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Submission No:

212



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A couple of weeks ago I ran into the deputy mayor & happened to mention that I had not encountered a single person in favour of the proposed housing changes. She told me I could make a submission or just write a letter. I have since found out that for a submission a specific form has to be filled out. I would like my opinion to be considered even though this is a letter.

I am against the proposal of allowing 3 storey buildings to be erected (without consent) as well as up to 6 in the centres of our towns or in the case of Paraparaumu up to 12 storeys.

Mapiti Island is our true treasure. It is not only a beautiful landmark but it also holds the community together: all day long while walking, cycling, driving

you see it. There is no need to erect big & imposing buildings that will make the coast a more ugly place. The council talks about aiming for more vibrancy in the centres: people will go to work / school / work from home / have dinner / sit in front of their TVs & devices like everywhere else. If you want to see vibrancy go to the beach on a sunny day or during a fabulous sunset: people walking their dogs, picnicking, playing cricket... That is vibrancy. Or celebrating Matariki in McLeans Park: that is vibrancy.

The question of increased housing needs to be looked at at grass roots level: what does it mean to live at ease, to have shelter, to be warm? There has to be a change of mindset, aided by the council. How many older people live alone in big houses with 3-4 bedrooms? How many retired couples live in houses with "his & her" studies? How many people have huge mansions (esp. in Waikanae Beach) but live overseas or have

these mansions as "beachhouses"?

The second approach to considered housing increase would be to look at housing in conjunction with green spaces, mental health, architecture that considers basics like positive/negative spaces... all the things the council knows is vital for good living.

I urge the council to make thoughtful decisions instead of this kneejerk reaction of building left, right and centre without any guidelines, without protecting existing trees, without looking at quality of living & the health of the social network & without considering the impact on the environment.

Is the "seaside vibe" of Paekakariki not worth protecting? Or the special garden area of Waikanae?

As for my final point: The proposal to let people build 2 or 3 storey houses without consent will lead to a huge amount of selfish, unfriendly, uncooperative and entitled behaviour; the opposite of what

we need in these challenging times & certainly
not in line with the council's claim of wanting to
build a strong, resilient community.

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