

Thank you to all the great people who came along to the cruise ship community consultation on Thursday 28th August. The Information Centre and Community board and representatives of the council really enjoyed listening to your concerns and positive ideas to prepare Lyttelton Harbour for the return of the Big ships in October 2020. People were offered both conversation and 'post it' options to share their opinions in three different categories. Opportunities, Concerns and What needs to happen in the Harbour to make us ready and ensure that we as a community benefit not hindered by the return. Looking at the areas there are some particular 'hot topics' that repeatedly arose and this article will focus upon those, however a full list can be requested from office@lytteltoninfocentre.nz All the findings will be presented to the new Community board for actions to be taken.

Opportunities for Lyttelton and the harbour were seized upon with ideas of showcasing the fabulous variety of activities, history, Maori and Antarctic connections that we hold. Walking tours, cycling, bus tours around the inner harbour with stops at some of our beautiful sights. Historic self-guided tours or walks over the bridal path, harbour boat tours, craft markets and opportunities for local musicians to show case in various venues around Port. The reintroduction of a train link to the city was mentioned a great deal as was the preference for Electric buses which could lead to steps of Lyttelton becoming an Enviro-town which would benefit residents not just visitors. Overall the opportunities to build the economy of the local area are seen as positives, plus it offers the opportunity to improve local amenities, develop natural history and encourage further conservation in the harbour which would also be advantageous to the community as a whole.

Concerns brought up a huge amount of environmental issues that will impact the Port, the Harbour and the community. Noise, Erosion, stirring up of sediment, waste issues and pollution are big concerns with ideas of use of bio fuels or recycling stations to reduce issues. Congestion with the addition of buses along Norwich Quay or around Lyttelton, parking in Port itself and where and how tour operators could meet the passengers. Facilities within Lyttelton being overstretched, such as toilets and Wifi, a lack of shaded seating areas and people congestion on the pavements all points repeatedly mentioned. It was felt that there needed to be a central point for information gathering and sharing, the community do not want to feel that they are not being informed.

What needs to happen to ensure a positive experience for the community, businesses and visitors alike. Improving facilities such as toilets, wifi, roads and pavements, Diamond Harbour jetty, a permanent bigger space for seafarers and a central pick up and drop off point such as the Information Centre. The Information Centre itself becoming a central communication point and developing our Website to present The Harbour as a compelling and necessary place to visit, included within that are perhaps the opportunities for booking, itineraries and tours. The community want to be kept well informed on the process and given the chance to meet with the companies involved in bringing the ships to port including addressing environmental concerns.

Once again thank you for your input but the conversation is not over, if you have input that you want to share in any of these areas please feel free to contact me at office@lytteltoninfocentre.nz or want to be a part of our harbour have a look at our website <http://www.lytteltoninfocentre.nz>