderful job as our mayor. There will always be deflectors. Hang in there. Kia kaha.

[REDACTED]

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2020 6:39:13 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: A long, but important message

Hi [REDACTED],

I am writing to you this evening to clarify the purchase of my family home in Wainuiomata.

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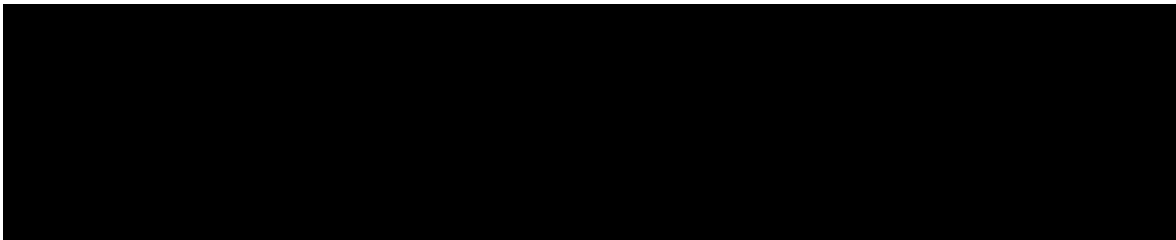
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Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 7:28 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Hi Campbell,

Nicely managed.

Cheers,
[REDACTED]

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020 at 18:39, Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

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Kind regards,

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Mayor of Lower Hutt

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 7:27 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: RE: A long, but important message

Sorry to hear the hell your going through. 100% behind you. You are a trustworthy guy. Take care xx

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

From: Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz>
Date: 4/09/20 6:39 pm (GMT+12:00)
To: [REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 7:24 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Thank you for the message.

All I want is quicker movement on Naenae pool especially with all the new housing. All the rest I don't buy into.

Thanks for taking the time.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

On 4/09/2020, at 6:39 PM, Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

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We were looking for something rural, with the ability to accommodate Laura and me, as well as her mum and dad. Ultimately we were also looking with a view to a future family, and room to grow.

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Those things aren't true.

But still, my political opponents wrote a complaint to authorities, and then aggressively shopped the story around to journalists in Wellington and all the way up to Auckland.

This was all happening in late August and early September, just before voting in the local body elections opened. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out the allegations had a political motivation to them.

I spoke at length with journalists, answering questions, providing information – and the journalists, in turn, spoke to Hutt City Council staff, the real estate agents we dealt with, our neighbours, local government experts, and anyone else they needed to speak to in order to test the veracity of the claims being made.

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While I know who is behind the complaints, there's no benefit in naming them. I know they have a political axe to grind, and that the allegations have time and again been debunked.

And it's not that I am above reproach, or questions being asked. Questions have been asked. A lot of them. I've been upfront and honest about absolutely everything. It speaks for itself that there hasn't been anything of substance to report on.

But instead of continuing to go over these things again, by journalists who are seeing half-baked allegations for the first time, I'm going to explain them to you directly.

Some people say that "explaining is losing". I personally give the public a lot more credit than that, and think people are smart enough and experienced enough to make their own judgments. In this circumstance, I'm confident the facts speak for themselves.

I was elected Mayor last year with a promise to always be open and transparent, and to tell things how they are. This might mean that we may not always agree, but you can be confident I've listened and been upfront with you in response.

As many will know, buying a home is generally a happy time in your life. Instead, my family has been under constant stress from these allegations which have, and continue to come up.

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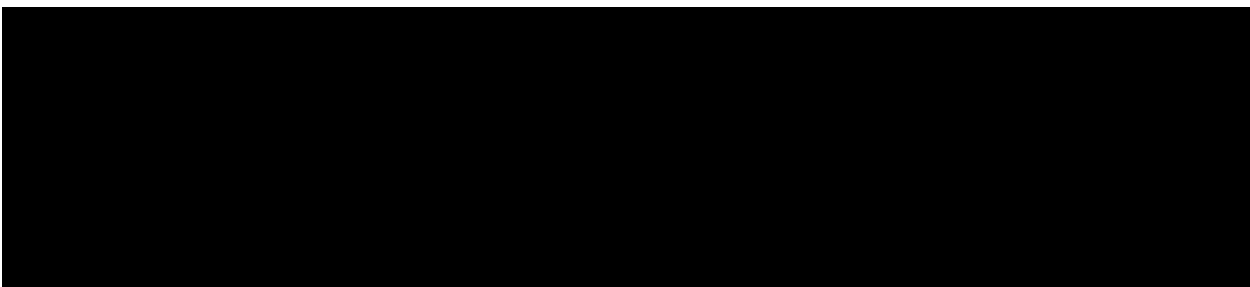
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So there it is. The story of my family home purchase in about 1000 words.

And if you have any questions at all, don't hesitate to flick me a message, or send me an email. I'll do my best to respond to everyone.

Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 7:24 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Hi Campbell,

Thank you for your honesty. In some ways I would say it is unnecessary but in reality people like to know. I actually considered looking at property in Fitzherbert as I love the rural life and my daughter is nearby. At the same time its not rocket science to realise that area could eventually be developed. I considered that too. You dont need inside information, it just makes sense.

If you make good on that purchase so be it and good luck to you.

Dont feel guilty. There is always someone out there to spoil it.

Politics are so difficult and I admire anyone honest to get involved in it.

Keep up the good work.

Turn away from those that would seek to discredit you.

Dont be distracted by things that would take you away from important issues, of which there are many.

All the best

[REDACTED].

--

Sent from Outlook Email App for Android

Friday, 04 September 2020, 06:39PM +12:00 from Mayor Campbell Barry
campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz:

Hi [REDACTED],

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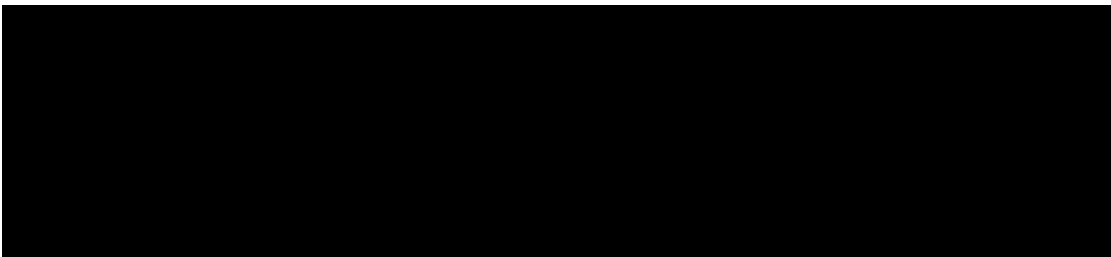
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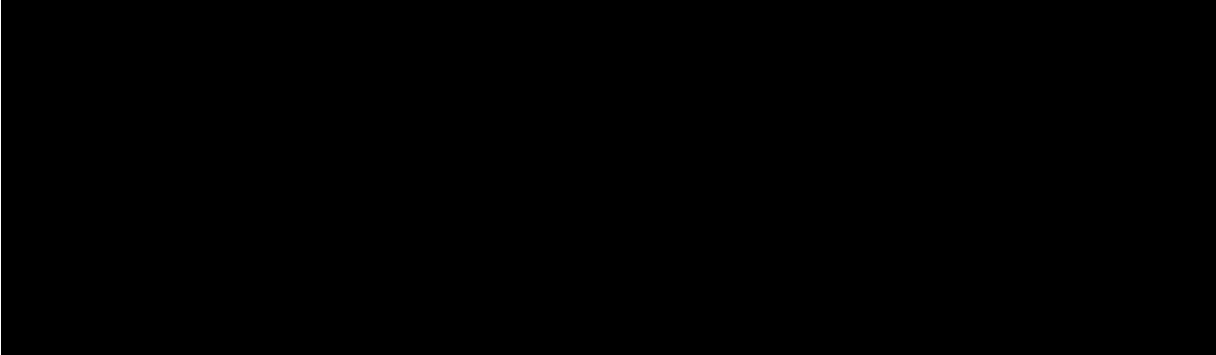
Campbell Barry
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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 7:11 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message
Attachments: image001.jpg

Kia kaha Campbell. You will always have my support. Cheers Peter



On Fri, 4 Sep 2020 at 18:39, Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 7:10 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Thankyou for your email, I hope things improve for you and your family and you can enjoy life without the stress of others who bring negativity and problems.

I was wondering if you can look into when the wainui dog park is meant to be created and made (parkway)?? We have lived here first house for 16 years in parkway and currently own 2 young dogs.

There is limited dog parks that are enclosed. I only know of 3- karori, tawa, and plimmerton.

I hope to hear some positive news soon.

[REDACTED]

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020, 18:39 Mayor Campbell Barry, <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

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Thank you. You should not have to go through all that crap. All the best to you and Laura in your new home. Enjoy it and I know it won't be easy ignore what other people think and just continue to do the job as you know best. To hell with them, being in politics ain't easy mate but I have all the confidence in you. Love to you both

Sent from my iPhone

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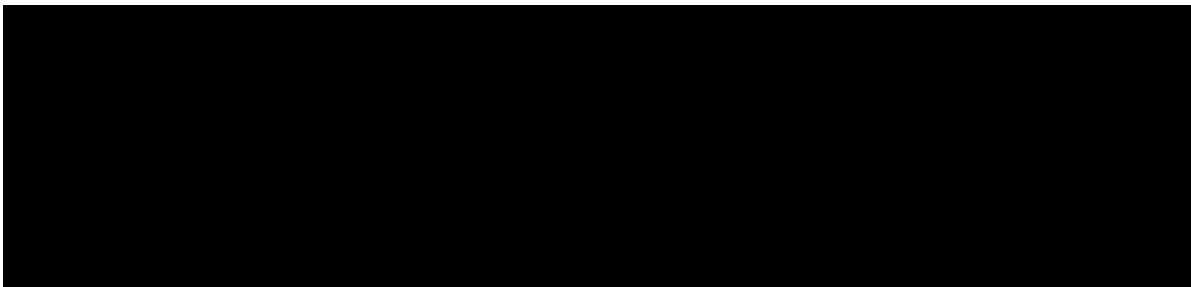
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So there it is. The story of my family home purchase in about 1000 words.

And if you have any questions at all, don't hesitate to flick me a message, or send me an email. I'll do my best to respond to everyone.

Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 7:10 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Bloody good of you to out it out there.

Good stuff mate. And hope this makes it clear to them to back the fuck off.

[REDACTED]

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, September 4, 2020 6:39:18 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: A long, but important message

Hi [REDACTED],

I am writing to you this evening to clarify the purchase of my family home in Wainuiomata.

As a Councillor and as Mayor I have always been transparent, upfront, and honest about issues – it's an approach I consider to underpin everything I have done since I was elected to the Wainuiomata Community Board in 2010.

However, it's still a bit unusual to be in a position to have to talk to you about the home my wife Laura and I purchased last year in Wainuiomata.

Along with my mother and father in law, my wife and I were fortunate enough to buy a beautiful home with some land on Upper Fitzherbert Road.

We were looking for something rural, with the ability to accommodate Laura and me, as well as her mum and dad. Ultimately we were also looking with a view to a future family, and room to grow.

When we were looking to move at the end of 2018, we looked at houses right across the Hutt. It will not surprise you that being Wainuiomata born and bred, I was pretty keen to keep living locally. We viewed a handful of houses in Wainuiomata, and we put offers on two houses that were not accepted.

In December of that year, our real estate agent reached out and suggested we take a look at the home we now live in. We didn't fall immediately in love with it after looking at the online listing, so didn't pursue it at the time and continued looking at other options.

After Christmas that year, we saw that the house was still for sale. We asked the listing agent to setup a viewing. Soon after we viewed it a second time with Laura's mum and dad, and then after that things moved quickly (as they do), and we put in an offer in February 2019 which was declined in favour of another purchaser. Later that month, the first offer fell through and we were invited to make another offer, which was accepted.

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For those who aren't familiar with the Upper Fitzherbert area in Wainuiomata, it has long been identified as a potential site for housing development. It is one of the few remaining areas of rural land in the Hutt, where large scale housing development is possible.

This was flagged in the Hutt City Council's Urban Growth Strategy in 2012-2032. People have also, for years, advocated for a second access way in the area, in part to support the development of housing.

Regardless of these long term visions, there are no plans or budget in the pipeline to rezone the area to allow for development of this scale. In fact, Council staff confirmed this when they released all information related to Wainuiomata North in December last year.

Despite much of the thinking and reports being public, my opponents claim I learned about detailed plans as a Councillor, and then sought to buy a house in an area where I would financially benefit.

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Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 7:07 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Thanks all clear sounds like you managed any potential conflicts or appearance of conflicts well.
Ignore the doubters Campbell and put your efforts into Naenae pool rebuild.

[REDACTED]

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz>
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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 7:04 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Wow. Really sorry to hear that Campbell. Your poor family.

What a world we live in.

Stay humble and Hutt proud.

[REDACTED]

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020, 18:39 Mayor Campbell Barry, <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

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Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 7:04 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: RE: A long, but important message

I am absolutely gobsmacked that you even have to write this.

Please give your lovely lady and her parents mine and [REDACTED] love and support. ❤️

Also nearly BBQ season 😊😊

[REDACTED]

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

----- Original message -----

From: Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz>
Date: 4/09/20 6:39 PM (GMT+12:00)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: A long, but important message

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 9:09 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Thanks for your email anybody who has lived in wainuiomata for any length of time would know that this land would be eventually developed.
And would form a part of the second access to the valley.
Good luck to you and your family with your recent purchase and I hope you will enjoy it.
One needn't have to think too hard to see our blue friends and supporters, handy work written all over the allegations.
This would probably include the current MP.

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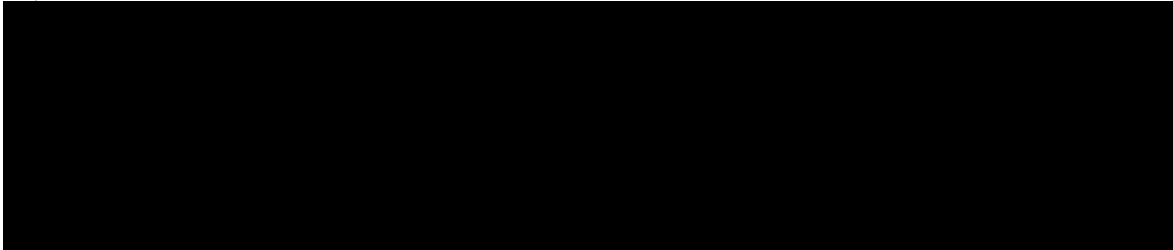
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Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 7:03 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

I hope you and Laura have settled into your family home and made it your own. It's so unfortunate that you have to explain this and must be super stressful on your wife.

Hopefully this political shit dies down quickly for you!

Regards
[REDACTED]

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020, 18:39 Mayor Campbell Barry, <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

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Mayor of Lower Hutt

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 7:02 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

We all support you. I hope you won't let those silly people get you down. We know you have integrity in everything you do.

Take care,

[REDACTED]

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020, 18:39 Mayor Campbell Barry, <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 7:00 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Hi Campbell,

Sorry to hear that for whatever reason this nonsense has reared its head again.

Obviously there is little or no appreciation that prior processes draw a line under the issue.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

On 4/09/2020, at 6:39 PM, Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 6:58 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Tena koe ehoa

Your honesty and integrity is most welcomed.

Explaining the facts and truth to us is not losing at all.

It shows and proves to me, that I voted for the right person.

It takes courage to be open and vulnerable, in which, in my eyes is a true leader.

Kia kaha ehoa, continue to lead with honesty, humility and integrity.

[REDACTED]

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Rumors and innuendos are not what people are interested in, nor is petty and dirty politics. The people I speak with want their elected officials to focus on the issues that matter. Housing, infrastructure, our environment, and building back better from COVID-19.

Those issues will always be my focus, and will continue to be my focus. Part of this is directly addressing this issue, which is a distraction from everything else.

So there it is. The story of my family home purchase in about 1000 words.

And if you have any questions at all, don’t hesitate to flick me a message, or send me an email. I’ll do my best to respond to everyone.

Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 6:57 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Don't worry about the allegations resurfacing again. If you have nothing to hide and have been transparent then you don't have to justify to anyone about your family home. Continue with your good work and God Bless.

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020 at 6:39 PM, Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

I am writing to you this evening to

clarify the purchase of my family home in Wainuiomata.

As a Councillor and as Mayor I have

always been transparent, upfront, and honest about issues – it's an approach I consider to underpin everything I have done since I was elected to the Wainuiomata Community Board in 2010.

However, it's still a bit unusual

to be in a position to have to talk to you about the home my wife

Laura and I purchased last year in Wainuiomata.

Along with my mother and father in

law, my wife and I were fortunate enough to buy a beautiful home with some land on Upper Fitzherbert Road.

We were looking for something

rural, with the ability to accommodate Laura and me, as well as her mum and dad. Ultimately we were also looking with a view to a future family, and room to grow.

When we were looking to move at the

end of 2018, we looked at houses right across the Hutt. It will not surprise you that being Wainuiomata born and bred, I was pretty keen to keep living locally. We viewed a handful of houses in Wainuiomata, and we put offers on two houses that were not accepted.

In December of that year, our real estate agent reached out and suggested we take a look at the home we now live in. We didn't fall immediately in love with it after looking at the online listing, so didn't pursue it at the time and continued looking at other options.

After Christmas that year, we saw that the house was still for sale. We asked the listing agent to setup a viewing. Soon after we viewed it a second time with Laura's mum and dad, and then after that things moved quickly (as they do), and we put in an offer in February 2019 which was declined in favour of another purchaser. Later that month, the first offer fell through and we were invited to make another offer, which was accepted.

When we purchased the home, I also emailed Council officers advising them of the house purchase and invited them to raise any issues. There were no legal issues identified, and I was given general advice on how to best manage homeownership in terms of Council's planning processes.

So – why am I telling you

all of this?

When I was standing for Mayor last

year, and close to the election, a number of my political opponents

were busy making a number of allegations about the purchase of our

family home.

For those who aren't familiar with

the Upper Fitzherbert area in Wainuiomata, it has long been identified

as a potential site for housing development. It is one of the few

remaining areas of rural land in the Hutt, where large scale housing

development is possible.

This was flagged in the Hutt City

Council's Urban Growth Strategy in 2012-2032. People have also, for

years, advocated for a second access way in the area, in part to

support the development of housing.

Regardless of these long term

visions, there are no plans or budget in the pipeline to rezone the

area to allow for development of this scale. In fact, Council staff

confirmed this when they released all information related to

Wainuiomata North in December last year.

Despite much of the thinking and

reports being public, my opponents claim I learned about detailed

plans as a Councillor, and then sought to buy a house in an area where

I would financially benefit.

Along with staff, councillors, and

stakeholders at the end of 2018 I did attend a session run by

consultants who described work as “blue sky thinking”, and were in

part based on potential development plans from 1976.

My political opponents said I had

received detailed private briefings about potential development.

According to them, I then used that information to pursue a private

sale for our home.

Those things aren't

true.

But still, my political opponents

wrote a complaint to authorities, and then aggressively shopped the

story around to journalists in Wellington and all the way up to

Auckland.

This was all happening in late

August and early September, just before voting in the local body

elections opened. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out

the allegations had a political motivation to them.

I spoke at length with journalists,

answering questions, providing information – and

the journalists, in turn, spoke to Hutt City Council staff, the real

estate agents we dealt with, our neighbours, local government experts,

and anyone else they needed to speak to in order to test the veracity

of the claims being made.

Every single journalist and news

editor declined to print the story. There was simply nothing in it,

and no facts to back up the allegations that were being

made.

The authorities also assessed what

was being alleged, and declined to look at the matter any

further.

So, again – why

am I telling you all of this?

It has now been about a year since

that group of people started to shop the story around about our family

home.

So it was a bit surprising to learn

recently that journalists had again been approached, with the same

allegations, by the same people, seeking to inflict the same

damage.

Today I've decided I've had enough

of this kind of politics.

While I know who is behind the

complaints, there's no benefit in naming them. I know they have a

political axe to grind, and that the allegations have time and again

been debunked.

And it's not that I am above

reproach, or questions being asked. Questions have been asked. A lot

of them. I've been upfront and honest about absolutely everything.

It speaks for itself that there hasn't been anything of substance to report on.

But instead of continuing to go

over these things again, by journalists who are seeing half-baked

allegations for the first time, I'm going to explain them to you directly.

Some people say that "explaining is

losing". I personally give the public a lot more credit than that,

and think people are smart enough and experienced enough to make their

own judgments. In this circumstance, I'm confident the facts speak for themselves.

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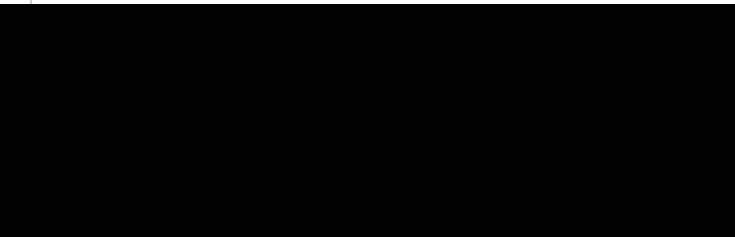
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Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt





[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 6:56 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: RE: A long, but important message

Thank you Campbell.

I voted for you because I too am sick of the dirty politicking. I read your answers then and your in depth explanation now.

As far as I am concerned keep up the good work and keep posting pictures of the farm family.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from Samsung tablet.

----- Original message -----

From: Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz>
Date: 04/09/2020 18:39 (GMT+12:00)
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: A long, but important message

Hi [REDACTED],

I am writing to you this evening to clarify the purchase of my family home in Wainuiomata.

As a Councillor and as Mayor I have always been transparent, upfront, and honest about issues – it's an approach I consider to underpin everything I have done since I was elected to the Wainuiomata Community Board in 2010.

However, it's still a bit unusual to be in a position to have to talk to you about the home my wife Laura and I purchased last year in Wainuiomata.

Along with my mother and father in law, my wife and I were fortunate enough to buy a beautiful home with some land on Upper Fitzherbert Road.

We were looking for something rural, with the ability to accommodate Laura and me, as well as her mum and dad. Ultimately we were also looking with a view to a future family, and room to grow.

When we were looking to move at the end of 2018, we looked at houses right across the Hutt. It will not surprise you that being Wainuiomata born and bred, I was pretty keen to keep living locally. We viewed a handful of houses in Wainuiomata, and we put offers on two houses that were not accepted.

