

# Plaza sold to council for \$1.5m



## Council

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One of the older buildings in the heart of New Plymouth has been bought by the district council for \$1.55 million – but plans for its future are still being decided.

The Metro Plaza, at 33 Devon St West, which dates from 1936, is likely to be at least partially demolished to make way for green space, NPDC customer and regulatory solutions manager Katrina Brunton said.

“One consideration will be the retention of commercial frontage onto Devon St. But it’s far too early to go into detail about the plans and how much that will cost.”

The building has been bought as part of the council’s plan for the CBD, which includes opening up the Huatoki Stream, which runs underneath, and giving the Huatoki Plaza, which stands opposite, a green facelift.

“As part of the 10-year plan for 2021-2031, we’ll be working on detailed and comprehensive plans for the Plaza project with tenants, stakeholders, iwi and other central city retailers.”

Mayor Neil Holdom said NPDC staff will be working with the building’s tenants, including Subway and Shampoo Plus, and leases will continue until plans for the site are finalised or other lease arrangements are negotiated.

“It depends on the time frame on what happens and when. We’ve just secured the building. We want to open the Huatoki Stream and connect the CBD with Pukekura Park and really create some family-friendly spaces.”

The move follows the two forums, the CBD 2050 Forum in October last year and the CBD 2050 Summit in May, when stakeholders discussed the city centre’s future.

A key theme from the forums was a desire to see the city centre revamped through more spaces and places for people to enjoy, Holdom said.

“We’ve listened and now we’re seeing action to create a greener and more inviting central city. This project, and the plans to give the Huatoki Plaza a green makeover, are the first steps towards realising our long-term and transformational vision for our city centre.”

The council is also talking with Te Ātiawa iwi and Ngāti Te Whiti hapū, who have a long history with the Huatoki Stream.

Over the road the Huatoki Plaza is set for a green facelift early next year.

Under the proposed plan, the concrete on the top level of the plaza and the tarmac in James Ln will be removed, with lawn and native plants put in.

There will also be new lighting in the plaza and James Ln, a pathway connecting Devon and Ariki streets, and new seats with USB charging ports.



New Plymouth District Council has bought the Metro Plaza for \$1.55 million.

SIMON O'CONNOR/ STUFF