

Attachment 2 – All submissions

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
001	Grant McFarlane	not supplied	Repealing the Rough Sleeping ban is wrong. All this will do is bring back the high level of street intimidation that was evident prior to the by law. This is an emotional subject and does need priority from all concerned. Less talk and more action from people and agencies required to address this issue.
002	Brenda Williams	Greerton	Don't change the bylaw. Used to be people avoided the CBD and Greerton because of dirty looking people with signs wanting money. Bit cheeky as some were chatting on cellphones and smoking, as for wanting money to buy water. How ridiculous is that. Plenty of taps about. Last time I went to the CBD a guy was outside ANZ asking for money. Where were the Council enforcement officers. Feel sorry for retailers trying to make a living
003	Lynn Phillips	Greerton	WHY!!! Why change it back? People are walking around again! It was horrible to see and hear the vulgar language, harrassed etc. Please listen to the public it is horrible to live by otherwise
004	Merlene Bain	Greerton	Before the bi-law now in force the streets of Chadwick & Cameron were frequented by people begging (money only - no food wanted) and trying to con some elderly ladies - eg. They would insist on carrying their parcels to their car and then ask for payment for the work involved. If the poor person objected they - the "beggars" would yell at them until they paid. Not only that, I feel like I (who have bought and paid for my home) should have the right to walk along the streets without being accosted by these "so called" homeless asking for money. I SAY KEEP THE BI-LAW AS IS NOW!. It is much more pleasant to be able to enjoy our little shopping centre as it is now without being asked for money and abused and sworn at if given. I am sure they get a benefit from the Government and that there are places that help genuine homeless. I think a lot of the people who were begging were not truely homeless as they were dropped off each morning to their own little spot. Greerton has been much more pleasant since they left the area, Please keep it as it is and DON"T LET THE BEGGERS BACK. P.S.Q Have you ever seen what some of these homeless leave where they sleep? A. Empty alcohol bottle and cigarette butts (and I've even seen a pile of [REDACTED] where they've used the area as a toilet. YUK!)
005	Mark Harrington	Greerton	Speaking of beggars....I beg you to please retain the current legislation. I am a pensioner, living in Greerton, I was previously driven out of our beautiful village by the intimidation of beggers who I found somewhat threatening.....Since the current rules were implimented I have once again enjoyed a scooter ride to the Greerton library and or shops. Please please do not destroy our enjoyment of our wonderful wee village by permitting these intimidating unfortunates to return, intimidate locals and drive businesses to close down.
006	Teresa Pountney	Gate Pa	No, begging and sleeping in shop doorways shouldn't be allowed. I will vote against it. I am not a rich hard-arse, I've been homeless more than 3 times. There are other places one can go. Thankyou.
007	Christine Cantwell	Pyes Pa	The Bylaw that is in place regarding begging in Greerton should stay as is "NO BEGGING". I had given up supporting the retailers in Greerton as I felt really threatened and upset when shopping in Greerton with people begging also I gave up going to an evening class that was being taught as the people sitting all over the pavements made me feel VERY UNSAFE walking back to my car alone! Please don't allow them to beg again it is harming business in Greerton. Think about this please: If you owned a business would YOU like your customers to have to step over them to come into your shop - would you be happy to say - It's OK" - "I am happy to have to close my business due to customers going elsewhere to shop to where they feel safe. "I don't think you would!" Don't make or change good laws because you can - think of it as if this was happening to me how would "I FEEL" Husband has spoken at Council support meetings before and Council don't listen!
008	Patricia Brooks	CBD	Please do NOT revoke Bylaw 2018 re begging and rough sleeping. We need to help people and direct them to the available help. By allowing begging and rough sleeping we are encouraging people to accept unsatisfactory conditions and not make positive changes to help themselves. We must help these people to live happy fulfilling lives and not degrade their lives by negative behaviour
009	Malcolm Cantwell	Pyes Pa	"Leave current Bylaw as is" There is no need for people in this country to be begging or sleeping rough in our city. The Government through social welfare and other benefits payout enough to prevent this being a necessity. If the payments by the above are not enough to feed, clothe and accommodate, then they need to look at themselves and maybe stop spending their money on whatever habits they may have i.e alcohol addiction, drug addiction etc (note: generalisation) They need to have special help through agencies already existing to help them out of their situation. Begging and sleep rough doesn't help and allowing it in our city only degrades us and our city. You cannot help people that are not prepared to help themselves. You have heard from the retailers who have been adversely effected by not having the bylaw in place "DON"T REVERT TO WHAT IT WAS" Begging in our streets has never been an option and never should it be. The same applies to sleeping rough - it is a choice thing and should not be tolerated. LEAVE THE BYLAW AS IT IS - NO CHANGING BACK TO WHAT IT WAS
010	B & J Eley	Greerton	Verabily abused by beggers. We cross the road to get away from them. Intimidation. We keep away from the shops if beggars are outside. Shops have moved out from Greerton because of them. NO BEGGARS in Tauranga please. We are really scared of them as we walk a lot
011	Juanita Murphy	Otumoetai	As someone who works in the Greerton area as one of the Retail Staff. I would like to point out that prior to this bylaw being introduced we had a problem with "so called beggars" outside our shop, we see a number of the elderly in our premises, and many would appear at my counter distressed by having been asked for money before entering. I have seen one of these so called beggers jump into a cab after sitting outside all day harrassing locals for money. The town is currently back to its normal bussel the locals are more cofident about coming into town. The real problem with begging in Greerton township is that it is an elderly population and they feel guilty when they don't give and a lot of them are just making ends meet themselves. Leave the bylaw, if you take it away we may end up with the beggars outside our shop doors again basicly making the elderly feel unsafe

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
012	Karen Herd	Ohauiti	<p>PLEASE do not revoke this bylaw!!</p> <p>I work in the Greerton Village and before this bylaw came into place it was a nightmare walking down Chadwick Road with scruffy, dirty human beings sprawled on the footpath outside shops, asking for money - either verbally or with hand written signs. Young children walking to school were visablely frightened and i have seen elderly people shaking after an interaction with the beggers.</p> <p>Also they tended to congregate outside cafes and use foul language for everyone to hear - not nice for young kids walking to Greerton Primary School.</p> <p>I have had many complaints from customers about people hanging about outside our shop, when I've tried to move them on they refuse and continue hasseling our customers.</p> <p>People in general have been much more relaxed since the by-law was introduced.</p> <p>Why should the many suffer from the actions of the few?!!</p> <p>Please keep this by-law in place or businesses will suffer and Greerton especially will become a ghost town,</p> <p>The NZ Post box lobby has 24 hr access for it's customers, however, with rough sleeping people sleep on the ramp leading to the entrance, so scaring and hindering access by the box holders. This should not be allowed to happen</p>
013	Elizabeth Gray	Parkvale	<p>I think the proposed changes will be detrimental to the community and retail sector. I live adjacent to Merivale and use the library and post office, plus limited shopping in Greerton. I also worked for a year in Enliven office along in Chadwick Road past the police station. During the period about 18 months ago i felt unsafe getting off the bus to get to work in Chadwick road at 7.30am. That was due to people sleeping in the street and their associates who would arrive and gather in the streets in Greerton. I also felt harrassed by people calling out for money and shouting or muttering insults if they get a donation.</p> <p>I believe there are multiple social agencies and networks who support people who are destitute or homeless and these avenues need to be utilised.</p> <p>Greerton is a struggling retail area - and many elderly people depend on that centre as they - for various reasons - are unable/unwilling to get scripts filled at overcrowded, inconveniently located shopping centres such as the Lakes, or the limited retail options in Devonport Road. The retail along Cameron Rd is spread out and inconvenient if you have to get on and off buses, or even find a park if able to drive.</p> <p>The retailers in Greerton are very worried about the impact of having people begging and "sleeping rough" in the Greerton area.</p> <p>What is to be gained by allowing the resumption of begging and sleeping rough in public areas??? Council states they don't believe the current bylaws to be "the appropriate means to address the nuisance & other negative impacts of begging and rough sleeping". However, noticeably absent from this document are any proposals from the council as to what ideas or strategies they have to resolve the nuisance factor and other negative impacts of allowing people to block shop entrances, beg and at times intimidate the general public.</p> <p>Incidentally in the park opposite Burger King in Fraser Cove people slept rough in the bushes. There was an enormous amount of rubbish/tents/mattresses left behind when they moved on. Mess presumably picked up by Council at ratepayers expense....</p>
014	Anna Rogers	CBD	<p>I am strongly opposed to it.</p> <p>As a lone woan residing in the CBD, since the introduction of the bylaw I've felt safe in town, especially when catching public transport (I don't have a car).</p> <p>Before the bylaw came in I was often harrassed for money and abused verbally when politely stating that i don't carry cash.</p> <p>The bylaw contrary to what well intentioned helping organisations claim is NOT about an 'attack on the poor!' It is about all of our safety including that of the genuinely homeless who are also open to attacks from opportunist beggars who are not homeless, but part of organised groups out to prey on people.</p> <p>Rather than revoke a bylaw put in place to discourage anti social behaviour and protect the vulnerable, this Council should be exploring ways to address genuine homelessness through funding partnership and building well managed affordable housing stock.</p> <p>So far the only 'building' I see is by private outfits eg Latitude o One Selwyn aimed at rich people who already have more than enough options. We need well managed affordable housing, not band aids that actually legitimise begging and entrench homelessness as a long term inevitability</p>
015	Dianne Mankelow	not supplied	I am very disappointed that the council is looking at revoking the begging ban. Greerton has been a nice place to shop in again without being hasseled and intimidated by beggars demanding money. These people receive a benefit so stop this permanently
016	Dan Karauna	Pyes Pa	(keep the bylaw in place)
017	Craig Watson	Bethlehem	please keep law
018	Adele Box	Otumoetai	Keep the bylaw it's working for the businesses and houses near the shops
019	Jordon Storey	Oropi	Pretty unfair if you change it
020	Sue Hammond	Papamoa	<p>I have witnessed the 'organised begging' businesses in Greerton where a van load of supposedly 'beggars' being dropped off at a strategic place to beg for the day.</p> <p>I have also witnessed beggars going to the pharmacy for the methadone the harrassing/threatening the public for money.</p> <p>i don't agree with the reconsideration of this bylaw</p>

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
021	S J Bosomworth	CBD	<p>As an 84-year-old lady living within the CBD where I walk to on a regular basis. I wish to outline two recent experiences whilst in the inner city over this past week. The first occasion was Friday 15 November when I had an appointment and needed to take my car. I had only just collected the parking fee ticket and placed a \$5 note in the machine, receiving the \$1 change, when the only other person in that area of the building asked me for money. There were other people in the food shops in the arcade area, but no one at the ticketing area, thus I felt very unsafe and uncomfortable while awaiting the lift to rescue me from this unpleasant situation.</p> <p>Secondly today I have just returned by foot from 2nd Avenue having had lunch at a cafe, then going on to the Sunshine Bookshop. Another man openly sought money - he reiterated only money - and continued a verbal harangue as we passed by - there and back. This time I was with two friends of similar vintage so at least had some comfort from company.</p> <p>These experiences have been proceeded over the years when walking downtown where it was obvious from the sticky pavements that some shop entrances (invariably empty shops) had been used as a urinal - not necessarily by street people. I support the Greerton businesspeople in their request to retain the nonbegging Bylaw. That vibrant corner of the city is so much more pleasant without the 'professionals' that I have experienced there, and seen food given with kindly intention discarded, - it was not cash. I am not against giving to legitimate street charities as in Poppy Day etc. The tourist ship summer season is upon the city along with the influx of summer holiday families. Please keep our city streets welcoming.</p> <p>Tauranga is not short of caring organisations that already feed people well and organise activities in other ways. Thus, lack of food or friendship does not seem to be the problem but money - used for what?</p> <p>Councillors old and new please make a sensible decision on the questionable need for begging.</p>
022	May Dodds	not supplied	Re your proposal to remove the begging and rough sleeping provisions in Street use and public places Bylaw 2018. I am astounded that this is being considered – I cannot believe that we have a like council to the previous one! Go to the people for their views, pass the bylaw then after a while reconsider. Asking for the peoples views is just a joke!.
023	Rob Paterson	Ohauiti	Retain existing bylaw in it's present form. It is working and businesses in CBD do not want bylaw revoked as 'begging' and 'rough sleeping' is a nuisance
024	Pat Jaques	Ohauiti	<p>i) This is an appropriate bylaw and clearly meets the provisions under the LGA 2002 - that is rough sleepng and begging is clearly a nuisance</p> <p>ii) Contrary to the statement in this document that suggests the bylaw has been difficult to police, our experience here in Greerton has been that it has been very effective.</p> <p>iii) The Council is clearly a body which is capable of dealing with nuisance ie. dogs, noise, abandoned cars and the like</p> <p>iv) If the argument is that there are more appropriate ways of dealing with this problem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - what are they? - who are they? - do they have the resources? - are they committed? <p>v) The problem impacts on the residents of the city and it is appropriate that the Council as the body that represents those residents continues to be involved in issues such as this</p> <p>I oppose the revocation of this bylaw. My submission would be met by the council retaining the clauses 20.2 & 20.3 of the Street Use and Public Places Bylaw 2018</p>
025	Stephen Mundt	Gate Pa	Don't revoke what already is in place as Greerton has been a lot SAFER and cleaner since the law has been in place. Please listen for once!!!!
026	Craig Newson	Papamoa	Don't revoke what is already in place as Tauranga is a nicer place to shop, walk around in morning. I don't want to be hasseld for money & food
027	Chanelle Kent	Greerton	Do not revoke this as there intimidating people in the community. No one should feel intimidated whist out shopping in the community. Using our community for abloution as well. It makes me angry and frustrated why should people feel intimidated and unsafe in their own community
028	Shirley Mundt	not supplied	Please leave alone as I feel a lot safer now. Thank you.
029	Alf Mundt	Te Puna	Please leave status quo. Don't like being harrassed
030	N van Iperen		Feel safer since the ban was put in place. Please leave as is
031	Carolyn Deelstra	Greerton	<p>I don't want the ban revoked, I live and work in Greerton/Gate Pa. I saw on a firsthand the harrassment, begging and intimidation. I have had begging people put their heads in my open car window and threaten my teenage son. I've seen them throwing away good food they were given, angry cos they didn't get money.</p> <p>Greerton is a much lovelier place with the ban.</p> <p>My issue is that there doesn't seem to be many resources to help genuine homeless people.</p>
032	David Blomquist	Welcome Bay	Under no circumstances should the begging bylaw be revoked or changed in any way. Greerton has, as a result of the bylaw, finally become a shopping precinct, that people feel comfortable visiting without the constant harrassment from peap C (beggars) encroaching on both individuals and shop owners alike in search of many to support their habits. People actually feel safe now to visit the area which is in stark contrast to how it was before the bylaw was introduced
033	Cameron MacNiven	Gate Pa	<p>The town centre has become a more safe and vibrant spot. It's nice not having to walk down and be harrassed. Also it's safer for our elderly commu-</p> <p>nity as they now can walk around freely without always having to look over their shoulder.</p> <p>DO NOT CHANGE</p>
034	Kris Wright	Greerton	The proposal to remove the bylaw in my view will have a negative impact on my local area and the businesses that I support. I do agree that they need help, but allowing them to beg and sleep around the shops will scare customers and locals from using their area
035	Mike Tuck	Greerton	The proposal to remove the bylaw will have a negitive impact on all local stores in Greerton
036	Georgia Blomquist	Welcome Bay	I don't think the begging bylaw should be changed in any way as it has been very effective in Greerton
037	Sean Blomquist	Welcome Bay	The vibe and atmosphere in the Greerton Village has greatly increased since the beginning of the begging bylaw. I am worried that if it is revoked we will go back to where we were a couple of years ago.

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
038	Presinida (Deb) Dorset	Oropi	I am against the proposed change because it will endanger me. I start work at 6am in a café in Greerton, before the bylaw change I would be accosted by homeless and beggars as I walked from parking my car to the café I work at. The problem got so bad I feared for my safety and considered resigning. Since the bylaw change the situation has improved and i feel a lot safer. I am a small woman, should I suffer being intimidated going to work?
039	Patricia Ronald	Greerton	I would be very disappointed in this Council if they allow begging back on our streets. Seniors especially felt very intimidated. I am a senior myself who lives in Greerton and am often in our street for one reason or another. I also work parttime in an Op Shop where customers would tell us how they felt about the situation. We had two security wardens walking the street, now we have none, plus there are more people shopping here as well which has to be good for businesses as their trade has picked up again. I have seen beggars sleeping in shop doorways on Devonport Rd, not a good look for the city at all.
040	Sally Benning (Greerton Village Community Assn)	Greerton	see pdf

Submission form

040



Tauranga City Council is proposing to revoke (remove) the begging and rough sleeping provisions contained in the Street Use and Public Places Bylaw 2018, because it does not consider a bylaw to be the most appropriate means to address the nuisance and other negative impacts of begging and rough sleeping in public places.

Go to www.tauranga.govt.nz/streetuse or use this form to tell us what you think about this proposal.

Name* Sally Benning for Greerton Village Community Assn.

Address*

Email

Phone (daytime)

*mandatory fields

Written submissions may contain personal information within the meaning of the Privacy Act 1993. By taking part in this public submission process, submitters agree to any personal information (incl. names and contact details) in their submission being made available to the public as part of the consultation and decision-making process. All information collected will be held by Tauranga City Council, 91 Willow Street, Tauranga. Submitters have the right to access and correct personal information.

Do you wish to speak at a committee hearing in support of your submission (January 2020 date TBC)? ☒ Yes ☐ No

We will contact you by phone to arrange a speaking time. Each speaker is allocated 10 minutes.

Please send us your feedback by 5pm on Friday, 20 December 2019.

Post to (no stamp required): Freepost Authority Number 370
Street use bylaw consultation
Tauranga City Council
Private Bag 12022
Tauranga 3143

Your feedback

Read the draft bylaw and supporting information, and tell us what you think about the proposed change, and if you have any other changes you want us to consider.

Attached in email:

Submission on behalf of GRCA

Letter to TCC + associated 1x pages of
signatures + 8x independent letters from G.V
Business owners.