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This was flagged in the Hutt City Council's Urban Growth Strategy in 2012-2032. People have also, for years, advocated for a second access way in the area, in part to support the development of housing.

Regardless of these long term visions, there are no plans or budget in the pipeline to rezone the area to allow for development of this scale. In fact, Council staff confirmed this when they released all information related to Wainuiomata North in December last year.

Despite much of the thinking and reports being public, my opponents claim I learned about detailed plans as a Councillor, and then sought to buy a house in an area where I would financially benefit.

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Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 6:54 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Thank you Campbell Barry, although there was no need to explain, because of your honesty and integrity. You are always going to get the haters, so don't worry about it, just continue to be open and honest, give clarity around your decisions and do what is best for the people.

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020, 6:39 pm Mayor Campbell Barry, <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

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Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 6:52 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Congratulations on your new home. Gosh there are some nasty people out there, but I'm sure there are more people who are happy for you and your purchase. I'm backing you 100%. Nga mihi

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020 at 6:39 pm, Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 6:50 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Hello Campbell... thankyou for your upfront information... I have not heard anyone speak badly if you.. and it would be in their best interests not to eitha..

I'm actually [REDACTED] 😊

[REDACTED] ... May you enjoy your new home and best wishes to you and your familyX

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While I know who is behind the complaints, there's no benefit in naming them. I know they have a political axe to grind, and that the allegations have time and again been debunked.

And it's not that I am above reproach, or questions being asked. Questions have been asked. A lot of them. I've been upfront and honest about absolutely everything. It speaks for itself that there hasn't been anything of substance to report on.

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Rumors and innuendos are not what people are interested in, nor is petty and dirty politics. The people I speak with want their elected officials to focus on the issues that matter. Housing, infrastructure, our environment, and building back better from COVID-19.

Those issues will always be my focus, and will continue to be my focus. Part of this is directly addressing this issue, which is a distraction from everything else.

So there it is. The story of my family home purchase in about 1000 words.

And if you have any questions at all, don't hesitate to flick me a message, or send me an email. I'll do my best to respond to everyone.

Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 6:48 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

You have done amazing and It's unbelievable that your family life gets pulled into politics. I have no doubt your purchase was 100% honest!

Well done Campbell for you success becoming our mayor and thank you for your presence in our community!

I wish you and your family much happiness in your dream home you deserve!

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020 at 6:39 PM, Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

I am writing to you this evening to clarify the purchase of my family home in Wainuiomata.

As a Councillor and as Mayor I have always been transparent, upfront, and honest about issues – it's an approach I consider to underpin everything I have done since I was elected to the Wainuiomata Community Board in 2010.

However, it's still a bit unusual to be in a position to have to talk to you about the home my wife Laura and I purchased last year in Wainuiomata.

Along with my mother and father in law, my wife and I were fortunate enough to buy a beautiful home with some land on Upper Fitzherbert Road.

We were looking for something rural, with the ability to accommodate Laura and me, as well as her mum and dad. Ultimately we were also looking with a view to a future family, and room to grow.

When we were looking to move at the end of 2018, we looked at houses right across the Hutt. It will not surprise you that being Wainuiomata born and bred, I was pretty keen to keep living locally. We viewed a handful of houses in Wainuiomata, and we put offers on two houses that were not accepted.

In December of that year, our real estate agent reached out and suggested we take a look at the home we now live in. We didn't fall immediately in love with it after looking at the online listing, so didn't pursue it at the time and continued looking at other options.

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Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 6:47 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

To tell you the truth Campbell I have not heard any of this..in saying that I will not take interest with regards to rumours or people trying to create havoc with your name. I am not at all concerned about your integrity and I know there are many people in Wainuiomata who will think the same..Cheers [REDACTED]

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020 at 6:39 PM, Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

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Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 6:49 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Thanks Campbell

There is no need to explain yourself to those who know that politics can be a nasty business
I support you and thanks for giving me the full story so I can use it to put people straight so to speak.
Regards

On Fri, Sep 4, 2020 at 6:39 PM Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

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Kind regards,

Campbell Barry
Mayor of Lower Hutt

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 6:41 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: A long, but important message

Can you please leave me alone. National are not who I want running out country.

Thank you

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020 at 6:39 PM, Mayor Campbell Barry <campbell.barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi Kylie,

I am writing to you this evening to

clarify the purchase of my family home in Wainuiomata.

As a Councillor and as Mayor I have

always been transparent, upfront, and honest about issues – it's an approach I consider to underpin everything I have done since I was elected to the Wainuiomata Community Board in 2010.

However, it's still a bit unusual

to be in a position to have to talk to you about the home my wife

Laura and I purchased last year in Wainuiomata.

Along with my mother and father in

law, my wife and I were fortunate enough to buy a beautiful home with some land on Upper Fitzherbert Road.

We were looking for something

rural, with the ability to accommodate Laura and me, as well as her mum and dad. Ultimately we were also looking with a view to a future family, and room to grow.

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end of 2018, we looked at houses right across the Hutt. It will not surprise you that being Wainuiomata born and bred, I was pretty keen to keep living locally. We viewed a handful of houses in Wainuiomata, and we put offers on two houses that were not accepted.

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[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2020 12:13 PM
To: Campbell Barry; David Bassett; Chris Milne; Simon Edwards; Josh Briggs; Tui Lewis; Leigh Sutton; Deborah Hislop; Andy Mitchell; Keri Brown; Naomi Shaw; Shazly Rasheed; Brady Dyer
Subject: Chief Executive - DP article

All

The main focus of the DP article is the Mayor.

But if the reported facts relating to the Chief Executive (“shelving a key project”) are correct they are also troubling.

I have in the past outlined concerns I have had in my dealings around this CE. And regarding the way she interacts including in respect of Councillors.

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A large black rectangular redaction box covering several lines of text.

>>

>> Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 11 September 2020 7:46 AM
To: Simon Edwards
Cc: Campbell Barry; Tui Lewis; Josh Briggs; Brady Dyer; David Bassett; Leigh Sutton; Chris Milne; Shazly Rasheed; Naomi Shaw; Keri Brown; Andy Mitchell; Deborah Hislop
Subject: Concerns around leadership

Hi Simon -

I sent the first part of this email to your phone as a text. You are usually good in replying. There will be a good reason for your delay.

I voted for you as a person with empathy, integrity and knowledge. Someone I know who has a heart for the City. And someone I could get answers from even if didn't always agree with them. That is fine.

Today I would appreciate hearing your views on the leadership/ governance issues facing the Council at present. I would be happy to hear these alone or with David, my friend and a person who over years has acted with integrity to benefit the City - and I add any other Councillors who wish to join us - being present.

I would only say my views stated on many occasions are real and not political or personality driven. I feel that as a body the Council is failing us all through its inability to acknowledge, appreciate, address and, as needed, call to account, sanction or correct leadership failings.

I have listed my concerns around the Mayor's leadership. On many occasions I have sought explanations or comment. Not once has the Mayor sought to correct me. He does however use Facebook and email to promote his views and to attempt to deflect or preempt criticism.

Unanswered the DP article of last Saturday is damning. As a former editor you know this. On the facts alleged the Mayor appears as a councillor to have acted wrongly using confidential City information for personal benefit. The vendor and the City, i.e. you the Council and failing you the residents, me, require explanations and (unanswered) have cause for concern. As well I understand the Mayor has and ready access to a family member who is a lawyer, who must appreciate the concerns that remain unanswered.

According to the DP the CE's acts at that time on the face of it merit a serious grievance process.

Then there is the Deputy Mayor. Someone like you I also know and respect. Having told me she wouldn't normally reply to what I write I so provoke her she does. Tui tells me I am wrong. But she can't explain why.

On the facts as reported and not corrected I am not wrong to have grave concerns about the Mayor's and the CE acts. And I expect more from my elected representatives.

This is not just about a property dealing in Wainuiomata. There are other concerns I have listed as to leadership and direction, with the Mayor and CE, that still go unanswered.

What are you all doing about this? If you can't act or if you feel the concerns are not real, or are politically or personally motivated, get an independent view. I suggested the Local Government Minister. There will be other options. The "Nero" option is not available.

I get the overwhelming sense Councillors are looking down rabbit holes, or burying their heads in the sand to avoid addressing the obvious unanswered concerns that stare all of you in the face. And at the same time blaming each other for the public scrutiny that falls on you as a body and the CE. Am I wrong here?

The Mayor and the CE should answer the concerns raised around them - arising out of the Wainuiomata DP article. What I have seen written by the Mayor so far is no answer. Particularly when I look at related acts and positions taken.

What I would like to hear from you Simon is what you all as Council propose to do about this.



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I heard anecdotally about your meeting yesterday.

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There are manifest unanswered concerns about the conduct of the Mayor and the CE.
The issues have been squarely in front of you all, for months.

The Deputy Mayor's email to me, a lawyer/ ratepayer and long term resident, in response to the DP article was devastating.

If you are not able to understand, recognise, address and answer these issues and basic wrongs as a leadership body, non politically civilly and constructively starting from the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor, you should all seek independent assistance, including from the Local Government Minister.



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Good evening [REDACTED],

I disagree with all of the points you have raised in your email.

While I would not normally reply to your messages, I am not prepared to allow your allegations against our Chief Executive remain unanswered.

The actions you have attributed to the Chief Executive in today's Dominion Post article are not true and I understand conversations are currently underway to have this corrected.

I have no doubt you will reply to all Councillors, but I will not be providing any further response.

Enjoy the rest of your weekend.

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Deputy Mayor

Hutt City Council, New Zealand
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All,

I should have added 2 things.

First obviously I have no issue at all with the CE seeing this email. She must expect it, and from me nothing less is acceptable as fair dealing.

Second as regards each of you, especially the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and senior Councillors, as this unilateral action was obviously known to you all, why have you all failed to act in any way shape or form on it until/ before now as a Council? Why have you all failed to act. It should not require investigative journalism to inform people like me of unacceptable conduct.

I believe I wrote in earlier correspondence how frustrated and let down I felt by the failure of this Council - you all - to show and require leadership. There is no excuse when the issues are made clear to you or should be obvious anyway. This was at a time when I was seriously considering involving the Local Government Minister on a range of unanswered concerns. These are basic/ core matters. You are our elected leaders.

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>>> Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 9 September 2020 9:06 AM
To: Jo Miller
Subject: Hi Jo: Ferry Road Days Bay

Dear Jo,

Trust you are well and I know you have a lot on your plate especially with the debacle of the insider trading of the Mayor to handle.

I am writing on a totally separate issue, one that has not received the attention, or the solution sought. After 9 years in Ferry Road, Days Bay and having raised a certain matter with Councillors (Lewis in particular), with the Community Board which has failed to even make any moves to resolution and with council officers, I hope you will make more concerted efforts to assist.

Ferry Road, which is a dead end street has over 65 potholes and surface fissures, most are deteriorating and have largely been ignored. Drainage is almost non-existent with no footpaths and no 'managed' water runoff it just gravitates both via roadside depressions and most concerning it is now eroding the road itself under the tar seal. (we have first-hand knowledge of this). Properties on the higher side of the road have free flowing water drainage pipes which just empty into the street which compounds the issue. The very surface contour of the road has and is changing. In some places creating depressions and in others forcing the seal to crest vertically. In our direct case it has become so bad that the angle is high enough that in the last 18 months we can no longer drive directly into the garage as the acuteness is too steep and only an awkward manoeuvre can be made to enter.

We also still have old fashioned power poles. When a large number of other suburbs have these services underground ours are in a sad state of repair. Many like ones directly near our property and in light of the above drainage issue are subsiding and literally leaning beyond the vertical.

Other neighbours are equally concerned and hence I am making this courtesy communication asking for yourself and or officers to seriously address the matter. We are amongst the highest rate payers in the city and deserve better attention than what we have had.

Rather than a patchwork approach I believe that the whole street and a few others in Days Bay must be upgraded as soon as possible. Neglecting the overall issue will just delay what will become a bigger and more expensive problem in the not too distant future.

I am happy to discuss at your convenience and hope it will not be side-lined as others have done previously.

Cheers

[REDACTED]

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2020 8:29 AM
To: Campbell Barry; David Bassett; Chris Milne; Simon Edwards; Josh Briggs; Tui Lewis; Leigh Sutton; Deborah Hislop; Andy Mitchell; Keri Brown; Naomi Shaw; Shazly Rasheed; Brady Dyer
Subject: Mayor's super roles and super powers

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I have since written to you all on the role and duties of the Mayor and the CE, under the LGA. Explaining the parameters and expectations, of people who hold these roles.

Nothing in this is political. It is all about leadership for the City. A legal opinion is once again mentioned. I am a lawyer.

You are our elected leaders.

[Redacted]

- > On 21/07/2020, at 12:18 PM, [Redacted] wrote:
- >
- > The DP article this morning should be interesting reading to you all. Wellington Councillors assert their governance obligations and right to challenge management. They also allude to inconsistent conduct, overtime, by their current Mayor.
- >
- > I have sent each of you the relevant extracts from the local government act.
- >
- > Our Mayor's role is to provide leadership to the other Councillors and to the Hutt people.
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- > The Mayor has several additional non delegable powers not shared with other Councillors - relevantly the power to appoint a deputy, the Council committees and their chairs and to sit on them. The Mayor must exercise those powers, in a leadership manner I suggest reflecting skills, and not solely for personal or strategic preferences.
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- > Otherwise the Mayor is like each and all other Councillors. Collectively you govern for the City and collectively you delegate (some of) your responsibilities, remaining responsible to the people for your responsibilities.
- >

> To repeat, you, the Councillors, are all responsible to us, the Hutt people but the Mayor has super responsibilities owed to each of you and to all of us. The Mayor also has certain super non delegable powers.

>

> Each of you has equivalent access to and the ear of Council staff to aid the performance of your collective duties.

>

> It is not the role of Council staff or the CE to monitor any of you or to hold any of you to account. You can look again at the CE's role I sent you and that in fact is to help you as a body and each of you individually when you so request. It is your role individually and collectively, not the Mayor's or the CE's to monitor and hold each other (including the Mayor) to account where there are failings. And repeat as part of this the Mayor has leadership duties owed to each of you.

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> It is tolerably clear that our Mayor has not and is not providing good leadership as required by the LGA. You are required as Councillors to hold him to account. Or failing you, the AG or the Local Government Minister must do so. If that step is required, respectfully, you have failed each other and the City.

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> I can list a number of leadership failings I am aware of in Mayor Barry's term as Mayor-

>

- > - failure to answer repetitive ratepayer correspondence, that is reasonable and reasoned and relates to him
- > - failure to interact with and aid all Councillors equally - including permitting himself to be treated differently to others of you
- > - creation or permitting divisions within Councillors, politically or deliberately, which foster dysfunction and fear - instead of encouraging and requiring collective collegial endeavours
- > - fostering or growing those divisions through the use of legal opinions and inaction
- > - failure to understand that, absent his super duties to you/ the people as providing leaders and super powers, as Mayor he is simply one of you, collectively the governing body, owes duties to each of you as you to each other and him, and is not aligned in any material way more than each of you, to your delegates, the Council staff, including the CE
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- > - not addressing a Councillor's concerns around the organisation's approach to waste, including the tender/ consultation
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- > - further engagement with the CE on
- > that matter, without involving or sidelining a Councillor he owes duties to
- > - refusal to provide a transparency certificate around property dealings
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- > - the living wage, his alleged involvement, his in house opinion (on incomplete facts) and in particular his refusal to address the Farrar allegations unless contacted by the Audit Office
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> My challenge to each and all of you is for you to tell me, and to persuade each other, that I am wrong and that any of the above are not failings of a good Mayor. For which you all as Councillors bear responsibilities, and in particular the Deputy Mayor.

>





>
> Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 8 September 2020 9:33 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Property Purchase and Rubbish and Recycling Decision

Hi Campbell

Thank you for your email about your property purchase, that has also been in the media. It was good to hear your version of events, So thank you again.
Also in relation to the decision pending on the Rubbish and recycling contract, I am aware that a decision on which option will be decided on the 15/09/2020, Are you able to advise when the decision will be made on the provider of the contract and when this will be announced to the provider and the general public please?

Thank you for your time in the public meetings and in this matter

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 6 September 2020 10:47 AM
To: Tui Lewis
Cc: Campbell Barry; David Bassett; Chris Milne; Simon Edwards; Josh Briggs; Leigh Sutton; Deborah Hislop; Andy Mitchell; Keri Brown; Naomi Shaw; Shazly Rasheed; Brady Dyer
Subject: Re: Chief Executive - DP article

I'm not often speechless Tui. Enjoy your weekend too.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On 5/09/2020, at 7:15 PM, Tui Lewis <Tui.Lewis@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Good evening [REDACTED],

I disagree with all of the points you have raised in your email.

While I would not normally reply to your messages, I am not prepared to allow your allegations against our Chief Executive remain unanswered.

The actions you have attributed to the Chief Executive in today's Dominion Post article are not true and I understand conversations are currently underway to have this corrected.

I have no doubt you will reply to all Councillors, but I will not be providing any further response.

Enjoy the rest of your weekend.

Tui Lewis
Deputy Mayor

Hutt City Council, New Zealand
T 021 271 6249, W tui.lewis@huttcity.govt.nz

All,

I should have added 2 things.

First obviously I have no issue at all with the CE seeing this email. She must expect it, and from me nothing less is acceptable as fair dealing.

Second as regards each of you, especially the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and senior Councillors, as this unilateral action was obviously known to you all, why have you all failed to act in any way shape or form on it until/ before now as a Council? Why have you all failed to act. It should not require investigative journalism to inform people like me of unacceptable conduct.

I believe I wrote in earlier correspondence how frustrated and let down I felt by the failure of this Council - you all - to show and require leadership. There is no excuse when the issues are made clear to you or should be obvious anyway. This was at a time when I was seriously considering involving the Local Government Minister on a range of unanswered concerns. These are basic/ core matters. You are our elected leaders.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

> On 5/09/2020, at 12:13 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

>

> All

>

> The main focus of the DP article is the Mayor.

>

> But if the reported facts relating to the Chief Executive ("shelving a key project") are correct they are also troubling.

>

> I have in the past outlined concerns I have had in my dealings around this CE. And regarding the way she interacts including in respect of Councillors.

>

> The CE is there to serve ratepayers and Councillors. As head of the Council operations machine. This CE does not in my experience always act in accordance with her role and functions.

>

> This particular information, and the CE's unilateral action, is news to me. In my view her acts, if the alleged facts are correct, far exceeded her powers and (in this case) that is a very serious matter. On the alleged facts I would expect that decision properly to be a Council decision (by you all) after informed recommendation from officials.

>

> I am a lawyer. You are our elected leaders.

>

> If I was a Councillor I would require the CE to confirm the facts and her reasons and explanations for acting. And I would do this as part of an open and fair employment grievance process. There are a range of related considerations including the timing and of course her approach to DPC 43.

>

[REDACTED]

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

>> On 5/09/2020, at 8:29 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:

>>

>> All

>>

>> This morning's DP article touching Mayor Barry & the Chief Executive Jo Miller relates to one of the concerns I had noted below, regarding the Mayor and his roles under the LGA-

>>>

>>> - refusal to provide a transparency certificate around property dealings

>>

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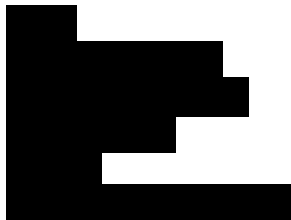
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>>>



>>>

>>> Sent from my iPhone

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 12:58 PM
To: Campbell Barry; Jarred Griffiths
Subject: Re: Purchase of land in Wainuiomata North

Ok, here are the questions I need answered. Can you get the answers back to me by 4pm today:

- 1) The plans the council started to put together after 2016 were a major expansion of its previously public interest in Wainui North. They were very different plans to those in the Urban Growth Strategy 2012-2032. Were you aware of those new plans? If not, why not?
- 2) You say you did not attend any workshops, briefings or meetings on the development of Wainui North after 2016. Is that right? At least one councillor said you were there at the briefing that followed the Nov 23, 2017 briefing, which featured detailed maps and other slides. The councillor even spoke to you about the plans. Is that councillor mistaken, not telling the truth?
- 3) Surely it's almost unbelievable that one of just two Wainui ward councillors would not know about major plans in his area. If that is the case, what do you say to your constituents?
- 4) At what point and why did you decide you wanted to buy 141 Upper Fitzherbert Rd?
- 5) If, as you claim, you knew nothing about the development plans post 2016 and did not attend any meetings or briefings, why did you seek legal advice about a possible conflict of interest from the HCC counsel? What was the nature of that advice?
- 6) Did you inform, at any time, the council of the property you had purchased in an area it was looking to develop? Did you declare any conflict of interest in any council discussions?
- 7) When development of Wainui North and council secrecy around it was raised by a public submitter in the Sept 2019 ordinary council meeting (this is on video), and responded to by chief executive Jo Miller, why did you say nothing about the property you had purchased in that area just a few months before?
- 8) In an email exchange between an Upper Fitzherbert Rd resident and the council about possible street lighting, you respond to the council officer saying timing is not right for work in the area, given major developments planned in the area, developments you now claim to have known nothing about. How can you explain that?
- 9) If that land is rezoned, as was the plan in the Wainui North Development Framework, your property will be worth millions of dollars. Were you aware of that possibility when you purchased the property? Is that not a conflict of interest?
- 10) It appears that your purchase may have played a part in halting development of that area. What are your thoughts on that?

Thanks, again very keen to include your answers in our story, so they need to be back by 4pm, at the latest.

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020 at 12:31, [REDACTED] wrote:

Ok, just to confirm, are you saying there is no phone interview at 1pm, as was previously arranged?

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020 at 11:21, Campbell Barry <Campbell.Barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

Lovely to meet you this morning.

I understand [REDACTED] has provided you with additional information. This includes Council reports, and the Urban Growth Strategy, as well as legal advice.

The Mayor has requested you email through any questions you have, along with a deadline. We will provide a written response.

If you would like to discuss, my details are below.

