



CHRISTMAS CATCH-UP

Friday 9 October 2015

Dear Retail and Business Colleagues,

On Wednesday night Mayor Tim Shadbolt hosted a Christmas Catch-up in the Council Chamber for retailers and businesses in Esk Street, Wachner Place, Cambridge Place Arcade and SIT.

Thank you to the around thirty guests who attended and made it a very valuable evening by giving feedback and brainstorming ideas.

This communication is to update those who were unable to attend and let you know what happened.

The purpose of the evening was to:

- Thank you for your patience during the work on Esk Street;
- Give you a sneak preview of plans for festive decorations and lights for Esk Street and Wachner Place;
- Give an update on progress on the redevelopment of Esk Street;
- Acknowledge suggestions and feedback we have already received; and
- Brain-storm Christmas ideas/activities for Esk Street.

While hosted by Council, the meeting was chaired by Esk Street retailer David White, who has been very active on the Inner City Working Group.

Thank you to David for chairing the discussion and all those who attended and were so positive and productive with their ideas.

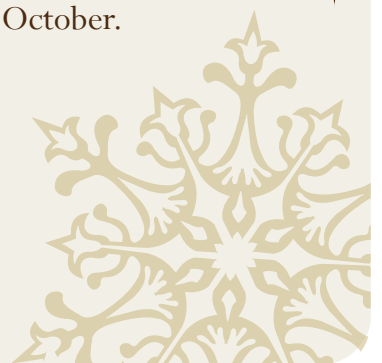
The following pages have a summary of what was discussed and the ideas that were put forward.

I will be out of the office next week and then will take a day off to go and visit my daughter in Dunedin as she prepares for exams, so will be back in the office on Tuesday 20 October.

If you do need to contact me during this time, please email me on eirwen.harris@icc.govt.nz

Yours faithfully,
Eirwen Harris

Eirwen Harris



FESTIVE DECORATIONS AND LIGHTS

People who attended the Christmas Catch-up were given a sneak preview of plans to put Christmas decorations and lights in Esk Street and Wachner Place.

Graphic Designer Colleen Montgomery explained that the aim is to link Wachner Place and Esk Street up to the H and J Smith air-bridge, with decorations that can be seen during the long summer evenings and also lights that can be seen after dark.

We want it to have a fairy-tale, Christmas feel that is exciting for people of all ages.



Director of Finance Dean Johnston explained that Esk Street and Wachner Place would be decorated for this Christmas as the first stage of plans to progressively decorate the CBD with festive decorations and lights.

Retailers were very positive about images they were shown during the sneak preview – and the meeting voted to keep them under wraps until the official opening of the Christmas lights, so it will be a surprise for everyone.



ESK STREET UPDATE

Esk Street retailers and businesses were thanked for their patience during the lengthy street upgrade, by Chairman of the Inner City Working Group, Cr Graham Sycamore.

Council's Roading Manager Russell Pearson explained that the project is nearing completion and outlined what still needs to be done.

On the south side of Esk Street:

- Scaffolding will be coming down
- A watering system for the grass under the canopy to be installed
- Gardens and Ready Lawn are to be laid
- The water feature will be turned on
- Lighting is to be installed in the canopies

On the north side of Esk Street:

- Steel work will be done next Wednesday
- The glass will be installed the next day

There are still minor repairs to complete but these will be done mostly in the evenings to minimise disruption to retailers.

Cleaning of the pavements and shop frontages will also be undertaken but Council wants to work with businesses to ensure we don't cause any property issues.

Following feedback from retailers, Council will investigate the following:

- More litter bins
- Clean the slot drains and building fronts
- Hose taps
- Trim the tree that is encroaching on the street lamp



What happens next in the CBD?

There is a Council workshop next week to consider the next steps for the CBD project.

Options include:

- Improvements on Kelvin Street between Tay Street and Don Street
- Improvements on Esk Street, from the Cambridge Place Arcade to Kelvin Street
- Improvements on Esk Street, from Kelvin Street to Deveron Street
- Identify suitable campervan and bus parking, that encourages travellers to shop in the CBD

Russell said that improvements to Esk Street could include changing parking in the area near Kelvin Street but this needs discussion. Another idea is installing screens along the north footpath in front of the gap between the Kelvin Hotel and The Southland Times to protect people and shops from the effects of the wind tunnel.





ESK STREET MALL MARKET

Planning for the third Esk Street Mall Market is already underway and organiser Mike Sanford gave a broad outline to the meeting.

The Esk Street Mall Market will be held on Saturday 5 December.

During the brain-storming session, retailers were asked to give ideas on what they would like to see at this event and the suggestions are collated later in this newsletter.

Mike's contact details are mike@invers.co.nz or 021 183 4640.

BRAIN-STORMING PRODUCES POSITIVE IDEAS

Retailers and business-people were asked to give their ideas for Esk Street/Wachner Place on four different initiatives that were posted on whiteboards around the room. These were:

- Ideas before Christmas
- Ideas for the 12 months after Christmas
- Esk Street Mall Market – what would you like?
- Christmas lights' opening – how do you see it?