Submission form on behalf of GVCA – Greerton Village Community Assn. Inc. (Main Street) to Street Use and Public Place Bylaw 2018 re begging and rough sleeping provisions

This is my feedback to be read in conjunction with the attachments mentioned on the submission form

In my role as Main Street Manager in Greerton Village for over 4 years, I have experienced first hand the enormous damage to our centre through beggars – often scammers – placing themselves squarely in front of our businesses asking and often, demanding money from our Community, many of them elderly and frail themselves, for example elderly residents being harassed for their scripts on leaving the pharmacies, stand over tactics at ATM's etc.

The results of these actions by some were very apparent and detrimental to many of our business owners as well – no longer able to leave staff, especially female staff, alone in shops for fear of adverse actions, abuse and refusal to move along.

At the height of the begging in Greerton we lost businesses, some relatively new to Greerton who simply had no idea of the situation and as soon as they became aware, packed up and moved out. I saw business owners really suffering in their own health due to the constant feeling of “What will we have to deal with today”, one business owner physically attacked, windows broken and many, many cases of verbal abuse.

Jumping ahead to 1 April 2019 after a long battle with TCC at last relief – a Bylaw was introduced and things started to change dramatically from day one. Shoppers started to return to Greerton to shop, enjoy the cafes, the seats and the pleasant ambience that was always enjoyed previously.

We believe that there are now excellent resources in place to help the genuine needy indeed on the TCC “Need a Hand” flyer, no less than 40 organisations and agencies are listed in areas from Financial assistance, Accommodation, Food, support, health and information which is fantastic And we both praise and appreciate them for all the good work they have done and continue to do.

Question – how many agencies are there available for business owners to turn to when their turnover drops dramatically due to the beggars outside their doors preventing shoppers and the community to enter their shops - genuinely I am not aware of any.

Finally for GVCA we would accept that there should be an amendment to the wording around 20.3 rough sleeping, indeed we could even concede the revocation of that clause IF we were able to retain clause 20.2 with the amendment of “no person shall beg in a manner that is likely to cause a nuisance, intimidation, harassment, alarm or distress to any reasonable person” this would certainly be preferable to the revoking of both clause as we would then all fear for the future of Greerton Village and we would urge council to please listen to the views of ALL members of the community, which means residents and retailers alike – surely the Bill of Human Rights does not exclude this group of people

Thank you

Sally Benning

GVCA Manager

Michelle Wood

From: Alan Paterson [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 30 October 2019 10:16 AM
To: 'Greerton'
Subject: Begging By-law

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Sally

It is nice to be able walk through Greerton at present without feeling threatened or of having feelings of disgust, guilt or pity for people who by and large are abusing the money they are given and show nothing but scorn and contempt towards those that give them anything. It is nice to be able to walk down the street without having to smell the urine or see the human faeces outside shops and in doorways when there are public toilets just 50 meters away.. It is my right to expect to be able to walk down the street and feel nice if I so please.

Laws and by-laws are put in place to protect the population from danger and unpleasantness, not just a very small percentage of that population.

The anti by-law league would argue that the rights of people are being restricted by preventing them from begging within 5 meters of any door to commercial operations . Less than one percent of our people are beggars so to rescind the by-law ninety nine percent of the people's rights would be ignored. If this by-law is withdrawn the door is open to anyone claiming their rights are being restricted by law. An extreme example would be drink drivers who feel their right to drive while drunk is being prevented.

Regards
Alan Paterson
Concerned Citizen

Michelle Wood

From: Andrew Linn [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 25 October 2019 11:35 AM
To: Office Greerton Village
Subject: Begging bylaw

Hi Sally

Thank you for offering to compile our feedback to send to the new Council.

After 19 years of business in Greerton we were on the verge of closing the doors and getting out due to having received so many threats, damage to our building, loss of customers and income.

Since the introduction of the begging bylaw we have seen a definite improvement and a more positive vibe in Greerton.

The streets are cleaner, customers are returning and they are commenting on how they are happy to shop here again now that they're not being threatened or intimidated.

And after suffering through many sleepless nights and huge anxiety attacks my family now see me smiling again.

I feel the bylaw has definitely helped in Greerton Village and would be very disappointed to see a back down from Tauranga City Council.

It would be a shame to live in a society where one small but very intimidating group is given more rights than business owners who are paying rates and taxes, and our customers (the community TCC represents) who have a right to shop safely and in a peaceful environment.

As per the TCC website, the Safer Communities project aim is "to make Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty a safe place to live, work and play"

Keep the bylaw – keep our community safe.

Regards,
Andrew Linn

Artisan Manufacturing Jewellers





7th November 2019

To the Mayor and Councillors of Tauranga City Council

Re: Bylaw

My Husband and I have been in business in Tauranga for 30 years. Our current business Blomquists Bakery we set up 13 years ago on Cameron Rd, Greerton Village.

Greerton Village has always been a great place for business until 3 years ago when we started seeing a decline.

This coincided with a new breed of beggars on our streets.

These new breeds of beggars are aggressive, very persuasive and are bullies. They sleep and urinated in our doorways, leave rubbish and drug paraphernalia, regularly have offensive and loud domestic disputes.

Aggressively ask customers and staff for money. Some don't even get a chance to get out of their car before they are harassed.

We lost customers and good staff as they felt too unsafe to get to work or shop with us.

On the 3rd July 2018 when a much shaken staff member told me she had been approached by a couple asking for money on her way to work at 5.50am in the dark I went out and asked the couple to leave and stop harassing my staff and customers for money.

I told them that they were hurting my business as we had lost customers due to their actions and it wasn't good enough.

I told them I had a right to run my business and my customers and staff have a right to feel safe when they come into my business.

This was met my physical and verbal abuse.

Contact us blomquistsbakery@gmail.com
www.blomquists.co.nz

1289 Cameron Rd, Greerton. Ph 571 5133



The women ran at me hurling all kinds of verbal abuse and physically assaulted me. She punched me full power missing my face and connected with my neck. (I was lucky if not stupid)

This matter has been dealt with by the courts.

We were so thankful when the Begging bylaw came into effect.

The amount of beggars we saw outside our shop reduced significantly and our customer count started increasing again.

I cannot emphasise enough the need for this Bylaw to become permanent. We cannot go backwards as the cost will be too great. Too much damage has already been done before the Bylaw came into effect. Businesses closed and customers declined.

We need this Bylaw to get our community back!

I believe the residents of Tauranga have a right to feel safe in their community. This Bylaw definitely helps us stay safe.

Regards,

Sue Blomquist

Contact us blomquistsbakery@gmail.com
www.blomquists.co.nz

1289 Cameron Rd, Greerton. Ph 571 5133

To our new and returning Councilors

Hi there,

I am writing with concern regarding what action will be taken with the Begging and Rough Sleeping Ban that was put in place last year. The following could be a bit rambly but I am doing my best to put my thoughts and fears down for you to consider.

I realise that the legal action that the council is being faced with is a bit scary. It is a shame that all parties can't sit down and work something out.

As a retailer in Greerton I can't emphasise enough the positive impact this bylaw made to my business and my life.

In the lead up to this bylaw being put in place Greerton was like a warzone. The people who were begging out here were aggressive and intimidating to retailers and residents. When the previous council worked to put the ban in place they also worked at helping those who were genuine. I had many of my customers too intimidated by these people to even come to our shopping area.

I would like to know who of you actually came out to Greerton at this time to see what was happening. I witnessed the aggression, abuse, drug dealing, drug taking and the fact that a lot of these people were driven into Greerton in cars and vans. I am not making this up – it all happened in front my eyes. Some of the aggression was directly aimed at me – my shop window was broken and I was also assaulted by one of the women in the group.

The large shopping centres have the ability to ban this kind of behavior. As a strip shopping centre on council land we don't have this available to us. I would be a shame to see these areas die – we have a lovely centre out here which services a wide area. We have owner operated shops that have a real connection with the residents. As a resident of Greerton myself I appreciate the community that we have here.


I hear talk of human rights regarding those that need help. Life can be hard and I think that we do have amazing agencies available to help people out. Do I have the rights to come to work in a safe place??

As I have been writing this in my shop I have been talking to customers about the changes that are planned by our new council. There is a lot of concern by the residents out here but who is our spokesperson?? Who gets to put forward what we see as a good actions by our council that will affect us.

I ask that you come and talk to people in Greerton. We didn't see a lot of anyone in the lead up to this election. I welcome you to come and set up a table out the front of my shop and talk to people about how this bylaw has help us have a safe environment to shop, work and carry out day to day activities. I certainly hope that you as councilors will be transparent and in touch with your communities.

I hope you read this and take on board what I have said. Please come and see us and hear our concerns. We aren't monsters - just folk that want to work in our businesses and enjoy our work environment.

Many thanks
Belinda Sands
Greerton Lotto



Michelle Wood

From: Judy Wood [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 7 November 2019 2:41 PM
To: Office Greerton Village
Subject: Begging By law Greerton

Good afternoon Sally

I am writing in support of the current Begging Bylaw in Greerton and hope that it remains this way as the difference in what it was pre-bylaw to what it is today is quite remarkable.

We have seen the return of many of our customers who chose to go elsewhere because of being accosted outside the Branch not to mention the bad language intimidation and filth created by the Beggars it was an embarrassment and very very annoying.

I really noticed the difference when I visited central Tauranga last weekend and there they were harassing everyone and creating a smelly mess around the pavement, surely this is not acceptable behaviour? One of the Beggars approached my friend and said "aren't you going to give me any money"? he also had a dog in tow I actually felt sorry for the dog.

I am certainly not in a hurry to return to Tauranga Central and no wonder nobody else wants to go there.

When they were in Greerton I personally witnessed them being dropped off in a van and then picked up at the end of the day, people were giving them food and they were taking it and immediately putting it in the bin and they were approaching people in cars and at our ATM asking for money many of our elderly were very scared.

I have been told by the staff at BNZ Cameron Rd/13th Ave that some of the beggars have made themselves at home beside their ATM and they are constantly asking them to move on.

We hope that the newly elected council members see fit to continue with the status quo of the Begging By law in Greerton and if not we would be very interested in their reasoning not to continue with this By law in Greerton and all of Tauranga for that matter. Surely a few walk arounds the city on a daily basis by Councillors would be enough for them to see sense.

Our hope is that we see all of our local Business's continue to grow, which is what we are seeing in the current environment and long may it continue, please.

This email is my own and my work colleagues own personal observations as permanent full time staff members of the BNZ Greerton

Many thanks & kind regards

Judy Wood
Customer Service Consultant
Consumer & Wealth

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Michelle Wood

From: Kay Linn [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 25 October 2019 12:58 PM
To: Office Greerton Village
Subject: Begging bylaw

Hi Sally

Here are my comments for TCC...

The last 3-4 years of owning a business in Greerton have been challenging.

We have had to deal with about 9 months of roadworks, only to end up with an inferior road layout to what we had previously.

On top of that we have had to deal with a persistent group of beggars, who were threatening, intimidating, at times violent and destructive.

That meant coming to work was not something I looked forward to. We are a husband and wife team and due to the intimidation my husband would not leave me alone in our shop.

We were delighted when TCC passed a begging bylaw. Finally the ratepayers and taxpayers, our customers and ourselves, were being listened to.

As a result Greerton is now getting back to how it used to be – a safe place to shop and a positive, buzzing community.

Customers are coming back and all commenting about how happy they are not to feel threatened in their village (they only complain about the traffic now).

I sincerely hope this new Council recognises the value in keeping the bylaw and making sure Tauranga is a place that people want to visit and live in.

To back down now would be such a waste of all the hard work and progress that has been made.

Regards,
Kay Linn

*Artisan Manufacturing Jewellers
1303 Cameron Road
Greerton
Tauranga 3112
07 5776213*

Michelle Wood

From: Marilyn [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, 29 October 2019 8:55 AM
To: Office Greerton Village
Subject: Beggers Bylaw

To Whom It May Concern,

As a retailer in Greerton Village I am writing to show my support in the current beggers bylaw. The changes we have seen in the Village are incredible since the bylaw came into action. Before the bylaw we had an unsafe and unwelcoming environment here. Our customers were afraid to walk our streets and therefore we were losing custom. Now the friendly vibe has returned and people are walking around happy and with smiles on their faces, chatting with friends in the street and generally taking their time about their business, not just parking outside the business they needed, rushing in and then straight back to the car. I welcome the continuation of the bylaw.

Regards
Marilyn Mouat
Mds Leatherworks
142 Chadwick Rd
Greerton
Tauranga

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Greerton Main Street Office

24 October 2019

To whom it may concern

I have been a retailer in Greerton Village for 18 years and seen many ups and downs over that time.

The most effected downturn in the village has been the period where the streets saw many homeless people taking hold.

The main shopping streets became filthy with rubbish and excrement and bedding, which retailers had to clean up and shoppers had to walk around.

During this time I have witnessed on many occasion Verbal intimidation being used by homeless people toward retailers, shoppers, vehicles and pedestrians and bully tactics completely blocking footpaths to demand money and food from pedestrians.

Verbal intimidation was also yelled at vehicles and pedestrians from one side of the road to the other.

Many of my clients verbalised they felt unsafe and said to me they tried to avoid the village.

Since the homeless people have been removed the SAFE feeling of our once happy village is returning and in recent months customers have been coming back, which is great to see for everyone who has interests and livelihoods in Greerton Village.

Yours sincerely

Jill Simpson
Pets by design

Good morning,

My name is Michelle Barbour I am the owner of Unichem Greerton Pharmacy on Chadwick Road.

I do not want to discount what the council already has in place to support the homeless and needy in our community and you have done a great job implementing these services, I understand it is a huge social issue.

However, what we are talking about today are not the needy or homeless. This gang thrives off intimidation and stand over tactics. They are described by the public as irrational and feral. They are far from needy. They are taking advantage of Greerton Villages most vulnerable and the retailers here are front line in seeing this every day.

My staff, had an occasion where a van, with the gang, pulled up outside the shop with the driver vomiting out the door for a good 10 minutes. Concerned for their wellbeing an ambulance was called and the driver treated. However, in trying to help, my staff are thanked with increased intimidation, constant verbal abuse, spitting and even human faeces in the front entrance. My staff have been told by the gang not to call the police or phone anyone otherwise they 'will get them'. Highlighting how impossible it is to help them and the level of intimidation my staff are dealing with.

Over the past 5 years my business has enjoyed stable staff and annual growth. However, staff retention is becoming an issue, with 3 staff members leaving just this year, some of who will not be replaced as customer numbers have dropped.

Aside from my team and my business I have major concerns for public safety. This gang isn't solely after money. They are constantly asking our customers for their medication. Not everyone see's this, as it isn't you and I targeted, it is the elderly and vulnerable. We have customers leaving on crutches who get hassled on the street for pain meds. We have reports from elderly who have 'lost' their medication – only to later admit they have given it to the gang after intimidation. One instance so bad an elderly lady reported a gang member standing behind her car and another tapping on her window – she felt she had no choice but to hand over her tablets. These customers are left feeling embarrassed and used, not to mention scared. Some of them too ashamed to admit what has happened so they simply go without there medicine or reporting it.

It is heart breaking to see this happening to the innocent on our streets. And how much worse does it have to get before we can step in. It's well and good telling people to 'keep the change' or 'their help may harm' but with this level of intimidation I wonder if people even have a choice. If we can take away this gangs right to ask or beg from these vulnerable people I feel that could be the turnaround we need.

Above is what I said when asked to speak to council about the conditions of Greerton Village.

These were recurring DAILY experiences and there are many more examples of what our staff, elderly and even children were experiencing. Reading this today it seems like a horrible nightmare and I dread the thought of the bylaw being taken away and the likelihood these conditions would return.

Today, I am a proud business owner in the heart of Greerton Village. My staff experience the feeling of belonging to a community, acknowledging customers in the street and feeling pleasant village vibes. My staff are free from constant intimidation and feel safe when they arrive to work. We have been able to retain staff and have even added to our team.

In terms of our business, we are excited to experience growth in customer numbers and turnover. This alone says a lot! We now have few empty shops around and the Greerton village is once again attracting new retailers. There is a growing positivity and optimism within the village!

There is no longer a need for the council to provide security guards on the streets. The public are commenting about feeling safe and welcome and what a turn around the bylaw has been. Our most vulnerable are again able to access all the services they need without fear, harassment or disturbance.

I would also like to acknowledge the work the council has put in place in helping the needy and homeless in our community. This bylaw does not take anything away from them and potentially frees up resources.

We have our village back again and are loving it. I believe everyone in Greerton village is enjoying the pleasant outcomes of the bylaw being in place and hope it remains this way.

Thank you!

Elected Members
Tauranga City Council
91 Willow Street
TAURANGA

Letter Ref. GVCA Begging Bylaw 1 April 2019

13 November 2019

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

As some of you will be aware our organisation was instrumental in bringing the begging situation to the attention of TCC and with the help of then elected member Terry Molloy, having the Bylaw against begging brought into effect.

We initiated the very first meeting on 9 October 2017 by inviting Greerton Business owners, local police, TCC staff and TCC elected members – all of whom attended – to address the situation that had by then become critical.

Since the Bylaw's inception on 1 April this year, we have undergone the most amazing transformation of our centre with business owners now able to leave staff in shops without fear of altercations and have seen and heard our shoppers – both locals and visitors alike, now happy to return to shop in Greerton Village without being constantly bombarded by beggars asking for money and certainly not always in a pleasant way – see letters attached.

The “old” Greerton is back and we would all like to keep it that way with the beggars off the streets and enabling our business owners and indeed rate payers the right to earn a living in a safe environment

We believe that TCC have helped us enormously throughout this process and we welcome The Peoples Project, the Women's shelter and other agencies that are now available in this area to help those most vulnerable that genuinely need help and certainly not forgetting the fantastic job that Tommy Wilson and his growing team at Te Tuinga Whanau are doing – Tommy is currently overseas however have given his authority to be quoted as stating that there is help for the genuine needy however, as we know, many of the beggars that were here, were not quite as needy as they may seem.

With this we ask the elected members and TCC to please support our centre by taking on the legal challenge that lies ahead – so that all our business owners, residents and shoppers can continue to live and do business in Greerton Village.