Thanks,

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 September 2020 11:01
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Purchase of land in Wainuiomata North

Hi Campbell, how are you doing? I've left a text message on your phone but thought I would follow up with an email. Keen to speak with you this afternoon about a story we are running in the next day or two, about your purchase of [REDACTED]. Would it be possible to arrange a time for a chat this afternoon. Obviously the story needs your input and we are very keen to get that. Let me know what time suits. Cheers

--
[\[https://urldefense.com/v3/ https://images.squarespace-cdn.com/content/v1/5aa419bf372b960ebbd1dcb5/1522088700118-2YTF1M18YTS21R3O6LLF/ke17ZwdGBToddI8pDm48kE9wcpPw4M-wH3AZo4iHCxdZw-zPPgdn4jUwVcJE1ZvWQUxwkmyExglNqGp0IvTJZUJFbgE-7XRK3dMEBRBhUpyqMo3jzJhLqXTCrPyqviB5SzVjmx-pv85f-M_Jdr_KRaYSt9QKtBurW2k6SsGnias/StuffDompost-logo.jpg**Ahttps://*advertise.stuff.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Neighbourly_logo.png;XVsv!!LBk0ZmAmG_H4m2o!_ahjV0kg_ksrWeRtSaxy3PjI0kVOqr_ftLpcC1YHoH9COsNutmLKJt9SdhmpEmyhJvPNUc\\$ \]](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://images.squarespace-cdn.com/content/v1/5aa419bf372b960ebbd1dcb5/1522088700118-2YTF1M18YTS21R3O6LLF/ke17ZwdGBToddI8pDm48kE9wcpPw4M-wH3AZo4iHCxdZw-zPPgdn4jUwVcJE1ZvWQUxwkmyExglNqGp0IvTJZUJFbgE-7XRK3dMEBRBhUpyqMo3jzJhLqXTCrPyqviB5SzVjmx-pv85f-M_Jdr_KRaYSt9QKtBurW2k6SsGnias/StuffDompost-logo.jpg**Ahttps://*advertise.stuff.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Neighbourly_logo.png;XVsv!!LBk0ZmAmG_H4m2o!_ahjV0kg_ksrWeRtSaxy3PjI0kVOqr_ftLpcC1YHoH9COsNutmLKJt9SdhmpEmyhJvPNUc$)

[REDACTED]

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 **Neighbourly**

[Redacted content]

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 7 September 2020 5:58 PM
To: Jo Miller
Subject: Re: Wainuiomata North stories - Maria will send plus will attach Andrew's email

Hi Jo
Thanks for your email. I will review and come back to you.
In terms of your website statement you can say.
The Dominion Post has confirmed it is reviewing our complaint.
I understand a separate complaint is coming from the mayor's office and once received that will also be reviewed.

[REDACTED]

On Mon, 7 Sep 2020 at 15:39, Jo Miller <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

As discussed on the phone this morning I am seeking a full retraction of the stories, and an apology with similar prominence to the placement of the stories in your newspaper and online. Later today, we will be posting a statement to our website noting we are seeking this, so it would be really helpful if we could have your response by close of business today please.

1. Background information sent to [REDACTED].

Some relevant extracts from publically available papers were sent to [REDACTED] in separate emails on Friday (attached). Information on the Wellington Regional Growth Framework was also sent to him. None of this information was reflected in the article and this also contributed to the lack of balance in the article.

2. There are still incorrect statements in the articles. Specifically, I did not find out about Cr Barry's (as he was then) house purchase following the September Council meeting.

Incorrect referencing of September 2019 meeting - www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/300093140/the-battle-for-a-slice-of-hutt-paradise

“It was immediately after that meeting that both Miller and Wallace were informed that Barry had bought a property in the area being considered for development, while being involved in confidential discussions about the plans.”

3. I remain concerned regarding the following statement (refer <https://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/300093672/controversy-over-politicians-house-purchase>)

“Despite that conclusion, highly placed sources within the council believe Barry’s actions were “very serious”, had “significant implications in terms of the council’s decision-making processes” and fell “well short of the threshold required by elected officials”.

And

“Those sources also believe the SFO’s ruling ignores the efforts the council made to keep planning secret, until it was ready to present the plans to the public.”

I am unclear as to whether these sources are officers (current or past) or members. As I have said I checked with all staff and I have rechecked and found there were no concerns expressed to me. Since the stories have been published I also need to account to funders, and governing and monitoring bodies explaining these articles and it is difficult to do so when I do not know if the sources are my own staff and whether they are still employed here. This is a matter of trust and confidence in the organisation and as Chief Executive it is crucial that I have this information. Whilst this issue goes to lack of balance in your stories, the failure to differentiate is significantly increasing harm and reputation.

4. Concerns regarding [REDACTED] (attachment)

As well as my own concerns which I have expressed to you, I have attached an email from our former Divisional Manager District Plan Andrew Cumming who was interviewed by Rob Mitchell for the stories. This email raises a number of concerns which I will leave with you. If you determine that you share my concerns one of the ways this can be managed is through an apology to Hutt City Council.

I look forward to your response to the above matters.

Sincerely

Jo Miller | Chief Executive
Tumu Whakarae



Hutt City Council
30 Laings Road
Private Bag 31912
Lower Hutt 5010, New Zealand
T 04 570 66773 M 027 213 7550
www.huttcity.govt.nz



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Grace Christison

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, 5 September 2020 4:13 PM
To: Jo Miller; Helen Oram
Subject: Wainui North

Hi Jo and Helen

Further to our discussion earlier this afternoon, I confirm I was telephoned on 2 September by Dominion Post journalist [REDACTED] regarding Wainuiomata North. [REDACTED] said the call was off the record and he would not use my name or quote me in his article. He was extremely persistent in trying to push me to agree that Campbell Barry had acted on inside information in his purchase of a property in Wainuiomata North. [REDACTED] was clearly looking for support for a position he had already adopted. I repeatedly told him that the fact Wainuiomata North would become urbanised was widespread public knowledge including through HCC's Urban Growth Strategy. In reference to acting on inside information I told him "I don't think there's anything in it". (I had a similar phone call with [REDACTED] several months ago, although he said he did not recall it, so it may have been with some other Dominion Post/Stuff journalist).

My recollection is that the notion of implementing Council's Urban Growth Strategy programme by looking at Wainuiomata North in a structured way arose from discussions between [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] was closely involved in working with developers who were continuing to develop residentially zoned land in the Wise St area. [REDACTED] was concerned with the likelihood that uncoordinated development would lead to piecemeal roading and stormwater management solutions that would constrain further development on adjacent land and lead to poor outcomes. [REDACTED] agreed that having some sort of development framework reflecting good urban design and coordinated infrastructure provision would be useful to provide the basis for an enabling district plan change for the area. We regarded the project as being on the existing work programme, so senior management and Councillors would be kept informed but no additional approvals were required to move forward.

[REDACTED] worked up a brief and engaged consultants. I discussed the project with the District Plan Committee and [REDACTED] likewise with the City Development Committee. I've had a quick look at public meeting agendas just now and found the following on the progression of what became known as the Wainuiomata North Development Framework - see table below.

<u>District Plan Committee 26 July 2017</u> Urban Development, Upper Fitzherbert Road, Wainuiomata <i>42. Officers have invited Expressions of Interest from selected providers with the skills and experience to prepare a best practice framework for the urban development of Upper Fitzherbert Road, Wainuiomata.</i> <i>43. Shortlisted respondents will be invited to provide detailed fee proposals.</i>	First mention to District Plan Committee
<u>City Development Committee 1 August 2017</u> <i>Urban Growth Strategy Implementation</i> <i>95. The Urban Growth Strategy 2032 was adopted in 2014.</i> <i>96. Implementation projects being worked on include:</i>	First mention to City Development Committee

<p>·Wainuiomata - extension of Wise Street – This work has been undertaken enabling the start of a consented 31 lot private subdivision on one of the landholdings along the extension. Other landholdings along this extension are considering future residential development.</p> <p>·Upper Fitzherbert, Wainuiomata</p> <p>Officers have invited Expressions of Interest from selected providers with the skills and experience to prepare a best practice framework for the urban development of Upper Fitzherbert Road, Wainuiomata.</p> <p>Shortlisted respondents will be invited to provide detailed fee proposals.</p>	
<p><u>District Plan Committee 20 September 2017</u></p> <p>Urban Development, Upper Fitzherbert Road, Wainuiomata</p> <p>43. Staff have about to engage a consultant to prepare a best practice framework for the urban development of Upper Fitzherbert Road, Wainuiomata.</p>	
<p><u>City Development Committee 26 September 2017</u></p> <p>42. Implementation projects being worked on include:</p> <p>·Wainuiomata - extension of Wise Street – One subdivision consented and houses under construction. Other landholdings along this extension are considering future residential development.</p> <p>·Upper Fitzherbert, Wainuiomata</p> <p>Officers have selected a consultant team to prepare a best practice framework for the urban development of Upper Fitzherbert Road, Wainuiomata. This work, when completed, will inform a District Plan change to enable residential development as proposed in the urban Growth strategy 2012 – 2032.</p>	
<p><u>District Plan Committee 24 November 2017</u></p> <p>Urban Development, Upper Fitzherbert Road, Wainuiomata</p> <p>44. Staff have engaged a consultant to prepare a best practice framework for the urban development of Upper Fitzherbert Road, Wainuiomata.</p>	
<p><u>City Development Committee 28 November 2017</u></p> <p>49. Implementation projects being worked on include:</p> <p>·Wainuiomata - extension of Wise Street – One subdivision</p>	

<p><i>consented and houses under construction. Other landholdings along this extension are considering future residential development.</i></p> <p><i>·Upper Fitzherbert, Wainuiomata</i></p> <p><i>Officers have selected a consultant team to prepare a best practice framework for the urban development of Upper Fitzherbert Road, Wainuiomata. This work, when completed, will inform a District Plan change to enable residential development as proposed in the urban Growth strategy 2012 – 2032.</i></p>	
<p><u>City Development Committee 27 February 2018</u></p> <p>42. <i>Implementation projects being worked on include:</i></p> <p><i>·Wainuiomata - extension of Wise Street – One subdivision consented and houses under construction. Other landholdings along this extension are considering future residential development.</i></p> <p><i>·Upper Fitzherbert, Wainuiomata</i></p> <p><i>Officers working with a consultant team undertook a planning exercise in November 2017 to develop a framework for the urban development of Upper Fitzherbert Road, Wainuiomata. This work has just been received in draft form and when completed will inform a District Plan change to enable residential development as proposed in the urban Growth strategy 2012 – 2032. A councilor workshop will be held to go through the report and determine next steps.</i></p>	
<p><u>District Plan Committee 18 April 2018</u></p> <p>Upcoming Work</p> <p>77. <i>As well as upcoming District Plan projects arising from Riverlink, the NPSUDC and the National Planning Standards, there are likely to be projects on the near horizon addressing the Wainuiomata North Structure Plan, heritage buildings, natural hazards, greenfield development areas, the Lower Hutt CBD, Naenae and Wainuiomata centre rejuvenation, large lot residential and rural zones.</i></p> <p>78. <i>The Committee may wish to consider whether the current levels of resourcing are able to deliver its higher priorities in the short term.</i></p>	
<p>City Development Committee agenda of 1 May 2018</p>	<p>Project not mentioned</p>
<p>District Plan Committee meeting of 1 September 2018</p>	<p>Project not mentioned</p>
<p>City Development Committee 5 March 2019</p>	

City Development Committee – Work Programme – March 2019

Description	Author	Cycle 2 2019	Cycle 3 2019	Cycle 4 2019
GMs' Report		x	x	x
Activity Report: City Growth and Sustainability – City Development		x		
International Relations Six Month Update		x		
Hutt Valley Tennis Centre		x		
Urban Growth Strategy – Wainuiomata North Development Framework			x	
Jackson Street Programme 12 Month Update				x
Technology Valley Six Month Update				x
Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce Six Month Update				x
Seaview Business Association 12 Month Update				x

City Development Committee – Work Programme – April 2019

Description	Author	Cycle 3 2019	Cycle 4 2019
GMs' Report		x	x
Urban Growth Strategy – Wainuiomata North Development Framework		x	

City Development Committee – Work Programme – July 2019

Description	Author	Cycle 4 2019
GMs' Report		x
Recommendations from the District Plan Subcommittee		x
Urban Growth Strategy – Wainuiomata North Development Framework		x

City Development Committee – Work Programme – September 2019

Description	Author	Pending
GMs' Report		x
Proposed New Street Name: Subdivision of 1041A High Street, Avalon		x
Proposed New Street Name: Subdivision of 38 Manor Park Road, Lower Hutt		x
Review of Reserved Street Names		x
Temporary Road Closure reports		x
Urban Growth Strategy – Wainuiomata North Development Framework		x

You'll see from the above that the project was parked some time in mid 2018, well before your arrival at Hutt City. It was not discussed again as a district plan project although, as I just learned, it continued to be listed in the 'Work Programme' table of City Development.

I don't recall exactly when the Councillor workshop referred to in the CDC 27 Feb took place but I think it would have been February, March or April 2018. There will be a record in your system.

I think the reasons for the project being parked included:

- Political sensitivity about another potentially controversial district plan project (SNAs and PC43 were in progress)
- Concern about the cost of 3-waters infrastructure.

I hope that helps a little. Feel free to get in touch if you need to.

Regards

█

--

█
█
█

From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

[REDACTED]
Sunday, 6 September 2020 11:21 AM
Jo Miller
can you check please

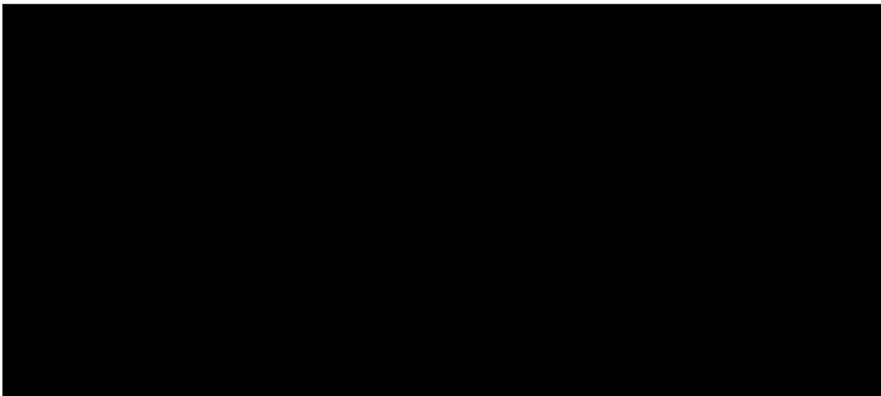
Hi Jo

I am assuming you don't want me to use this quote, or would you rather that?
Just let me know..

Chief executive Jo Milers said she did not shelve the work. "The work was in abeyance before I was even appointed as Chief Executive in February 2019, let alone my arrival in New Zealand and commencing employment in July 2019 ."

Or are you happy for this paragraph to be amended such?

A little more than two months later, three years after the councillors and officers began an exhaustive, public excluded process, producing a 110 page report and timeline for possible district plan changes and a long abeyance on the work, the scheme was finally scrapped and plans publicly released.



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From:
Sent:
To:
Subject:

[REDACTED]
Saturday, 5 September 2020 2:18 PM
Jo Miller
complaint

Dear Jo

Thanks for your calls today. I am unable to contact [REDACTED] but I am aware from an earlier conversation with him that the reason he did not contact you was that you were not in the role at the time and he felt, rightly or wrongly, that you would not be able to discuss this.

[REDACTED] told me he had always intended to talk to you as a follow up. I am advised that your quotes were taken from a video.

In relation to your issue over you not canning the scheme and where [REDACTED] got that information from I am simply unable to reach [REDACTED] so cannot provide detail on that.

You have requested that I divulge whether the senior sources are councillors or staff. I have given consideration to this request as I realise it will be helpful to you as CE in deciding your course of action. However I have decided I am under no obligation to disclose any information in relation to the sources spoken to for this story.

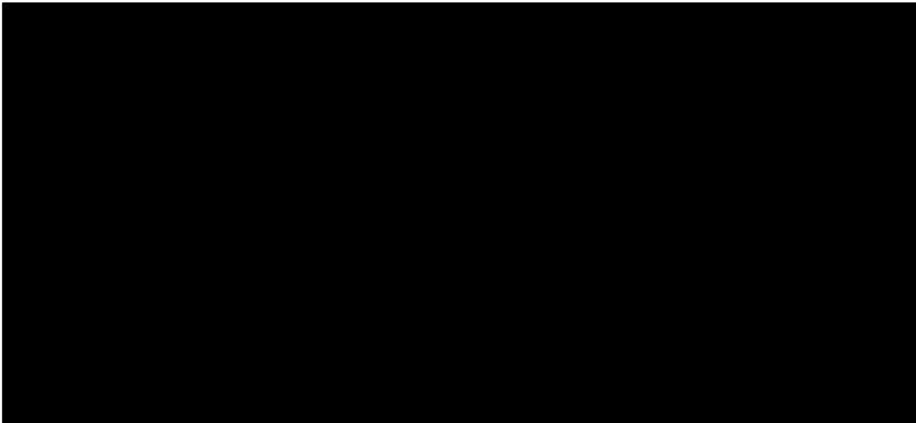
For your information [REDACTED] emailed me this morning with a number of issues with the story, which I have addressed with [REDACTED] and I have made some changes to today's story.

Because I am unable to reach [REDACTED] I will be making no further changes to the story.

However I will make [REDACTED] available to sit down and talk to you and Mayor Barry on Monday if that is convenient with a view to a follow up story.

I am sorry that it has taken a while to come back to you.

Yours sincerely



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[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Friday, 11 September 2020 2:31 PM
To: Jo Miller
Subject: complaint response
Attachments: Miller complaint.pdf; Griffith complaint.pdf

Dear Jo
Please find attached responses to complaints.
Sincerely

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



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11 September 2020

Jo Miller
Chief Executive
Hutt City Council
Private Bag 31912
Lower Hutt 5040

Dear Jo

COMPLAINT

I write in response to your emails and telephone calls to me about the stories published by the *Dominion Post Weekend* on Mayor Barry's property purchase in 2019 and the events surrounding it. I am including with this letter a copy of my response to the Head of the Mayor's Office, in relation to the complaint received from Mr Griffiths on behalf of the Mayor, as my response will provide further background to the manner in which the stories were approached by our newsroom.

On the morning the stories were published (Saturday, 5 September) you telephoned me to complain that the journalist had not interviewed you for the stories and that you had not "canned" the scheme. I responded by email that afternoon as best I was able given I was unable to contact [REDACTED]. I did, however, make it clear in that email that [REDACTED] did not contact you as you were not in your role at the time of the proposed development and he felt you would not be able to discuss the matter. The quotes that were attributed to you were taken from a video. I indicated that I was unable to investigate your concern that you did not "can" the scheme until I had managed to speak to [REDACTED] and that I was not going to divulge our sources.

On Monday, 7 September you telephoned me in the morning and followed that up with a further email later that afternoon. You sought a full retraction and apology. You mentioned the council would be posting a statement to its website seeking "this". I note the council has now posted its own statement of clarification regarding Wainuiomata North, which opens with the following statement:¹

Over the weekend there has been media coverage by Stuff and the Dominion Post about Wainuiomata North. This media coverage has been inaccurate. Following approaches by Hutt City Council several amendments have been made to the online versions which correct the misinformation in the articles.

¹ <http://www.huttcity.govt.nz/Your-Council/News-and-notice/media-releases/wainuiomata-north-statement-of-clarification>

This statement indicates to me and any reader that the council considers the online version of the stories (as amended) to be accurate.

Your email of 7 September listed four areas of concern. I respond as follows:

1. Background information sent to ██████████ – ██████████ did look at the background information sent to him. It largely pertained to the UGS and the 27ha plan. There was nothing about the post-2016 plans, i.e. the 84ha area comprising a school, commercial centre, etc as these were being discussed in public-excluded workshops and briefings.
2. You did not find out about Cr Barry's house purchase following the September 2019 Council meeting – The stories don't say that you "found out" about the purchase after the meeting, the statement is that you were informed. Given you have said you will not be interviewed on the matter it's difficult to know whether you knew of the situation before the meeting.
3. Various statements attributed to "highly placed sources" – I am not prepared to identify sources. The statements make it clear that the sources are within council.
4. Concerns regarding ██████████ – I have reviewed ██████████ email and there is nothing in that which causes me any concern.

On 9 September I received a further email from you in relation to this matter, which attached a copy of an unsigned statement by Cr Bassett. To be honest, I'm not sure what relevance this statement has as the article refers to Mayor Wallace being informed after the September meeting, not that he was told for the first time.

In light of the above, I have concluded that your complaints are not justified and there is no basis for seeking a full retraction of the stories or an apology. The stories are not materially inaccurate, unfair or unbalanced. As I have indicated on previous occasions, I have invited you to provide a statement in order to address any perceptions of lack of balance but you have repeatedly declined to do so. You have also chosen to issue a statement of clarification on the council's website.

I do, however, consider it is appropriate to publish a correction and clarification in the following terms:

Hutt City Council – A correction and clarification

Last Saturday *Dominion Post Weekend* published stories that referred to the purchase of a property in Upper Fitzherbert Road, Wainuiomata by Lower Hutt Mayor Campbell Barry in February 2019. The stories also referred to the actions taken by Hutt Council Chief Executive Jo Miller after she was informed of the purchase. It was suggested she had "canned" the development as a result of being informed about the purchase.

The circumstances of the purchase were considered controversial by some councillors. In November 2017, as an elected councillor, Mayor Barry attended a council run meeting (to which the public were not invited) that discussed a proposed

development of the area in which the property was situated that was greater in scale than already envisaged by the Council's 2014 Urban Growth Strategy. One of those stories stated that documents and email exchanges showed Mayor Barry was involved in planning for the development, including "public-excluded" briefings, meetings and workshops throughout 2017 and 2018. This was incorrect. Mayor Barry has subsequently confirmed that the event he attended in November 2017 was the only council event he attended in relation to the proposed development. Further, Mayor Barry has clarified that he and his wife were looking across Lower Hutt to purchase a property from November 2017 and unsuccessfully placed offers on two properties in Wainuiomata before placing an offer on the Upper Fitzherbert Road property, which was referred to him by the listing agent. Mayor Barry subsequently advised council officers of the purchase and sought advice on how to manage potential conflicts of interest.

Following the publication of the stories Jo Miller contacted the *Dominion Post Weekend* to confirm she first found out about Mayor Barry's purchase from the commencement of her employment – prior to the Council meeting that took place in September 2019. Ms Miller also disputed she had canned the development, saying work on the project had been put into abeyance at the end of 2018. The plans, that had been worked on for years, were subsequently released by her and that work has now been subsumed into the Wellington Regional Growth Framework which is currently being drawn up and will report to all councils across the region by the end of the year. WRGF will identify all greenfield housing sites across the region.

