

Introduction

This is a qualitative assessment summarising some of the frequent themes people expressed at SavePapakura.com information & submission workshops, during June 2009 (up to Monday 22 June 2009).

Summary of concerns raised by Papakurians

1. That the people:
 - a. Want Papakura to retain its identity
 - b. Want there to be a Mayor and Council of Papakura situated in Papakura
 - c. Want local rates spent in Papakura and those decisions to be made by people who live in and understand Papakura
 - d. Want to retain the personal accessibility that they have now with the local Council. People talked about many instances when they had dropped in to the Council to speak to the Mayor, or had a Councillor give them personal service about their particular concerns
 - e. Want to be able to lobby directly with the decision makers about community services
 - f. Want to retain Papakura's Council office and staff – many older people especially stated how helpful it is to be able to speak face-to-face about their queries
 - g. Want a realisation from the Select Committee that Auckland is 30km and half a day away from Papakura – much the same as Hamilton and Thames. They do not feel they have anything in common with central Auckland or most other areas of the proposed Supercity
 - h. Are concerned that Papakura's voice will be lost in a Supercity Council
 - i. Are concerned that money will be spent on events and facilities in central Auckland to the detriment of Papakura events and facilities
2. Most people wanted to have separate rates for regional activities (as happens currently with ARC) and local activities (as happens currently with Papakura District Council)
3. Many people acknowledged the need for a regional approach to regional transport and conservation activities, but did not want local democracy to be reduced or changed to enable the regional activities to be sorted out.

ENDs