We are not a cold hearted group of people and indeed we have enormous empathy with those people in genuine need of accommodation and food on the tables however we also believe that the wording of the bylaw is such that we are not wishing to “ban these people from our centre” as has been widely reported and quoted – as clearly the bylaw states that they shall not beg within 5 metres of an operational retail business, which means they still have the right to be in Greerton Village as well as anywhere else – just not within that space which then enables the retailers and business owners to conduct their business without fear of verbal or physical abuse to them their staff and importantly, their customers – all business owners are here to provide a service and reap the rewards and that’s really all we are asking for.

Many of the newly elected members will not have been around Greerton in 2017/2018 when at the height we were experiencing gangs of 12 + very often aggressive groups of people on a daily basis, constant fighting, damage to retail shop windows and indeed to individuals – see attached letter – so we implore those of you to come out and talk to the business owners in Greerton and to hear what it was really like and to understand why they are very concerned that situation could so easily return.

We are attaching several personal letters from Greerton Village Business owners and others and also, the undersigned are all in support of the Bylaw remaining as is and again, ask that elected members please look at our reasons for this very carefully and please support

Your Sincerely



Sally Benning, Manager
On behalf of Greerton Village Community Assn. Board and Greerton Village Businesses

We the undersigned are in full support of the letter ref: GVCA Begging Bylaw 1 April 2019

A		B		C
NAME	BUSINESS NAME	IF APPLICABLE	BUSINESS ADDRESS	
1				
2	Christie Howard	Greerton Staff	1297 Cameron Rd.	
3	Nasomi Harrison	Greerton Napuna hspace	Cameron Road, Greerton	
4	Beni Neill	GREERTON HOME OWNERS.		
5	Tanu Min	Greerton Home owner		
6	Angela Goldsworthy	Greerton STAFF		
7	Robert Roby	Greerton Home owner		
8	Jordan Green	Easy Puff rope store	1207 Cameron Road.	
9	P Deauble	Shopper		
10	Nancy Tai	loafers Bakery	1297 Cameron Rd.	
11	Delwyn Ractham	Greerton Health Shop	1301 Cameron Rd.	
12	Kay Linn	Artisan Jewellers	1303 Cameron Rd	
13	Andrew Linn	Artisan Jewellers	1303 Cameron Rd	
14	Karen Wilson	Bongards Pharmacy	1303 Cameron Rd.	
15	Wayne Bennett	Bongards Pharmacy	18-3 Cameron Rd	
16	Victoria Shire	Hair & Beauty on credit	333 Chadwick Rd.	
17	Hanna	Nail & Beauty lounge	1307 Cameron Rd	
18	SaPan	Greerton Foodmarket	1313, Cameron Road.	
19	Kyle Sweeney (Dinaid)	Craft, Essie	1293 Cameron Road	
20	Srima Shale	Physian up for Ayur Over	121 Alcott Street Greerton	
21	Linda D'Athen	Vertical Horizon New Zealand	282 Greenvale Rd Greerton	

We the undersigned are in full support of the letter ref: GVCB Begging Bylaw 1 April 2019

	A	B	C
22	Maurice Bow	Supper	.
23	Jodi Mazacla	Vivo (Manager)	.
24	Xmazacla	Vivo	Jim
25			
26			
27			
28			
29			
30			
31			
32			
33			

We the undersigned are in full support of the letter ref: GVCA Begging Bylaw 1 April 2019

NAME	BUSINESS NAME IF APPLICABLE	BUSINESS ADDRESS
Caitlin Renouf	Unichem Greerton Pharmacy	221 Chadwick Road
Anna Frost	Unichem Greerton Pharmacy	221 Chadwick Road T/A
Marion Olsen	Unichem Greerton Pharmacy	221 Chadwick Road Tarengo
Heaven Patterson	Unichem Greerton Pharmacy	15 Chadwick Road Tarengo
Michelle Bonheur	Unichem Greerton Pharmacy	221 Chadwick Road, Greerton
Chanthang Kead	Chadwick Bakery & Cafe	219 Chadwick Road, Greerton
Kalpetek Patel	Lees on Chadwick	205, Chadwick Road, Greerton
Sukinder Sraen	ZEET	187 Chadwick Road, Greerton
Caro Kany	Turkish To Go	171 Chadwick Road, Greerton
Kath Tracey	Subway Greerton	2171 Chadwick Road, Greerton
Sally Gowlard	157 Chadwick Rd Visique	157 Chadwick Rd, Tarengo
Susan Sharpes	Visique Greerton	" " "
Brentin Clark	Virgine Greerton	157 Chadwick Rd Tarengo
Keith Miller	Visique Greerton	157 Chadwick Rd Tarengo
Tommy Simpson	Visique Greerton	157 Chadwick Road, Greerton
Robyn Barker	Robyns Cottage	147 Chadwick Rd Greerton
Tamvinder Kaur	Chadwick Rd Greerton	137 Chadwick Rd Greerton
Baker Bob Bakery	Chadwick Rd Greerton	135 Chadwick Rd
Stirling Patel	Chadwick Stationery	135 Chadwick Rd
Sandy Chand	Chadwick Road Dairy	113 Chadwick Road Greerton
Ujwal Singh	INDIAN PAVILION	113 Chadwick Road Greerton
Heather Evans	Organic Hair Beauty	Chadwick Rd Greerton
Nigel Chatterton	Flippin Good Food	138 Chadwick Road
Marlynn Mowat	Nels Leatherworks	142 Chadwick Road Greerton
Liana Mwenlinga	Le Chat Noir	144 Chadwick Road
Summer Tyson	Le Chat Noir	144 Chadwick Road
Xiaohui Wu	Le Chat Noir	144 Chadwick Road
Christie Simmons	Le Chat Noir	144 Chadwick Road
Michelle Simpson	Le Chat Noir	144 Chadwick Road
Karen Heed	NZ Post Greerton	146 Chadwick Road Greerton
JULIA Ferguson	NZ Post Greerton	221 Chadwick Rd Greerton
Janet Clark	NZ Post Greerton	221 Chadwick Rd Greerton
Rachel McBea	Greerton Pharmacy	221 Chadwick Rd Greerton

NAME	BUSINESS NAME IF APPLICABLE	BUSINESS ADDRESS
Tudy McDonnell	Bank of New Zealand	212 Chadwick Rd Greerton
Dance Bar	Bank of New Zealand	212 Chadwick Rd, Greerton
Judy Woods	Bank of New Zealand	212 Chadwick Rd, Greerton
Glenis McEck	Instant Finance	212 Chadwick Rd, Greerton
Beth Johnston	Instant Finance	212 Chadwick Rd, Greerton
Carol Rahn	Instant Finance	212 Chadwick Rd, Greerton
Linda Deansly	Bank of New Zealand	212 Chadwick Rd, Greerton
Scott Smith	Cockford Real Estate	212 Chadwick Rd, Greerton
Dillie Vermaulen	Cockford Real Estate	212 Chadwick Rd, Greerton
Mark Kelp	Cockford Real Estate	212 Chadwick Rd, Greerton
Glenis Fairbridge		
Stephen Mundt	Bayhodes supplies	1884 Cameron road

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
041	Shard Loibl (Baywide Community Law Centre Housing Advocacy Service)	Greerton	see pdf

SUBMISSION- PROPOSED REVOKING OF BEGGING AND ROUGH SLEEPING BYLAWS IN STREET USE AND PUBLIC PLACES BYLAW (2018)

SUBMISSIONS BY BAYWIDE COMMUNITY LAW CENTRE HOUSING ADVOCACY SERVICE

INTRODUCTION

1. Baywide Community Law Centre's Housing Advocacy Service ("HAS") provides free housing related legal information, advice, advocacy and education for those in the Tauranga area.
2. This submission is made by HAS in regard to the proposal by the Tauranga City Council reached at their meeting on 19 November 2019 to repeal Bylaws 20.2 and 20.3 of the *Street Use and Public Places Bylaw (2018)* relating to bans on *begging and rough sleeping*. ("begging and rough sleeping bylaws").
3. The purpose of the submission is to support the proposed repeal of the begging and rough sleeping bylaws upon the basis that within the context s 155(1) of the Local Government Act (LGA) the council was correct in concluding that enacting bylaws was not an appropriate way of addressing the perceived problems associated with begging and rough sleeping.
4. HAS also supports the claims which have been brought by the Tauranga Housing Advocacy Trust ("THAT") in Judicial Review proceedings currently before the High Court that the begging and rough sleeping bylaws are illegal as not being outside the ambit of s 145 of the Local Government Act (LGA) which authorises the bylaws and as being inconsistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act (NZBORA). However, HAS considers that these issues are best left to High Court to decide if the council ultimately decides not to repeal the begging and rough sleeping bylaws.
5. HAS works in conjunction with Tauranga Housing Advocacy Trust in attempting to deal with housing issues in Tauranga. Because of their ongoing involvement with the Judicial Review proceedings the trust did not think it appropriate to make a submission in regard to the current proposal but the trust does support HAS in making this submission.

REASONS PROVIDED BY COUNCIL FOR REVOKING BEGGING AND ROUGH SLEEPING BYLAWS

6. In the consultation document the reasons for the proposal to revoke the begging and rough sleeping bylaws is stated as follows:
 - ✦ Council does not consider a bylaw to be the most appropriate means to address the nuisance and other negative impacts of begging and rough sleeping in public places.

- Council acknowledges that the current bylaw may have contributed to sending a message to the community that intimidatory behaviour is not acceptable around retail premises. However, Council considers that this message can be delivered in ways other than through a bylaw.
- The underlying issues that cause begging and rough sleeping should be addressed through collaboration with local social agencies and homelessness service providers, along with central government, rather than through a bylaw.
- There are other provisions in the Street Use and Public Places Bylaw 2018 that address behaviour sometimes associated with begging and rough sleeping, such as obstructions in public places, and these provisions will remain.
- Threatening or offensive behaviour in public places is an issue for the Police, covered under the Summary Offences Act.

SUBMISIONS IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSAL

7. Broadly HAS supports these reasons for revoking the begging and rough sleeping bylaws.
8. However, HAS does question whether the bylaws have had the effect of reducing begging and rough sleeping as suggested by the Council. The report from council staff for the meeting on 16 November 2019 contained a graph with numbers of complaints about begging and rough sleeping. Although there are some variances from the times before and after the bylaw was implemented in November 2018 there is a similar pattern of complaints peaking in April and tailing off over the winter. This is consistent with the anecdotal evidence noticed by HAS of there being less people begging and rough sleeping over winter months.
9. HAS regularly deals with clients without housing who are rough sleeping. From speaking to them they do not seem to have been influenced by the bylaws on whether or not they are rough sleeping.
10. HAS has however noticed that recently there have been more people who have been using tents in the parks close to the Tauranga CBD. This has caused issues because council staff have been regularly removing the tents from council controlled reserves. The council staff tend to also take the possessions left in the tent and not returning the tent and possessions to the person even if the person who has been staying in the tent asks for the return of their possessions. HAS has raised this with the council staff but to date this has not been resolved.
11. With regard to the claim by the council that the bylaw has sent a message that intimidatory behaviour will not be tolerated around retail premises, HAS in the course of providing its services is not aware of beggars or rough sleepers intimidating others in the CBD areas, either before or after the bylaws came into

effect.

12. In this regard it is noted that in the council officer's reports prepared in 2018 when the council was considering bringing the bylaws the following was noted about intimidatory begging and 'begging gangs' particularly in the Greerton CBD, and found that

The evidence of the problem of intimidating and aggressive begging relates primarily to Police matters and is able to be addressed by the Police under the Summary Offences Act. The evidence is limited and largely anecdotal. Police and staff are concerned that there is an issue of perceptions of intimidation and aggressive begging that may not be matched in reality. There appears to be antisocial behaviours occurring, especially in Greerton, but Council staff do not believe the majority of this relates to the activity of begging or the majority of beggars themselves.

13. These comments match what HAS has perceived about the situation with beggars and rough sleepers. With the housing crisis that has afflicted Tauranga over the last couple of years there have been many more people who cannot afford housing and as result have had to resort to begging and rough sleeping, usually in CBD areas which are the best places for both of these activities. This has caused concern to some retail owners who think this is bad look and will drive away customers. As a result, anecdotal stories about threatening and 'fake' beggars and rough sleepers have been seized upon by some and used to try to push for laws to get beggars and rough sleepers pushed out of sight.

14. In this regard HAS notes that under the current bylaws the begging and rough sleeping bylaws are not there to protect the businesses of retailers. Section 4 of the bylaws sets out their purpose is to ensure public health and safety:

*4.1 The purpose of the bylaw is **to ensure public health and safety is maintained. Protect the public from nuisance, minimise the potential for offensive behaviour and to manage Public Places for the well-being and enjoyment of the public.***

*It covers a wide range of activities including commercial activity such as trading and the promotion of goods and services, **begging, rough sleeping**, busking and entertainment activities and events and the use of Footpaths for tables and chairs and retail displays.(emphasis added)*

15. As such within the context of s 155(1) of the LGA the 'perceived problem' to be addressed is whether begging or rough sleeping is to protect the public – not retailers. Viewed in this way HAS agrees with the council proposal that any 'nuisance' begging or rough sleeping can be much more appropriately addressed through the *Summary Offences Act* which already makes it an offence to behave in a disorderly or offensive way in a public place, to intimidate another person or

obstruct a public way.¹ These sections would cover all of the perceived nuisances to the public that may be caused by begging and rough sleeping. Also dealing with the issues under the Summary Act has the advantage of the police being able to enforce the laws with powers of arrest and bailing people to appear in court for fines or other penalties to be imposed. Under the bylaws there are no such enforcement powers, with there being no powers of arrest to move offending beggars and rough sleepers on and the only option being to issue them with summons to appear in court for a fine to be imposed. In this regard there are no specific fines stipulated for begging or rough sleeping offences.

16. Lastly, HAS agrees with the approach promoted by the council that a better approach to dealing with the issues of begging and rough sleeping is through co-ordinated efforts of government and social agencies. In this regard HAS has been and will continue to play a part in dealing with these very serious social problems in our community.

DATED: 19 December 2019.



Shard Loibl

Baywide Community Law Centre Housing Advocacy

¹ Summary Offences Act 1981 Sections 4, 21 and 22.

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
042	Tracey McFarlane	Greerton	As a mum who lives in Greerton and walks small children to school everyday through the Greerton shops, I do NOT want these beggars back in our lovely village. They were intimidating, use foul language in front of my kids, we had them at the top of the walkway near the library with all their drug paraphenalia. Keep them out!
043	Rory McFarlane	Greerton	I object to the revoking of this bylaw as a resident of the area
044	Belinda Sands	Greerton	<p>To our new and returning Councillors. Hi there. I am writing with concern regarding what action will be taken with the Begging and Rough Sleeping Ban that was put in place last year. The following could be a bit rambly but I am doing my best to put my thoughts and fears down for you to consider. I realise that the legal action that the council is being faced with is a bit scary. It is a shame that all parties can't sit down and work something out.</p> <p>As a retailer in Greerton i can't emphasis enough the positive impact this bylaw made to my business and my life. In the leadup to this bylaw being put in place Greerton was like a warzone. The people who were begging out here were aggressive and intimidating to retailers and residents. When the previous council worked to put the ban in place they also worked at helping those who were genuine. I had many of my customers too intimidated by these people to even come to our shopping area. I would like to know who of you actually came out to Greerton at this time to see what was happening. I witnessed the aggression, abuse, drug dealing, drug taking and the fact that a lot of these people were driven into Greerton in cars and vans. I am not making this up - my shop window was broken and I was also assaulted by one of the women in the group. The large shopping areas have the ability to ban this kind of behaviour. As a strip shopping centre on council land we dont have this available to us. It would be a shame to see these areas die - we have a lovely centre out here which services a wide area. We have owner operated shops that have a real connection with the residents. As a resident of Greerton myself I appreciate the community that we have here.</p> <p>I hear talk of human rights regarding those that need help. Life can be hard and i think that we do have amazing agencies available to help people out. Do I have the rights to come to work in a safe place?? As I have been writing this in my shop I have been talking to customers about the changes that are planned by our new council. There is a lot of concern by the residents out here but who is our spokesperson?? Who gets to put forward what we see as a good actions by our council that will affect us.</p> <p>I ask that you come and talk to people in Greerton. We didn't see a lot of anyone in the lead up to this election. I welcome you to come and set up a table out the front of my shop and talk to people about how this bylaw has helped us have a safe environment to shop, work and carry out day to day activities. I certainly hope that you as councillors will be transparent and in touch with your communities.</p> <p>I hope you read this and take on board what I have said. Please come and see us and hear our concerns.</p>
045	Bryan Gosnell	Greerton	I would like the council to not change the bylaw that lets the beggars sit outside shop with signs and ask for money. Since they have been gone, people can walk through the park at the end of Lincoln Terrace and not be hasseled, they don't do drugs there anymore and the things that used to go missing from houses isn't. I've seen them smoke weed, P, in front of children in the park and intimidate the old people. Greerton is a better place now since they have been gone
046	Sharon Tunbridge	Greerton	<p>When the beggars were in Greerton I used to feel unsafe and uncomfortable. I hated using the money machines there.</p> <p>I am in my 60s. Once a week I pick up a blister pack of medications including morphine. I used to think imagine what would happen if they know what i have. They get in my face looking threatenng to me. I used to avoid going to Greerton except to the chemist and i have to park close to the chemist. I had seen a van dropping beggars off. I have heard them discussing about if they have their drugs, they say certain people have drugs. I have noticed the van beggars wearing flash new clothes and shoes. There is fighting with beggars. The van 1's, the blonde woman does a lot of fighting and screaming. The old beggars weren't so numerous. I live within a 4 minute walk to the shops. I am afraid to walk through the alleys.</p> <p>Just going past the hall is fearful. The shopping centre is a busy place again when the beggars came and people didn't come shopping there.</p> <p>It's nice to be able walk around the shops and feel safe</p>
047	Brian & Sandy Flynn	Pyes Pa	We are toally opposed to the revoking of the begging and rough sleeping law. Greerton has become such a lovely place, now that we have not got the beggars there. If they return, I will not be shopping there
048	M Shearer	Greerton	<p>Since begging has been abolished in Greerton I have not been accosted by these people. They used to be outside the banks and on some occasions we have seen homeless people putting pressure on senior citizens.</p> <p>Why the hell would you want to change it I don't know. Most of these people have choices. This is their choice to be in this position. Keep them off the streets so we don't have to look over our shoulders to see these creeps watching us.</p>
049	Wesley Parsons	Te Puna	<p>I voted to have changes made but still nothing happens - is my vote a wasted one?</p> <p>I want the bylaws to have begging and rough sleeping kept in place</p>
050	Craig Miller	Greerton	<p>Hi. Before moving to my current address we lived on Devon St across from Morland Fox Park where the homeless would congregate at the pavillion setting up the beds, sleeping bags. On several occasions the police where rung because of the noise, drinking arguing an fighting. At one time there was approximately ten homeless staying there. The drinking an fighting would go on all night. The police were called on most nights, and everyone who lives on Devon St could hear these homeless people disrupting the peace. On one occasion I had words with three individuals whom were drunk an fighting each other....they got the word and soon left. But the whole state of it was unsitely an they made a nuisance of themselves.</p> <p>The beggars in Greerton was unsitely too asking an intimidating seniors for money or cigaretts, sleeping in doorways (retail shops) an the library entrance, during the day with there hands out, messages on cardboard...home less no job no food...boo hoo me. There are plenty of fruit picking jobs around Tauranga these people are just too lazy or stupid to even apply for the job...an they are homeless becuase they choose to be...maybe none of there relatives don't want them staying with them cause they are lazy an uneducated. These people are a burden on society an the taxpayer. [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] Yours sincerely Craig</p>
051	Allan Derecourt	Gate Pa	The current bylaw works. Begging and rough sleeping bylaw 20.2 & 20.3 works leave it alone. The new council is out of touch. The councils proposils in the past didn't wok, this bylaw does. Leave it alone
052	Andrew Shrimpton	Pyes Pa	The bylaw has worked, do not revoke it