The correction and clarification also, from my perspective, addresses Mayor Barry's concerns about the stories that he raised with me earlier in the week. I am including a copy of my letter to ██████████ of Mayor Barry's office in that regard.

Accordingly, I have arranged for the correction and apology to be published by Stuff as follows:

Online

- As a separate item with its own URL.
- Containing links to the existing online stories (as amended).
- Added a note to the top of the existing online stories referring and linking to the correction and clarification.
- Linking to the correction and clarification from the homepage (stuff.co.nz) under 'editors' picks' for no less than six hours commencing at 5am Saturday September 12 (after which it will be replaced by the normal cycle of news).

In print

- The correction and clarification will be published on page A3 of tomorrow's edition of the *Dominion Post Weekend*.
- Placement in top right hand corner and boxed.

In my view the publication of the correction and clarification in these terms properly addresses the concerns you have raised and fully informs the reader of your position.

Yours sincerely



11 September 2020

[REDACTED]
Hutt City Council
Private Bag 31912
Lower Hutt 5040

Dear [REDACTED]

COMPLAINT

Thank you for your email of 7 September 2020 at 6.10pm. I have now had an opportunity to discuss all of the matters you have raised with [REDACTED].

Before addressing the Mayor's remaining concerns I record that – as you are aware – following your initial complaint on behalf of the Mayor on the morning the print and online versions of the stories were published, I considered the matters you raised on the Mayor's behalf and made a number of changes to the online version of the story and you expressed your appreciation for that later that afternoon. Those changes included amending the headline, removing the photograph of Mayor Barry's property, and clarifying the advice sought in relation to the conflict of interest to ensure the Mayor's position was clear.

The concerns you have raised in your email of 7 September are premised on your assertion that both stories leave readers with the impression Mayor Barry used "inside information" he was aware of as a councillor to purchase a home in an area subject to a future possible plan change. I don't believe the stories convey that impression. I do accept the stories convey the impression there are grounds to believe that may have happened. Our investigation presents the background to the reader and lets them form their own opinion as to what may or may not have happened. Given the public role occupied by the Mayor at the time the issue is clearly a matter of public interest and I don't understand you to dispute that.

You have raised concerns with the articles in terms of accuracy and balance.

In terms of accuracy your primary complaint is that it was misleading to suggest the council was endeavouring to keep the development of the Upper Fitzherbert area secret because the development of that area had been signaled to the public in the Urban Growth Strategy since 2014. It is correct that the UGS referred to the development of that area, but that document also states:

When preparing the draft Urban Growth Strategy, Council reviewed all rural-residential zoned land and remaining undeveloped residential land within the city to assess its suitability for general residential development. Through this process, land around the

lower Upper Fitzherbert Road and Wise Street area in Wainuiomata ... was identified as suitable for moderate to large scale residential development.

Council's original intention was to enable all the land in the Upper Fitzherbert area to be available for Greenfield development – around 60 hectares of land with potential for around 1,500 new dwellings. Many of the existing lifestyle owners objected to completely opening up the area. Council considered their submissions and consequently proposed to make only 27 hectares of land available for development at this stage.

The public was made aware that only 27 hectares of land in the Upper Fitzherbert Road and Wise Street area was being proposed for development. Our understanding is that there was no information released to the public – whether by way of council agenda items or otherwise – that gave any reason to believe the council was proposing to develop more than the original 27 hectares until the plans were made public in December 2019. Accordingly, it is not misleading to say the development being considered by council from 2106 (which was significantly greater than the 27 hectares signaled by the UGS) were kept secret from the public.

You raise a further concern in relation to the accuracy of the statement that Mayor Barry participated in “a significant amount of work” on the bigger development and attended public-excluded workshops and briefings”. Having spoken to [REDACTED] I understand Mayor Barry confirmed he attended one briefing in November 2017. I accept this should be clarified to make it clear this was the only briefing on the larger proposed development he attended.

I have considered all of your remaining concerns in relation to accuracy and I don't believe they are justified or there is any material inaccuracy that would mislead readers.

The complaint suggests there are accuracy issues with the stories as a result of a “fundamental lack of balance”. I disagree.

At the outset I record that both Mayor Barry and Hutt Chief Executive Jo Miller have declined further interviews, which makes addressing balance issues raised extremely difficult. That said, the stories were not unbalanced. The stories rely heavily on documents supplied by sources.

Mr Wallace was approached because he was mayor at the time and presumably knew a great deal about the proposed development, the process and what was going on. Mr Bassett was approached because he chairs two key committees and would know if the process was indeed confidential and if anyone had declared any conflict. [REDACTED] was approached to verify if Mayor Barry had been at the November 2017 briefing, after he claimed he had been to no briefings at all. Mayor Barry retracted that claim after being presented with Ms Cousins' observations. Mayor Barry declined to be interviewed for the story. [REDACTED] was spoken to, as background. He did not deny that Mayor Barry knew of the larger development proposal but felt his purchase was "not inappropriate". There were many other people spoken to.

I agree that the circumstances regarding the purchase of Mayor Barry's property are relevant and I am happy to clarify those circumstances to our readers. It must, however, be noted that Mayor Barry refused to be interviewed for the story and this information, as well as a number of other explanations, would have been useful prior to publication.

I do not consider the thrust of either story to be unfair, inaccurate, or unbalanced. Whether Mayor Barry obtained confidential information from the briefing he attended in November 2017 and used that information to acquire a property he suspected he would increase in value if the proposed development went ahead is unlikely to be known. However, it is very much in the public interest that the underlying circumstances are disclosed in order that the public can form their own views about the character of those who represent them – this include both Mayor Barry and those who oppose him.

██████████ worked very hard to understand the background and the underlying issues. Mayor Barry's decision to decline to be interviewed was unfortunate, but it was our view that the public interest required the stories to be told.

Your complaint suggests possible resolutions. For the reasons set out above, I do not consider an apology is warranted. I do, however, consider it is appropriate to publish a correction and clarification in the following terms:

Hutt City Council – A correction and clarification

Last Saturday *Dominion Post Weekend* published stories that referred to the purchase of a property in Upper Fitzherbert Road, Wainuiomata by Lower Hutt Mayor Campbell Barry in February 2019. The stories also referred to the actions taken by Hutt Council Chief Executive Jo Miller after she was informed of the purchase. It was suggested she had "canned" the development as a result of being informed about the purchase.

The circumstances of the purchase were considered controversial by some councillors. In November 2017, as an elected councillor, Mayor Barry attended a council run meeting (to which the public were not invited) that discussed a proposed development of the area in which the property was situated that was greater in scale than already envisaged by the Council's 2014 Urban Growth Strategy. One of those stories stated that documents and email exchanges showed Mayor Barry was involved in planning for the development, including "public-excluded" briefings, meetings and workshops throughout 2017 and 2018. This was incorrect. Mayor Barry has subsequently confirmed that the event he attended in November 2017 was the only council event he attended in relation to the proposed development. Further, Mayor Barry has clarified that he and his wife were looking across Lower Hutt to purchase a property from November 2017 and unsuccessfully placed offers on two properties in Wainuiomata before placing an offer on the Upper Fitzherbert Road property, which was referred to him by the listing agent. Mayor Barry subsequently advised council officers of the purchase and sought advice on how to manage potential conflicts of interest.

Following the publication of the stories Jo Miller contacted the *Dominion Post Weekend* to confirm she first found out about Mayor Barry's purchase from the commencement of her employment – prior to the Council meeting that took place in September 2019. Ms Miller also disputed she had canned the development, saying work on the project had been put into abeyance at the end of 2018. The plans, that had been worked on for years, were subsequently released by her and that work has now been subsumed into the Wellington Regional Growth Framework which is currently being

drawn up and will report to all councils across the region by the end of the year. WRGF will identify all greenfield housing sites across the region.

The correction and clarification also, from my perspective, addresses Jo Miller's concerns about the stories that she raised with me earlier in the week. I am including a copy of my letter to Ms Miller in that regard.

Accordingly, I have arranged for the correction and apology to be published by Stuff as follows:

Online

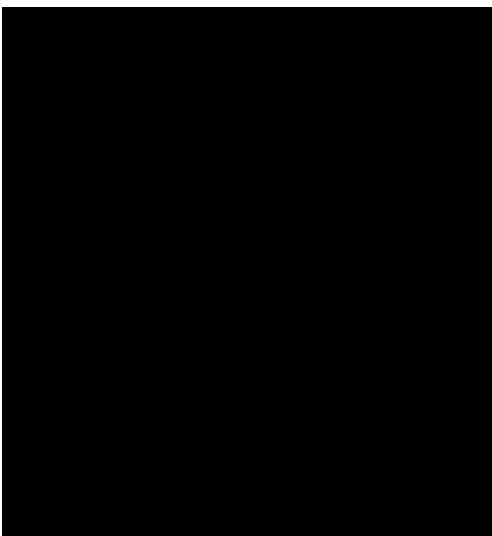
- As a separate item with its own URL.
- Containing links to the existing online stories (as amended).
- Added a note to the top of the existing online stories referring and linking to the correction and clarification.
- Linking to the correction and clarification from the homepage (stuff.co.nz) under 'editors' picks' for no less than six hours commencing at 5am Saturday September 12 (after which it will be replaced by the normal cycle of news).

In print

- The correction and clarification will be published on page A3 of tomorrow's edition of the *Dominion Post Weekend*.
- Placement in top right hand corner and boxed.

In my view the publication of the correction and clarification in these terms properly addresses the concerns you have raised and fully informs the reader of Mayor Barry's position.

Yours sincerely



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 14 September 2020 9:30 AM
To: Jo Miller
Subject: complaint

Dear Jo,
Thank you for your email on Friday. Given that you have signalled that you are looking at all options I would prefer any further correspondence is by email. If you wish to take your complaint to the Media Council, of which Stuff is a signatory, the details are:
Media Council, PO Box 10 879, Wellington, 6143
or info@mediacouncil.org.nz

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 6 September 2020 12:18 PM
To: Jo Miller
Subject: Re: can you check please

It's just being sorted by the office, I can't do this remotely and it takes a while to load.

On Sun, 6 Sep 2020 at 12:13, Jo Miller <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]
I have just visited the app .
It is still showing I believe - here

Lower Hutt Mayor Campbell Barry was involved in "confidential" plans to develop rural Wainuiomata. He bought a sizeable property in the area, months before those plans were made public.
<https://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/300093672/controversy-over-politicians-house-purchase?cid=app-iPhone>

And here :

A prominent Wellington politician's land purchase has potentially undermined a major project to help fix Lower Hutt's housing crisis.
<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/300093140/the-battle-for-a-slice-of-hutt-paradise?cid=app-iPhone>

Please can you advise. ? Thanks Jo

Ngā mihi nui

Jo Miller
Chief Executive

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road Private Bag 31912, Lower Hutt 5010, New Zealand
T 04 570 6773<callto:04%20570%206773> M 027 213 7550<callto:027%20213%207550>
W

[https://urldefense.com/v3/_http://www.huttcity.govt.nz_!!LBk0ZmAmG_H4m2o!_XWBgHWgHeZBerWXEM_I1s8XIuzOzrd8U7IfPySkpr2ZZt8zG6v9C8omMFonBEiG_k7HJcH7_crD\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_http://www.huttcity.govt.nz_!!LBk0ZmAmG_H4m2o!_XWBgHWgHeZBerWXEM_I1s8XIuzOzrd8U7IfPySkpr2ZZt8zG6v9C8omMFonBEiG_k7HJcH7_crD$)
<[https://urldefense.com/v3/_http://www.huttcity.govt.nz_!!LBk0ZmAmG_H4m2o!_XWBgHWgHeZBerWXEM_I1s8XIuzOzrd8U7IfPySkpr2ZZt8zG6v9C8omMFonBEiG_k7HJcH7_crD\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_http://www.huttcity.govt.nz_!!LBk0ZmAmG_H4m2o!_XWBgHWgHeZBerWXEM_I1s8XIuzOzrd8U7IfPySkpr2ZZt8zG6v9C8omMFonBEiG_k7HJcH7_crD$)>

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[cid:hccsmalllogo_12fb0640-f486-4c5a-a775-f4ab1b1dfb5d.jpg]

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immediately. Thank you.

On 6/09/2020, at 12:01 PM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Done. Thank you Jo.
[REDACTED]

On Sun, 6 Sep 2020 at 11:51, Jo Miller <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz<mailto:Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz>>>
wrote:

Yes with the following amend by adding in “ end of 2018 “ Thank you [REDACTED]
Jo

Ngā mihi nui

Jo Miller
Chief Executive

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road Private Bag 31912, Lower Hutt 5010, New Zealand
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<[https://urldefense.com/v3/ http://www.huttcity.govt.nz /!!LBk0ZmAmG_H4m2o!7Kh9PZd4fskFpmCQLgyufaW8ZMW0su2WlvWlORVZf655Zj58yMmvF9KbcSAvreaD1rVSw-qEJ7oz\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/http://www.huttcity.govt.nz/!!LBk0ZmAmG_H4m2o!7Kh9PZd4fskFpmCQLgyufaW8ZMW0su2WlvWlORVZf655Zj58yMmvF9KbcSAvreaD1rVSw-qEJ7oz$) >

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On 6/09/2020, at 11:49 AM, [REDACTED] <[mailto:\[REDACTED\]](mailto:[REDACTED])> wrote:

Ok so this? I just want to be sure we get it right.

Work on the project was put into abeyance at the end of 2018 and then the plans, that had been worked on for years, were subsequently released by Miller. That work has now been subsumed into the Wellington Regional Growth Framework which is currently being drawn up and will report to all councils across the region by the end of the year . WRGF will identify all greenfield housing sites across the region.

On Sun, 6 Sep 2020 at 11:29, Jo Miller

<Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz<mailto:Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz><mailto:Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz<mailto:Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz>>> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

The second paragraph remains inaccurate as the work has not been scrapped / canned/ shelved . It has been subsumed into the Wellington Regional Growth Framework which is currently being drawn up and will report to all councils across the region by the end of the year . WRGF will identify all greenfield housing sites across the region .

(your reporter was made aware of this and the report to September 2019 council said this)

And no , I don't want to be quoted for the reasons we discussed .

Thanks [REDACTED] . Jo

Ngā mihi nui

Jo Miller
Chief Executive

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<[https://urldefense.com/v3/_http://www.huttcity.govt.nz_!!LBk0ZmAmG_H4m2o!42dHCCqRwLZUGAEUENkVsmQOmJEwR2Nc1KUp6yBbZ8zQphNfgQcQ_wsbpU-XORAUwYd_8_ecVbEv\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_http://www.huttcity.govt.nz_!!LBk0ZmAmG_H4m2o!42dHCCqRwLZUGAEUENkVsmQOmJEwR2Nc1KUp6yBbZ8zQphNfgQcQ_wsbpU-XORAUwYd_8_ecVbEv$)>

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On 6/09/2020, at 11:21 AM, [REDACTED]

Hi Jo

I am assuming you don't want me to use this quote, or would you rather that?
Just let me know..

Chief executive Jo Milers said she did not shelve the work. "The work was in abeyance before I was even

appointed as Chief Executive in February 2019, let alone my arrival in New Zealand and commencing employment in July 2019 ."

Or are you happy for this paragraph to be amended such?

A little more than two months later, three years after the councillors and officers began an exhaustive, public excluded process, producing a 110 page report and timeline for possible district plan changes and a long abeyance on the work, the scheme was finally scrapped and plans publicly released.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Editor in Chief Newsrooms

E

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 6 September 2020 11:50 AM
To: Jo Miller
Cc: Caryn Ellis
Subject: Re: complaint URGENT

Jo I will take a proper look through all of this material you have provided.
I can meet with you week of 14th but we may struggle to find a spot on the first two days of that week.
Kind regards
[REDACTED]

On Sun, 6 Sep 2020 at 11:24, Jo Miller <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

One more point [REDACTED].

I mention the reporting in the public domain of matters relating to development land in Wainuiomata. Your journalist was sent all of the following links :

August 1 2017 - City Development Committee -

[https://urldefense.com/v3/_http://infocouncil.huttcity.govt.nz/Open/2017/08/CDC_01082017_AGN_2407_AT_WEB.htm_!!LBk0ZmAmG_H4m2o!9SU38F8TyAgZYupqUFmHdHWid1r0hS1XcFYBlwNv65tpC4UYv5YGOQsAYe5qQIiwkOv35jhGyLbM\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_http://infocouncil.huttcity.govt.nz/Open/2017/08/CDC_01082017_AGN_2407_AT_WEB.htm_!!LBk0ZmAmG_H4m2o!9SU38F8TyAgZYupqUFmHdHWid1r0hS1XcFYBlwNv65tpC4UYv5YGOQsAYe5qQIiwkOv35jhGyLbM$)

Under General Manager's Update:

“Urban Growth Strategy Implementation

95. The Urban Growth Strategy 2032 was adopted in 2014.

96. Implementation projects being worked on include:

- Wainuiomata - extension of Wise Street – This work has been undertaken enabling the start of a consented 31 lot private subdivision on one of the landholdings along the extension. Other landholdings along this extension are considering future residential development.
- Upper Fitzherbert, Wainuiomata

Officers have invited Expressions of Interest from selected providers with the skills and experience to prepare a best practice framework for the urban development of Upper Fitzherbert Road, Wainuiomata. Shortlisted respondents will be invited to provide detailed fee proposals.”

November 28 2017 - City Development Committee -

[https://urldefense.com/v3/_http://infocouncil.huttcity.govt.nz/Open/2017/11/CDC_28112017_AGN_2435_AT_WEB.htm_!!LBk0ZmAmG_H4m2o!9SU38F8TyAgZYupqUFmHdHWid1r0hS1XcFYBlwNv65tpC4UYv5YGOQsAYe5qQIiwkOv35osct6Es\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_http://infocouncil.huttcity.govt.nz/Open/2017/11/CDC_28112017_AGN_2435_AT_WEB.htm_!!LBk0ZmAmG_H4m2o!9SU38F8TyAgZYupqUFmHdHWid1r0hS1XcFYBlwNv65tpC4UYv5YGOQsAYe5qQIiwkOv35osct6Es$)

“49. Implementation projects being worked on include:

- Wainuiomata - extension of Wise Street – One subdivision consented and houses under construction. Other landholdings along this extension are considering future residential development.
- Upper Fitzherbert, Wainuiomata

Officers have selected a consultant team to prepare a best practice framework for the urban development of Upper Fitzherbert Road, Wainuiomata. This work, when completed, will inform a District Plan change to enable residential development as proposed in the urban Growth strategy 2012 – 2032.”

27 February 2018 - City Development Committee

[https://urldefense.com/v3/_http://infocouncil.huttcity.govt.nz/Open/2018/02/CDC_27022018_AGN_2509_AT_WEB.htm_!!LBk0ZmAmG_H4m2o!9SU38F8TyAgZYupqUFmHdHWid1r0hS1XcFYBlwNv65tpC4UYv5YGOQsAYe5qQIiwkOv35tNHiv6i\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_http://infocouncil.huttcity.govt.nz/Open/2018/02/CDC_27022018_AGN_2509_AT_WEB.htm_!!LBk0ZmAmG_H4m2o!9SU38F8TyAgZYupqUFmHdHWid1r0hS1XcFYBlwNv65tpC4UYv5YGOQsAYe5qQIiwkOv35tNHiv6i$)

“42. Implementation projects being worked on include:

· Wainuiomata - extension of Wise Street – One subdivision consented and houses under construction. Other landholdings along this extension are considering future residential development.

· Upper Fitzherbert, Wainuiomata

Officers working with a consultant team undertook a planning exercise in November 2017 to develop a framework for the urban development of Upper Fitzherbert Road, Wainuiomata. This work has just been received in draft form and when completed will inform a District Plan change to enable residential development as proposed in the urban Growth strategy 2012 – 2032. A councilor workshop will be held to go through the report and determine next steps.”

None of this at all is brought out in the story . I am keen to understand this .

If we could meet this week at whatever time , I will make myself available as will Mayor Barry .

Thanks Jo

Ngā mihi nui

Jo Miller

Chief Executive

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On 6/09/2020, at 10:57 AM, Jo Miller <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Thanks for your reply .

I'm happy for you to use anything from my earlier email to help you make your reporting less misleading . I won't though , provide a statement . The reason for this is there are a whole heap more inaccuracies in the piece insofar as it relates to me , and a statement simply correcting one part , by inference leaves the other parts as accepted . That's not how I work .

For example , it is categorically untrue to state that I was made aware of Mayor Barry's house purchase

after a September 2019 council meeting . I had knowledge of it from the start of my employment , and know that one of your unnamed sources who is a current councillor was making an issue with it as direct retaliation for what he claimed was an injustice against him and was talking to journalists last August about this . I assumed this was just the nasty politics that happens around election time . I had rather hoped we had moved on.

I've also had an email from my the [REDACTED] which is worrying insofar as it relates to your journalist's inquiries and approach . I will happily share with you in person . If I were you I would want to see it .

I would also refer you to this

<https://i.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/86403745/lower-hutt-mayor-rekindles-debate-over-building-more-houses-in-rural-wainuiomata>

Note the main source for this Stuff article is the main one for your Saturday story too. Not so secret information I would suggest .

And a whole heap of reporting in the public domain about this issue which your journalist was pointed towards and yet chose to make no reference to . This should be a cause for concern , and I would have thought should beg a number if questions for you .

The issue of balance regarding senior sources [REDACTED] remains a key issue . It is vital to know whether "concerns " about standards are governance or staff sources . It affects the veracity of the story and the professionalism of my own actions . I checked out from the very start whether there was an issue that I needed to be concerned about relating to this property purchase. All my inquiries led me to conclude there was not . I had cause to revisit this in October last year , and undertook further inquiries . Those inquiries confirmed my earlier view .

I am no one's patsy [REDACTED] - be that Ex Mayor Wallace , current Mayor Barry or anyone else for that matter . I am twenty five year's experienced public servant , with a reputation for dealing with dysfunctional governance , corruption and poor governance . Without fear or favour . I've been called on by national government to go in and sort things out in local governments who have lost their way.

If things are wrong , I call them out . Sometimes at personal cost . The standards you are prepared to walk by are the standards you are prepared to accept . I don't walk by poor ethical behaviour .

I really would encourage you to meet with me to discuss this .

In the meantime , please do whatever necessary to remove references to me which are causing me harm and damage .

Happy to discuss .

