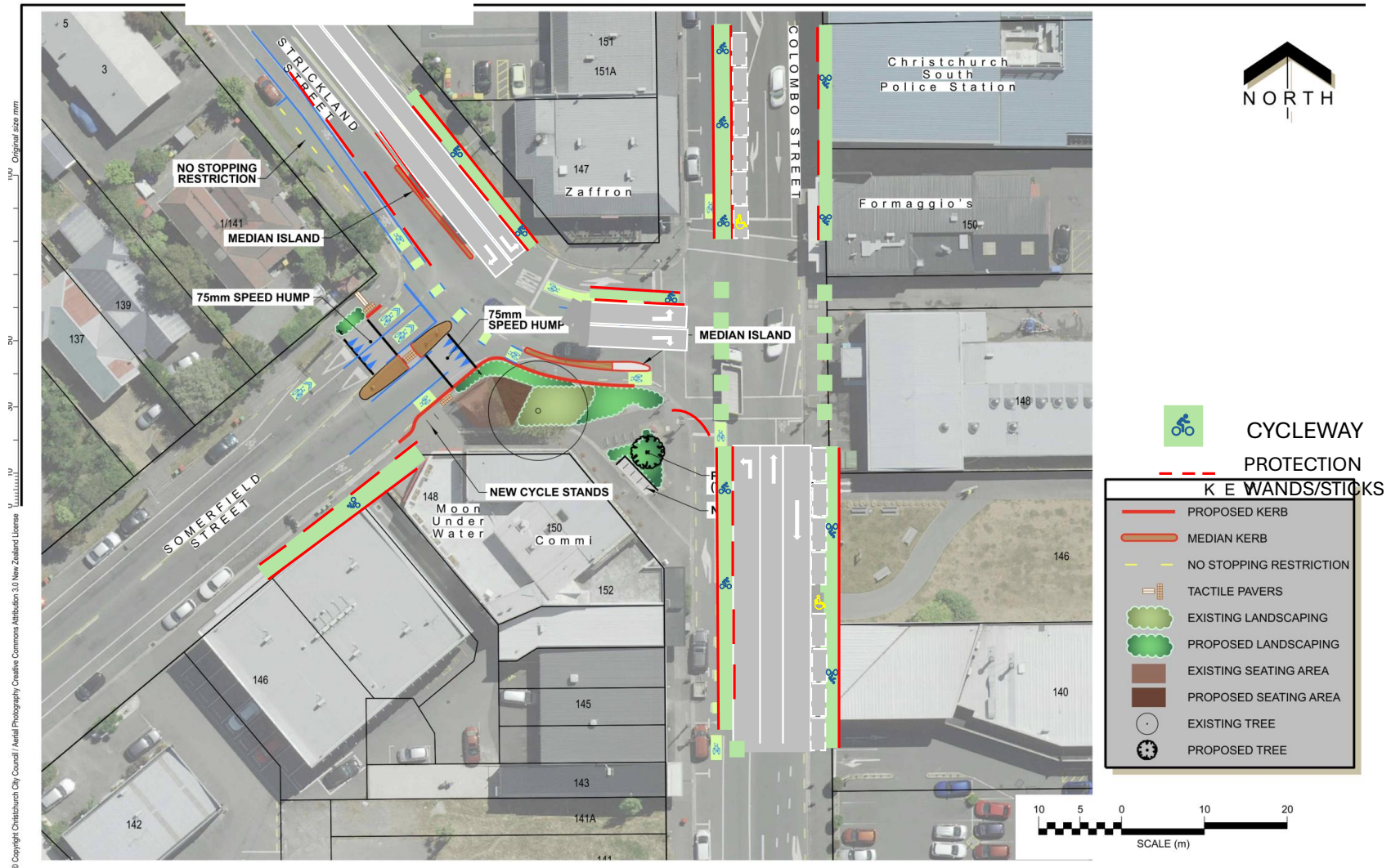


Waihoru
Spreydon-Cashmere-Heathcote Community Board
MINUTES ATTACHMENTS

Date: Thursday 28 August 2025
Time: 4 pm
Venue: Linwood Boardroom,
Gate B, 180 Smith Street,
Woolston

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Deputation – Sigrid Campbell

Photos

















Introduction

KIA ORA

May I say I'm extremely grateful to the Waihoru Community Board for re-visiting the appropriateness of the existing illumination of the Tuawera Cave Rock mast.

I have lived all my life of 78 years in the same house, a few hundred metres from Cave Rock, on the lower slopes of Clifton hill. My house faces directly east with Cave Rock the central landmark framing my view of Sumner beach and the Pacific.

Social media has spread much misinformation of the lights history.

