

**SIMON BARLOW FORUM PRESENTATION TO NBC MEETING 23RD MARCH 2021
RE ROBERTSON RD NEWPORT**

Good evening Mr. Mayor, Madam deputy Mayor, Councilors, ladies and gentlemen

Thank you for this opportunity

My name is Simon Barlow, 8 weeks ago I started a facebook campaign called save Robertson rd, the details of which I have shared with many of you

I am here with Gavin Butler my fellow Newport resident, and the president of our very proactive Newport residents Assoc, who you know well, and who is going to speak to you about the more technical aspects of the situation in Newport and in particular Robertson rd

Gavin is qualified to speak on these issues, I am not

However, I feel I am qualified as a proud resident of Newport for 20 years and the administrator of the campaign I started, to express the feelings of the 800 and growing number of supporters of that campaign, the friends, neighbours, school parents etc over the years, and those who made submissions against the DAs in Robertson rd. I am one of them, I have no other motivation and no experience in this sort of arena, apart from just a love of where we all live - in this beautiful place. I am part of a community that wants and needs a place - a heart. A physical and figurative heart, somewhere to gather, somewhere to express and feel identity, somewhere to be proud of.

We are the people that government continually refers to when it talks about the wellbeing of engaged, thriving and enduring communities. Covid has been a stark reminder that we as individuals are only as strong as the community that we belong to, who we gather with and where we gather.

Robertson rd in Newport is the only road in our town centre, only 100m long , which we can preserve and enhance to make a place to foster strong community.

It is the place where we have a unique and once in a generation opportunity to create a model development that benefits residents, developers, local businesses and generations to follow. Approving just one of the current applications, which include garage entrances, in Robertson rd, will destroy that opportunity and only discourage our community further.

What I have started and the awareness I have raised is not my idea or concept. It was created by Newport residents and their associations a decade ago and enshrined in the Newport masterplan. I am here as a voice for them and the days, months and years spent expressing their love of place and community.

I encourage you to go back to them, join with them, and the developers, and the appropriate government agencies, PLEASE, Sit round a table, and work this out. The rewards for carrying this through will be celebrated and appreciated by us for generations.

This is a unique opportunity for us all to reestablish and reinforce the community's faith, trust, and a place for the future.

I thank you.