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
053	Joan Kearney	Greerton	I would like the law to stay as it is. After being pestered by beggars every time I went shopping in Greerton the last year has been so much less intimidating. When I first saw beggars on the streets I felt sorry for them and bought them food or drink which, when they thought i wasn't watching would be tipped in the bin. I've seen people give them money and they've gone into a bar & spent the money in the pokies, but the two occasions that really pissed me off was watching a van drop supposed beggars off at different places in Greerton & Gate Pa (yes, I followed them) for the days begging. The other occasion I stopped for petrol one Sunday morning & was approached by a woman demanding gold coins, when I told her i would go to the police her minder told me to try it and I was actually scared of what might have happened. To be able to shop without fear & intimidation has been awesome. Greerton will lose a lot of customers if the law is revoked.
054	Barbara Derecourt	Gate Pa	The current bylaw has meant that there is no intimidation. The elderly and parents with young children are back enjoying doing their shopping in the friendly environment they enjoyed after the new bylaw came into being. There is no public outbursts of conflict between rough sleepers which caused fear to others. People are no longer intimidated at ATM machines or when leaving retailers like local pharmacies. The previous council bylaw didn't work - this current one Bylaw 20.2 & 20.3 does. LEAVE IT ALONE. IF IT'S NOT BROKEN DON'T FIX IT. Let them congregate outside the Council buildings. Better still invite them into your meetings. Or get the new Councillors to provide sleepover room outside their own gates.
055	Dione & Scott Martin	Hairini	Having lived and worked in the Greerton community for the last 20 years. I have seen and been through so many changes good & bad. Greerton is such a nice friendly community, very pleasant to shop & walk around before the begging started. At the height of the begging in our community there where individuals and groups of between 5 & 20 people asking, demanding, threatening & attacking people from all walks of the community from school age children to pensioners making it difficult for everyone to feel safe. They obstructed walkways, littered unnecessarily and accosted people walking to school or just going into a store to buy something. Documented cases of attacks throughout Greerton & beggars tagging shops with high cash usage. The effects of this behaviour had had a dramatic effect on shop owners who have lost patronage to businesses, have faced closure or moved to a safer more suitable location. With the enactment of this bylaw there has been a return of the older Greerton community with people more willing to walk around Greerton spending time & money in the shops of the area. Instead of moving their cars from shop to shop only getting what they wanted then moving out of the area as quickly as possible. I feel that the removal of the bylaw will have a negative effect on the community causing health & safety concerns again for the people of Greerton much in the same way that the drinking bylaw has been enforced stopping drunkenness, bad behaviour and broken glass. The same way as the use of handrails or other devices are used to keep people safe from traffic. Will in my opinion cause lost & damage or injury to innocent people/persons of our wider communities. THE loss of this bylaw will be a step in the wrong direction sending the wrong message to people please please think carefully before removing this bylaw. Thank you for reading my submission
056	Garrath Stoddart	Gate Pa	I think the bylaw should stay too many rough sleeping people are not true I have been hounded enough
057	Ross Clarry	Pyes Pa	This proposal is ludicrous. The previous Council did the hard yards and as can be seen Greerton and the inner city are more pleasant to visit. Footpaths are there for the purpose of walking from shop to shop. By allowing these people back into the area will end up seeing Greerton look like a 3rd world town. People lazing & sleeping around makes the footpaths NOT fit for purpose. Retailing is hard enough these days with the growth of huge shopping centres. Would the councillors who voted to rescind the bylaw be happy to have the dropouts hanging around their property!! Yes there are issues with homeless people and i know there are organisations out there helping. Come on council have your day in court and defend the case for the benefit of not only Greerton but other Tauranga shopping areas BUT for the betterment of NZ. I as a ratepayer of Tauranga are more than happy for a few dollars to be spent on the legal issues obtaining a result. We want Greerton to be the lovely shopping centre it always was and now as it is even with the traffic problems. I was personally abused by a begger on the footpath and it was not a nice experience
058	Jo Wright	Gate Pa	I do not want the begger bylaw removed. If anything I want it harsher and enforced. I want my grandkids to play in the school grounds in the weekend, to be able to walk home without worrying about the filth and bad language. the people who are causing these problems are an organised crime ring who beg in shifts & have been seen doing drug deals out of their cars. Our elderly should feel safe in Greerton Village not scared
059	Timothy McGregor	Greerton	The current bylaw (20.2 & 20.3) should stay as it is. From my own experience the bylaw is clearly working. In the year or so before the bylaw was introduced, the begging & intimidation had got to a point where I would avoid shopping in Greerton if I saw the beggars. I had them knocking on the car window & demanding money before i could even get out of my car. I have lived & shopped in Greerton for more than 15 years so I know what it is was like here before the problem started. There was also a large group of rough sleepers causing trouble at Moreland Fox park. I live right next to the park. Since the bylaw was introduced both Greerton and moreland fox park have returned to how it was here years ago. Proof the bylaw is working. If the bylaw is revoked, and the beggars return, which they will people will be forced to shop elsewhere. Empty shops will not only be a loss for the area, but will also be a loss for the council.
060	Mrs N Pollard	Ohauiti	I totally agree that no person should beg in a public place within five metres of a public entrance to retail premises. Also, no person should sleep rough within five metres of retail premises. What a difference it has made since the Bylaw was adopted last year. It has been a pleasure to shop in Greerton and not be subjected to begging.
061	L J Whittaker	Pyes Pa	20.2 and 20.3 I feel the provisions noted have had a major impact on reducing/removing the begging and rough sleeping habits that we used to encounter when doing our daily business in and around Greerton. We feel safe and unthreatened and the local shopping area is clean and friendly and so much easier to access since the ban has been in place. Families feel safe walking the streets now. If the parking could be reduced to 30 minutes, then we'd all be able to access the shops more frequently

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
062	Pamela Smith	Gate Pa	<p>I would like the bylaw to stay how it is please.</p> <p>We have fought so long to get rid of them & to get our community back. In the past before the bylaw was in place I have been threatened, bottles thrown at my house. Our fence line is used as toilet. Sleepless nights, too scared to go to the shops, followed and watched over at ATM.</p> <p>The drug deals with gangs & they sell smokes & drugs to school kids. The list goes on. The amount of times I have had to call the police & 9 times out of 10 they can't do anything, which defeats the bylaw.</p> <p>I fought for a camera to be put in the park at the end of Lincoln Terrace. The stabbing in the park was the last straw.</p> <p>The kids are now back playing in the park & i feel safe down at the shops.</p> <p>PLEASE PLEASE AS A RATES PAYER & A GREERTON LOCAL - DON'T CHANGE IT BACK.</p> <p>Also there needs to be a bylaw put in place in the park & seated area at the end of Lincoln Terrace & through the park down to the Library. Our house backs onto the park & i can speak for [REDACTED] to what I say as we have had enough.</p>
063	A Goldsworthy	Greerton	<p>Begging & rough sleeping are two different things.</p> <p>Having no home is homeless. Begging & beggars are not all homeless people. You really need to look harder how you word this as one issue.</p> <p>The beggars are intimidating to our elderly and put customers off coming to our shops which in turn is going to put owners & workers out of work. Do you think of this is going to affect Greerton at all!?!?</p>
064	Shirley & Keith Carter	Greerton	<p>It is with concern that we write this asking the council NOT to revoke the present bylaw which is in place in the Greerton shopping area.</p> <p>We are an elderly couple who have lived in Greerton for nearly 25 years and have enjoyed the friendly and relaxed atmosphere which is present again since the bylaw was put in place.</p> <p>We both enjoy walking and shopping in the village and have found it more relaxing and friendly over recent times.</p> <p>We would like to thank the Council for putting the bylaw into place in the first place to help make the village a happier environment</p>
065	Terry Molloy	CBD	see pdf

Submission form



Tauranga City Council is proposing to revoke (remove) the begging and rough sleeping provisions contained in the Street Use and Public Places Bylaw 2018, because it does not consider a bylaw to be the most appropriate means to address the nuisance and other negative impacts of begging and rough sleeping in public places.

Go to www.tauranga.govt.nz/streetuse or use this form to tell us what you think about this proposal.

Name* Terry Molloy

Address*

Email

Phone (daytime)

*mandatory fields

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Do you wish to speak at a committee hearing in support of your submission (January 2020 date TBC)? ☒ Yes ☐ No
We will contact you by phone to arrange a speaking time. Each speaker is allocated 10 minutes.

Please send us your feedback by 5pm on Friday, 20 December 2019.

Post to (no stamp required):
Freepost Authority Number 370
Street use bylaw consultation
Tauranga City Council
Private Bag 12022
Tauranga 3143

Your feedback

Read the draft bylaw and supporting information, and tell us what you think about the proposed change, and if you have any other changes you want us to consider.

Please find attached submission

I would appreciate it if I could speak
just before or after Greerton Māori St.

Cheers Terry

Submission to begging bylaw.

The by law was poorly constructed and named it should have been called what it is. A limited restriction bylaw.

My position is. It is not acceptable to leave the homeless with mental health drug and alcohol problems on our streets.

Our limited restriction begging and rough sleeping bylaw sends a strong message to Government Council and our social agencies that it is not okay to leave them on the streets. We want it fixed primarily for the sake of the disadvantaged.

Most do not understand what we are dealing with.

We have those who are not homeless but unable to provide for their basic needs.

Partial homeless. Sleeping in sheds. Couch surfing. Cars tents etc.

Homeless. Sleeping tents. Flys. Cars.

Rough sleepers. Sleeping Alleyways. Door ways. Parks. Many have the opportunity to move on but don't take it.

Beggars. There is very few who are begging because they are hungry do not have warm clothing or don't have the opportunity to move on.

The problem group that the bylaw targets.

Scammers / Beggars. We have a small but difficult group that has the potential to grow if left uncontrolled. We are using the limited restriction bylaw to try and control the damage done to the wider community by their actions.

It is never wrong to do the right thing. It is just wrong to let people deceive defraud and abuse the community.

My request is that at a very minimum the revised bylaw be retained that no person shall beg in a manner to cause etc.

I will elaborate when I speak to the submission.

Terry Molloy

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Terry Molloy', with a stylized, cursive script.

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
066	Katrina Reihana	Welcome Bay	We work with the homeless and they need the support they need to be able to feel safe, they are people, there should be no more begging as food and clean clothes, blankets are all provided to our people. Life is hard enough as it is and a lot of people that are living rough don't want to be have no choose
067	Steve Macpherson		This is illegal, by the Council to do this. It is an infringement of one's human rights. It is bullying by rich people (overpaid, underworked) councilors, onto poor people. They wouldn't do this if it were wealthy people, rough sleeping!
068	illegible		Not proper and reasonable
069	Frederick Pukekura	CBD	Simon Bridges targetting the streeties to get rid of us with this bylaw. Bylaw is unfair for my existence when I was on the streets. Need to invest in community organisations. This is giving them real help. More recognition given to community organisations rather than this bylaw
070	Stephanie Gully	Arataki	I Stephanie Gully of [REDACTED] know all too well what is like to live on the streets, our people do not beg and sleep rough around town to disrupt shop owners, it's not their waking goal. You tend to get more help in main Centre's it's safer. Like the shop owners, my people are doing there best to survive
071	Geraldine Cox-Matenga		I think it sux because they need to give our streets people a chanch and give them love
072	Duncan Reihana	Welcome Bay	Am in support of this Bylaw...this gives our people somewhere to be safe from others and to shelter from the wind and rain also the sun during summertime. I work with the homeless delivering clothes-blankets and most needed stuff
073	Tom Walch	Greerton	There is 2 different sorts of people who are around Greerton. There is the rough sleepers who are cared for by Tommy Wilsons business also all the centers that support homeless (Salvation Army, Under the Stars ect) and we have the beggers or scammers as most people call them. These are the people who scam and annoy and hang around ATM machines who annoy and harass shoppers of Greerton (and the Mount and to a large degree down town) from what we have observed they are usually dropped off in the morning and then set up there little spot for the day. Some are taking up half the footpath so we are having to walk around them. Since the bylaw came in Greerton is a lovely place to shop again as they have all disappeared. Revoking the bylaw would be a step backwards and I am sure the retailers in particular would have felt this has been all in vain.
074	Bruce Harding	Gate Pa	I disagree with the new proposed revocation of begging & rough sleeping provisions, as it will make Greerton/Gate Pa an unsafe place for us residence to live & shop as we are constantly harrassed by beggers wanting money and we are verbally abused when we don't give them money. I find we will be at risk of having our money stolen by beggers as this has happened in the past to shoppers. Also Greerton shopping center is left in a disgusting state once the beggers leave
075	Brett Harding	Gate Pa	I disagree with the new proposed revocation of begging & rough sleeping provisions, as it makes Greerton/Gate Pa an unsafe place for us residence to live & shop as we are constantly harrassed by beggers wanting money and we are verbally abused when we don't. It makes Greerton/Gate Pa an unpleasant place to shop & live
076	Kevin Pearce	Tauranga South	Dear Sir,Madam. I am writing to you urging you not to revoke the provisions of the Street Use and Public Places Bylaw 2018. My wife, Janine and myself have a small business in Greerton with the door or entrance onto Cameron road. We do not want a return to where we, our staff or our customers arrive at work to have rough sleeping or begging outside our business. I am sure I don't have to explain to you why begging or rough sleeping is no good for my business or any other business. I can only guess the proposal has come from councillors who have never had a retail business. We do find it sad about how many homeless people and beggars their are in our community but i do not think revoking this bylaw will help in anyway. Greerton is a great place to have a business and we do not want to be pushed out to places like the Lakes to avoid the rough sleepers and beggars. Please do not revoke this Bylaw. We, our staff and especially our cusotmers feel Greerton is a far improved centre to come to since the introduction of the Bylaw. I do hope we all can find other ways to address this issue we have as a community but please let us run our business without the problem of rough sleeping or beggars. We want our staff and cusotmers to feel safe to walk around Greerton to shop and chat without having to deal with this issue. Thank you for reading my submission.
077	Beverley Edwards (Under the Stars)		see pdf

Submission form



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Go to www.tauranga.govt.nz/streetuse or use this form to tell us what you think about this proposal.

Name*

Beverley Edwards UNDER THE STARS

Address*

148 Base Station

Email

Phone (daytime)

*mandatory fields

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Do you wish to speak at a committee hearing in support of your submission (January 2020 date TBC)?

Yes

No

We will contact you by phone to arrange a speaking time. Each speaker is allocated 10 minutes.

Please send us your feedback by 5pm on Friday, 20 December 2019.

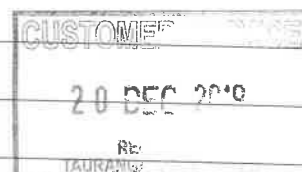
Post to (no stamp required):
Freepost Authority Number 370
Street use bylaw consultation
Tauranga City Council
Private Bag 12022
Tauranga 3143

Your feedback

Read the draft bylaw and supporting information, and tell us what you think about the proposed change, and if you have any other changes you want us to consider.

See attached submission
on behalf of

UNDER THE STARS CHARITABLE TRUST



The measure of a city is found in how they treat their weakest and most helpless members

Council Proposal

The Council proposes to revoke the provisions in its Street Use and Public Places Bylaw 2018 relating to begging and rough sleeping. These are clauses 20.2 and 20.3 of the Bylaw, and the definitions of “begging” and “rough sleeping”.

The provisions which it is proposed will be revoked are:

‘20.2 No person shall beg in a public place within 5 metres of a public entrance to retail premises within defined areas in the CBD, Greerton and Mount Maunganui (using current maps in the Bylaw attachments and enable these to be changed by Council resolution based on evidence of the problem).’

20.3 No person shall rough sleep within five metres of a retail premises within defined areas in the CBD, Greerton and Mount Maunganui (using current maps in the Bylaw attachments and enable these to be changed by Council resolution based on evidence of the problem)’

together with the following definitions (clause 5.2):

‘Begging means soliciting for money or goods for private benefit.’

‘Rough sleeping means sleeping in a public place on the streets, pavements or anywhere other than in approved accommodation, with the exception of where council has given approval.’

The Council’s reasons are given as the bylaw not addressing the *real problem* and the inability of Council to adequately police the bylaw (précis.) Under section 155 of the Local Government Act 2002, Council has formed the view that the existing bylaw is no longer the most appropriate means of addressing a problem, and therefore it is considering revoking the bylaw.

Invalidity of Council resolution 20 November 2018

The Council resolution that was passed on 20 November 2018 – prohibiting begging or rough sleeping – was flawed both legally and ethically.