Thank you

Jo Miller

Ngā mihi nui

Jo Miller

Chief Executive

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On 6/09/2020, at 9:52 AM, [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Jo,

Can you please forward me a statement from you regarding the project being in abeyance and clarifying your position that you did not 'can' the project. I will then ensure that the story is amended.

[REDACTED] is trying to reach deputy mayor Bassett for confirmation but he is not answering his phone. I'm keen to clear this up for you but rather than just take your words from our email exchange would prefer a statement.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

On Sat, 5 Sep 2020 at 20:09, Jo Miller <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz<mailto:Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz>>>> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

I don't have a reply to my earlier email to you and I've just checked Stuff. Nothing has changed .

You are now on notice that as a result of the sloppy , inaccurate reporting insofar as it relates to my alleged " shelving " of work that simply did not happen , a local lawyer has written far and wide calling for a disciplinary investigation into my conduct . This is distressing and it is causing harm to my reputation .

Please amend your misleading and materially inaccurate article forthwith .

It is entirely irrelevant that your reporter is somewhat remarkably uncontactable on the very day a major story breaks . You have my word and you should act . A word with former deputy mayor Bassett would confirm that the work was stopped around the time I said it was , if my refuse to accept my word .

I have no intention of giving your journalist further copy on Monday. I would be delighted to meet you

both to discuss a prominent retraction and apology .

Please reply immediately .

Thank you .

Jo Miller

Ngā mihi nui

Jo Miller
Chief Executive

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<[https://urldefense.com/v3/_http://www.huttcity.govt.nz_!!LBk0ZmAmG_H4m2o!LKH0N_R7dUygHUJu_0btQ1u2jxAlYa9QJd_VImTYUnyBfK1_3VWtmzs7yYe9RzcsLbKm1YVROMT\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_http://www.huttcity.govt.nz_!!LBk0ZmAmG_H4m2o!LKH0N_R7dUygHUJu_0btQ1u2jxAlYa9QJd_VImTYUnyBfK1_3VWtmzs7yYe9RzcsLbKm1YVROMT$)>

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On 5/09/2020, at 2:53 PM, Jo Miller <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz<mailto:Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz>>>
wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your reply , which doesn't go far enough I'm afraid . I would like you to reconsider your position upon receipt of this email.

You have a live story on your website, prominent in your newspaper on a day where it has the most readership which significantly misrepresents me . This is damaging to my reputation and credibility and has been published without any reference to me whatsoever.

Put simply , it's not good enough for poor and inaccurate reporting to remain online simply because you can't locate your journalist .

The piece conflates timelines at pages 5 and 8 .

It states that I canned / shelved work . This is simply untrue . That work was in abeyance before I was even appointed as Chief Executive in February 2019 , let alone my arrival in New Zealand and commencing employment in July 2019 .

How “officials “ or “Mayor Wallace “ or unnamed “ councillors “ can be shocked and surprised at something I didn’t do , and which actually went on hold many months before I arrived here is beyond me. The most basic of homework by your journalist , and typical journalistic practice would have made this dichotomy self evident .

The other issue as to not explaining whether the senior sources referred to are political or officer go to balance . I had cause in October 2019 to check whether the former CE had concerns about this issue . He said not. I checked with other staff who confirmed that position . I have today spoken to our former chief planner who also confirmed there was not an issue from his point of view. He will be providing me with a statement in writing.

So as I see it , you are choosing to leave up and unbalanced in relation to that point , and a materially inaccurate and misleading article as it relates to me . That choice is causing harm .

I invite you to reconsider your position on both issues and amend / withdraw in part your pieces accordingly .

I look forward to hearing from you . Jo Miller

From: [REDACTED]

Date: 5 September 2020 at 2:18:48 PM NZST

To: Jo Miller <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz<mailto:Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz>>

Subject: complaint

Dear Jo

Thanks for your calls today. I am unable to contact [REDACTED] but I am aware from an earlier conversation with him that the reason he did not contact you was that you were not in the role at the time and he felt, rightly or wrongly, that you would not be able to discuss this.

[REDACTED] told me he had always intended to talk to you as a follow up. I am advised that your quotes were taken from a video.

In relation to your issue over you not canning the scheme and where [REDACTED] got that information from I am simply unable to reach [REDACTED] so cannot provide detail on that.

You have requested that I divulge whether the senior sources are councillors or staff. I have given consideration to this request as I realise it will be helpful to you as CE in deciding your course of action. However I have decided I am under no obligation to disclose any information in relation to the sources spoken to for this story.

For your information [REDACTED] emailed me this morning with a number of issues with the story, which I have addressed with [REDACTED] and I have made some changes to today's story.

Because I am unable to reach [REDACTED] I will be making no further changes to the story.

However I will make [REDACTED] available to sit down and talk to you and Mayor Barry on Monday if that is convenient with a view to a follow up story.

I am sorry that it has taken a while to come back to you.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PO Box 3740 Wellington 6140

[\[https://sites.google.com/a/fairfaxmedia.co.nz/emailsignatures/_/rsrc/1517430356648/corporate---stuff/Stuff-Neighbourly.jpg\]](https://sites.google.com/a/fairfaxmedia.co.nz/emailsignatures/_/rsrc/1517430356648/corporate---stuff/Stuff-Neighbourly.jpg)

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--

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 9 September 2020 10:05 AM
To: Jo Miller
Subject: Re: Enquiring about progress

Dear Jo

Thanks for your email. I have undertaken to review yours and Mayor Barry's extensive complaint. Please be assured I am doing this thoroughly and will come back to you this week.

Yours sincerely
[REDACTED]

On Wed, 9 Sep 2020 at 07:41, Jo Miller <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

I'm enquiring about progress on our complaint please . I do want to resolve this ASAP.

I am attaching a copy of the statement Cr David Bassett sent to your journalist in the course of your journalist's somewhat limited enquiries. You will see that even on your journalist's own insubstantial assessment , he has managed to produce a story that refers to Mayor Wallace and I being made aware of a matter in late September yet one of his own key sources refers to Mayor Wallace being made aware by the source in July / August . I am aware Cr Bassett and your journalist spoke a number of times .

I also understand that your reporter was in touch with Cr Bassett on Saturday (when I understood your reporter was uncontactable) . It took till Sunday afternoon for matters to be corrected and then only one because of the alleged unavailability of your reporter .

[REDACTED] I believe I have given you more than enough evidence to satisfy you that the stories you published were fundamentally flawed , remain fundamentally flawed and that the conduct of your journalist leaves much to be desired . Despite all of that and the harm that continues to be caused by these stories remain live and uncorrected . When might we discuss retraction and apology please ?

Kind regards Jo

Ngā mihi nui
Jo Miller
Chief Executive

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Private Bag 31912, Lower Hutt 5010, New Zealand
T04 570 6773 M 027 213 7550

W[https://urldefense.com/v3/](https://urldefense.com/v3/http://www.huttcity.govt.nz/!!LBk0ZmAmG_H4m2o!9fbsn32lhm2CjUOuTXRFmeDro7ZpUovptmKC0qX1zIY9BpGUomx04tLv2QaML1GypeD_EGHZHtam$) <http://www.huttcity.govt.nz> ;!!LBk0ZmAmG_H4m2o!9fbsn32lhm2CjUOuTXRFmeDro7ZpUovptmKC0qX1zIY9BpGUomx04tLv2QaML1GypeD_EGHZHtam\$

Follow me on Twitter : @jomillernz

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[REDACTED]



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Grace Christison

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 8 September 2020 4:45 PM
To: Jo Miller
Subject: Re: FW: This weekend's Dominion Post , Stuff, calling things out and a plea .
Attachments: image003.png

Hi Jo,

Greatly appreciated your email, and for clearing the 'muddy waters'.

Regards
[REDACTED]

On Mon, 7 Sep 2020, 12:50 PM Jo Miller, <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora

Please see below email which I sent to the Mayor and Councillors in light of the recent articles in the Dominion Post/Stuff.

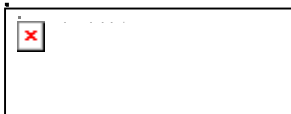
Sharing with you fyi.

Ngā mihi nui

Jo Miller | Chief Executive
Tumu Whakarae



Hutt City Council
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From: Jo Miller
Sent: Sunday, 6 September 2020 6:33 PM
To: __Mayor & Councillors
Subject: This weekend's Dominion Post, Stuff, calling things out and a plea.

Dear Mayor and Councillors

It's been quite a weekend as I'm sure you can imagine, and full on work wise dealing with the Dom Post, Stuff, managing stakeholders and giving assurance.

I send this email without having consulted anyone, but I know I must send it. Ive had a saying my whole life - learned when I was growing up "The standards you are prepared to walk by are the standards you are prepared to accept. " And as Edmund Burke famously said, "All it takes for evil to prosper is for good people to stand by and do nothing. "I'm not prepared to do nothing. And I know that most of you won't either.

I don't want to start my new working week without setting my thoughts out to you. And I will end with a plea that I hope that everyone can sign up to without exception.

I started at Hutt City Council on 1 July last year. You have all seen my commentary on my last year and my reflections three months in which described a council that at times was weaponised, and a council where staff did not feel safe to speak truth to power. Of course, a fierce election campaign was being fought, and as an experienced CE, I know how these things work and how swords and cudgels drawn in battle are usually sheathed in the ensuing peace. Even if that is done with a grimace ! The weapons have largely been laid down, but we see them surface every now and again. This weekend has been the prime example of this.

I need to state on the record that I am nobody's patsy - not current politicians nor previous ones. I am my own woman. What I have to go on is my professionalism and my record. It's not my job to account for things that happened before I arrived here, though I do have to account for matters that are brought to my attention.

I will though, say what I see and call matters out without fear or favour, no matter how hard people might try to stop me (and there has been a bit of that lately). Of course, most of the time there's no need to do call things out - good standards prevail, and when mistakes are made, lessons are learned, apologies given and we move on. That applies equally to governance as it does to operations.

What we have here is of a different order. It needs to stop.

Let's go back to that mayor and council election last year. One of the things that was swirling round in mid August and September was the issue of then Cr Barry's house purchase in Wainuiomata earlier in the year. A member of the public made a complaint to the OaG effectively alleging insider dealing, and the OaG referred that to the SFO as being the right jurisdiction. SFO made their inquiries and found there was nothing for them to investigate. Two sets of journalists were tipped off about the complaint and made enquiries of the Council via the media team and my office.

I know that the member of public making the complaint, and bringing it to the attention of the press was aided by a person who was and remains a councillor. I know because that person told me so and as early as 20 August 2019 is on record as asking me "whether the media has contacted you about Campbell and Wainuiomata land" .

So you will see from this a major inaccuracy in the Stuff /Dom Post report. I wasn't informed after 17 September council meeting about the house purchase, I knew way before, as did Mayor Wallace who I had briefed about the existence of the complaint and whom I advised to stay away from it because I knew it was made / encouraged in bad faith. Whether Mayor Wallace was aware of the complaint from elsewhere I do not know. I am only going to make reference to things within my knowledge.

I haven't done anything about this in all the time since then. I've let it lie hoping it was gone in the election. But it hasn't gone, it has cropped up from time to time . A small overly vocal, dispossessed minority of people are still fighting last year's battles. This is getting in the way of running this city and enabling all of our people to thrive. I wouldn't be raising this matter now, but for the events of this last week and the damage that is being done - not to Mayor Barry or me, but to this city, the one we are all here to serve.

I did of course make my own enquiries last year about the house purchase both during the election campaign and once again in November to see whether there was any cause for concern. First of all I looked at what was in the public domain. There's quite a lot, starting with Mayor Wallace discussing this matter way back in 2016 in Stuff.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/86403745/lower-hutt-mayor-rekindles-debate-over-building-more-houses-in-rural-wainuiomata>

I also took a look at info council to see what had been reported and when and what was in the public domain. I have copied in the links below for your information.

February 2018: http://infocouncil.huttcity.govt.nz/Open/2018/02/CDC_27022018_AGN_2509_AT_WEB.htm

November

2017: http://infocouncil.huttcity.govt.nz/RedirectToDoc.aspx?URL=Open/2017/11/CDC_28112017_AGN_2435_AT_WEB.htm

August

2017: http://infocouncil.huttcity.govt.nz/RedirectToDoc.aspx?URL=Open/2017/08/CDC_01082017_AGN_2407_AT_WEB.htm

We supplied all off these links to journalists last year, and it's probably why they decided not to run a story. They didn't see a story. We supplied all of these links to the journalist asking questions this week, but he did not appear interested. He certainly didn't report on them. From all of this, you can see that Upper Fitzherbert as a potential development area was no secret.

As last year's election campaign ensued, the number of questions being asked about Wainuiomata North was unusual. I and other officers were concerned that we were being asked questions for the purposes of a political campaign and required every request in writing with reasons. Those requests and our answers were copied to Wainuiomata ward councillors to prevent any improper electoral conduct. I will release all of that correspondence into the public domain later this week.

As well as looking at what was in the public domain about Upper Fitzherbert, I checked in November of last year whether any of the then senior leadership team or former members of the senior leadership team I could contact plus all of the staff involved in the Wainuiomata Development framework and general counsel had any governance / ethics concerns regarding then Cr Barry's house purchase. They did not.

This week's Stuff/ Dom Post referred to me canning/shelving Wainuiomata growth plan work. This is simply untrue. Work on Wainuiomata North Development Framework was paused when Cr Bassett was chairing City Development Cttee at the end of 2018. The work was then subsumed into the Wellington Regional Growth Strategy as the September 2019 council report and minute show. See here : http://infocouncil.huttcity.govt.nz/Open/2019/09/HCC_17092019_MIN_2653_AT.htm. Mayor Wallace will have known all of this as the Council's representative on Wellington Regional Strategy Committee.

You can see from this then, more material inaccuracy in the Stuff / Dom Post article, and about which I understand you have received correspondence urging an investigation into my behaviour.

Stuff have today corrected both stories in that regard. See here : <https://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/300093672/controversy-over-politicians-house-purchase>

And also corrected here : <https://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/86403745/lower-hutt-mayor-rekindles-debate-over-building-more-houses-in-rural-wainuiomata>

I am at a loss as to why in the original Stuff / Dom Post articles it is said that "senior officials " were "shocked" and 'surprised " at a "cavalier" unilateral action in canning / shelving work - action I simply did not take. At best, those who were shocked and surprised at action I did not take are misremembering. At worst, it is something more poisonous.

The Editor of Stuff so far has declined to confirm whether the senior officials referred to in the (now corrected) article are those charged with governance or staff. From my own (99% complete) enquiries, I do not believe this makes reference to any current staff members, nor any previous staff members who were responsible for the planning and strategy functions.

I did publish all Wainuiomata North Development Framework documents back in December 2019, and emailed all of you on 20 December to explain that. This was part of my commitment, and the desire of this council to move from a position of secrecy to openness. As you know, new council has a procedure for publishing briefing papers etc. so we can be more open and transparent. The Wellington Regional Growth Strategy is in development, aided by a regional members workshop held pre - Covid at the Events Centre. Many of you attended. That WRGF that is due to come to councils in the region by the end of the year will identify all greenfield development sites across the region.

As you can deduce from all of the above, this weekend's reporting leaves a lot to be desired in terms of accuracy. I have been in dialogue with the Editor over the weekend and some, though not enough, corrections have been made. It is inexcusable that basic journalistic practice has not been followed. For example, just in my own case, knowledge, actions and motives have been attributed to me without any contact with me by the journalist.

The Editor will be meeting with me and Mayor Barry to discuss retraction etc. In view of the appalling inaccuracies in both stories, the Editor has agreed not to publish either story in the Hutt News.

I have mentioned that I have spent a fair portion of this weekend on stakeholder management with more to do. That included briefing the Department for Internal Affairs who are assured by our approach at this stage .

I would say that staff dealing with this issue this week have lost around three to four working days, and there is more energy to be spent. Energy that could be spent on furthering the fortunes of this city and its people is being diverted to countering nasty personal attacks. It is not good enough. Those who are responsible need to stop, whether they are up front fighting these wars, playing through the hands of others or mixing things out of plain sight. If we continue in this manner our city and its people will suffer.

So I end with a plea. To those engaging in this behaviour, stop it right now. To others, let's call it out for what it is. Standing by won't do. We can't change our past, but we can change our future. Let us work together to be the change we want to see.

Yours ever, Jo

Footnote: I am going to forward a copy of this email to all those named in the Dom Post / Stuff article, to the staff who have had to work on this last week and this weekend, to CLT, and to stakeholders I have had to manage / assure this weekend.

Ngā mihi nui

Jo Miller

Chief Executive

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road Private Bag 31912, Lower Hutt 5010, New Zealand

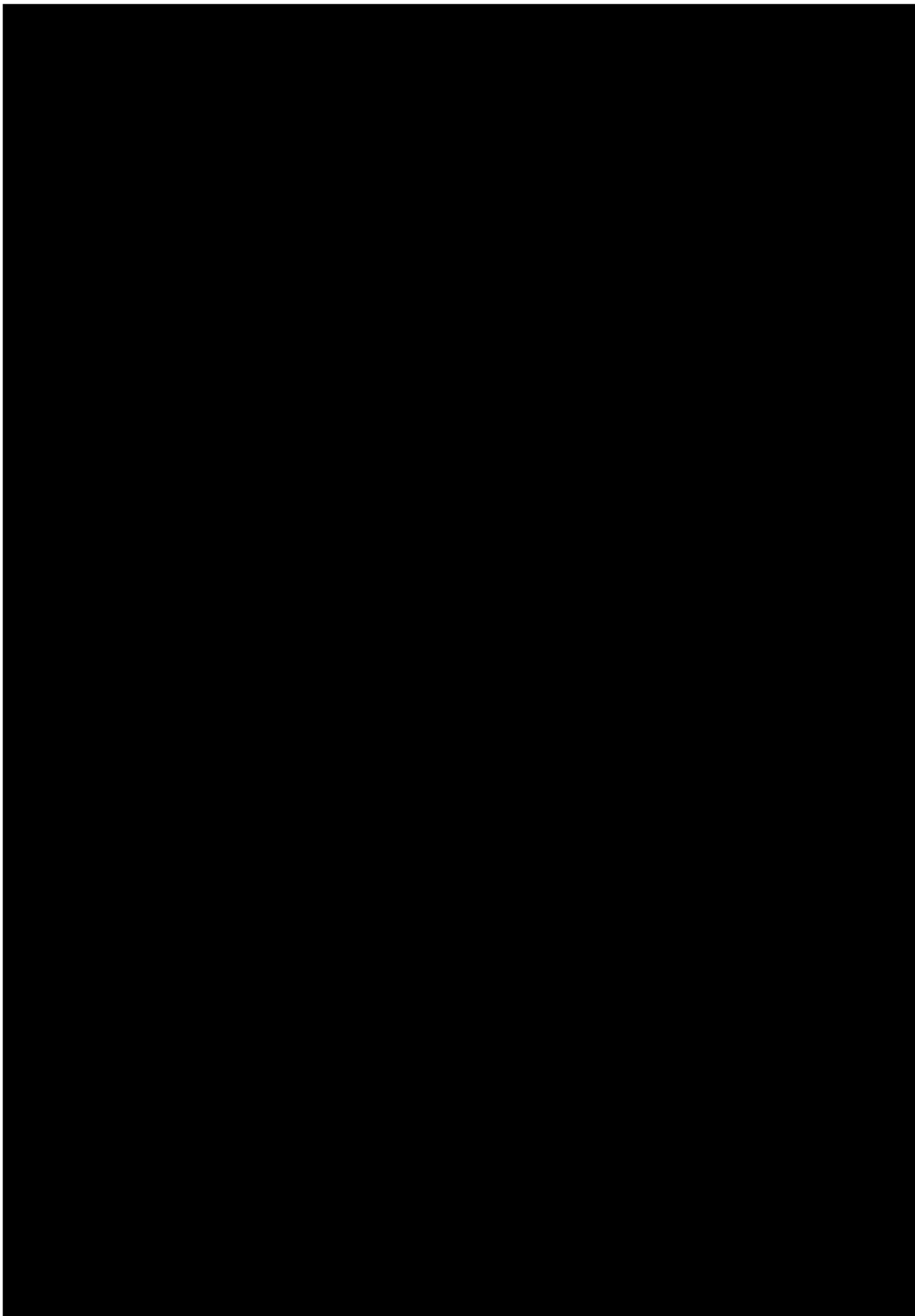
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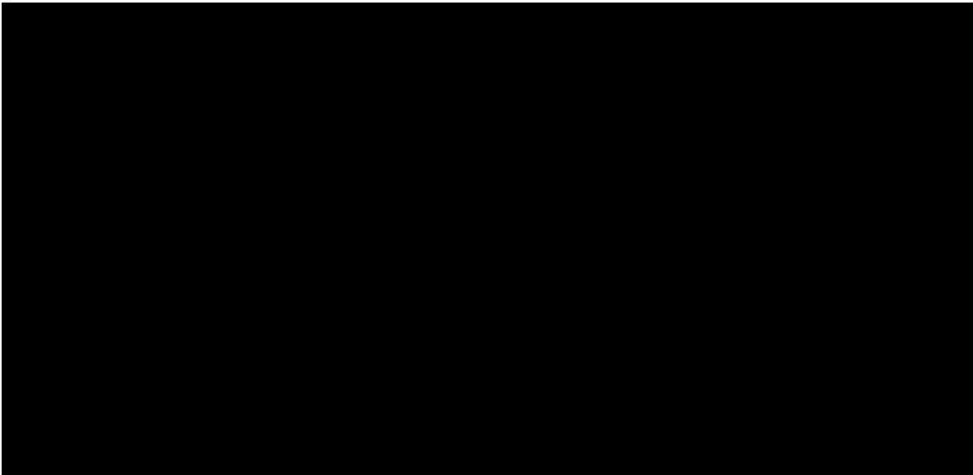
Grace Christison

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 11 September 2020 3:11 PM
To: Jo Miller
Subject: Out of Office Re: complaint response

I am on leave today. If you have a news tip please contact stuff-newsdirectors@stuff.co.nz

Many thanks

[REDACTED]



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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 9 September 2020 9:44 AM
To: Jo Miller
Subject: RE: Information on press stories over the weekend.

Hi Jo,

Happy to meet with you. I must say I am better in the afternoon if that suits and anytime from next week on except for 25th September as leaving town that day.

Cheers [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Jo Miller <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 8 September 2020 9:22 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Information on press stories over the weekend.