I know from memory and reading historical facts that for most of history there were no lights on the mast at all. However, over the last 50 years, pre- earthquake, some minimal lighting occurred.

The Lifeboat institute during sea rescues, from my memory, ran an electricity cable with one light at the mast top, and above the entrance to the signal station. Also the mast was lit in the configuration of a Christian cross especially to celebrate traditional Christian events Christmas Easter and Anzac.

The reason I am giving a deputation is my objection to

- 1- The permanency of illumination now 365 days minus Matariki without public consultation.
- 2- The light pollution caused by the full angle of the Christian cross, shining intrusively and overpoweringly high above Cave Rock, ruining a view of the dark night sky, which global research warns is being rapidly destroyed.
- 3- The inappropriate configuration of a religious Christian Cross permanently on a highly significant heritage public site.
- 4- A change of deed from Council responsibility to the Breakfree Foundation, a registered charity, to specifically advance religious activities was wrong and should never have happened.

I have considered the process plus the two proposals the board has decided upon.

Number 1 proposal

REDUCE THE OPERATING HOURS

Reluctantly I agree to the

1 September to 31 May

8pm to 11pm

and

1 June to 31 August

A small improvement especially during winter, less artificial light pollution to appreciate the beauty and natural silhouette of Cave rock and Sumner bay in the dark night sky.

Number 2 proposal CHANGE THE CONFIGURATION

I strongly request the lights are REDUCED with the change from a religious Christian symbol to a neutral configuration.

I am definitely opposed to extending the lights as that would amount to even more excessive artificial light pollution.

It is historically incorrect to display full lighting to commemorate the maritime mast as no lighting was ever used.

In conclusion

A compromise must be made for residents most affected to this light pollution every night. In order to reduce the excessive brightness, at the same time change the configuration to an acceptable neutral image on this significant public Icon.

I suggest-

Remove or install dummy lights on the vertical mast above the horizontal line. Also remove two lights at each end of the horizontal mast.

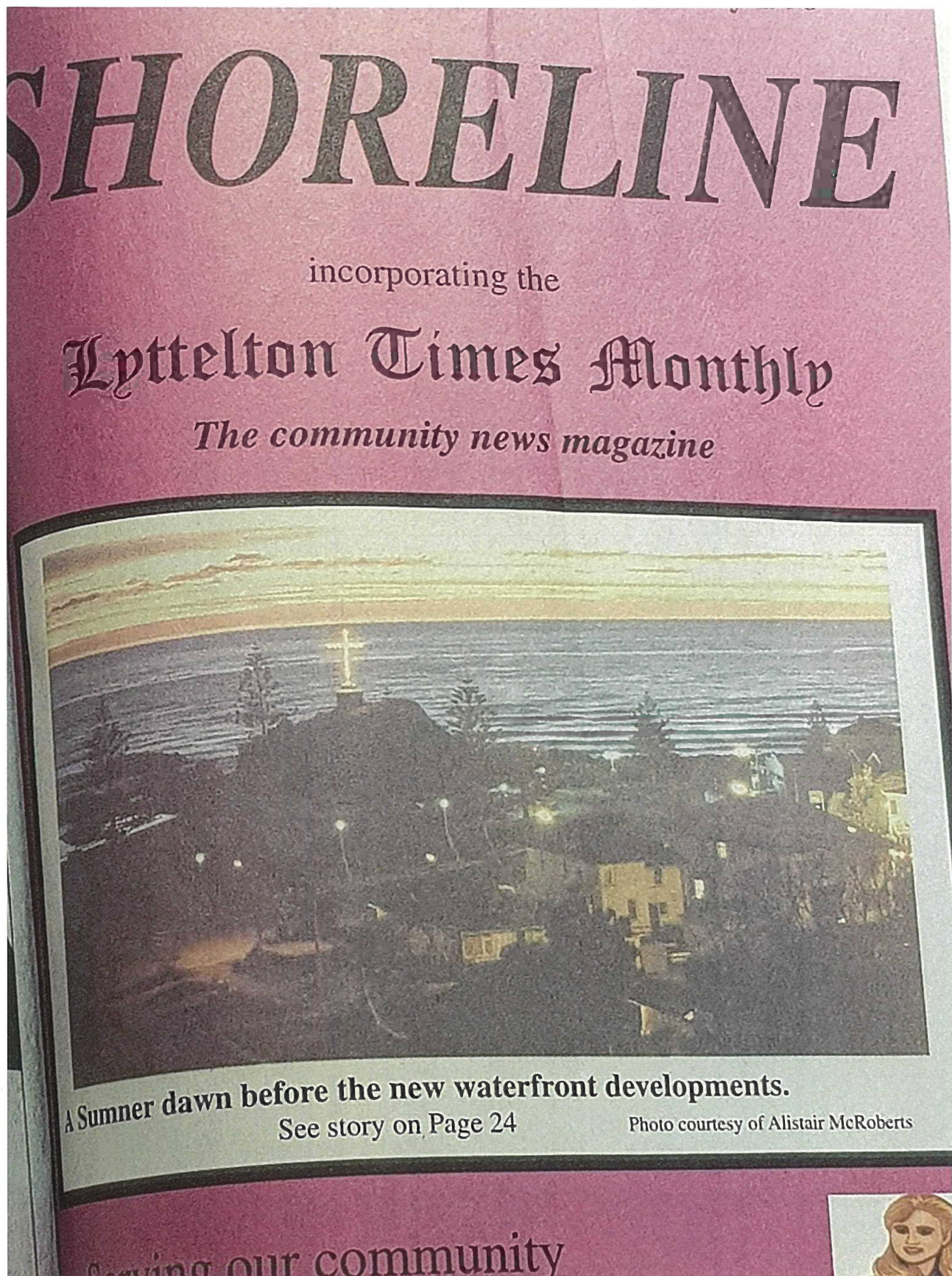
This will resemble a smaller Capitol T shape that is neutral and stand for Tuawera in recognition of our Maori connection, plus still highlighting the mast.