1. The **first challenge** to the existing bylaw is a breach of s10 and s14 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Section 10 of the Local Government Act 2002 has as the purpose of local government:

10 Purpose of local government

(1) *The purpose of local government is—*

(b) to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

Section 14 of the same Act outlines the principles of procedure that local Authorities must adhere to when making bylaws:

14 Principles relating to local authorities

(1) *In performing its role, a local authority must act in accordance with the following principles:*

(a) a local authority should—

(i) conduct its business in an open, transparent, and democratically accountable manner; and

(ii) give effect to its identified priorities and desired outcomes in an efficient and effective manner:

(b) a local authority should make itself aware of, and should have regard to, the views of all of its communities; and

(c) when making a decision, a local authority should take account of—

(i) the diversity of the community, and the community's interests, within its district or region; and

(ii) the interests of future as well as current communities; and

(iii) the likely impact of any decision on each aspect of well-being referred to in section 10

The 'homeless', begging or rough sleeping community was not 'promoted' and their opinions were not regarded or the likely impact of the bylaw considered.

2. The **second challenge** to the existing bylaw is a breach of Section 27 of the Bill of Rights Act 1990 which guarantees the right to observance of the principles of natural justice. The principles include, as a minimum, the rights to notice (as to hearing and as to the content of the case against one, where relevant), to contradict, to representation, to an impartial determination, to an oral hearing, and to consultation in advance when a (by)law is to be passed, which may affect the citizen.

The homeless in Tauranga are largely invisible and their opinions were largely unsolicited and undocumented, around the begging/rough sleeping bylaw debates, that preceded the current bylaw.

The Tauranga City Council is to be criticised for the significant discrepancies in the realisation of the ability to access and participate in the discussions about bylaws. The mechanisms and technologies used to gather 'opinion' favoured the commercial and technologically savvy shop owners, who are literate, usually highly educated, have access to electricity, social media, cell phones and the media. The homeless are often illiterate, live off the grid, and have no access to electronic communication of any form. Word of mouth is their medium.

3. The **third challenge** to the existing bylaw is the inconsistency with the Tauranga City Council's own Community Project initiative that was established in Tauranga in June 2016, with the aim of addressing priority gaps for individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

The stated 'Community Project' of the TCC itself, as at 27/08/19, has stalled:

"Our Community Project aims to make significant progress in ensuring all of our community has a safe place to live.

The early focus of the group was to develop an action plan. Within the plan, the initial priorities included:

- *conducting research to better understand the scale and nature of homelessness*
- *identifying accommodation options for homeless women and families; and*
- *looking at ways to improve how homeless people can access necessary services."*

At <https://www.tauranga.govt.nz/community/community-services/homelessness> it is stated:

"The steering group is investigating the feasibility of providing a housing clinic or hub located in the CBD where people needing housing, or at risk of homelessness, can access the relevant services in one, centralised location.

Discussions are also underway about undertaking a feasibility study on an emergency shelter for women."

Under The Stars (UTS) Submission

Under The Stars is a registered charitable trust. We work from donations from generous and kind people and businesses in the wider BOP community.

The **PURPOSE** of the Trust is to support the primary needs of the people who are poor and needy and those who are living *homeless* in Tauranga, with particular focus on their primary needs of food, water, warmth and shelter. In particular the Trust regularly provides free:

- 1 Meals and water beverages:
- 2 Personal hygiene maintenance items;
- 3 Clothing and blankets;
- 4 Other support and assistance that furthers the charitable purpose of the Trust.

UTS accepts the definition of '*Homeless*' as defined by Statistics New Zealand as

"a living situation where people with no other options to acquire safe and secure housing are: without shelter, in temporary accommodation, sharing accommodation with a household, or living in uninhabitable housing."

We meet at 45 Cliff Road every Saturday night at 6pm, (feeding from 80 – 150 homeless people) and Thursdays at 12pm (feeding up to 50 people.) We cook in our own kitchens and take our meals to town to share with the needy.

UTS believes the Council needs to hear what *THE HOMELESS* say – so we asked several homeless/rough sleepers to complete a submission form. The vast majority declined for various reasons, some reasons being

- illiteracy
- disinterested in the process as being undemocratic
- lack of confidence in there ever being meaningful dialogue or change

- lack of facilities to submit electronically and resistance to submit physically, as this would mean they had to enter council offices, in which they feel very unwelcome.

The Trustees managed to get 25 UTS homeless to participate/complete written submissions. These were in the form of a template questionnaire, asked and completed by Trustees through a face-to-face consultation. These are attached to this Submission, and are identifiable as being on UTS yellow templates.

We also recorded our own notes and comments, as some homeless declined to allow us to complete a form on their behalf.

We are satisfied that we have consulted and complied with natural justice, to the best of our abilities, in the given timeframe. We report our results below.

Summary of *Homeless* Submissions

No one choses to have to beg.

No one choses to sleep rough.

Tauranga has an unconfirmed 400 - 700 '*homeless*.' Many are illiterate or suffer from addictions or mental illness. They often have no 'legal' identification and cannot access the basic entitlements such as (WINZ) funding, housing, food. The facilities and resources available to house and support them falls short of their need. Whilst Tauranga is blessed with organisations that protect human rights and freedoms, for many homeless people in Tauranga, deprivation and persecution have become a way of life.

The Street Use and Public Places Bylaw 2018 - Council resolution 20 November 2018 - that banned begging and rough sleeping within 5 meters of a business premises (précis) was a typical knee-jerk reaction of NIMBY – it was never going to solve the problems of begging or rough sleeping, but was simply getting the problem out of sight.

Not many of the homeless beg. Most found it humiliating and demeaning. They acknowledged there had been a few beggars who had been aggressive and intimidating; they themselves agreed this was a police matter not a council matter. There was a general consensus that the period of the bylaw's enforcement had changed much of the nuisance/disturbance attitudes and behaviours.

Many of the homeless want temporary shelter – be it a tent-city, container city like OUR PLACE, or even the model of Mens' Shelter. They asked why so many buildings were empty in the city centre, which could temporarily house them eg. Bongard Centre. However, they all stressed that they cannot afford to pay for shelter. With a WINZ benefit of \$150 per week, \$50 for 5 days shelter was too costly. Nor are they happy to have 'criteria' they have to satisfy eg. lock-up times, curfews.

Many showed the physical injuries of rough sleeping – ulcers and sores from sleeping on concrete, bedding that was mouldy and damaged from transport, persistent coughs and untreated conditions due to lack of bathing facilities.

Many of the homeless empathised with businesses; but said the city should and could be shared by all. If rules were in place that 'rough sleeping' was only after hours eg. 6am -6pm, they would be happy. This could satisfy shop owners that their store fronts would be unhindered for customers in business hours.

Many repeated that they rough sleep in town for safety. They told of the dangers of threats, violence – from other homeless but also from the general public. They spoke of being spat at and kicked, called names and having their (meagre) possessions confiscated. They know the Council has security cameras and guards, and appreciate the safety it affords them. There was a general request that Council consider providing 'homeless lockers' or a venue where they can safely store their possessions.

Some asked just to be treated as humans, and be given some dignity. It was almost impossible to get a job if you were unkempt and had no transport – no job, no money was a vicious cycle many wanted to break. They just needed assistance.

UTS Trustees

We as Trustees welcome the proposed revocation of the begging/rough sleep bylaw. It is illegal and contrary to the spirit of the Council's mandate.

We welcome the idea of a steering group to investigate provision of a housing clinic or hub located in the CBD where people needing housing, or at risk of homelessness, can access the relevant services in one, centralised location. UTS currently has a free office at the 148 BASE STATION and proposes the Committee consider funding this to include representation of all local agencies and organisations that provide a comprehensive

range of support services for homeless individuals and families. Most have already been identified by the Council and include (and needs to be updated regularly):

- Haeata Charitable Trust provide meals for people in need in Gate Pa each Saturday night
- Huria Marae in Judea – provides soup kitchen, access to cooking facilities, ablution block and laundry room one day a week
- Journey Restorative Trust provides community meals and support services
- Kai Aroha provides meals to those in need on Friday nights in Greerton
- St Peters House provides a drop in lunch every Tuesday, 11.30am to 1pm, as well as counselling support and referral service to Tauranga Food Ban
- Under the Stars – provides meals for people in need in the City Centre each Saturday night and Thursday lunch
- Child Youth and Family (CYFS)
- Housing New Zealand
- Merivale Community Centre
- Salvation Army runs a free public health outreach clinic on Monday mornings on Cameron Road, Tauranga
- Te Tawharau o te Ora Emergency housing
- Te Tuinga Whanau Support Services
- Tauranga Moana Nightshelter for men
- Tauranga Community Housing Trust
- Toi te Ora Public Health Community Services
- Ministry of Social Development
- Tauranga Budget Advisory Service
- Pop Up Shelter

Finance Minister and Wellington Central MP Hon. Grant Robertson hit the nail on the head when he said that *"increasing poverty in New Zealand and a lack of social housing are the root causes of people begging on our streets. Begging is merely the shop window of a series of social issues we are not dealing with as a country."*

The only sustainable way to deal with the issues of begging and homelessness is to assist those currently on the streets – into suitable housing and the wraparound services they need – and to fix our social fabric to prevent others from being forced to beg or sleep rough. Short-term measures like banning begging or sleeping from specific spaces will only shift the problem, not address it. Thank you.



Beverley Edwards

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
078	dana dunford	Greerton	Keep the bylaw, it would not be fair on the ship-owners not to have any grounds to have a safe and welcoming access to their shops for customers. thank you
079	Tori Te Paa	Pyes Pa	I believe that there has definitely been high tension between business owners and people displaying intimidating behavior while begging or sleeping in the streets. But this inappropriate behavior can come from anyone and I believe is a separate issue from begging and rough sleeping. This bylaw is targeting an incredibly vulnerable community and is effectively moving the problem instead of dealing with it, sleeping in city areas is often safer for them and begging may be their only way of making an income to survive. It is also almost impossible to enforce. I believe it would be a good idea to remove it from the street use bylaws and instead focus on finding ways to deal with inappropriate behaviors in public places, creating a relationship with the homeless community and working on improving mental health, addiction and housing services.
080	Chris Doms	Welcome Bay	<p>The bylaw should not be repealed. Although I did not support the bylaw originally (for the reasons laid out in the new Council's desire to repeal it), the impetus to remove the bylaw as it stands is even weaker. Councillor Baldock has proposed a change that would protect the existing bylaw from legal challenge, and I see absolutely no good reason to repeal the bylaw when such an amendment would suffice.</p> <p>It should be obvious that we don't want homeless beggars outside shops. Yes council needs to have compassion and work towards better long term solutions, but for now removing a bylaw that prohibits antisocial behavior simply doesn't make practical sense.</p>
081	Ron mcdiarmid	CBD	<p>The council say the bylaw is not the most appropriate way to deal with the begging issue.</p> <p>The evidence at greerton sggests quite the opposite.</p> <p>The homeless and the begging are indeed seperate issues. Not all beggars are homeless and we know this for a fact. New council elected members in particular should remember, they were elected by ratepayers and not homeless. That should be the people that they look after at the top of their list. They must look after the people whom are being intimidated by beggars.</p>
082	Dan W	Parkvale	This bylaw is a clear breach of the bill of rights and should never have passed in the first place so I agree it should be revoked.
083	Tracy Plane	Wellington	<p>I believe the clauses in the bylaw started with good intentions, but the result is misguided. It is not possible to ban poverty, rough sleeping or homelessness. If it was that easy, big cities all over the world would have solved this years ago.</p> <p>No longer living in Tauranga, I can see that this decision has created a negative profile - people view Tauranga as a heartless and punitive city when it comes to those living in poverty.</p> <p>Tauranga City Council needs to work with partners ensure it has wraparound services for rough sleepers, and you need to find other ways to work with shopkeepers.</p> <p>Rough sleeping happens in every city in the world. There must be more humane lessons to learn.</p>
084	Rachael Paton	Oropi	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I would be very upset if this by law was revoked. I did not complain previously but have found the changes to the law have made shopping in and around Tauranga much more pleasant.</p> <p>I had got to the stage where I only shopped in malls, as visiting the CBD and Greerton was almost scary with all the beggars around. It was out of control and so intimidating. I felt so sorry for the local older people as they could not even shop without fear in their local area.</p> <p>Also be mindful that Greerton has a primary school right in town, and the bus stop there became a hang out for drunk beggars.</p> <p>It was my understanding from talking to local shop owners that many of the beggars around Greerton came in from out of their towns to beg in Tauranga as they couldn't in their local towns.</p> <p>Please do not change the by law. I feel changing the by law you will be putting the nail in the coffin for local Greerton shops and for the CBD.</p> <p>Please take the time to talk to all the Greerton shops to really understand the extent of the problem, and understand that this Bylaw has been a positive thing for the community. You are still able to implement strategies for at risk Tauranga locals, which won't allow the out of town people back in to ruin our community shopping.</p> <p>Thanks</p>
085	Brett Hunter	Otumoetai	<p>The current by-law was a very positive step and while it is difficult to quantify its effectiveness it is generally accepted to have had an effect.</p> <p>The current by-law was a response to growing public dissent over a burgeoning problem. This was a shining example of the council listening to its constituents.</p> <p>The move to repeal the by-law is a slap in the face of us, the ratepayers and constituents, and a bowing to pressure from minority social pressure groups who are not representative of the population of the people you serve.</p>
086	pip brook	CBD	As part of Street Kai I would like to speak on behalf of third marginalised by the gay laws and support the revoking of them.
087	Andre	Greerton	I own a business in Greerton, and since this by law has been in place I no longer have people sleeping in front of my building, begging and intimidating my customers for money, urinating on and around my front door. I own a restaurant at it has been very hard since the roaring changes but this bylaw has been a small help in trying to revitalise greerton again. Revoking this bylaw will cause immeasurable damage to our businesses. I beg that you don't revoke it.

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088	Talia Thornley	Greerton	Before the bylaw was made, I didn't feel comfortable walking down town especially with my young daughter. Often if people are on the position to live on the street and beg is out of mental illness and you can not trust mentally ill person. They go pee wherever they can and it stinks. If you want to improve down town and have more visitors, you need to make it a comfortable environment, pretty looking and easy accessible (good parking). You should be helping the businesses that contribute to society (rate payers), not those who just take from society. WINZ pays enough money that they don't need to beg. They beg to waste money on addictions. I saw a man once get an bottle of alcohol out of the trash bin and drink from it. There should be a half way house for people like this. To help with their addictions, get a job and support them. You are just encouraging the bad habits.
089	Erin Little	Papamoa	I agree with the present By Law. There are plenty of other places around Tauranga, like the grandstand in the Domain which would give shelter, and other parks where they would not offend residents.
090	Maurice O'Reilly	CBD	In my view this is 2 separate issues : 1. A problem with homeless people in our community. This has been effectively dealt with in other countries by providing some basic shelter with ablution facilities. (Not a house but an easily accessed dormitory where users can come and go as they wish.) 2. A begging problem. The business community and their customers should not be exposed to harassment or even made feel mildly uncomfortable by beggars in our streets. The recent Bylaw is evidently effective in dealing with that so should not be changed.
091	Melanie Norton	Welcome Bay	I do not agree with the proposed changes. I think the bylaw should remain in place at this time. The issue of begging and rough sleeping can be addressed through all the other desired methods while the bylaw is still in place. There is no link between revoking the bylaw & achieving better outcomes for the homeless by addressing underlying issues. You can have both. The bylaw is just another tool. As in - "I am entitled to be here - there is no law against it". Well, now there actually is. For some it is obviously enough to discourage them. The bylaw has helped to relieve the problem. Law abiding citizens have rights too, and should have the right to go to shops & businesses without being intimidated by begging and rough sleepers lounging around. This problem has improved after the bylaw was introduced. I take my elderly mother out to do her shopping every Friday and she was becoming increasingly distressed by beggars and homeless people sleeping in doorways. It is much better now and I do not wish to see that revert. I support taking the desired measures across all the appropriate social services to address underlying issues and help these people - but I do not support removing the bylaw.
092	Stephen Twitchin	Otumoetai	This has been a very effective Bylaw. Please keep it as it is and consider extending it to smaller suburban shopping areas such as Broofkfield, Bureta and Cherrywood. Please don't waste time and money fixing something that works.
093	Amanda Crowther	Pyes Pa	I agree with the proposed changes. The current by-laws provisions under review seem unenforceable and more for publicity purposes than for actually addressing the root causes.
094	Jim Verran	not supplied	From my actual experience this ban mist continue I'm a commercial LL & do not want or need these people on my property I must look after my tenants If this provision is removed do we get the police to remove these persons!!!! We must look after those commercial tenants as they pay rates etc.
095	Evan Riggir	Oropi	My family uses Greerton village for preschool, library and access to shops etc, and with young children of 2 and 4 years we noticed a definite improvement in the feeling of safety and appearance in Greerton Village. My children were happier and more enthusiastic about visiting the village after the by-law was introduced, and seeing their reaction to the introduction if the begging by-law and how it improved the feel of the area for them I would not support removing the by-law. I do however support including the by-law in a strategy to reduce the occurrence of these issues going forwards.
096	Susan Bibby	Hairini	I consider the current Street Use and Public Places Bylaw 2018 should remain unaltered i.e. - 20.2 & - 20.3 should not be removed. I understand the previous Youth Hostel off the bottom of Elizabeth Street has for several years been accommodation for the homeless (Tauranga Moana Nightshelter) together with Āwhina House (for women). It does neither the homeless nor the city any good to allow sleeping in shop doorways or closeby when shelters are available and if the homeless use the shelters and there is not enough space then the parties running these shelters will be aware and the city can work towards providing more like accommodation. If people continue to sleep on the streets it is hard to know how much accommodation/help is required. Beggars elsewhere in the world do not have Social Welfare to call on but New Zealand residents do. There should be no need to beg especially in an intimidating manor. The community of Tauranga also has caring people helping the less fortunate with the Foodbank and church related services. We all have to abide by many laws/bylaws to ensure our communities function well.
097	Don Shewan	Papamoa	My feedback is to keep the bylaw But strengthen it to allow Police to arrest or remove people that are infringing this bylaw