Everyone was given some post-it-notes and a pen and asked to put their ideas on the appropriate white board. There was lots of discussion, collaboration and positive energy.

Every one of the suggestions, in no particular order, is outlined on the following pages.

In coming weeks, we will go through the ideas and come back to retailers and business-people in Esk Street and Wachner Place to progress this.

In conclusion, meeting chair, David White, asked Council not to rush off and organise things for the retailers, but instead that retailers would drive the projects and would invite Council to work with them.



BRAINSTORMING RESULTS

Suggestions made by Esk Street retailers...

★ Ideas before Christmas

Need to have a grand reveal for the new look Esk Street.

Esk Street retailers need to have same trading hours enforced!!!
Yes!

Take advantage of H&J's card-holders' nights. We should be open.

Uniform shop hours for December throughout town.

Re-opening/ Roof Shout opening party when Esk Street finished.

Footpaths cleaned.

Promoting parking from Esk Street. More signage in Esk towards parking area.

New meters.

Late night trading for Nov/Dec to attract customers to new Christmas lights. Customers are attracted to Farmers due to trading hours.

1 hour parking in Esk Street.

On Esk Street, getting rid of parking meters or extending the time from 30 minutes. Not enough time.

Free parking on Christmas Eve.

Free parking for December.

Esk Street parking is too expensive

On Esk Street, getting rid of parking meters or extending the time from 30 minutes. Not enough time.

It's all very well having Christmas lights but what is being done to attract day time shoppers?

End of November is too late to have Christmas lights go up.

Gutters cleaned on Tay Street south side. Drains blocked.

Free parking when you purchase x amount from Esk Street stores. Token meters.

Santa's mailbox.

Late nights linked to H&J Smith.

Some free parking days.



Ideas for 12 months after Christmas

Empty shop windows, decorate and clean.

Trees lit up over winter.

Burt Munro bike in middle of Washner Place.

Uniform hours. Especially weekends!!!

Parking chits (or something like it) for free parking.

NZ Post box on Esk Street.

SIT music concerts once a month on Esk Street - maybe under the new roof.

Winter lights.

Theme lights for ethnic occasions. E.g. Chinese lanterns for Chinese New Year.

Tidy and do something better with Cambridge Place.

More events to be held in Invercargill.

Don't get rid of car-parks for a bench seat.

More clean up in the street daily.

Events such as competitions and charity events. For charity.

Lighting and decorations for different events during the year. Not just for Esk Street.

Employ Mike Sanford to be the new Vibrant person.

Free parking one day a week. Nelson did this successfully. Maybe also on special occasions.

Piped music in Esk Street through speakers. E.g. easy listening.

More Xmas lights.

Jazz music - same day as rugby games or sport events.

Council Safety Officers like in Dunedin to curb bad behaviour to replace lack of Police presence.

Some free parking days.

Esk Street Mall Market – what would you like?

Close street for market day.

Market day, 10am till 3pm ideal time frame.

No vehicle traffic on market day.

Family event so no vehicular traffic on the day. Safety issue.

Instead of stalls down Cambridge Arcade put it in the shops. More space.

Promote the Esk Street carpark on the day.

Make free car parking on market day in carpark between Esk/Tay street.

Security presence @ Wachner Place.

Chairs and tables in Wachner Place.

Stalls in Wachner Place.

Close ESK Street.

Documents to send off to head offices early.

Close the street.

No cars in Esk Street on market day and promote park between Tay and Esk.

Create flow up Esk Street, head to Wachner Place.

Band.

On Esk Street, getting rid of parking meters or extending the time from 30 minutes. Not enough time.

Don't block end of Cambridge Place.

Closing Esk Street is a must for the market day.

Music in street.

Make sure retail shops are not blocked by other stall holders.

Esk Street Market close the street.

Free parking on market day.

Don't close street.

Some really good music. Entertainers!

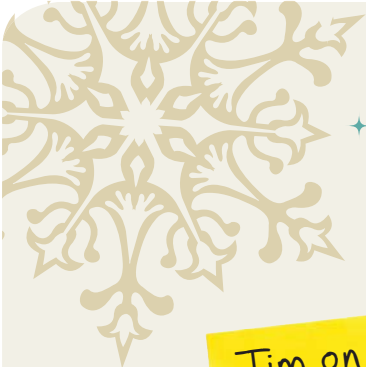
Ethnic food market day in SIT Arcade.

Close the street. Promote carpark Tay Street.

Use Wachner Place more.

Free parking for market day.





★ Christmas Lights' opening –
how do you see it?

★
★
★
★
Tim on Xmas float cutting the ribbon on the Big Turn On.

Countdown to lights coming on.

A band.

Big opening night on a Friday night.

Close the street for a street party.

Band/music at Wachner Place to launch Christmas tree/lights – switch on.

Catwalk with retail store on opening.

Carol Singers.

Bring in a big celebrity to switch them on.

Food/cafes open until 10pm.

Advertisement.

Carol singing.

Est Street parking is too expensive.

10pm countdown. All lights turned on by a celebrity. Eg. Mayor and invite TV. City of light and water.

Music.