Hi [REDACTED]

Many thanks for your really helpful reply yesterday . I didn't doubt that your own involvement was only ever factual.

You will see below an email I sent to senior staff last night (and also to elected members) . It includes a link to a statement on our website which sets out everything we know about Wainui North , what was in the public domain when etc .

I thought you might like to see it .

My email of Sunday evening appears to have hit the right chord with most - inside and outside the council there is broad recognition that fighting yesterday's battles gets us nowhere and does rates payers a great disservice .

It's not a universally held view though ! No doubt with all of your service you will have seen this come and go in cycles . I am not finding it easy to deal with some of this and would welcome your advice . I was struck through our interactions by your guardianship of standards as your own person rather than adherence to any faction .

Last time we had a cup of tea and a scone it was your shout in Maungaraki. Can I tempt you to tea and scone again , my turn , where I could get the benefit of your wisdom and experience? I would really appreciate it if you are able .

Kind regards , Jo

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jo Miller <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz>
Date: 7 September 2020 at 6:06:04 PM NZST
To: __Divisional Managers <DivisionalManagers@huttcity.govt.nz>, __CLT <CLT@huttcity.govt.nz>
Subject: Information on press stories over the weekend.

Kia ora

Some of you may have seen articles in the Dom Post or Stuff over the weekend which refer to then Cr Barry's purchase of his family home in Wainuiomata back in early 2019. (Don't worry about reading them – you've missed nothing).

We were first approached about this story in August/September last year during a hard fought election campaign. A complaint had been made via the Office of the Auditor General to the Serious Fraud Office and the matter was not taken further. In fact there was no case to answer. The press were alerted to the story and decided not to pursue it after making enquiries of our media team and elsewhere. I also conducted my own enquiries and did not find any cause for concern.

From this you can see that the stories this weekend are not new.

I'm sad that a set of destructive behaviours by a very small minority of people pursuing their own personal agendas causes stories like this to appear, damaging our reputation, taking away our focus from serving our people and limiting progress.

Over the course of the weekend the News Editor made significant changes to the articles following our complaints. This is because the articles included content that misrepresented the Council's involvement in Wainuiomata North, Mayor Barry's actions and my own. Conversations are ongoing with the News Editor and the Dom Post has confirmed it is reviewing our complaint.

In the meantime we have published a statement of clarification to our website. Please share this with your staff as needed.

<http://www.huttcity.govt.nz/Your-Council/News-and-notice/media-releases/wainuiomata-north-statement-of-clarification/>

If there is anything you would like to discuss with me or if you need to know anything more please get in touch.

Ngā mihi nui

Jo

Sent from my iPad

Ngā mihi nui

Jo Miller
Chief Executive

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road Private Bag 31912, Lower Hutt 5010, New Zealand T 04 570 6773<callto:04%20570%206773> M 027 213 7550<callto:027%20213%207550> W www.huttcity.govt.nz<<http://www.huttcity.govt.nz>>

Follow me on Twitter : @jomillernz<<https://twitter.com/jomillernz>>

[cid:hccsmalllogo_12fb0640-f486-4c5a-a775-f4ab1b1dfb5d.jpg]

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Grace Christison

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 12:32 PM
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Re: Purchase of land in Wainuiomata North

Ok, just to confirm, are you saying there is no phone interview at 1pm, as was previously arranged?

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020 at 11:21, Campbell Barry <Campbell.Barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:
Hi [REDACTED],

Lovely to meet you this morning.

I understand [REDACTED] has provided you with additional information. This includes Council reports, and the Urban Growth Strategy, as well as legal advice.

The Mayor has requested you email through any questions you have, along with a deadline. We will provide a written response.

If you would like to discuss, my details are below.

Thanks,

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 September 2020 11:01
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Purchase of land in Wainuiomata North

Hi Campbell, how are you doing? I've left a text message on your phone but thought I would follow up with an email. Keen to speak with you this afternoon about a story we are running in the next day or two, about your purchase of [REDACTED]. Would it be possible to arrange a time for a chat this afternoon. Obviously the story needs your input and we are very keen to get that. Let me know what time suits. Cheers

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[[https://urldefense.com/v3/https://images.squarespace-cdn.com/content/v1/5aa419bf372b960ebbd1dcb5/1522088700118-2YTF1M18YTS21R3O6LLF/ke17ZwdGBToddI8pDm48kE9wcpPw4M-wH3AZo4iHCxdZw-zPPgdn4jUwVcJE1ZvWQUxwkmyExglNqGp0IvTJZUJFbgE-7XRK3dMEBRBhUpyqMo3jzJhLqXTCrPyqviB5SzVjmx-pv85f-M_Jdr_KRaYSt9QKtBurW2k6SsGnias/StuffDompost-logo.jpg**Ahttps://*advertise.stuff.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Neighbourly_logo.png :XVsv!!LBk0ZmAmG_H4m2o!_ahjV0kg_ksrWeRtSa_xY3PjI0kVOqr_ftLpcC1YHoH9COsNutkLKJt9SdhmpEmyhJvPNUc\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://images.squarespace-cdn.com/content/v1/5aa419bf372b960ebbd1dcb5/1522088700118-2YTF1M18YTS21R3O6LLF/ke17ZwdGBToddI8pDm48kE9wcpPw4M-wH3AZo4iHCxdZw-zPPgdn4jUwVcJE1ZvWQUxwkmyExglNqGp0IvTJZUJFbgE-7XRK3dMEBRBhUpyqMo3jzJhLqXTCrPyqviB5SzVjmx-pv85f-M_Jdr_KRaYSt9QKtBurW2k6SsGnias/StuffDompost-logo.jpg**Ahttps://*advertise.stuff.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Neighbourly_logo.png :XVsv!!LBk0ZmAmG_H4m2o!_ahjV0kg_ksrWeRtSa_xY3PjI0kVOqr_ftLpcC1YHoH9COsNutkLKJt9SdhmpEmyhJvPNUc$)]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 4 September 2020 12:58 PM
To: Campbell Barry; Jarred Griffiths
Subject: Re: Purchase of land in Wainuiomata North

Ok, here are the questions I need answered. Can you get the answers back to me by 4pm today:

- 1) The plans the council started to put together after 2016 were a major expansion of its previously public interest in Wainui North. They were very different plans to those in the Urban Growth Strategy 2012-2032. Were you aware of those new plans? If not, why not?
- 2) You say you did not attend any workshops, briefings or meetings on the development of Wainui North after 2016. Is that right? At least one councillor said you were there at the briefing that followed the Nov 23, 2017 briefing, which featured detailed maps and other slides. The councillor even spoke to you about the plans. Is that councillor mistaken, not telling the truth?
- 3) Surely it's almost unbelievable that one of just two Wainui ward councillors would not know about major plans in his area. If that is the case, what do you say to your constituents?
- 4) At what point and why did you decide you wanted to buy [REDACTED]
- 5) If, as you claim, you knew nothing about the development plans post 2016 and did not attend any meetings or briefings, why did you seek legal advice about a possible conflict of interest from the HCC counsel? What was the nature of that advice?
- 6) Did you inform, at any time, the council of the property you had purchased in an area it was looking to develop? Did you declare any conflict of interest in any council discussions?
- 7) When development of Wainui North and council secrecy around it was raised by a public submitter in the Sept 2019 ordinary council meeting (this is on video), and responded to by chief executive Jo Miller, why did you say nothing about the property you had purchased in that area just a few months before?
- 8) In an email exchange between an Upper Fitzherbert Rd resident and the council about possible street lighting, you respond to the council officer saying timing is not right for work in the area, given major developments planned in the area, developments you now claim to have known nothing about. How can you explain that?
- 9) If that land is rezoned, as was the plan in the Wainui North Development Framework, your property will be worth millions of dollars. Were you aware of that possibility when you purchased the property? Is that not a conflict of interest?
- 10) It appears that your purchase may have played a part in halting development of that area. What are your thoughts on that?

Thanks, again very keen to include your answers in our story, so they need to be back by 4pm, at the latest.

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020 at 12:31, [REDACTED] wrote:

Ok, just to confirm, are you saying there is no phone interview at 1pm, as was previously arranged?

On Fri, 4 Sep 2020 at 11:21, Campbell Barry <Campbell.Barry@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

Lovely to meet you this morning.

I understand Caryn Ellis has provided you with additional information. This includes Council reports, and the Urban Growth Strategy, as well as legal advice.

The Mayor has requested you email through any questions you have, along with a deadline. We will provide a written response.

If you would like to discuss, my details are below.

Thanks,

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 September 2020 11:01
To: Campbell Barry
Subject: Purchase of land in Wainuiomata North

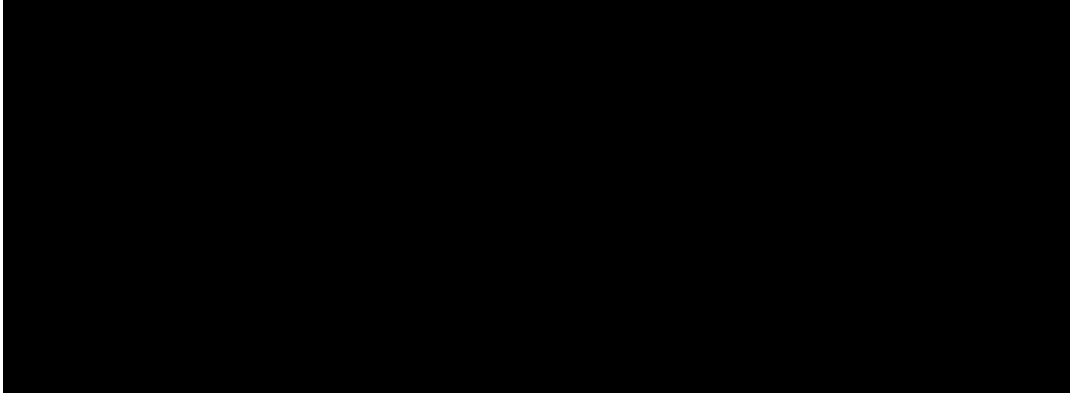
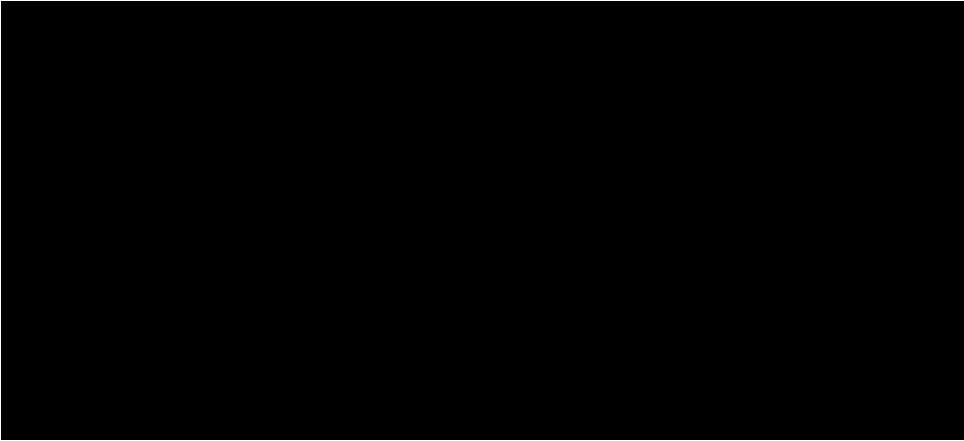
Hi Campbell, how are you doing? I've left a text message on your phone but thought I would follow up with an email. Keen to speak with you this afternoon about a story we are running in the next day or two, about your purchase of [REDACTED]. Would it be possible to arrange a time for a chat this afternoon. Obviously the story needs your input and we are very keen to get that. Let me know what time suits. Cheers

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[REDACTED]

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[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Wednesday, 9 September 2020 7:43 AM
To: Jo Miller
Subject: RE: This weekend's Dominion Post , Stuff, calling things out and a plea .

Hi Joe

Wow, and I thought I had just run through a hailstorm. That's the good thing about meeting face to face and getting to know the character of the person. There is a good saying "get facts not opinions". So when you read something in the press which refers to someone you know you can ascertain when something doesn't ring true.

I am attending the SOLGM Summit on the Tuesday of next week, hope to see you there.

Take care.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

-----Original Message-----

From: Jo Miller <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 8 September 2020 5:01 PM
To: [Redacted]
Subject: Fwd: This weekend's Dominion Post , Stuff, calling things out and a plea .

Ngā mihi nui

Jo Miller
Chief Executive

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road Private Bag 31912, Lower Hutt 5010, New Zealand T 04 570 6773<callto:04%20570%206773> M 027 213 7550<callto:027%20213%207550> W
www.huttcity.govt.nz<<http://www.huttcity.govt.nz>>

Follow me on Twitter : @jomillernz<<https://twitter.com/jomillernz>>

[cid:hccsmalllogo_12fb0640-f486-4c5a-a775-f4ab1b1dfb5d.jpg]

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Afternoon [Redacted]

I don't know if you saw this weekend's Dom Post or Stuff . Grossly inaccurate reporting and some destructive behaviour by one or two malcontents.

Dom Post currently reviewing our complaint .

See below for my email to mayor and councillors , setting out the real story and calling poor behaviour out .

Wanted to let you know as a key stakeholder . Please give me a call if you wools like to discuss anything . Kind regards Jo

From: Jo Miller <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz>

Date: 6 September 2020 at 6:33:03 PM NZST

To: __Mayor & Councillors <__Mayor&Councillors@huttcity.govt.nz>

Subject: This weekend's Dominion Post , Stuff, calling things out and a plea .

Dear Mayor and Councillors

It's been quite a weekend as I'm sure you can imagine , and full on work wise dealing with the Dom Post, Stuff, managing stakeholders and giving assurance .

I send this email without having consulted anyone, but I know I must send it . Ive had a saying my whole life - learned when I was growing up "The standards you are prepared to walk by are the standards you are prepared to accept . " And as Edmund Burke famously said , "All it takes for evil to prosper is for good people to stand by and do nothing . "I'm not prepared to do nothing . And I know that most of you won't either .

I don't want to start my new working week without setting my thoughts out to you . And I will end with a plea that I hope that everyone can sign up to without exception .

I started at Hutt City Council on 1 July last year . You have all seen my commentary on my last year and my reflections three months in which described a council that at times was weaponised , and a council where staff did not feel safe to speak truth to power . Of course , a fierce election campaign was being fought , and as an experienced CE, I know how these things work and how swords and cudgels drawn in battle are usually sheathed in the ensuing peace . Even if that is done with a grimace ! The weapons have largely been laid down, but we see them surface every now and again . This weekend has been the prime example of this.

I need to state on the record that I am nobody's patsy- not current politicians nor previous ones. I am my own woman . What I have to go on is my professionalism and my record. It's not my job to account for things that happened before I arrived here, though I do have to account for matters that are brought to my attention .

I will though, say what I see and call matters out without fear or favour , no matter how hard people might try to stop me (and there has been a bit of that lately). Of course, most of the time there's no need to do call things out - good standards prevail , and when mistakes are made, lessons are learned , apologies given and we move on. That applies equally to governance as it does to operations.

What we have here is of a different order. It needs to stop.

Let's go back to that mayor and council election last year. One of the things that was swirling round in mid August and September was the issue of then Cr Barry's house purchase in Wainuiomata Earlier in the year . A member of the public made a complaint to the OaG effectively alleging insider dealing , and the OaG referred that to SFO as being the right jurisdiction . SFO made their inquiries and found there was nothing for them to investigate . Two sets of journalists were tipped off about the complaint and made enquiries of the Council via the media team and my office .

I know that the member of public making the complaint , and bringing it to the attention of the press was aided by a person who was and remains a councillor. I know because that person told me so and as early as 20 August 2019 is on record as asking me "whether the media has contacted you about Campbell and Wainuiomata land" .

So you will see from this a major inaccuracy in the Stuff /Dom Post report . I wasn't informed after 17 September council meeting about the house purchase , I knew way before, as did Mayor Wallace who I had briefed about the existence of the complaint and whom I advised to stay away from it because I knew it was made / encouraged in bad faith . Whether Mayor Wallace was aware of the complaint from elsewhere I do not know. I am only going to make reference to things within my knowledge .

I haven't done anything about this in all the time since then. I've let it lie hoping it was gone in the election. But it hasn't gone, it has cropped up from time to time . A small overly vocal, dispossessed minority of people are still fighting last year's battles . This is getting in the way of running this city and enabling all of our people to thrive . I wouldn't be raising this matter now, but for the events of this last week and the damage that is being done - not to Mayor Barry or me, but to this city, the one we are all here to serve .

I did of course make my own enquiries last year about the house purchase both during the election campaign and once again in November to see whether there was any cause for concern. First of all I looked at what was in the public domain . There's quite a lot, starting with Mayor Wallace discussing this matter way back in 2016 in Stuff.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/86403745/lower-hutt-mayor-rekindles-debate-over-building-more-houses-in-rural-wainuiomata>

I also took a look at info council to see what had been reported and when and what was in the public domain . I have copied in the links below for your information .

February 2018: http://infocouncil.huttcity.govt.nz/Open/2018/02/CDC_27022018_AGN_2509_AT_WEB.htm

November 2017:

http://infocouncil.huttcity.govt.nz/RedirectToDoc.aspx?URL=Open/2017/11/CDC_28112017_AGN_2435_AT_WEB.htm

August 2017:

http://infocouncil.huttcity.govt.nz/RedirectToDoc.aspx?URL=Open/2017/08/CDC_01082017_AGN_2407_AT_WEB.htm

We supplied all off these links to journalists last year ,and it's probably why they decided not to run a story . They didn't see a story . We supplied all of these links to the journalist asking questions this week , but he did not appear interested . He certainly didn't report on them . From all of this , you can see that Upper Fitzherbert as a potential development area was no secret .

As last year's election campaign ensued , the number of questions being asked about Wainuiomata North was unusual . I and other officers were concerned that we were being asked questions for the purposes of a political campaign and required every request in writing with reasons. Those requests and our answers were copied to Wainuiomata ward councillors to prevent any improper electoral conduct . I will release all of that correspondence into the public domain later this week .

As well as looking at what was in the public domain about Upper Fitzherbert , I checked in November of last year whether any of the then senior leadership team or former members of the senior leadership team I could contact plus all of the staff involved in the Wainuiomata Development framework and general counsel had any governance / ethics concerns regarding then Cr Barry's house purchase. They did not .

This week's Stuff/ Dom Post referred to me canning/shelving Wainuiomata growth plan work. This is simply untrue . Work on Wainuiomata North Development Framework was paused when Cr Bassett was chairing City Development Cttee at the end of 2018. The work was then subsumed into the Wellington Regional Growth Strategy

as the September 2019 council report and minute show . See here : http://infocouncil.huttcity.govt.nz/Open/2019/09/HCC_17092019_MIN_2653_AT.htm<http://infocouncil.huttcity.govt.nz/Open/2019/09/HCC_17092019_MIN_2653_AT.htm>. Mayor Wallace will have known all of this as the Council's representative on Wellington Regional Strategy Committee .

You can see from this then , more material inaccuracy in the Stuff / Dom Post article , and about which I understand you have received correspondence urging an investigation into my behaviour .

Stuff have today corrected both stories in that regard . See here : <https://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/300093672/controversy-over-politicians-house-purchase><<https://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/300093672/controversy-over-politicians-house-purchase>>
And also corrected here : <https://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/86403745/lower-hutt-mayor-rekindles-debate-over-building-more-houses-in-rural-wainuiomata><<https://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/86403745/lower-hutt-mayor-rekindles-debate-over-building-more-houses-in-rural-wainuiomata>>

I am at a loss as to why in the original Stuff / Dom Post articles it is said that “senior officials “ were “shocked” and ‘surprised “ at a “cavalier” unilateral action in canning / shelving work - action I simply did not take. At best , those who were shocked and surprised at action I did not take are misremembering . At worst, it is something more poisonous .

The Editor of Stuff so far has declined to confirm whether the senior officials referred to in the (now corrected) article are those charged with governance or staff. From my own (99% complete) enquiries , I do not believe this makes reference to any current staff members, nor any previous staff members who were responsible for the planning and strategy functions.

I did publish all Wainuiomata North Development Framework documents back in December 2019, and emailed all of you on 20 December to explain that. This was part of my commitment , and the desire of this council to move from a position of secrecy to openness . As you know, new council has a procedure for publishing briefing papers etc. so we can be more open and transparent . The Wellington Regional Growth Strategy is in development , aided by a regional members workshop held pre - Covid at the Events Centre . Many of you attended . That WRGF that is due to come to councils in the region by the end of the year will identify all greenfield development sites across the region .

As you can deduce from all of the above , this weekend's reporting leaves a lot to be desired in terms of accuracy . I have been in dialogue with the Editor over the weekend and some , though not enough , corrections have been made. It is inexcusable that basic journalistic practice has not been followed . For example, just in my own case, knowledge , actions and motives have been attributed to me without any contact with me by the journalist.

The Editor will be meeting with me and Mayor Barry to discuss retraction etc. In view of the appalling inaccuracies in both stories, the Editor has agreed not to publish either story in the Hutt News.

I have mentioned that I have spent a fair portion of this weekend on stakeholder management with more to do. That included briefing the Department for Internal Affairs who are assured by our approach at this stage .

I would say that staff dealing with this issue this week have lost around three to four working days , and there is more energy to be spent . Energy that could be spent on furthering the fortunes of this city and its people is being diverted to countering nasty personal attacks. It is not good enough . Those who are responsible need to stop, whether they are up front fighting these wars, playing through the hands of others or mixing things out of plain sight. If we continue in this manner our city and its people will suffer .

So I end with a plea. To those engaging in this behaviour , stop it right now. To others , let's call it out for what it is . Standing by won't do. We can't change our past, but we can change our future . Let us work together to be the change we want to see.

Yours ever, Jo

Footnote : I am going to forward a copy of this email to all those named in the Dom Post / Stuff article , to the staff who have had to work on this last week and this weekend , to CLT, and to stakeholders I have had to manage / assure this weekend .

Ngā mihi nui

Jo Miller
Chief Executive

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 7 September 2020 1:14 PM
To: Jo Miller
Subject: RE: This weekend's Dominion Post , Stuff, calling things out and a plea .

Hello Jo

Thank you for your call and also the email below.