Then during important Christian celebrations Christmas, Easter and Anzac the vertical lights can be restored and lit over those few days.

If the existing deed holder will not agree to considerable change, the council should terminate the deed, regain ownership, and restore the original traditional historic lighting to special events only.

Thank you

Sigrid Campbell



Jones, Jonathon

From: Paul Baddeley <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, 25 August 2025 2:53 pm
To: Jones, Jonathon
Subject: Cave rock lights (email response)

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Jonathon,

Having submitted a response with regards to the future of cave rock lights I should like to attend the meeting scheduled to discuss the lights on the 28th August.

Unfortunately, I shall be on an aeroplane to Sydney with work.

As such I would like to represent my thoughts on survey results and councils proposed plans in the email.

I note the survey suggests 161 of 938 raised an issue with the lights being of a religious nature. This represents approximately 18 percent of the respondents. Without other data we can only assume that 82% of respondents have no issue with the masts current appearance also being of a similar shape to a religious symbol. I cannot help but feel this alteration is to appease a small minority some of whom may genuinely suffer from Oikophobia, (please consult the Oxford English Dictionary if you are unaware of this term.)

I also feel in a society where culture matters to everyone this decision could be interpreted as Christianophobic. Despite the Cross not being intended as a religious symbol.

I'm pleased to live in New Zealand which remains a secular society with secular principles. Would we be so concerned if the mast happened to be shaped like a koru. Surely this would also need to be altered in order to not cause offence to those who do not partake in Maori culture and do not believe in Maori principles. If it was a koru I would argue against its change equally strongly.

Given only 18% raised this concern of shape (some people of which may have religious feelings of their own) surely the fairest and simplest solution to a change in the shape is to ask the public what shape should be projected from the mast.

A cross - half and half
B cross as is
C mast and triangles
D etc

Hoping that Christchurch council will not suffer from Oikophobia and will consider a fair solution an online pole to determine its shape.

Kind regards
Dr. Paul Baddeley

Jones, Jonathon

From: Bruce Whitfield <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, 22 August 2025 5:00 pm
To: Jones, Jonathon
Cc: martine marshall; [REDACTED]
Subject: Cave Rock Lights

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Jonathon,

We are long-time residents on Marriner Street and we chose not to make a submission regarding the lights.

However it is worth noting how ridiculous some of the comments regarding the lights are:

- **Potential to cause issues for wildlife and/or human health** (42)
- **Distraction from the natural environment, impeding views and enjoyment of the landscape and night sky** (38)

It would be plain to most Sumner residents and visitors to the area viewing the lights , that these comments are just pure nonsense.

What is disturbing though is that the current 5 story 17.5M apartment block being constructed at # 7-11 Marriner Street, is proceeding on a non notified BC, which is **riddled with deceit and deception**, with Sumner residents in general, unaware of the subterfuge of the developers, aided by the CCC planners, and environmental assessment staff.

For someone to suggest that the Cave Rock lights are a distraction from the natural environment, impedes views and enjoyment of the landscape, those comments just make a mockery of the Council's behind closed doors, non notified RC for the apartments, which from anyone's perception, seriously present a significant out of context and scale - impediment of the natural environment **to say the very least**.

I am not impressed with the CCC and its back office processes, and will be even more when the Council sides with the people who see religious overtones with the lights. What will be next?

My best

Bruce Whitfield

[REDACTED]

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