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098	Dean Stewart	Papamoa	<p>Greetings.</p> <p>My submission is to keep the begging and rough sleeping provisions in the Street Use and Public Places Bylaw 2018.</p> <p>It has clearly sent the right message to those that believed they were entitled to use shop entrances to sleep and/or beg where the result was disruption to businesses and their customers. In the last few months I for one have enjoyed being able to move freely within the city without being harassed for money and looking at the aftermath of where the beggars and rough sleepers have been.</p> <p>If these provisions are revoked it will not be long before the organised begging groups are back and I can assure you that I will once again avoid visiting and shopping in the CBD.</p> <p>The current provisions of the bylaw must be retained to ensure customers keep going into the CBD and for the survival of the businesses there.</p>
099	Marion Henriksen	Papamoa	<p>I believe that there should be no begging nor rough sleeping in business areas. Everyone has the right to walk in these areas and feel comfortable. Business owners should be able to operate without their customers feeling intimidated and consequently losing business. There should be enough beds available through social services . There should also be food provided for those who cannot provide for themselves. There should also be adequate mental health support, drug and alcohol services within Tauranga.</p>
100	Paul Double	CBD	<p>Leave the current regulations in place while investigating the wider picture.</p> <p>In this way the current law, which has certainly made a difference, will continue to be implemented.</p> <p>While TCC (and other local bodies) have a part to play in dealing with the homeless it is primarily a government issue and the expenditure of local finances should be minimised.</p>
101	tony armstrong	Pyes Pa	<p>Greerton was like fort apache the bronx before the bill was past, now a pleasant peaceful place. Currently online (sun live) 89% of respondents wanted the current status quo kept in place. It behooves the council of Tauranga to support the ratepayers and hard working retailers of our city and not give credence to those that do not contribute anything to the community.</p> <p>KEEP THE BYLAW IN PLACE</p>
102	Hilary Palmer	Welcome Bay	<p>I believe that Council should NOT revoke or alter the bylaw. My reasons are -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * there is absolutely no need for begging of any kind in Tauranga; there are government agencies and private charities galore to cater for people who are unable to make ends meet for whatever reason. * The cruise ship season is upon us along with all the other tourism activities, and this combined with warmer weather brings out the beggars who are not in fact 'beggars' but would prefer to make an indecent income through sitting on the street behind a sign and a hat. This not a good look for Tauranga or Mt Maunganui. * there is no need for rough sleeping in Tauranga; again, there are government agencies, charities and safe houses which may be used. There are, of course, always a few people who when offered accommodation will refuse.
103	Allen Meredith	Bethlehem	<p>Leave the law as it stands.</p>
104	P A Cook	Papamoa	<p>I vote to keep the bylaw as it is.</p> <p>Rough sleepers & beggars do not need to sleep near or outside shopping areas.</p> <p>I support local shop owners whose business has suffered from the unpleasant sector of beggars rough sleepers. Greerton was targeted by some groups and sadly this may have affected genuine unfortunates but personally I would not like to have to clean up my shop front every morning or worry about customers being hassled & intimidated.</p> <p>Keep the Ban to prohibit begging & rough sleepers from Tauranga public places.</p>
105	Bruce Driver	Greerton	<p>I object to the proposed changes to the current bylaw.</p> <p>Shop owners and keepers, and the public on the street that use these shops need not be exposed or confronted to begging and rough sleeping exponents. These shop owners and keepers have invested in these shops as their livelihood and do not deserve to have this compromised.</p> <p>As a ratepayer I expect the council to look beyond just revoking the bylaw to address the bigger issue of placing these people, using and supporting existing organisations that are currently experienced in this area.</p>
106	kathleen collier	Mount Maunganui	<p>how bout you deal with the real issue mental health and stable housing and financial stress. I am disgusted that our local council encourages the discrimination and oppression of people who are vulnerable instead of encouraging connection with our community. Council needs to loosen the bylaws of what is suitable housing and encourage the use of unused buildings to be used as shelter for those who need it. They also need to provide more resources and wages for those that work with vulnerable people these services are 95% volunteer staff. Stop wasting money on research and proposals and paper work and start using that money to provide resources to make our council a place where there is no need to beg for food and sleep on the streets for anyone.</p>

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107	Lynn Phillips	Greerton	<p>PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN AND CHANGE THE BYLAW.</p> <p>I moved from Otumoetai to beside the Greerton shops in Mitchell Street and seen 1st hand the harrassment caused by these people and how the shops went downhill.</p> <p>I have seen older ladies coming out of the chemist and been harrassed into giving their medications to these so called HOMELESS!</p> <p>I have spoken to an older lady that bought \$20 worth of food for 1 and they put the food in the rubbish in front of this poor lady!</p> <p>I went past one early evening and looked at 1 of the 2 females and one of them turned around and said '■■■■ OFF' to me!</p> <p>I am begging Tenbel Powell to not let this happen again. It is horrible to live by and watch the decline of the area.</p>
108	Daryl Bonney	CBD	<p>As a business owner in the CBD employing a team of 10 and engaging with a client base of over 400, if the begging and vagrancy doesn't get sorted we will be moving out of the central city. Lease renewals are the time as business owners we make these decisions and in the absence of a cohesive plan to deal with the issue we have to vote with our feet and move to alternative non CBD lease location.</p> <p>The bylaw alone isn't the answer but it is part of the answer. The community has the resources to solve this issue, we need to come together with leadership, facilitation and coordination for a multifaceted approach.</p> <p>Only a council can make the bylaws required, as their contribution to the solution.</p> <p>Then communicate the plan so we can all get behind it and make the required changes.</p>
109	Mark Weston	CBD	<p>As an employee of a business in town I have been very concerned at times of having to move a homeless person on from our workplace doorway either early in the morning or at night time after working late, the introduction of the by law has helped tremendously with ensuring that these people stay away from our doorway making it a much safer environment to come and leave from work.</p> <p>We have also noted a higher number of foot traffic coming to our office to inquire about services we provide which has been good for business, current clients have also commented that it is nicer to come to our offices without an intimidating person begging at our doorway.</p> <p>I feel that to revoke the bylaw will be poor for business and it will also potentially endanger my safety as I will need to again ask these people to move on, I doubt any councilor has ever had to do this early in the morning and would understand what a n uncomfortable situation this is as quite often these people seem to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol.</p> <p>I voted a number of you into council hoping that you would do great things for the city but this just seems to be a step backwards, there are a number of facilities that will assist these people so why not put your energy into those departments that have the skills to deal with and assist these people rather than setting them loose onto the streets and hinder businesses that are already struggling and also intimidate the workers of these businesses and that of the general public who you are supposed to be serving.</p>
110	Stacey	CBD	<p>There has been a drop in homeless people on Devonport road/Elizabeth Street area the last few months. But the Bylaw still seems shoddy, the council officers to enforce it are no where to be seen. There are still intimidating homeless people sitting/sleeping in shop doors. It makes us feel unsafe to go to work and leave work each day. The only way i see getting them out is by police presence. There are places for these people to go to, there's jobs being advertised - they aren't using them and its hard to feel sorry for some of them when you know any money they receive is just going to cigis or alcohol. It shouldn't be our problem if they won't choose to help themselves</p>
111	Robyn Stein	Pyes Pa	<p>I have noticed the decrease in the homeless people harassing residents in Greerton since the bylaw was introduced, why lift it? Its working protect our Village!</p>
112	R Mathers	Athenree	<p>We all congratulated Council when this by law was passed as the city streets were a digrace - especially with tourists in town. We own a share of a large building and our tenants were fed up with layabouts hanging around their retail outlets. This back track is a weak and confusing action totally unnecessary. We object to any backdown. The threat had disappeared now you want it back - PC gone mad again.</p>
113	Simon Plaistowe	Pyes Pa	<p>I have just one thing to say. It's a simple concept. FIRST put your other measures in place to address the problem more effectively, THEN remove those clauses of the bylaw which have been rendered obsolete by your new measures.</p>
114	Terry Amos	Pyes Pa	<p>I would like you to keep the ban in place. As iv been in devonport rd going to vodafone and saw a homeless guy snatch a smoke out of a guys mouth. Ive been asked for money i say no sorry. There sleeping out side shops they leave a big mess so untidy it dicusting and they some times get abusive.</p> <p>Ive been asked by a lady for money so she can buy a cup of tea in greerton chadrick rd they sleep in the westpac part on camron rd and greerton in the money machane part so keep the ban in place</p>
115	Bev Pitkethley	Bethlehem	<p>The original change to the law bought about a positive change in the Greerton shopping area. As an elderly person and seen as 'vulnerable' I personally was accosted, abused and even spat at by individuals and once a group requesting money or goods. That is no longer happening and a change in the bylaw as I read it would allow for that. You cannot expect police and public to prevent it, the law change was positive. Don't destroy that.</p>
116	Rhonda & Tony Harrington	Welcome Bay	<p>We don't think there should be any change in the law as it stands. We are in the CBD and Greerton quite often. In the past if was very scary as older citizens to be bombarded and accosted by mainly large, male persons who often stood over us and demanded money. Since the law has been in place it has been far more pleasant to come into both these places. It would be retrograde to return to what we had.</p> <p>Today we went to Event theatre to a 1.20p.m. movie. There was someone rough sleeping in the alley besides the carpark. More than 5 metres from a retail entrance but so many people of all different ages traverse this area. When we returned he had packed up his bedding and was obviously intending to return. This still is not how we want our city presented to all comers.</p>
117	Pam Chapman	Papamoa	<p>Please keep the ban in place for the public's safety.</p> <p>I stopped going to down town Tauranga and Greerton to shop over 2 years ago because I hated being accosted by beggars and having to avoid walking on their stuff in the street.. they make the city an ugly disgusting place so why would you want to visit.</p>

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118	Vicki	Welcome Bay	Leave the bylaw as it is. Whether it is enforceable or not, it is working. The general public shouldn't have to suffer intimidation whilst going about their business and neither should shop keepers have their livelihood threatened. There are other places people can beg or sleep apart from shop entrances.
119	Nic	Otumoetai	I do not agree that this bylaw be removed. The message that it sends is one that needs to be sent. The city needs to take care of the people who are contributing toward it and paying taxes, law abiding citizens who are not taking drugs, drinking and threatening people all day. The people in charge owe it to us to correct the problems posed by the homeless, it seems to be that you are trying to wash your hands of it and ignore it, trying to be politically correct. Find another solution! Find one where the Police enforce these kind of laws!
120	Keith Macey	Papamoa	<p>These provisions SHOULD NOT be revoked. The public were fed up with the beggars and rough sleepers and the previous council dealt with it. The situation improved dramatically and people were able to move about without fear or apprehension.</p> <p>Before the by conditions were introduced, law abiding citizens stayed away from areas frequented by beggars and rough sleepers. My daughter who travels by bus and works down town was not comfortable and often challenged by these people. My mother who visits the Council now and then was virtually forced to ask someone to go with her as the beggars around the bus area were intimidating.</p> <p>You couldn't get into some shops without being hassled and that's not good enough. We should be supporting retailers, not making it hard for them to run a business peacefully.</p> <p>Also, what kind of signal does it send to the countless travellers who visit Tauranga when they see this kind of behaviour permitted and a toothless response from the Council. Diners using The Strand do not want to be hounded by beggars or see countless filthy rough sleepers in door ways.</p> <p>There is no excuse for begging or rough sleeping in Tauranga as there is plenty of social support. These people choose this lifestyle and should not be allowed to cause a nuisance and disrupt law abiding society.</p> <p>It is also unbelievable that this new Council should choose to look at this issue almost before they get settled in their chairs, given the numerous huge items which are more important and need addressing.</p>
121	Rob	Greerton	Please do not revoke this bylaw . We are a business owner and would like it to stay as it is now . We have family friends who have told us their uncles would go to beg in Greerton even tho they have a place to stay in pyes pa . The only time they go home is when the police are looking for them . This might not be the same for all but it is for some . As a ratepayer we appreciate that we are able to operate in a community of ratepayers who are willing to be a part of society. Just like we are not able to put signs up on footpaths , sell or do business wherever we please . The same sort of rule should apply to begging . You cannot just camp on public property, you cannot just start a business on public property. Which is why we want to keep it as it is .
122	Lorraine Taylor	Pyes Pa	<p>PLEASE DO NOT CHANGE. I now feel safe, comfortable and relaxed whilst shopping since the changes came into effect. Best thing the TCC council has done don't go and stuff it up like other Council decisions.</p> <p>Because I feel safe walking now, why change it back to the beggars... What about my rights...</p>
123	Shirl	Greerton	<p>DO NOT REVOKE THE BEGGING BYLAW</p> <p>Removing 20.1 and 20.2 is absolutely ridiculous. You try living in an area where the beggars give you filthy looks etc and make you feel so uncomfortable that you won't enter shops. Ok for a lot of men, but you try older people and a lot of kids. Let alone visitors to our country. We want them to remember the Clean Green New Zealand. Beggars sure don't put that across. We need them still banned. Make all of us feel safe and proud to be a New Zealander... not scared and ashamed.</p>
124	Esther Richards	Parkvale	I hope you don't reverse this. I live in Parkvale and my nearest shopping centre is Greerton. I am also reliant on a mobility scooter to get around. Before this ban came into place, when riding along the shops on Chadwick Road, there would be people all over the side walk making the street look untidy. They often showed no concern for other users of the space, walking across or stepping backwards into the path while chatting with others. The area there had a lovely friendly feel, and that totally disappeared. I wouldn't want to stop and go into shops as I didn't want to leave my scooter unattended with my little dog sitting on it. Once the ban came into place, they all disappeared, and slowly that friendly feeling has come back. The street looks tidy and welcoming again, and I feel it's safe enough to go into shops leaving my scooter outside. I felt for the retailers, often small business owners in that area, and how much income they would have lost when people just didn't want to go there.

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125	Roland Gane	Greerton	<p>I remember when the begging started a few years ago, my partner and myself being asked for money/smokes. One day one of the beggars said she was going to f**k my partner up when she told her if she spent as much energy in looking for job as begging then she would have a job!</p> <p>Have seen multiple instances of beggars hassling people in the past around chemist, atm's, countdown, lotto, and dairy's!</p> <p>Now it's great, no body being hassled or intimidated (especially the old)!</p> <p>I have been on the bones of my arse before and I never begged, used my brain instead!</p> <p>So please don't change the by-law.</p> <p>Many thanks</p> <p>Roland!</p>
126	John Eden	Tauriko	<p>I do not support any changes to the current bylaw as proposed by Tauranga City Council. I have lived in Tauranga since 1980 , in the Tauriko area. Greerton has and will always be an important shopping and community area for myself and my family. Over the last few years, I have become involved in running events held in Tauranga and outlying areas. Working on an orchard till early evening and having no street lighting, I have commuted to Greerton several evenings a week since 2015 ,to pound the footpaths under street lighting. Generally during summer this would occur around 7-8.30pm and over winter around 6-7.30pm. For the first few years I enjoyed the atmosphere in Greerton and the general behaviour of the public. At no stage did I ever feel intimidated or threatened. There were 1-3 people who I noticed on a regular basis sitting outside shops with an empty coffee cup or even moving around the area on foot looking for cigarette butts. These people obviously had issues and it was obvious that alcohol was one of them. Local people would often support them by providing food and drink and and also by talking to them. During the day, you would often not see these people sitting outside shops in the area. Things began to change over the last couple of years and the number of people sitting outside shops increased. groups of these people had cardboard signs appealing to the public for support. There were generally more of these people outside food shops during the evening as there was more foot traffic with the public getting dinner,etc. I started to feel intimidated as groups moved around the shopping area in the evening and I was running on the footpath and trying to avoid bumping into them . I witnessed Alcohol being openly consumed in the evening and cans were left lying around the area , especially on seating. Vans or people movers started appearing making contact with the people using signs and supplying them with food . It was obvious that they were working together as a group. Eventually, the local shoppers started to disappear in the evening and the food shops were alot quieter. I started to think about doing my running elsewhere as the behaviour of these groups was unsettling and I didnt feel safe. I am in my 60's , of slight build and always on my own when running. My thoughts were about being attacked or accosted when moving through these groups or when entering or exiting my vehicle. Once the bylaw was introduced things changed over a short period. I noticed fewer groups congregating and eventually no people with signs outside shops. Part of the reason was due to the lack of foot traffic that had been occurring due to the group presence and threatening behaviour, but suddenly around the time of the bylaw introduction I noticed more police car presence on the streets doing patrols . I witnessed urinating in public , alcohol consumption and disorderly behaviour during my time running around the streets of Greerton in the last few years which was not pleasant and made me very uneasy. This behaviour has improved remarkably and I enjoy my running sessions as well as seeing the families in the local communities out enjoying their shopping centres. My final thought is that the Council should keep the current bylaw as it stands until other action can be shown to be making a real difference to the homeless situation, rough sleeping, and people with issues that continue to occur in the wider community.</p>
127	Heather Roberts	Pongakawa	<p>why would you change the bylaw if it is working? I would be very uncomfortable walking through a group of people outside a shop and it seems to be obvious that the majority of these people are not homeless and they are just intimidating people into giving them money.</p>
128	Wendy O'Connor	Otumoetai	<p>In my opinion this would be a huge step backwards for the Tauranga CBD and would be the absolutely worse thing that could happen for the retailers. I agree with Simon Bridges comment in that the problem would get worse</p>
129	Rob Poad	Otumoetai	<p>I have noticed the reduction in numbers of homeless in the cbd. Prior to the bilaw it was out of control. If tauranga wants people to come into the city it needs the current law.</p> <p>I believe that the council can help with homeless, but to allow begging and rough sleeping in the streets is not in the interests of ratepayers or the city. A better idea would be a industrial building with a dorm style bedding where they are allowed to stay at our expense.</p> <p>The removal of the bilaw is extremely short sighted, and shows the naivety of a new council.</p>
130	Sacha Williams	not supplied	<p>HI sacha williams</p> <p>Here you could not even grasp the gravity of the trauma these people have lived through to live on the streets</p> <p>yes I will be godamb speaking thanks</p> <p>see yo there</p> <p>sacha</p>
131	Dave	Bellevue	<p>Homeless should not be encouraged to sleep in ratepayers doorways. if our servants the council employees would like them to have somewhere to sleep they are welcome to offer their own doorways!</p>