Loss of trust and confidence in Council, whether elected members or officials, is a very serious risk. The consequences of this start with multi-faceted reputational damage, then continue to potential breaches of financial covenants and commitments, before ending with DIA stepping in under the Local Government Act if not resolved. One only needs to consider what is happening to Tauranga and Invercargill City Councils right now due to the inability to resolve personal differences impacting on their effectiveness as elected governors and custodians of the futures of the citizens and ratepayers they serve.

I welcome a further discussion in my capacity as the Independent Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee so that I can support you and your Council to move ahead quickly and with purpose.

This is an LTP year and that in itself requires collaboration, co-operation and commitment to deliver. DIA will not hesitate to act if they have cause for concern that your Council may fail to deliver the legislatively required LTP. As you will appreciate, failure to deliver the LTP would also mean that the Council is unable to strike it's rates for 2021/2022 resulting in an automatic breach of financial covenants to its bankers, LGFA and bondholders.

Kind regards, [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Jo Miller <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 7 September 2020 12:50 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: This weekend's Dominion Post , Stuff, calling things out and a plea .

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for catching up just now. We discussed the press issues of the weekend . Please see my email of last night to Mayor and Councillors. I also sent to key stakeholders - DIA , IWI ,Chamber of Commerce plus key staff etc. I have received a large number of positive replies including from the majority, though not all councillors .

There is a set of destructive behaviours by a very very small minority that is I believe the biggest risk to progress that we face as a city . They continue to fight yesterday's battles . We know what is happening elsewhere in the country when that happens .

I am concerned about this and would welcome a discussion with you . I will book something in.

If you have any queries , please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards, JO

Sent from my iPad

From: Jo Miller

Sent: Sunday, 6 September 2020 6:33 PM

To: __Mayor & Councillors

Subject: This weekend's Dominion Post, Stuff, calling things out and a plea.

Dear Mayor and Councillors

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Yours ever, Jo

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Ngā mihi nui

Jo Miller

Chief Executive

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road Private Bag 31912, Lower Hutt 5010, New Zealand T 04 570 6773<callto:04%20570%206773> M 027 213 7550<callto:027%20213%207550> W
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Follow me on Twitter : @jomillernz<https://twitter.com/jomillernz>

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[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Monday, 7 September 2020 1:02 PM
To: Jo Miller
Subject: RE: This weekend's Dominion Post , Stuff, calling things out and a plea .

Kia ora Jo,

Many thanks for sharing.

Hopefully (but not holding my breath) the Editor will also take the reporter to task for not doing their due diligence on the story.

Disappointing that this is going on the Hutt – it's bad enough that Wellington City Council has it's internal issues aired in public without the Hutt Council being brought into question by a few rat bags out for their own purposes.

Kia kaha

[Large redacted block]

[Large redacted block]

From: [Redacted] On Behalf Of Jo Miller
Sent: Monday, 7 September 2020 12:50 PM
To: [Redacted]

Subject: FW: This weekend's Dominion Post , Stuff, calling things out and a plea .

Kia ora

Please see below email which I sent to the Mayor and Councillors in light of the recent articles in the Dominion Post/Stuff.

Sharing with you fyi.

Ngā mihi nui

Jo Miller | Chief Executive
Tumu Whakarae



Hutt City Council

30 Laings Road
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Sent: Sunday, 6 September 2020 6:33 PM
To: __Mayor & Councillors
Subject: This weekend's Dominion Post, Stuff, calling things out and a plea.

Dear Mayor and Councillors

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I send this email without having consulted anyone, but I know I must send it. Ive had a saying my whole life - learned when I was growing up "The standards you are prepared to walk by are the standards you are prepared to accept. " And as Edmund Burke famously said, "All it takes for evil to prosper is for good people to stand by and do nothing. "I'm not prepared to do nothing. And I know that most of you won't either.

I don't want to start my new working week without setting my thoughts out to you. And I will end with a plea that I hope that everyone can sign up to without exception.

I started at Hutt City Council on 1 July last year. You have all seen my commentary on my last year and my reflections three months in which described a council that at times was weaponised, and a council where staff did not feel safe to speak truth to power. Of course, a fierce election campaign was being fought, and as an

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I will though, say what I see and call matters out without fear or favour, no matter how hard people might try to stop me (and there has been a bit of that lately). Of course, most of the time there's no need to do call things out - good standards prevail, and when mistakes are made, lessons are learned, apologies given and we move on. That applies equally to governance as it does to operations.

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Let's go back to that mayor and council election last year. One of the things that was swirling round in mid August and September was the issue of then Cr Barry's house purchase in Wainuiomata earlier in the year. A member of the public made a complaint to the OaG effectively alleging insider dealing, and the OaG referred that to the SFO as being the right jurisdiction. SFO made their inquiries and found there was nothing for them to investigate. Two sets of journalists were tipped off about the complaint and made enquiries of the Council via the media team and my office.

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Ngā mihi nui

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 7 September 2020 1:00 PM
To: Jo Miller
Subject: RE: This weekend's Dominion Post , Stuff, calling things out and a plea .

Thanks Jo,

Just to let you know had a phone call from the media asking me to confirm I had attended the Dowse briefing as well as Cls Briggs and Barry which I did adding that I had spoken to them at the end of the seminar.

Cheers [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Jo Miller <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 7 September 2020 6:35 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: This weekend's Dominion Post , Stuff, calling things out and a plea .

Good morning [REDACTED]

I hope you are well . I've thought of you often this last year and was sad we didn't get to meet again after the election . I'm glad though , you got your travel in before the skies temporarily closed.

Please see below an email I sent to Mayor and Councillors last night in response to this weekend's Dom Post story . I said I would also send it to everyone named in the Dom Post article , so I'm sending this to you at the email address I have .

[REDACTED]
Kind regards , Jo Miller.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jo Miller <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz>
Date: 6 September 2020 at 6:33:03 PM NZST
To: __Mayor & Councillors <__Mayor&Councillors@huttcity.govt.nz>
Subject: This weekend's Dominion Post , Stuff, calling things out and a plea .

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Follow me on Twitter : @jomillernz<https://twitter.com/jomillernz>

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 7 September 2020 11:51 AM
To: Jo Miller
Subject: RE: This weekend's Dominion Post , Stuff, calling things out and a plea .

Tena koe Jo very will covered appreciated the email and here to support you Na [REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Jo Miller <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz>
Sent: Sunday, September 6, 2020 8:05 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: This weekend's Dominion Post , Stuff, calling things out and a plea .

Dear [REDACTED]
No doubt you have seen the articles in Dom Post -Stuff Please see the email below I have sent to Mayor and Councillors which should set the matter straight . Please call if you have any queries .
Kind regards Jo

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jo Miller <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz>
Date: 6 September 2020 at 6:33:03 PM NZST
To: __Mayor & Councillors <__Mayor&Councillors@huttcity.govt.nz>
Subject: This weekend's Dominion Post , Stuff, calling things out and a plea .

Dear Mayor and Councillors

It's been quite a weekend as I'm sure you can imagine , and full on work wise dealing with the Dom Post, Stuff, managing stakeholders and giving assurance .

I send this email without having consulted anyone, but I know I must send it . Ive had a saying my whole life - learned when I was growing up "The standards you are prepared to walk by are the standards you are prepared to accept . " And as Edmund Burke famously said , "All it takes for evil to prosper is for good people to stand by and do nothing . "I'm not prepared to do nothing . And I know that most of you won't either .

I don't want to start my new working week without setting my thoughts out to you . And I will end with a plea that I hope that everyone can sign up to without exception .

I started at Hutt City Council on 1 July last year . You have all seen my commentary on my last year and my reflections three months in which described a council that at times was weaponised , and a council where staff did not feel safe to speak truth to power . Of course , a fierce election campaign was being fought , and as an experienced CE, I know how these things work and how swords and cudgels drawn in battle are usually sheathed in the ensuing peace . Even if that is done with a grimace ! The weapons have largely been laid down, but we see them surface every now and again . This weekend has been the prime example of this.

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I will though, say what I see and call matters out without fear or favour , no matter how hard people might try to stop me (and there has been a bit of that lately). Of course, most of the time there's no need to do call things out - good standards prevail , and when mistakes are made, lessons are learned , apologies given and we move on. That applies equally to governance as it does to operations.

What we have here is of a different order. It needs to stop.

Let's go back to that mayor and council election last year. One of the things that was swirling round in mid August and September was the issue of then Cr Barry's house purchase in Wainuiomata Earlier in the year . A member of the public made a complaint to the OaG effectively alleging insider dealing , and the OaG referred that to SFO as being the right jurisdiction . SFO made their inquiries and found there was nothing for them to investigate . Two sets of journalists were tipped off about the complaint and made enquiries of the Council via the media team and my office .

I know that the member of public making the complaint , and bringing it to the attention of the press was aided by a person who was and remains a councillor. I know because that person told me so and as early as 20 August 2019 is on record as asking me "whether the media has contacted you about Campbell and Wainuiomata land" .

So you will see from this a major inaccuracy in the Stuff /Dom Post report . I wasn't informed after 17 September council meeting about the house purchase , I knew way before, as did Mayor Wallace who I had briefed about the existence of the complaint and whom I advised to stay away from it because I knew it was made / encouraged in bad faith . Whether Mayor Wallace was aware of the complaint from elsewhere I do not know. I am only going to make reference to things within my knowledge .

I haven't done anything about this in all the time since then. I've let it lie hoping it was gone in the election. But it hasn't gone, it has cropped up from time to time . A small overly vocal, dispossessed minority of people are still fighting last year's battles . This is getting in the way of running this city and enabling all of our people to thrive . I wouldn't be raising this matter now, but for the events of this last week and the damage that is being done - not to Mayor Barry or me, but to this city, the one we are all here to serve .

I did of course make my own enquiries last year about the house purchase both during the election campaign and once again in November to see whether there was any cause for concern. First of all I looked at what was in the public domain . There's quite a lot, starting with Mayor Wallace discussing this matter way back in 2016 in Stuff.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/86403745/lower-hutt-mayor-rekindles-debate-over-building-more-houses-in-rural-wainuiomata>

I also took a look at info council to see what had been reported and when and what was in the public domain . I have copied in the links below for your information .

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November 2017:

http://infocouncil.huttcity.govt.nz/RedirectToDoc.aspx?URL=Open/2017/11/CDC_28112017_AGN_2435_AT_WEB.htm

August 2017:

http://infocouncil.huttcity.govt.nz/RedirectToDoc.aspx?URL=Open/2017/08/CDC_01082017_AGN_2407_AT_WEB.htm

We supplied all off these links to journalists last year ,and it's probably why they decided not to run a story . They didn't see a story . We supplied all of these links to the journalist asking questions this week , but he did not appear interested . He certainly didn't report on them . From all of this , you can see that Upper Fitzherbert as a potential development area was no secret .

As last year's election campaign ensued , the number of questions being asked about Wainuiomata North was unusual . I and other officers were concerned that we were being asked questions for the purposes of a political campaign and required every request in writing with reasons. Those requests and our answers were copied to Wainuiomata ward councillors to prevent any improper electoral conduct . I will release all of that correspondence into the public domain later this week .

As well as looking at what was in the public domain about Upper Fitzherbert , I checked in November of last year whether any of the then senior leadership team or former members of the senior leadership team I could contact plus all of the staff involved in the Wainuiomata Development framework and general counsel had any governance / ethics concerns regarding then Cr Barry's house purchase. They did not .

This week's Stuff/ Dom Post referred to me canning/shelving Wainuiomata growth plan work. This is simply untrue . Work on Wainuiomata North Development Framework was paused when Cr Bassett was chairing City Development Cttee at the end of 2018. The work was then subsumed into the Wellington Regional Growth Strategy as the September 2019 council report and minute show . See here : http://infocouncil.huttcity.govt.nz/Open/2019/09/HCC_17092019_MIN_2653_AT.htm<http://infocouncil.huttcity.govt.nz/Open/2019/09/HCC_17092019_MIN_2653_AT.htm>. Mayor Wallace will have known all of this as the Council's representative on Wellington Regional Strategy Committee .

You can see from this then , more material inaccuracy in the Stuff / Dom Post article , and about which I understand you have received correspondence urging an investigation into my behaviour .

Stuff have today corrected both stories in that regard . See here : <https://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/300093672/controversy-over-politicians-house-purchase><<https://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/300093672/controversy-over-politicians-house-purchase>>
And also corrected here : <https://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/86403745/lower-hutt-mayor-rekindles-debate-over-building-more-houses-in-rural-wainuiomata><<https://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/86403745/lower-hutt-mayor-rekindles-debate-over-building-more-houses-in-rural-wainuiomata>>

I am at a loss as to why in the original Stuff / Dom Post articles it is said that "senior officials " were "shocked" and 'surprised " at a "cavalier" unilateral action in canning / shelving work - action I simply did not take. At best , those who were shocked and surprised at action I did not take are misremembering . At worst, it is something more poisonous .

The Editor of Stuff so far has declined to confirm whether the senior officials referred to in the (now corrected) article are those charged with governance or staff. From my own (99% complete) enquiries , I do not believe this makes reference to any current staff members, nor any previous staff members who were responsible for the planning and strategy functions.

I did publish all Wainuiomata North Development Framework documents back in December 2019, and emailed all of you on 20 December to explain that. This was part of my commitment , and the desire of this council to move from a position of secrecy to openness . As you know, new council has a procedure for publishing briefing papers etc. so we can be more open and transparent . The Wellington Regional Growth Strategy is in development , aided by a regional members workshop held pre - Covid at the Events Centre . Many of you attended . That WRGF that is due to come to councils in the region by the end of the year will identify all greenfield development sites across the region .

As you can deduce from all of the above , this weekend's reporting leaves a lot to be desired in terms of accuracy . I have been in dialogue with the Editor over the weekend and some , though not enough , corrections have been made. It is inexcusable that basic journalistic practice has not been followed . For example, just in my own case, knowledge , actions and motives have been attributed to me without any contact with me by the journalist.

The Editor will be meeting with me and Mayor Barry to discuss retraction etc. In view of the appalling inaccuracies in both stories, the Editor has agreed not to publish either story in the Hutt News.

I have mentioned that I have spent a fair portion of this weekend on stakeholder management with more to do. That included briefing the Department for Internal Affairs who are assured by our approach at this stage .

I would say that staff dealing with this issue this week have lost around three to four working days , and there is more energy to be spent . Energy that could be spent on furthering the fortunes of this city and its people is being diverted to countering nasty personal attacks. It is not good enough . Those who are responsible need to stop, whether they are up front fighting these wars, playing through the hands of others or mixing things out of plain sight. If we continue in this manner our city and its people will suffer .

So I end with a plea. To those engaging in this behaviour , stop it right now. To others , let's call it out for what it is . Standing by won't do. We can't change our past, but we can change our future . Let us work together to be the change we want to see.

Yours ever, Jo

Footnote : I am going to forward a copy of this email to all those named in the Dom Post / Stuff article , to the staff who have had to work on this last week and this weekend , to CLT, and to stakeholders I have had to manage / assure this weekend .

Ngā mihi nui

Jo Miller
Chief Executive

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road Private Bag 31912, Lower Hutt 5010, New Zealand T 04 570 6773<callto:04%20570%206773> M 027 213 7550<callto:027%20213%207550> W
www.huttcity.govt.nz<http://www.huttcity.govt.nz>

Follow me on Twitter : @jomillernz<https://twitter.com/jomillernz>

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[Redacted]

From: [Redacted]
Sent: Monday, 7 September 2020 12:59 PM
To: Jo Miller
Subject: RE: This weekend's Dominion Post , Stuff, calling things out and a plea .

Thanks Jo. I appreciate you sending me this and strongly support the approach you are taking in confronting this sort of behaviour. Let me know if you think there is anything I can do to help. Regards, [Redacted]

[Redacted]

The information contained in this email is confidential and intended for the addressee only. If you are not the intended recipient, you are asked to respect that confidentiality by destroying this email and do not disclose, copy or make use of its contents. Your assistance is appreciated.

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted] **On Behalf Of** Jo Miller
Sent: Monday, 7 September 2020 10:48 am
To: [Redacted]
Subject: FW: This weekend's Dominion Post , Stuff, calling things out and a plea .

Kia ora [Redacted]

Please see the below email which I sent to Mayor and Councillors in light of the articles in the Dominion Post/Stuff.

Sharing with you fyi.

Ngā mihi nui

Jo Miller | Chief Executive
Tumu Whakarae



Hutt City Council
30 Laings Road
Private Bag 31912
Lower Hutt 5010, New Zealand
T 04 570 66773 M 027 213
7550
www.huttcity.govt.nz



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From: Jo Miller
Sent: Sunday, 6 September 2020 6:33 PM
To: __Mayor & Councillors
Subject: This weekend's Dominion Post, Stuff, calling things out and a plea.

Dear Mayor and Councillors

It's been quite a weekend as I'm sure you can imagine, and full on work wise dealing with the Dom Post, Stuff, managing stakeholders and giving assurance.

I send this email without having consulted anyone, but I know I must send it. I've had a saying my whole life - learned when I was young - "The standards you are prepared to walk by are the standards you are prepared to accept." And as Edmund Burke famously said, "The only good that takes for evil to prosper is for good people to stand by and do nothing." I'm not prepared to do nothing. And I know that most people are not either.

I don't want to start my new working week without setting my thoughts out to you. And I will end with a plea that I hope that you will sign up to without exception.

I started at Hutt City Council on 1 July last year. You have all seen my commentary on my last year and my reflections three months ago. I described a council that at times was weaponised, and a council where staff did not feel safe to speak truth to power. Of course, a fierce election campaign was being fought, and as an experienced CE, I know how these things work and how swords and clubs are usually sheathed in the ensuing peace. Even if that is done with a grimace! The weapons have largely been laid down, but they surface every now and again. This weekend has been the prime example of this.

I need to state on the record that I am nobody's patsy - not current politicians nor previous ones. I am my own woman. What matters to me is my professionalism and my record. It's not my job to account for things that happened before I arrived here, though I do account for matters that are brought to my attention.

I will though, say what I see and call matters out without fear or favour, no matter how hard people might try to stop me (and I've been a bit of that lately). Of course, most of the time there's no need to do so - good standards prevail, and when things go wrong, lessons are learned, apologies given and we move on. That applies equally to governance as it does to operations.

What we have here is of a different order. It needs to stop.

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correspondence urging an investigation into my behaviour.

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Yours ever, Jo

Footnote: I am going to forward a copy of this email to all those named in the Dom Post / Stuff article, to the staff who have been involved in this last week and this weekend, to CLT, and to stakeholders I have had to manage / assure this weekend.

Ngā mihi nui

Jo Miller
Chief Executive

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road Private Bag 31912, Lower Hutt 5010, New Zealand
T [04 570 6773](tel:045706773) M [027 213 7550](tel:0272137550)
W www.huttcity.govt.nz

Follow me on Twitter : [@jomillernz](https://twitter.com/jomillernz)



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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 7 September 2020 9:51 AM
To: Jo Miller
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: This weekend's Dominion Post , Stuff, calling things out and a plea .

Hi Jo

Thank you for the thorough, timely and well communicated explanation of the situation.

I am completely confident that this entire episode is a political manoeuvre that lacks any substance or concern worthy of further time being wasted investigating.

I wholeheartedly agree with your plea.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

> On 6/09/2020, at 8:01 PM, Jo Miller <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

>

> Dear [REDACTED], thanks for taking the call yesterday . Please see below

> my email to mayor and councillors which I hope sets the matter

> straight . Happy to pass to other chamber board members if you think

> appropriate . Thanks Jo

>

>

> Begin forwarded message:

>

> From: Jo Miller <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz>

> Date: 6 September 2020 at 6:33:03 PM NZST

> To: __Mayor & Councillors <__Mayor&Councillors@huttcity.govt.nz>

> Subject: This weekend's Dominion Post , Stuff, calling things out and a plea .

>

>

>

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>

>

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> [_AT_WEB.htm](http://infocouncil.huttcity.govt.nz/Open/2018/02/CDC_27022018_AGN_2509_AT_WEB.htm)
>
> November 2017:
> http://infocouncil.huttcity.govt.nz/RedirectToDoc.aspx?URL=Open/2017/1/CDC_28112017_AGN_2435_AT_WEB.htm
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> I would say that staff dealing with this issue this week have lost around three to four working days , and there is more energy to be spent . Energy that could be spent on furthering the fortunes of this city and its people is being diverted to countering nasty personal attacks. It is not good enough . Those who are responsible need to stop, whether they are up front fighting these wars, playing through the hands of others or mixing things out of plain sight. If we continue in this manner our city and its people will suffer .

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> So I end with a plea. To those engaging in this behaviour , stop it right now. To others , let's call it out for what it is . Standing by won't do. We can't change our past, but we can change our future . Let us work together to be the change we want to see.

>

> Yours ever, Jo

>

>

> Footnote : I am going to forward a copy of this email to all those named in the Dom Post / Stuff article , to the staff who have had to work on this last week and this weekend , to CLT, and to stakeholders I have had to manage / assure this weekend .

>

> Ngā mihi nui

>

> Jo Miller

> Chief Executive

>

> Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road Private Bag 31912, Lower Hutt 5010,

> New Zealand T 04 570 6773<callto:04%20570%206773> M 027 213

> 7550<callto:027%20213%207550> W

> www.huttcity.govt.nz<http://www.huttcity.govt.nz>

>

> Follow me on Twitter : @jomillernz<https://twitter.com/jomillernz>

>

> [cid:hccsmalllogo_12fb0640-f486-4c5a-a775-f4ab1b1dfb5d.jpg]

>

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 7 September 2020 8:00 AM
To: Jo Miller
Subject: RE: This weekend's Dominion Post , Stuff, calling things out and a plea .

Morena Jo
No need to apologise given the below.
I did want to talk to you about whether you thought it was a good idea (and would be prepared to act as a co-sponsor) for a Regional (CEO sponsored) initiative around the future of local government (the so called parallel workstream of the 3 water review).
I think the sector should be leading this and that it is something you and I are probably both very passionate about.

I'd love a call when you have time, and fully understand that the is much on your plate, not least after the weekend's events.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----
From: Jo Miller <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz>
Sent: Sunday, 6 September 2020 8:06 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: This weekend's Dominion Post , Stuff, calling things out and a plea .

Kia Ora [REDACTED]
Sorry I wasn't with you on Friday . Set out below is why ! Speak soon . Jo

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jo Miller <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz>
Date: 6 September 2020 at 6:33:03 PM NZST
To: __Mayor & Councillors <__Mayor&Councillors@huttcity.govt.nz>
Subject: This weekend's Dominion Post , Stuff, calling things out and a plea .

