

An Update for the Cathedral Parish of St John, Pentecost 2024

Your Seismic Strengthening Committee has increased the frequency of its meetings this year. What's happened since writing an AGM report for you in late February?

Progress / actions undertaken

- Both the Waiapu Board of Diocesan Trustees and the Cathedral's Vestry made **submissions to NCC** in regard to their proposed District Plan in December. While further responses were invited following the publication of the initial submissions, it was decided we have nothing to add.
- We have been busy exploring all the options open to us, and gathering detailed data about each of those options. **We want to be able to demonstrate that all options have been explored**, and provide detailed information about the cost and viability of each option.
- We now have a more accurate **price for strengthening** the existing building (\$15m without the belltower, \$16-17m including the tower).
- We now have a **price for replacing** this building with a brand new, smaller, Cathedral – based on the average price per square metre for the type of building we would want. Including demolition, that would be about \$15m (the price is likely to remain true for 2 years).
- We are in the process of gathering information about **repurposing the building** – in other words, not demolishing it, but no longer using it as a Cathedral. Once we have that information, we will be able to provide you with the full spectrum of information.
- No decisions have been made at this stage.

Relationships and networking

- We have met informally with the **Mayor and various NCC officers** to ask what their involvement might be. We were advised that NCC is unlikely to be able to help with strengthening costs due to other priorities post Cyclone Gabrielle. We were also advised there is a pathway for demolition consent if this is the final decision, but this is a costly process (around \$100 000).
- We have spoken informally with people from the **heritage** sector.
- The **Diocese** is represented on our committee by the Bishop, the Registrar and the Diocesan Property Manager. The Bishop is responsible for liaising with Tikanga Maori, and Chairs WBDT.
- Eventually we will hold a **public consultation** to invite feedback from the people of Napier.

Onwards!

Lawrence Yule, Chair
Very Rev'd Di Woods, Dean

19 May 2024