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
132	Jean Craven	CBD	The city centre is already looking like an unkempt, dying centre and there are still a few doorways with sleepers/beggars and their rubbish. However it is an improvement since the introduction of the bylaw. AND having been abused and threatened I feel safer.
133	Judy Wood	Greerton	I work full time at the Bank of New Zealand Greerton and would be extremely disappointed to see the bylaw as it currently stands revoked. Since introduction of the bylaw Greerton has become a vibrant village and many many of our customers now feel comfortable and safe coming back to Greerton and using our ATM and visiting our Branch, they tell us this regularly. Before the introduction of the bylaw they were intimidated threatened and almost assaulted on a daily basis the place was a slum and we had constnat issues with people sleeping in our underground carpark harassing staff constantly. I know for a fact our Cameron Road 13th Ave Branch has constant issues with so called beggars sitting outside their ATM, these people are not homeless they are purely asking for money. I would be extremely disappointed this new council if it removes the begging and rough sleeping provisions contained in the Street Use and Public Places Bylaw 2018, they really have no idea how bad it was and I for one of many, do not want that back again.
134	Ben Burnand	CBD	This bylaw should be revoked. Even though it came about through good intentions, it is not enforceable and all it does is move the problem elsewhere to satisfy business owners. Concentrate on working with community groups and charities in this space. These people need help and support not alienation. For the criminal element of those begging, work with NZ Police to combat this.
135	Norman Mcleod	Tauriko	I can not believe that the council is even considering removing the begging and rough sleeping clauses it had introduced. I am not a Greerton retailer, but frequently shop there. The difference in the streets is quite profound really, since the by law was introduced. It is a pleasant experience to shop there again because the scruffy intimidating begging element has basically gone. It had got to the point where I would shop elsewhere and avoid Greeton. I got a sick and tired of feeling quite confronted walking past the beggars taking up footpath space of ratepayers. Everyone, including the council knows the impact these begging scammers were having on the whole atmosphere in Greerton. We the ratepayers, and business people vote you councilors in to represent our interests, not to backtrack and bower down to minority pc groups. If the clauses are removed, then how can any of us ratepayers have any confidence in councils looking after our interests. The new by law clearly had made a huge difference. It is like night and day. If the by laws are removed, Greerton will once again become a blight on the landscape, with the beggars getting what they wanted. They question why there is poor voter turn out at local body elections. It is no wonder when we rate payers have to contend with such wishy washy pc council policies.
136	Reynar	CBD	Our colleges have been intimated and followed by rough sleepers and beggers outside our offices and do not feel safe coming and leaving work the issue was raised with the police and nothing was done. This should not be removed from the bylaw unless another arrangement is put in place first as we do not feel safe coming to work.
137	Jan Ballinger	Gate Pa	I am against any changes the council want to make regarding this bylaw. I live in Greerton and walk to the . Before this bylaw was changed I stopped walking anywhere around Greerton, when I did I was asked for money constantly and felt very intimidated by these people. If you decide to change this bylaw back to like it was before then II will not shop in Greerton at all. I don't have a problem with these people been five meters away from the entrance door of these shops. Once again why would you want to change something that is now working unlike the traffic light and round-a-bouts you created in Greerton. Council you need to have a long hard look at some of the decisions you are making. Annoyed resident from Greerton.
138	Kay Linn	Greerton	The bylaw has been working and it should definitely remain in place. I own a business in Greerton and would be devastated to go back to how it was a couple of years ago. I strongly believe that if Greerton is allowed to again be overrun by scamming beggars then many businesses will close & Greerton will be no more - just somewhere to drive through if you can't avoid it. I can't understand how revoking a bylaw is even being discussed without doing a review to see if it is working or having an alternative plan in place.
139	Malcolm Smith	Welcome Bay	Tauranga has been a better place without the homeless littering the streets or lying around being a nuisance. Revoking this recent move will be another political move by TCC supporting the demise of our city's urban"health and wellbeing".
140	Patricia Bennett	Mount Maunganui	Il have read the proposed changes to the draft bylaw and am opposed to the changes as outlined. I do not agree as stated that the rough sleeping and begging is a perceived problem. For those encountering it as part of their everyday, it is a reality. The bylaw is currently working according to retailers in the affected areas despite the council's perceived flaws in its enforcement. I believe there are other options to support the genuine homeless with local and central government funding of appropriate community services. In my opinion the changes would negate the councils stated responsibility to-Protect the public from nuisance; • Protect, promote and maintain public health and safety; • Minimise the potential for offensive behaviour in public places.
141	gary Bennett	Mount Maunganui	I absolutely oppose the revocation of the by by- laws currently in place in Tauranga to lessen the effect of rough sleeping and begging on the citizens going about their normal business. To put the interests of theses no-hopers ahead of the possible futures of hard working retailers and their staff apalls me. To put the interests of these losers ahead of the intimidation of elderly citizens going about their normal business seems incredible to me. Stand up and have some courage it is your responsibility as a council to provide a safe and secure city for your ratepayers (with police assistance if necessary)
142	mark decke	Greerton	just leave it as is its working.
143	Hanifah Razak	Parkvale	In Greerton, the by-laws are working. Why fix something that is already working and the businesses in the area are happy with. For once how about listening to the people who are running the shops there and the customers and the foot traffic who are frequenting the shops.
144	Withdrawn		

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
145	Celia Wiren	Brookfield	<p>I am very much in favour of: Revocation of the begging and rough sleeping provisions - Street Use and Public Places Bylaw 2018</p> <p>I agree that the underlying issues that cause begging and rough sleeping should be addressed through collaboration with local social agencies and homelessness service providers, along with central government, rather than through a bylaw.</p> <p>I agree that housing distress is an issue that needs to be addressed both in Tauranga and in the western Bay of Plenty</p>
146	Kirsty Middleton	Greerton	<p>Prior to this bylaw council bought in Greerton village was a horrible place to be. Beggars were everywhere and a lot of them were very intimidating , drunk or wasted , causing a general nuisance. Shops closed down because of it and people were avoiding the place. We know Of 2 different groups that got dropped off each day in Greerton to beg for money (1 had a van and 1 had a RAV4) . These people were not homeless , able to afford vehicles and food and alcohol and drugs. They also damaged the school after hours. Since the bylaw came in Greerton has been a wonderful place to shop and frequent and feel safe. I even feel safe sending my 13 year old down there by himself now. This will change again if bylaw is revoked !! Please don't do it.</p>
147	Tracey Carlton	Brookfield	<p>Im Tracey Carlton founder and Chairperson of Street Kai,Milo Nights a weekly inclusive community meal held in Tauranga CBD since winter 2017.Since winter 2017 our team of volunteers,Auntys have cared for and supported our vulnerable,homeless CBD community. Street Kai team would like to see both 5m bylaws revoked. We have walked beside this community weekly and experienced first hand the impact on their wellbeing and mental health. As a team we would like their to be more well rounded conversation,publics,vulnerable homeless community and retailers.To be expressed fairly with openness and transparency. More genuine discussion on proactive and positive solutions. Eg: the 5m bylaws take shelter and safety away from our most vulnerable in our community...what shelter,safety,stability will you replace this with!?</p>
148	Scott McLeod	Mount Maunganui	<p>The current rule of 5 meters is working. It seems counter productive to remove and spend time on this issue.</p> <p>Rough sleeping, begging is not banned under current rule. It's just taken away from areas where the practice changes human behaviour. "I won't go to that pharmacy, shop because that's where the beggars are".</p> <p>To having thriving business of brick and mortar you need protect access. Online shopping has no beggars. Let's not provide reasons to drive people away.</p>
149	Ivan Hamilton	Maungatapu	<p>I do not want the current bylaw to be changed.The introduction has got rid of the so called "homeless" yobbos who just intimated the public and only wanted money .It is much more pleasant to walk through either the CBD or Greerton and not be accosted by these people.Before it.s introduction Devonport Rd and Grey St were a disgrace .If you do revoke the bylaw make sure you have measures in place that we do not revert back as before .</p>
150	Sallee Roberts	Welcome Bay	<p>Please keep the bylaw in place as it has definitely made a difference to the smaller shopping areas and the CBD. I used to hate going to Greerton and the CBD, especially early in the morning, because of the numbers of people sleeping rough.</p> <p>By keeping the bylaw, hopefully it will make people realise that they do impact on the lives of others, and that it is advisable to ask for help.</p> <p>Another positive reason to keep the bylaw is that Greerton and the CBD look far cleaner than they did before the bylaw came in.</p>
151	Veronica Gell	Welcome Bay	I do not want the current bylaw revoked.
152	Theresa McNabb	Welcome Bay	<p>The current bylaw should remain in place.</p> <p>It has proven to have made significant improvement in the begging and rough sleeping issues both in Tauranga and Greeton.</p> <p>The alternative options to address the underlying problems behind begging and rough sleeping need to be in place and working before any consideration to remove the bylaw is undertaken. As yet, this is not the case.</p> <p>The protection and safety of the majority of the public must be the first consideration. In Tauranga, the bus station is a place where people should feel safe - prior to the bylaw, it was not.</p> <p>Get the alternative options working, and when they have proven to be a solution, reconsider the removal of the bylaw. Until then, it is the only way to ensure the safety and protection of the public wanting to go about their general business.</p> <p>Make it a challenge to get the alternative options in place quickly and effectively - achieving that will show how committed council are to resolving the issue.</p>
153	Georgia Fielding	Pahoia	<p>All in support of revoking this bylaw. As a city we need to find the root cause of the problem regarding homelessness and rough sleeping. Simply removing them from sight is not an effective way to manage the situation, we need to show compassion and understanding, and stop putting a band aid on a problem that can be better resolved in a more meaningful and effective way. Our homeless need our love and support, more facilities and better access to mental health and work support.</p> <p>Let's not sweep this under the rug any longer.</p>
154	Mary Rotgans	Ohauiti	<p>I use Greerton on a regular basis now. I did not enjoy my experience prior to the law change. I believe professional beggars were brought in and they were in your face and intimidating. I would be short changed on my shopping options if the beggars come back. I travel by bus and do not have a direct route to Frazer Cove anymore, so Greerton has become my primary stop now.</p> <p>I am against the law being repealed</p>

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
155	Helena Ftizgerald	Greerton	<p>Please do not change the new bylaw. Leave it the way it is..</p> <p>I feel alot.. safer walking around Greerton now. Why are you doing this.? My elderly mum can walk down the street now. A year ago she was too scared to. These people not only begged but they were suppliers of P drug. They were hustling and supplying this drug at the corner of Mitchell street. These people were the masterminds behind the P epidemic in Greerton. Allowing them to sleep and beg outside shops.....what you will do to a community with this allowance again... Once the bylaw came in these people went. I will be sick to the stomach if they return again. I was abused myself walking around Greerton. They were organised with the begging. Do not undo the good you have done. It will cause outrage to alot of the public and upset the elderly and a lot live down Mitchell street. A lot of the elderly people cant submit their feelings and keep silent.</p> <p>thank you for your consideration</p>
156	Graeme MILLS	Omanawa	DO NOT revoke the Begging and Rough Sleeping Ban. It has worked well in return the various CBD's to the majority of rate-paying citizens who have no felt safe in the relevant areas.
157	William Coakley	Gate Pa	<p>Although homelessness needs to be addressed at a root cause. The current bylaw at least gives some ability of enforcement for begging and sleeping rough. If beggars are allowed to sleep and beg in public places with no consequence then they will continue to do so and the numbers will increase. Which in turn will drive away customers making the area even more undesirable for customers and business.</p> <p>As mentioned: -The underlying issues that cause begging and rough sleeping should be addressed through collaboration with local social agencies and homelessness service providers, along with central government, rather than through a bylaw.</p> <p>This statement just implies that its someone else's problem. If the bylaws are revoked and this is the proposed solution. Then what social agencies are going to take responsibility for the issues created by the beggars? What plans do the central government have for addressing the problem? It doesn't make sense to remove a bylaw that is actually working with no other plan in place.</p>
158	Paul Collins	Tauranga South	The bylaw should be retained. Off course it is an appropriate means of reducing the nuisance and negative impacts. That is evident by the difference since it came into force, both in the Tauranga CBD and in Greerton. Is it an effective way to reduce the need for those in genuine need who have had to resort to rough sleeping or to beg? No definitely not, and yes it is important that our communities and the social agencies seek to addressed this. Will revoking the bylaw do anything to reduce those in need? No it won't. It will simply allow those people for whom begging is a choice (usually to fuel a drug habit) to feel that they can return. Those new council member who voted to revoke the bylaw should realise they are only new on the job and should be guided by public opinion in matters where they bring limited knowledge. And in this case the public opinion is clear. The bylaw should stay.
159	Kevin Hughes	Pyes Pa	<p>The Bylaw has made these shopping areas a pleasure to frequent as opposed to running the gauntlet of beggars, the majority of which chose to live the way the do. Tackling the problem by other means does not work. Some are professional beggars and get dropped off by car in a morning. Some beg because it's easier than working. I knew someone who gave a beggar in Greerton a McDonalds but he didn't want it as he only wanted cash ... presumably to fuel a drugs habit! My company used to employ somebody earning good money but he chose to live rough so he could spend more money on alcohol!</p> <p>Don't change the Bylaw or risk people not frequenting these areas ... I will not if changed.</p>
160	Julie Turnbull	Katikati	The current bylaw is at least a statement of intent that rough sleeping in high public traffic areas is not acceptable. Squatting outside of business's where people make their living that contribute by employment and payment of taxes, where others enjoy to shop does nothing to improve the squatters or homeless prospects. Social services surely will not be enhanced by letting people sleep rough in public spaces by the revocation of this bylaw.
161	P.Bowler	Gate Pa	If the bylaws change letting the begging and rough sleeping back my wife and I will do our shopping etc fortnightly in Rotorua.
162	Dianne Ericksen	Greerton	Please do not change the by law back, it has been a pleasure to walk the Greerton Village each day without the beggars giving us grief, so nice to see happy shopkeepers and shoppers once more, without the bodies lolling in the doorways. As an elderly person I feel safe once more.
163	Claire Stuit	Bellevue	<p>I do NOT agree that you should change the existing bylaw. Put the 'better' proposed options in place and then by your own reasoning the problem will be solved. Leave the Bylaw as it stands.</p> <p>Bet the Councillors that suggested this haven't experienced the bullying tactics employed themselves.</p>
164	Jo McIlwaine	Oropi	Absolutely ludicrous even thinking about revoking the begging/rough sleeping bylaw. We emigrated to NZ 18 years ago from the UK and have lived in the vicinity of Greerton/Pyes Pa the whole time. Greerton is a beautiful and unique and apart from Cherrywood the only real community village in Tauranga. We have already lost our post office and one of our banks and the locals are fighting to keep it's community spirit. We had 5 of the beggars take up resident outside our property on Oropi Road (next to reserve above Greerton Marist) under a tree which was the most terrifying experience to live with day to day especially when they tried to set the tree on fire. The drugs and abuse is terrifying. They had been offered help but refused it so if they don't want to help themselves then why should we hand them a golden ticket to sit on our streets and terrorize our elderly and community. We avoided Greerton whilst it was all happening last year and we will do the same if you revoke this bylaw. If it was the Mayor or the councillors local neighbourhood or houses they were doing this to there would be no discussion over this. Think of the people that live in the community and how it will affect them. DO NOT REVOKE THIS BYLAW

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
165	David Napier	Bellevue	<p>I oppose the revocation of the clauses from the By-Law.</p> <p>My reasons are these -</p> <p>Council has not demonstrated that these "other methods" are in place and are effective, therefore these clauses in the by-law are the only measures currently and actively being imposed to deter intimidatory behaviour and rough sleeping. Once there is measurable reduction in the presence of these people within the commercial areas as a result of these "other methods" should the By-Law then be reviewed.</p> <p>From a tourism perspective, these people do not give visitors (national or international) the impression this is a safe city. They need to have other places to go.</p> <p>From a business perspective, commercial area retail shops struggle against the draw of shopping malls and big box retail at the best of times. The intimidating behaviour of these people will drive some shoppers away.</p> <p>Yes they need help and support, but throwing money at them is not the answer. The number of times I have walked past some of them openly smoking P on the street is unacceptable, not good for our youth to see, and puts fear into people about how unpredictable these people might be as a result of the drugs they are on.</p> <p>Do not revoke the by-law, until you fix the underlaying problem.</p>
166	Natalie	Pyes Pa	I don't think you should remove clauses 20.2 or 20.3 as these clauses have made the town centres far more pleasant for all the tax paying non-homeless people in Tauranga. I don't see that you need to remove these clauses in order to help the homeless more, you can still do that with the current by law in place.
167	Anne Langley	Gate Pa	<p>Yes the homeless need assistance but that should be a separate issue from them begging and sprawling out on the footpath</p> <p>I am retired and have felt threatened by those begging and sprawling.</p> <p>I was too scared to go to the ATM outside Westpac one day .</p> <p>Greerton is much nicer with current bylaw.</p> <p>The business owners are happier this way too</p>
168	Penny	Papamoa	Please do not revoke the begging and rough sleeping provisions. The same laws in place before the bylaw was introduced did not work and still won't work if revoked. Talk to the shop owners and community and you will find that Tauranga is a much better place to work and shop. Revoke the bylaw and see the businesses struggle as people avoid shopping there once again.
169	Adrian Canle	Matua	The law is working, do not change it. The improvement in the Greerton shopping experience is profound. The public will be taking names! Do not expect re election if you vote to repeal this by law.
170	Ian Thomson	Hairini	I strongly feel that this by-law must without question stay in force. The councillors who wish to repeal it should actually go out to Greerton and quietly talk to shoppers. No photographers or "look at me" signs should be present so that they will get genuine answers from the locals who shop there. They can't seem to grasp how threatened passers by feel. Some folk feel a lot more worried during winter months and lets face it the Police can't be around all the time as they just don't have the staff.
171	Nola Fitzgerald	Greerton	<p>Please do not revoke the new bylaw for begging. I am elderly and feel so much safer now in my home. I walk to the shops now. Please respect the elderly community. People that pay their taxes. The young children who go to school in Greerton dont let them be exposed to this anymore. Please do no change the bylaw. We worked hard for our money for years, fought wars, paid taxes. Respect and help the elderly.</p> <p>Thank you kindly</p>
172	Lisa Craig	Ohauiti	I think it would be a huge mistake to let begging and rough sleeping back. Especially at public shopping centres and town, the downturn in people shopping in Greerton and the city was very noticeable when the begging was there, they can be very intimidating and threatening. I'm sure a lot of them are on some sort of benefit, and most still can afford to drink and smoke.
173	Di Carter	Bethlehem	<p>I Have found begging in the streets of downtown Tauranga and Greerton very off putting and I feel being asked for money offensive. I have worked very hard to get to where i am today. Our downtown is dying, if you let begging continue to rule the centre at Downtown and Greerton, I like many others will go else where. By re introducing begging you will drive even the few rate payers and business people that are left away. I was shocked when I walked down Devonport road last week to find so many shops closed. Is this really what we voted you in for.</p> <p>I should be able to walk around the city(I PAY ENOUGH IN RATES THEY DONT) and feel safe at present we always escort each other back to their cars or drive them their and you wonder why the centre is dying.</p>

