

Sunday 24 May 2009

Residents defend town



Some of the SavePapakura.com steering group members
L-R top row: Holly Putwain, Janet Phare
L-R bottom row: Sandi Wirepa, Lesley Middleton, Flash Langley
Photographer: Marissa Johns
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The people are rallying against the unpopular Supercity threat, to save Papakura.

"We urge you to save your town against the Supercity plans, and defend your rights for local democracy" says SavePapakura.com spokesperson Sandi Wirepa. SavePapakura.com is a recently formed action group of determined local residents, organisations and businesses.

"Your voice is very important, and needs to be heard loudly" Ms Wirepa said. So you can keep updated and get involved in simple effective actions, please register your contact details: using either the group's website SavePapakura.com or through Papakura council.

"We are not prepared to let the unique identity of Papakura be lost" explained Ms Wirepa. The group also fears that locally suited services and amenities will be lost or compromised if the Supercity goes ahead.

At the recent public meeting in Papakura (with over a thousand in attendance) opposition to the Supercity was overwhelming, but the government is continuing to ignore the voice of our and other communities at their political peril. The Hon. Rodney Hide would do well to remember that unpopular policies backfire on governments.

The idea for the Supercity has been talked about for the past fifty years but has never been implemented because it's simply a bad idea. It strips away local democracy and leaves only one representative for every 70,000 people. "How accountable will one decision-maker in Auckland be to 70,000 constituents?" questioned Ms Wirepa.

We cannot roll over to a government that is railroading fundamentally anti-democratic legislation through parliament. We cannot let ourselves become politically powerless, our forefathers fought for democracy that helped make Papakura the great place it is today. Similarly we must take action against the Supercity legislation to retain a democratic Papakura, for us and future generations.

ENDs

[Contact details removed from internet version]

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