



July 17 2008

Mike Mansell  
Integrity Action Whangarei  
PO Box 361  
Whangarei

Dear Mike

Thank you for your letter of July 4 expressing the desire of your organisation to see Council consider making time for a public forum before or after its meetings.

I am personally not in favour of such a forum. Citizens have ample opportunity to make submissions to Council under legislation, and most bring their individual issues to the attention of ward councillors democratically elected to represent them.

We have democracy in this country, but there will always be those who don't like this form of democracy and will only tolerate their own version.

Offering time to the public at Council meetings will not advance democracy. Ward councillors and myself are available to our constituents, as you well know as you and other members of IAW have recently been in my office discussing matters of interest to you.

Offering an opportunity for people to air issues in the forum you propose will likely consistently attract only a small group of disaffected.

Council would probably have to expend significant staff time vetting applicants so even more time wasn't wasted at the forum. While we might welcome people genuinely seeking improvements, we wouldn't want ratepayers' money wasted listening to innate abject whingers, inveterate anti-everything whiners, idle asinine wafflers, inane arrant wasters and insipid aimless windbags.

In short, I believe the process would be sought to be hijacked by the same few who have contributed little to this District, but whose names appear so regularly in the letters column of local media attacking those who do attempt to better the lot of their fellow citizens.

Yours sincerely

Stan GA Semenoff  
Mayor

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