

## Grace Christison

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**From:** Ray Wallace  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 25 September 2019 8:51 AM  
**To:** Jo Miller  
**Subject:** Wainuiomata North Development

Jo

Thanks for your email of 19 September in response to my questions regarding meetings/workshops/briefing re: Wainuiomata North Development//Upper Fitzherbert area.

### Background

I am seeking this information because I want to have clarity around what councillors have been informed of in terms of the proposed development for the Wainuiomata North Development/Upper Fitzherbert area. I do not wish to have another confused situation like we had a couple of weeks ago regarding a possible Queen Street Reserve development.

The matter of the Wainuiomata North Development/ Upper Fitzherbert area was raised by Mr Craig Innes in public comment at our Council meeting on 17 September 2019 where he was seeking information relating to Council's proposals for the area. Mr Innes' comments raised a red flag to me as it was not obvious why he should be raising this matter at this time as no information has been released regarding the project. I was also aware Cr Briggs and Mr Innes had been in communication with each other on Facebook on the day of our Council meeting where Cr Briggs said he had put in multiple requests for this information to be made public including speaking to Council's Chief Executive. Cr Briggs then went on to say "they are still holding their stance of not releasing the information regarding the Wainuiomata North Development Framework at this time". In response Mr Innes said "You have at least seen the document which is a lot more than the rest of us".

Your email of 19 September:

1. Council officers met with the two Wainuiomata Ward councillors i.e. Cr's Barry and Briggs on 15 September 2017 to advise the councillors that a Workshop was being planned to discuss the Wainuiomata Urban Growth Strategy.
2. No mention has been made in your email of the Councillors' Planning Session held on 17 November 2017 at the Stokes Valley Hub where the Urban Growth Strategy for the Wainuiomata North/Upper Fitzherbert areas was discussed. All councillors were present at this Session.
3. Having consulted my records, I can confirm that due to illness I was not present at the 12.30pm 23 November 2017 briefing following the three-day Workshop (21-23 November) which was called to consider the possible future development of the Upper Fitzherbert area of Wainuiomata. I note that members of the Senior Management Team, the two Wainuiomata Ward councillors and Cr Cousins attended the briefing.
4. Having consulted my records, I note that on 26 April 2018 there were two evening briefings of Councillors. The first was at 5pm and covered Heritage. Then at 6.30pm there was a briefing on the Wainuiomata Development Framework. At the conclusion of the Heritage briefing, Cr Barry who was the only Wainuiomata councillor who attended the briefing, left the chambers. I clearly recall some surprise about his departure expressed by the remaining councillors and officers then explaining that there was no need for a Wainuiomata Ward councillor to be present as both

Wainuiomata councillors had already been thoroughly briefed on the content of the upcoming briefing.

This suggests strongly that Cr's Barry and Briggs were briefed separately and prior to the 6.30pm briefing of councillors, not afterwards as per your email. Even though there may be no written evidence of the content of a briefing, it is clear to me that one must have occurred, due not only to the comments by officers that the two Ward councillors were already familiar with the material, but also because it is normal practice, invariably, for officers to ensure that Ward councillors are as well or even better informed than councillors generally about issues relating to their Ward. It may well be that a diary entry exists in the diary of a briefing officer, showing that he or she did meet with Cr's Briggs and Barry prior to the 26 April 2018 briefing.

The comment by Craig Innes on Facebook that "You have at least seen the document which is a lot more than the rest of us" also suggests that it is known in the community both that the presentation documents exist and that Cr Briggs has seen them.

I recall the briefing being a couple of dozen detailed slides showing maps, areas to be rezoned, 1000-2000 new homes, a possible new school and a possible new town centre.

It is inconceivable that Cr's Briggs and Barry were not briefed. I would appreciate your confirmation that each of the two Wainuiomata councillors were briefed by return.

#### Conclusion

As I said earlier I want to be totally clear on what councillors know about this matter as I don't wish Council to be put into an embarrassing situation as was the case over the Queens Street matter. I am also happy for you to forward copies of our correspondence in relation to this matter to Cr's Barry and Briggs.

Regards

Ray