

22 July 2012

Mayor, Celia Wade-Brown
Wellington City Council
First Floor
Town Hall
111 Wakefield Street
Wellington 6011

Dear Celia,

Thank you for your May 18 reply to the letter from Elaine Hampton, President of the Mt Victoria Residents Association regarding heritage protection in Mt Victoria. We appreciate the time you gave to your response.

Your letter raised a number of issues for us to consider, but does not essentially change our strong desire to see greater recognition and protection of Mt Victoria's heritage.

Unfortunately, the current Demolition Protocol does not work. While there may technically be a "strong presumption" against demolition, no demolition request has been turned down so far as we are aware. Contribution to streetscape is also a highly-subjective judgment and does not consider heritage value.

We are, however, very keen to work constructively with the Council to find ways to preserve the heritage of Mt Victoria, whether that is working with the Demolition Protocol or through other means. The suburb contributes a great deal to the city's heritage and sense of place and, consequently, to its tourism appeal – for instance, the recent edition *Lonely Planet* and the guide for French travelers, *Guide Voir*, both refer to Mt Victoria in highlighting Wellington's heritage.

We believe a full heritage assessment, as has been carried out in other suburbs, is essential to this and Mt Victoria Historical Society is happy to contribute research gathered over many hundreds of hours of volunteer time towards achieving this. We also believe that WCC could enhance evaluation of development/demolition proposals by requiring an independent assessment of environmental and heritage impacts. Including research from Mt Victoria Historical Society could allow a more balanced assessment of requests to demolish pre-1930 buildings. These are just a couple of the ideas that we feel could be usefully discussed with the Council.

We would very much like to accept your invitation to a meeting to discuss this further, and feel it might also be beneficial to involve the head of Planning. We look forward to hearing from your office regarding a suitable meeting time.

Yours sincerely,

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