Dear Mayor and Councillors

It's been quite a weekend as I'm sure you can imagine , and full on work wise dealing with the Dom Post, Stuff, managing stakeholders and giving assurance .

I send this email without having consulted anyone, but I know I must send it . Ive had a saying my whole life - learned when I was growing up "The standards you are prepared to walk by are the standards you are prepared to

accept . “ And as Edmund Burke famously said , “All it takes for evil to prosper is for good people to stand by and do nothing . “I’m not prepared to do nothing . And I know that most of you won’t either .

I don’t want to start my new working week without setting my thoughts out to you . And I will end with a plea that I hope that everyone can sign up to without exception .

I started at Hutt City Council on 1 July last year . You have all seen my commentary on my last year and my reflections three months in which described a council that at times was weaponised , and a council where staff did not feel safe to speak truth to power . Of course , a fierce election campaign was being fought , and as an experienced CE, I know how these things work and how swords and cudgels drawn in battle are usually sheathed in the ensuing peace . Even if that is done with a grimace ! The weapons have largely been laid down, but we see them surface every now and again . This weekend has been the prime example of this.

I need to state on the record that I am nobody’s patsy- not current politicians nor previous ones. I am my own woman . What I have to go on is my professionalism and my record. It’s not my job to account for things that happened before I arrived here, though I do have to account for matters that are brought to my attention .

I will though, say what I see and call matters out without fear or favour , no matter how hard people might try to stop me (and there has been a bit of that lately). Of course, most of the time there’s no need to do call things out - good standards prevail , and when mistakes are made, lessons are learned , apologies given and we move on. That applies equally to governance as it does to operations.

What we have here is of a different order. It needs to stop.

Let’s go back to that mayor and council election last year. One of the things that was swirling round in mid August and September was the issue of then Cr Barry’s house purchase in Wainuiomata Earlier in the year . A member of the public made a complaint to the OaG effectively alleging insider dealing , and the OaG referred that to SFO as being the right jurisdiction . SFO made their inquiries and found there was nothing for them to investigate . Two sets of journalists were tipped off about the complaint and made enquiries of the Council via the media team and my office .

I know that the member of public making the complaint , and bringing it to the attention of the press was aided by a person who was and remains a councillor. I know because that person told me so and as early as 20 August 2019 is on record as asking me “whether the media has contacted you about Campbell and Wainuiomata land” .

So you will see from this a major inaccuracy in the Stuff /Dom Post report . I wasn’t informed after 17 September council meeting about the house purchase , I knew way before, as did Mayor Wallace who I had briefed about the existence of the complaint and whom I advised to stay away from it because I knew it was made / encouraged in bad faith . Whether Mayor Wallace was aware of the complaint from elsewhere I do not know. I am only going to make reference to things within my knowledge .

I haven’t done anything about this in all the time since then. I’ve let it lie hoping it was gone in the election. But it hasn’t gone, it has cropped up from time to time . A small overly vocal, dispossessed minority of people are still fighting last year’s battles . This is getting in the way of running this city and enabling all of our people to thrive . I wouldn’t be raising this matter now, but for the events of this last week and the damage that is being done - not to Mayor Barry or me, but to this city, the one we are all here to serve .

I did of course make my own enquiries last year about the house purchase both during the election campaign and once again in November to see whether there was any cause for concern. First of all I looked at what was in the public domain . There’s quite a lot, starting with Mayor Wallace discussing this matter way back in 2016 in Stuff.

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/86403745/lower-hutt-mayor-rekindles-debate-over-building-more-houses-in-rural-wainuiomata>

I also took a look at info council to see what had been reported and when and what was in the public domain . I have copied in the links below for your information .

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Yours ever, Jo

Footnote : I am going to forward a copy of this email to all those named in the Dom Post / Stuff article , to the staff who have had to work on this last week and this weekend , to CLT, and to stakeholders I have had to manage / assure this weekend .

Ngā mihi nui

Jo Miller
Chief Executive

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road Private Bag 31912, Lower Hutt 5010, New Zealand T 04 570 6773<callto:04%20570%206773> M 027 213 7550<callto:027%20213%207550> W www.huttcity.govt.nz<http://www.huttcity.govt.nz>

Follow me on Twitter : @jomillernz<<https://twitter.com/jomillernz>>

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 7 September 2020 7:38 AM
To: Jo Miller
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: This weekend's Dominion Post , Stuff, calling things out and a plea .

Thanks Jo will do - reckon you could with [REDACTED] (you may have already) and other CEs in the region.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Jo Miller <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz>
Sent: Sunday, September 6, 2020 7:40:05 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: This weekend's Dominion Post , Stuff, calling things out and a plea .

Thanks [REDACTED]
Please all of you share with whom ever you need to. Do you think I should share with other CEs ?

Ngā mihi nui
Jo Miller
Chief Executive

Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road, Private Bag 31912, Lower Hutt 5010, New Zealand
T04 570 6773 M 027 213 7550
Wwww.huttcity.govt.nz
Follow me on Twitter : @jomillernz

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> On 6/09/2020, at 7:38 PM, Barbara McKerrow <Barbara.Mckerrow@wcc.govt.nz> wrote:
>
> Kia ora Jo
>
> That is a strong and to the point message which I admire. You have clearly had a very challenging week and weekend. Would you mind if I share this with my ELT? Anything I can do to put a stop to unhelpful speculation I will do.
>
> Kia kaha
>
> [REDACTED]
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Jo Miller <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz>
> Sent: 06 September 2020 19:01
> To: [REDACTED]
> [REDACTED]
> Subject: Fwd: This weekend's Dominion Post , Stuff, calling things out and a plea .
>
> Dear Colleagues

> I'm sorry I wasn't with you on Friday . You have I know seen Saturday's papers which you will have guessed is the reason why . After a work weekend , with some changes made to the press as per below , I set out my thoughts to elected members I wanted to share it with you also .

> Thanks as ever for your friendship and support .

> Jo

>

>

> Begin forwarded message:

>

> From: Jo Miller <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz>

> Date: 6 September 2020 at 6:33:03 PM NZST

> To: __Mayor & Councillors <__Mayor&Councillors@huttcity.govt.nz>

> Subject: This weekend's Dominion Post , Stuff, calling things out and a plea .

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> So I end with a plea. To those engaging in this behaviour , stop it right now. To others , let’s call it out for what it is . Standing by won’t do. We can’t change our past, but we can change our future . Let us work together to be the change we want to see.

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> Yours ever, Jo

>

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> Footnote : I am going to forward a copy of this email to all those named in the Dom Post / Stuff article , to the staff who have had to work on this last week and this weekend , to CLT, and to stakeholders I have had to manage / assure this weekend .

>

> Ngā mihi nui

>
> Jo Miller
> Chief Executive
>
> Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road Private Bag 31912, Lower Hutt 5010, New Zealand T 04 570
6773<callto:04%20570%206773> M 027 213 7550<callto:027%20213%207550> W
www.huttcity.govt.nz<<http://www.huttcity.govt.nz>>
>
> Follow me on Twitter : @jomillernz<<https://twitter.com/jomillernz>>
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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 6 September 2020 8:27 PM
To: Jo Miller
Subject: Re: This weekend's Dominion Post , Stuff, calling things out and a plea .

Kia ora Jo

Thank you for your email happy to have a coffee soon.

Nga Mihi [REDACTED]

> On 6/09/2020, at 8:04 PM, Jo Miller <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

>

> Dear [REDACTED]

> No doubt you have seen the articles in Dom Post -Stuff Please see the

> email below I have sent to Mayor and Councillors which should set the matter straight . Please call if you have any queries .

> Kind regards Jo

>

>

> Begin forwarded message:

>

> From: Jo Miller <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz>

> Date: 6 September 2020 at 6:33:03 PM NZST

> To: __Mayor & Councillors <__Mayor&Councillors@huttcity.govt.nz>

> Subject: This weekend's Dominion Post , Stuff, calling things out and a plea .

>

>

>

> Dear Mayor and Councillors

>

> It's been quite a weekend as I'm sure you can imagine , and full on work wise dealing with the Dom Post, Stuff, managing stakeholders and giving assurance .

>

> I send this email without having consulted anyone, but I know I must send it . Ive had a saying my whole life - learned when I was growing up "The standards you are prepared to walk by are the standards you are prepared to accept . " And as Edmund Burke famously said , "All it takes for evil to prosper is for good people to stand by and do nothing . "I'm not prepared to do nothing . And I know that most of you won't either .

>

> I don't want to start my new working week without setting my thoughts out to you . And I will end with a plea that I hope that everyone can sign up to without exception .

>

> I started at Hutt City Council on 1 July last year . You have all seen my commentary on my last year and my reflections three months in which described a council that at times was weaponised , and a council where staff did not feel safe to speak truth to power . Of course , a fierce election campaign was being fought , and as an experienced CE, I know how these things work and how swords and cudgels drawn in battle are usually sheathed in the ensuing peace . Even if that is done with a grimace ! The weapons have largely been laid down, but we see them surface every now and again . This weekend has been the prime example of this.

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> I need to state on the record that I am nobody's patsy- not current politicians nor previous ones. I am my own woman . What I have to go on is my professionalism and my record. It's not my job to account for things that happened before I arrived here, though I do have to account for matters that are brought to my attention .

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> I will though, say what I see and call matters out without fear or favour , no matter how hard people might try to stop me (and there has been a bit of that lately). Of course, most of the time there's no need to do call things out - good standards prevail , and when mistakes are made, lessons are learned , apologies given and we move on. That applies equally to governance as it does to operations.

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> What we have here is of a different order. It needs to stop.

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> Let's go back to that mayor and council election last year. One of the things that was swirling round in mid August and September was the issue of then Cr Barry's house purchase in Wainuiomata Earlier in the year . A member of the public made a complaint to the OaG effectively alleging insider dealing , and the OaG referred that to SFO as being the right jurisdiction . SFO made their inquiries and found there was nothing for them to investigate . Two sets of journalists were tipped off about the complaint and made enquiries of the Council via the media team and my office .

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> I know that the member of public making the complaint , and bringing it to the attention of the press was aided by a person who was and remains a councillor. I know because that person told me so and as early as 20 August 2019 is on record as asking me "whether the media has contacted you about Campbell and Wainuiomata land" .

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> I haven't done anything about this in all the time since then. I've let it lie hoping it was gone in the election. But it hasn't gone, it has cropped up from time to time . A small overly vocal, dispossessed minority of people are still fighting last year's battles . This is getting in the way of running this city and enabling all of our people to thrive . I wouldn't be raising this matter now, but for the events of this last week and the damage that is being done - not to Mayor Barry or me, but to this city, the one we are all here to serve .

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>

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> Ngā mihi nui

>

> Jo Miller

> Chief Executive

>

> Hutt City Council, 30 Laings Road Private Bag 31912, Lower Hutt 5010,

> New Zealand T 04 570 6773<callto:04%20570%206773> M 027 213

> 7550<callto:027%20213%207550> W

> www.huttcity.govt.nz<http://www.huttcity.govt.nz>

>

> Follow me on Twitter : @jomillernz<https://twitter.com/jomillernz>

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 6 September 2020 7:38 PM
To: Jo Miller; [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: This weekend's Dominion Post , Stuff, calling things out and a plea .

Kia ora Jo

That is a strong and to the point message which I admire. You have clearly had a very challenging week and weekend. Would you mind if I share this with my ELT? Anything I can do to put a stop to unhelpful speculation I will do.

Kia kaha

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Jo Miller <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz>

Sent: 06 September 2020 19:01

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Fwd: This weekend's Dominion Post , Stuff, calling things out and a plea .

Dear Colleagues

I'm sorry I wasn't with you on Friday . You have I know seen Saturday's papers which you will have guessed is the reason why . After a work weekend , with some changes made to the press as per below , I set out my thoughts to elected members I wanted to share it with you also .

Thanks as ever for your friendship and support .

Jo

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jo Miller <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz>

Date: 6 September 2020 at 6:33:03 PM NZST

To: __Mayor & Councillors <__Mayor&Councillors@huttcity.govt.nz>

Subject: This weekend's Dominion Post , Stuff, calling things out and a plea .

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The Editor will be meeting with me and Mayor Barry to discuss retraction etc. In view of the appalling inaccuracies in both stories, the Editor has agreed not to publish either story in the Hutt News.

I have mentioned that I have spent a fair portion of this weekend on stakeholder management with more to do. That included briefing the Department for Internal Affairs who are assured by our approach at this stage .

I would say that staff dealing with this issue this week have lost around three to four working days , and there is more energy to be spent . Energy that could be spent on furthering the fortunes of this city and its people is being diverted to countering nasty personal attacks. It is not good enough . Those who are responsible need to stop, whether they are up front fighting these wars, playing through the hands of others or mixing things out of plain sight. If we continue in this manner our city and its people will suffer .

So I end with a plea. To those engaging in this behaviour , stop it right now. To others , let's call it out for what it is . Standing by won't do. We can't change our past, but we can change our future . Let us work together to be the change we want to see.

Yours ever, Jo

Footnote : I am going to forward a copy of this email to all those named in the Dom Post / Stuff article , to the staff who have had to work on this last week and this weekend , to CLT, and to stakeholders I have had to manage / assure this weekend .

Ngā mihi nui

Jo Miller
Chief Executive

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 7 September 2020 5:58 PM
To: Jo Miller
Subject: Re: Wainuiomata North stories - [REDACTED] will send plus will attach [REDACTED]'s email

Hi Jo
Thanks for your email. I will review and come back to you.
In terms of your website statement you can say.
The Dominion Post has confirmed it is reviewing our complaint.
I understand a separate complaint is coming from the mayor's office and once received that will also be reviewed.

[REDACTED]

On Mon, 7 Sep 2020 at 15:39, Jo Miller <Jo.Miller@huttcity.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED]

As discussed on the phone this morning I am seeking a full retraction of the stories, and an apology with similar prominence to the placement of the stories in your newspaper and online. Later today, we will be posting a statement to our website noting we are seeking this, so it would be really helpful if we could have your response by close of business today please.

1. Background information sent to [REDACTED]

Some relevant extracts from publically available papers were sent to [REDACTED] in separate emails on Friday (attached). Information on the Wellington Regional Growth Framework was also sent to him. None of this information was reflected in the article and this also contributed to the lack of balance in the article.

2. There are still incorrect statements in the articles. Specifically, I did not find out about Cr Barry's (as he was then) house purchase following the September Council meeting.

Incorrect referencing of September 2019 meeting - www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/300093140/the-battle-for-a-slice-of-hutt-paradise

“It was immediately after that meeting that both Miller and Wallace were informed that Barry had bought a property in the area being considered for development, while being involved in confidential discussions about the plans.”

3. I remain concerned regarding the following statement (refer <https://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/300093672/controversy-over-politicians-house-purchase>)

“Despite that conclusion, highly placed sources within the council believe Barry’s actions were “very serious”, had “significant implications in terms of the council’s decision-making processes” and fell “well short of the threshold required by elected officials”.

And

“Those sources also believe the SFO’s ruling ignores the efforts the council made to keep planning secret, until it was ready to present the plans to the public.”

I am unclear as to whether these sources are officers (current or past) or members. As I have said I checked with all staff and I have rechecked and found there were no concerns expressed to me. Since the stories have been published I also need to account to funders, and governing and monitoring bodies explaining these articles and it is difficult to do so when I do not know if the sources are my own staff and whether they are still employed here. This is a matter of trust and confidence in the organisation and as Chief Executive it is crucial that I have this information. Whilst this issue goes to lack of balance in your stories, the failure to differentiate is significantly increasing harm and reputation.

4. Concerns regarding [REDACTED] (attachment)

As well as my own concerns which I have expressed to you, I have attached an email from our former [REDACTED] who was interviewed by [REDACTED] for the stories. This email raises a number of concerns which I will leave with you. If you determine that you share my concerns one of the ways this can be managed is through an apology to Hutt City Council.

I look forward to your response to the above matters.

Sincerely

Jo Miller | Chief Executive
Tumu Whakararae

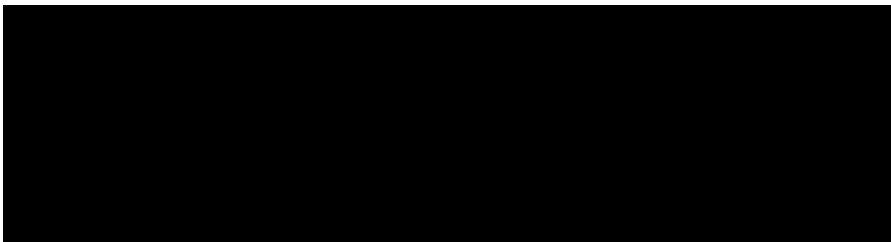


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<p>·Wainuiomata - extension of Wise Street – This work has been undertaken enabling the start of a consented 31 lot private subdivision on one of the landholdings along the extension. Other landholdings along this extension are considering future residential development.</p> <p>·Upper Fitzherbert, Wainuiomata</p> <p>Officers have invited Expressions of Interest from selected providers with the skills and experience to prepare a best practice framework for the urban development of Upper Fitzherbert Road, Wainuiomata.</p> <p>Shortlisted respondents will be invited to provide detailed fee proposals.</p>	
<p><u>District Plan Committee 20 September 2017</u></p> <p>Urban Development, Upper Fitzherbert Road, Wainuiomata</p> <p>43. Staff have about to engage a consultant to prepare a best practice framework for the urban development of Upper Fitzherbert Road, Wainuiomata.</p>	
<p><u>City Development Committee 26 September 2017</u></p> <p>42. Implementation projects being worked on include:</p> <p>·Wainuiomata - extension of Wise Street – One subdivision consented and houses under construction. Other landholdings along this extension are considering future residential development.</p> <p>·Upper Fitzherbert, Wainuiomata</p> <p>Officers have selected a consultant team to prepare a best practice framework for the urban development of Upper Fitzherbert Road, Wainuiomata. This work, when completed, will inform a District Plan change to enable residential development as proposed in the urban Growth strategy 2012 – 2032.</p>	
<p><u>District Plan Committee 24 November 2017</u></p> <p>Urban Development, Upper Fitzherbert Road, Wainuiomata</p> <p>44. Staff have engaged a consultant to prepare a best practice framework for the urban development of Upper Fitzherbert Road, Wainuiomata.</p>	
<p><u>City Development Committee 28 November 2017</u></p> <p>49. Implementation projects being worked on include:</p> <p>·Wainuiomata - extension of Wise Street – One subdivision</p>	

<p><i>consented and houses under construction. Other landholdings along this extension are considering future residential development.</i></p> <p><i>·Upper Fitzherbert, Wainuiomata</i></p> <p><i>Officers have selected a consultant team to prepare a best practice framework for the urban development of Upper Fitzherbert Road, Wainuiomata. This work, when completed, will inform a District Plan change to enable residential development as proposed in the urban Growth strategy 2012 – 2032.</i></p>	
<p><u>City Development Committee 27 February 2018</u></p> <p>42. <i>Implementation projects being worked on include:</i></p> <p><i>·Wainuiomata - extension of Wise Street – One subdivision consented and houses under construction. Other landholdings along this extension are considering future residential development.</i></p> <p><i>·Upper Fitzherbert, Wainuiomata</i></p> <p><i>Officers working with a consultant team undertook a planning exercise in November 2017 to develop a framework for the urban development of Upper Fitzherbert Road, Wainuiomata. This work has just been received in draft form and when completed will inform a District Plan change to enable residential development as proposed in the urban Growth strategy 2012 – 2032. A councilor workshop will be held to go through the report and determine next steps.</i></p>	
<p><u>District Plan Committee 18 April 2018</u></p> <p>Upcoming Work</p> <p>77. <i>As well as upcoming District Plan projects arising from Riverlink, the NPSUDC and the National Planning Standards, there are likely to be projects on the near horizon addressing the Wainuiomata North Structure Plan, heritage buildings, natural hazards, greenfield development areas, the Lower Hutt CBD, Naenae and Wainuiomata centre rejuvenation, large lot residential and rural zones.</i></p> <p>78. <i>The Committee may wish to consider whether the current levels of resourcing are able to deliver its higher priorities in the short term.</i></p>	
<p>City Development Committee agenda of 1 May 2018</p>	<p>Project not mentioned</p>
<p>District Plan Committee meeting of 1 September 2018</p>	<p>Project not mentioned</p>
<p>City Development Committee 5 March 2019</p>	

City Development Committee – Work Programme – March 2019

Description	Author	Cycle 2 2019	Cycle 3 2019	Cycle 4 2019
GMs' Report		x	x	x
Activity Report: City Growth and Sustainability – City Development		x		
International Relations Six Month Update		x		
Hutt Valley Tennis Centre		x		
Urban Growth Strategy – Wainuiomata North Development Framework			x	
Jackson Street Programme 12 Month Update				x
Technology Valley Six Month Update				x
Hutt Valley Chamber of Commerce Six Month Update				x
Seaview Business Association 12 Month Update				x

City Development Committee – Work Programme – April 2019

Description	Author	Cycle 3 2019	Cycle 4 2019
GMs' Report		x	x
Urban Growth Strategy – Wainuiomata North Development Framework		x	

City Development Committee – Work Programme – July 2019

Description	Author	Cycle 4 2019
GMs' Report		x
Recommendations from the District Plan Subcommittee		x
Urban Growth Strategy – Wainuiomata North Development Framework		x

City Development Committee – Work Programme – September 2019

Description	Author	Pending
GMs' Report		x
Proposed New Street Name: Subdivision of 1041A High Street, Avalon		x
Proposed New Street Name: Subdivision of 38 Manor Park Road, Lower Hutt		x
Review of Reserved Street Names		x
Temporary Road Closure reports		x
Urban Growth Strategy – Wainuiomata North Development Framework		x

You'll see from the above that the project was parked some time in mid 2018, well before your arrival at Hutt City. It was not discussed again as a district plan project although, as I just learned, it continued to be listed in the 'Work Programme' table of City Development.

I don't recall exactly when the Councillor workshop referred to in the CDC 27 Feb took place but I think it would have been February, March or April 2018. There will be a record in your system.

I think the reasons for the project being parked included:

- Political sensitivity about another potentially controversial district plan project (SNAs and PC43 were in progress)
- Concern about the cost of 3-waters infrastructure.

I hope that helps a little. Feel free to get in touch if you need to.

Regards

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]