



# **APPENDICES MINUTES**

**Social Sustainability Subcommittee  
Meeting**

**Thursday, 20 June 2024**



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Item 7 – Members’ Business

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**From:** Community Board Member Jackie Elliott <[Jackie.Elliott@kapiticoast.govt.nz](mailto:Jackie.Elliott@kapiticoast.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 24, 2024 8:21 PM  
**To:** Anna Smith <[Anna.Smith@kapiticoast.govt.nz](mailto:Anna.Smith@kapiticoast.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Bullet Points from Speaking at the Social Sustainability Meeting of 20/06 - on Illegal driver gatherings By Jackie Elliott Otaki Community Board member

I request these notes from my presentation to the above meeting be tabled and added to the official meeting minute. Thank you to the Chair and KCDC staff for agreeing with this request .

The Issue is the illegal driver gathering of 1st June.

-Over 200 vehicles and estimated 800 drivers and passengers converged in the 'Levin Invasion' an organised convoy that came into the town of Otaki at 11pm Saturday 1st June and stayed until 2am.

- I am speaking on the events of and effects of the gathering on the community and a giving a picture of what it is like living in the war zone it created under threat of a repeat event.
  - It was very frightening. Police had a month's prior notice thanks to social media. The convoy met in Levin first and caused civil unrest for the next 9 hrs across the Horowhenua.
  - My nerves are shot since that night. I am one of many who does not go to sleep before 3am on Saturday nights now. Our nerve levels rise from about Wednesday all through the week to Saturday night.
  - Elderly residents living alone feel unsafe. They are having to arrange places to stay in other parts of the district over the weekends or have whanau or friends spend the weekend nights with them.
  - Vehicles have come back en mass late each Saturday night since looking for a convoy to join.
  - Please do not call these drivers 'Boy Racers' They and the organisers are fully grown legally culpable adults intent on using their mass to cause civil unrest and break the law.
  - They are using social media to coerce the youth to join the convoys to make up the numbers putting these youth at risk.
  - I have since seen video footage of a car in Otaki doing burn outs, around 12 circles, with a youth siting on the outside the car on each window frame. Hanging on.
  - But the word 'fun; is being used less and less online to describe these events.
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- So on that night, the civil unrest started. They:
  - Blocked and closed SH1 in four places across the Horowhenua, multiple times over 9 hours.
  - Climbed onto commercial buildings in the Queen St / SH1 centre of Levin

- Pelted police with bottles and rocks injuring some and damaging multiple police vehicles. The first unconfirmed report I saw online was of a tyre being thrown through the front window of a police car.
- Drove their vehicles at speed, in tight groups through compulsory police stop points.
- Climbed onto and stomped on a house roof in Otaki to throw missiles, let off fireworks for two hours. They changed tyres all up their driveway to the garage. The residents inside called 111. Police did not and could not get attend to help them.
- Tore the guttering off another 2 storey commercial premises trying to climb it.
- Residents have since reported 4 separate sightings of a baby and three toddlers in vehicles that night. This is called civil unrest.

Council response:

- I let the Mayor know what had happened that night, and asked if she could consider issuing a statement of support in response to Mayor Wandens media statements the next day. The public heard no response from KCDC for two weeks.
- I asked the Mayor to consider using Mayoral powers to jointly declare a state of local emergency in the next event to give the police scope for more powers. To date I have not had a response.
- I have asked the Mayor and CE to consider proposing a remit to the LGNZ AGM, that if successful would show the Local Government sector giving provisional support to any legislative measures proposed by the Minister of police that gives more powers to the police to act in these events. To date I have had no response. But the remit deadline date has now passed.
- We, in the Otaki community board have been talking to our G.M. And the KCDC Infrastructure team. They have removed rubbish and graffiti and are working on repairing the damaged road surfaces. They are considering some options to discourage the same areas in Miro Street from being targeted. OCB have been asking for these measures since before last Christmas and I added them (5 service requests and suggestions in all) to the OCB 'Matters Under Action' list on 16th April. Residents are repairing damage to their properties.
- The invasion organiser Luke, has threatened the police and public, on national TV, that they are coming back.
- The only statement the Otaki public have had from the Mayor and KCDC to date has been to 'Stay home and stay safe ', effectively declaring a curfew on residents while police let these offenders run riot with no consequences because the police do not have enough resources to cope with them.
- The second biggest issue for police at the next event is going to be the amount of residents who will stay up, stay dressed, going out and confronting the offenders because they are running out of patience and other options.

- Police have been advised of a protest event later today in this building. The Kapitiimana police have already requested and are getting reinforcements. Yet they refused send reinforcements to assist with the 1st of June event in Otaki and Levin when asked to help, by Central Police.
- This was not good enough and the police lead, all agency response to protect Otaki residents needs to be very very different next time.

**Jackie Elliott**

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