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
174	Suzanne Lankshear	Greerton	<p>Please do NOT remove the begging and rough sleeping provisions - Street Use and Public Places Bylaw 2018.</p> <p>I am 74 years old, disabled, and only just starting to feel safe at going down to the shops in Greerton Village.</p> <p>In the past, before the bylaw came into being, I was accosted after collecting my monthly medications from the chemist several times, accosted and abused after withdrawing money from the ATM (there's no longer two of the banks I have accounts with) and not giving money to beggars, forced to stop my mobility scooter (and on one occasion reverse quickly) with fighting groups of drunken rough sleepers beside Zest in the Village square (and it's a non-alcohol area!), and asked for money or cigarettes while seated quietly at 3 different cafes.</p> <p>It's been hard enough for the retailers with the recent traffic changes/construction, but Greerton had a far higher population of elderly and disabled people who live here for the flat streets and shops, but it hasn't been safe, and to revoke this bylaw - which was, after all, enacted as below:</p> <p>Clauses 20.2 and 20.3 of the Street Use and Public Places Bylaw 2018 were made under the Local Government Act 2002, which authorises the council to make bylaws for all or any of the following purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting the public from nuisance; • Protecting, promoting and maintaining public health and safety; • Minimising the potential for offensive behaviour in public places; <p>And to remove these two clauses (20.2 and 20.3) would cause Greerton to become the unsafe area it was before the Bylaw came in, and put at risk the health and safety of a large proportion of Greerton residents.</p> <p>We should be safe on our streets and not have to deal with rough sleepers or those vanned in from outside our area to beg, abuse and put fear of falling or injury into elderly or disabled people.</p> <p>I would love to have spoken to this submission, but find it very difficult to have people take me to go shopping or to meetings, so socially I am very isolated and to be unable to go safely into Greerton would really be even more isolating.</p>
175	Brian Samuels	Hairini	<p>Shame that we were not made aware of this proposal, before I cast my vote.</p> <p>I would have definitely voted differently.</p> <p>I have actually witnessed these so called "homeless" people, being dropped off by car, and setting themselves up for a day of being a nuisance.</p> <p>I frequently visit Greerton, on sunny days, when i have overseas guests stay, supporting the wonderful eateries, and coffee on offer there.</p> <p>If this reversal goes ahead, it will be the demise of Greerton; as I for one (along with many others I'm sure, just won't bother visiting there)</p> <p>Absolutely ludicrous, that you can even think about revoking the begging ban.</p>
176	Kim	Otumoetai	<p>What a joke this new council is, for goodness sake leave something that is working well alone. So much for the new mayor & councillors understanding what Tauranga residents want & expect from them!</p>
177	Lee-Anne Knaggs	CBD	<p>I don't think you have the right to revoke this bylaw, you are putting the elderly and shop keepers at risk of harm and abuse from people begging, I should know as I have seen it for myself and also had to call the police to help get out of the shop I was working late in one night as one of the abusive beggars had blocked the entrance to the door and I couldn't get out safely. Since the bylaw has been in place Greerton has thrived back and is a fun place, you councillors obviously just want to make greerton a ghost town, like the CBD, closed shops everywhere and make a thriving community broke.</p>
178	Joan Sycamore	Welcome Bay	<p>This is just idiotic.I too won't shop at Greerton if they reverse this law.</p>
179	A. Mercer	Greerton	<p>Greerton is a much nicer place since the begging and rough sleeping law was made. Please keep the existing law as shoppers have now come back to the area which is good and feels a safer area to wander around.</p>
180	Michelle Pratt	Papamoa	<p>I can't believe that Councillors are that PC and frankly stupid to not see the difference this has made in a community for both shop owners and the general public. Do they want to see more vacant shops like Tauranga!!!! You don't have to be a rocket scientist to figure this out.</p> <p>It was disgusting and unacceptable to be abused by people tough sleeping. The elderly and young children should not have to confront this on a daily basis.</p> <p>Social issues that surround these people are complex and begging does not resolve any of the issues just complicated and makes situations worse.</p> <p>I can't believe the stupidity of this decision.</p>
181	Melissa Hayes	Gate Pa	<p>Please do not revoke these laws keep 20.2 and 20.3. Also it is not a good look for cruise ship people to travel to the CBd to find people sleeping in doorways or the bedding left there(especially bad another matter our empty shops!!). My partner and I went to Athens this year and a man was lyeing on the ground on a mattress in the street he had sores all over him and looked like he was dieing, this is real poverty! And here NZers are offered benefits. I also asked a homeless person why he was in this predicament, he said he lost his job, he was a builder,I said why don't u go and get work at the lakes they have so many houses been built, he wasn't interested, he also told me he could earn more money doing this.</p>

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
182	Steven Mauger	Pyes Pa	The Bylaw is working. Leave it in place. Issues of homelessness can still be addressed. The police will be powerless to move these people on if the bylaw is changed as by the time they arrive there will be no evidence. The bylaw as it is should be able to allow the police to take some action to move these people on. As you well know these are not homeless people but people in groups harassing and abusing members of the public
183	Kathy Dawson	CBD	I have LIVED in the CBD on Devonport Road for 2 years and nearly moved out when I first moved in because of the constant harrassment and discomfort of having to walk past people asleep in a pile of bedding surrounded by dogs, clothing, food scraps and drink bottles. Since the Council introduced the begging and rough sleeping Bylaw, there has been a marked improvement in the downtown area and I don't feel quite so threatened. I still am approached regularly by a few beggars who constantly roam the streets asking for money and my response is, that I should be asking them, as I am now retired and probably receive less superannuation than their support! At least I don't have to look out my window and see them sleeping along the pavements very often now. Until a suitable and effective solution is in place, please do not revoke the current Bylaw. And perhaps the Council could issue cards which state that begging is an offence (and very offensive!) that we could hand to these people.
184	Melissa Parkes	Ohauti	Please keep the bylaw banning rough sleeping within 5 metres of a building in Tauranga. It's extremely intimidating to be harassed by rough sleepers when entering shops. Greerton in particular is a lovely village where many elderly reside, if this is allowed to happen again Greerton village will again be an unpleasant place to shop.
185	Jennifer Hume	Greerton	My mother, father and 92 year old grandmother live in 3 different house right in the centre of Greerton and since the bylaw, it has become not only a pleasant place to live, but to also visit and embrace what Greerton has to offer. I worry for the safety of my family if the bylaw is revoked. Greerton should be a peaceful and safe place for a diverse community, however, the threat of well organised beggars will intimidate and drive out visitors and local Greerton residents. I believe that revoking the bylaw is not the most appropriate resolution to the begging and public rough sleeping issue. Direct the solution to those who need it, instead of tolerating it at the cost of an entire community.
186	Glenda Hubert	Gate Pa	Please do not remove the bylaw about begging and sleeping rough in Greerton.. Since the law was made Greerton once again feels a safer place. Some of the people begging were very aggressive and made it very unpleasant and not safe to be walking around the streets day and night. Please don't lift the law. what about our right to feel safe as we walk around our streets.
187	Peter Langman	Greerton	Do not revoke the ban. I live in greerton and it has been great to go to the local shops without the abuse verbal. Having to put up with the unkempt smelly bodies. Most are homeless by choice and others are simply trying to rip people off by begging.
188	Beverley Fulton	Welcome Bay	I would NOT like to see this by law revoked. During to period where the homeless have been unable to beg or sleep out side shops the shopping has been a lot more pleasurable and I feel safe shopping in Greerton again. I feel sorry for the shop owners and I'm afraid that the shop owners in Greerton will move out and there will be no where for the locals to shop and the community spirit will go and Greerton will be known as a place to avoid.
189	Janette Petherick	not supplied	The begging and sleeping rough Bylaw should NOT be revoked. The nuisance and intimidation caused by the individuals to the public shopping and using the footpath areas concerned is not acceptable. A person should be able to enter a shop or walk along the footpath without being targeted for money from these people. Also the damage and then extra protective measures we have had to fund to protect our business premises is at our cost The significant improvement I have seen especially in the Greerton area which I'm part of has shown the Bylaw to have been a successful implementation.
190	Lyn Schumacher	Papamoa	Totally agree with the proposed changes of removing and revoking the begging and rough sleeping bylaw. Also to address the needs of homeless by supporting social agencies and providing support in other ways is humane and empowering.
191	For an intimidation free CBD, Mount, Greerton	not supplied	Firstly, why is this being looked at again? There was plenty of public consultation recently on this and a Bylaw put in place due to the feedback from the community. Secondly, and more importantly, downtown Tauranga has been a much better and more inviting place in the last year. Why change this? In my experience, 2 years ago there was so many people lying around, and in some cases being quite intimidating to people walking by. I have personally seeing some of these people urinating in the alleyways, and leaving rubbish behind. Of course also the begging which should not be allowed. Not to mention, I know of what was nearly an assault - a landlord of a property was asking a rough sleeper (again) to get out of their doorway (on private property, not the footpath). The rough sleeper didn't like this and threaten to assault the landlord. Council should not just hide their head from this issue - it really does have an effect on the community, and the CBD and other such areas. Even if the Council does not have the power to enforce, it is a clear message from Council on what is not acceptable and should stay. Likewise, if alcohol is banned from the CBD (due to antisocial behaviour) then why not also begging and rough sleeping, which is also causing antisocial behaviour.

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
192	Phil Bourne	Mount Maunganui	<p>Hi TCC, I am strongly opposed to the removal of this bylaw. Simply put its working in likes of Greerton and Chadwick rd. It's not working that well in central Tauranga city but then I don't believe it's being policed either in that area. The shop keepers have seen an improvement, their trade who previously bypassed the area is coming back to shop.</p> <p>In addition to this, we are already seeing an upturn in begging in Mt Maunganui when the cruise ships come in. This is NOT a good look and again seems there is no moving these people on happening.</p> <p>I am in favour of building or offering alternative accommodation for these sometimes unfortunate people, however, many of us have learned they are often NOT interested in food purchased for them, they only want money and some arrive in vehicles., On 3 occasions I have seen food supplied only to be binned, so one would have to question their "needs" in some instances.</p> <p>yes, it is a difficult situation but don't throw out one of the better tools the TCC has applied and listen to those who made an effort to vote you in. Thank you for the opportunity to have a say.</p>
193	linda askin	Bethlehem	<p>I think the current begging and rough sleeping provisions ARE working and should be left as they are.</p> <p>A lot of the so called beggars have homes and an unemployment benefit and aren't homeless but were trying to threaten and con the public out of their hard worked money as they had to walk past them. Some of them being dropped off and picked up afterwards and were making around \$150 a day I was told(all tax free incidentally)) I stopped visiting Greerton specifically because of the problems they were having then but have now ventured back. it is such a relief not to be terrorised any more. Surely there is a stronger law to handle these problems and enforce the law?. It is not a human rights one as surely we also have our rights to be able to walk freely and not be accosted?</p>
194	Elizabeth Howell	Papamoa	<p>I have had beggars solicit money from me directly while entering a car park in down town Tauranga. This made me unwilling to park in down town Tauranga, and so I do not shop there any more. I also used to visit the park near the Port cruise ship gate, but rough sleepers were there permanently and I felt threatened so stopped going there. I wonder what tourists think when they see these 'freedom campers'? I have also watched TV reports by a pharmacist in Greerton whose shoppers were harrassed for drugs and at ATMs. I think this proposal is retrograde. The previous Council were brave enough to bring these restrictions in, and it has improved things I believe so they should be kept. The excuse that policing the provisions is not always possible covers many crimes and misdemeanours: how else do murders happen, robberies occur, etc? The law should be there to back up prosecution when it can.</p>
195	Ross Archer	Parkvale	<p>There is no way these proposed changes should be implemented. It will be to the detriment of local businesses, tourists and most importantly to the people who helped get you elected. There is nothing worse than trying to go about your business than to have to put up with harassment and abusive comments.</p>
196	Melanie Brayshaw	Welcome Bay	<p>The intimidation experienced from people begging is quite disturbing, however as the information provided suggests a bylaw is not the right means for preventing the need for begging in the first place, and clearly wouldn't resolve the intimidation. It is also clear that it would not resolve the issue of 'professional' begging, though I don't really know how that can be resolved.</p> <p>It would be good though to feel confident that the police are able to, and will deal with, any intimidating behaviour from people begging should the revoking of this bylaw see an escalation in such behaviour.</p> <p>Ideally I would like to see the council commit to making it a priority to find a resolution to the problems that cause begging and rough sleeping in the first place, and implement the solutions with some urgency.</p>
197	Judith Harney	CBD	<p>I have felt much more safe and relaxed walking through the city and Greerton since the begging law was introduced. I feel that the city is slowly improving, if the begging law was reversed I feel it would go backwards again.</p>
198	Errol Nevill	Pyes Pa	<p>Maintain the present bylaw in Greerton it has made a positive change.</p>
199	Denny Enright	Papamoa	<p>I definitely oppose the lifting of the bylaw in Greerton regarding the homeless. In a lot of cases the so called homeless were working in tandem with one sitting outside the shop and the other heading away in a car, then after sometime the vehicle comes back and the homeless changes place with the driver.</p>
200	Deborah Crowe	Mount Maunganui	<p>I fully support this ammendment. I agree that we need to address the underlying social issues, not further insult those who are at the brunt of it.</p>
201	Leigh Valois	Pyes Pa	<p>Dont be so pathetic council get a backbone and keep this bylaw in place..it clearly has had a remarkable effect in Greerton with these so called homeless people. Instead of going backwards and changing things that have made progress look to the future and find other ways to deal with these homeless issues and while your at if you want to look at making changes on greerton to go back to how it used to be how about fixing up the roading debacle you created..the pedestrians..the grass strips in the middle of the roads...thats the real f#\$k up here.</p>
202	HMclntosh	not supplied	<p>Keep the ban in place. My family and I are returning to town to have lunches etc now because it's safer and nicer. We pay for our meals, shop and pay for parking so like many others that have returned to the CBD and Greerton because of the bylaw, we are changing the area back to a positive, financially stable area. Without fear. Without worry.</p> <p>If the bylaw is removedwe will return to the Mount, Lakes and Malls. Stepping back helps noone. Not the store and business owners, not the consumers. I vote to keep it.</p>
203	Nevan Lancaster	Papamoa	<p>Keep the law and get better enforcement . Build small container houses on council land or a farm and provide a place to live and food. Teach them gardening and planting trees. Mental health is only improved by 2 things - exercise and nature and mental health is a major reason these homeless people are on the streets. Due to their behaviour they have being ostracized from their family because of their behaviour in some cases sexual abuse both as perpetrator and victim. Advocate for less immigration so population pressure decreases and we can get houses freed up and tell business if they can't find the staff in NZ then keep your business to a manageable size or invest in automation.</p>
204	Andrea McIntyre	Ohauiti	<p>Keep the by law please. At the moment it has no teeth, but as homeless issues increase (as they are bound to do with overloaded mental health systems, and greater availability of new and improved drugs for addicts) it can at least provide the foundation to move forward in the future when necessary. Making anything easier to remain in that lifestyle is not a good idea.</p>

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205	Mrs Anita Gray	Gate Pa	<p>I work in Greerton one day each week and we have had nothing but positive remarks about the current situation and how good the customers feel about not having to feel harassed by people begging or doing other things that make them feel nervous. Since these people were stopped from being close to the retail establishments a lot of customers who left Greerton have returned to shop. Surely the purpose of a shopping centre is to cater for customers, not to promote bad behaviour.</p> <p>Whilst I do feel sorry for some of them (the genuinely homeless) I would ask the council where have they been since being banned because they must have gone somewhere. This is part of the council's responsibility not the business owners who are trying to survive in an already difficult market.</p>
206	G. Thomson	Brookfield	I do not support Tauranga City Council's proposal to revoke Clauses 20.2 & 20.3 in "Provisions of the Street Use & Public Places Bylaw 2018". I support the current by-law & all those affected retailers.
207	Richard Nicholson	CBD	<p>In the years leading up to the current Street Use and Public Places Bylaw 2018, the CBD had become an unpleasant & unsafe place to work, visit, eat or shop in. Staff & customers were on occasion verbally abused by beggars, whilst cleaning up urine, food waste, drug utensils & other disgusting objects became at least a weekly task.</p> <p>Every single Tauranga resident or visitor to our city should be able to walk around free without being accosted by beggars, receiving verbal abuse, threatening behavior or smelling/sighting disgusting waste.</p> <p>The purpose of the Tauranga CBD is not to house the homeless or allow begging on our streets.</p> <p>A significant number of the "homeless" in Tauranga have sadly chosen this lifestyle or are not actually homeless. These people do not beg for food, clothing or accommodation, they beg for money for cigarettes, alcohol or drugs. Offering the "homeless" food is not a pleasurable experience, twice I have personally offered food & have on the first occasion been told "I don't need f#\$%ing food, on the second occasion the filled roll offered was thrown back at me!</p> <p>The Tauranga CBD retail & restaurant areas are currently suffering for numerous reasons, these areas & the business owners are under pressure & many have chosen to close their businesses. The major issue is a downturn in business revenue/visitors due to the Tauranga CBD becoming an unpleasant place to visit, a change to the Bylaw will just add to the current issues.</p> <p>Whilst I appreciate that this issue goes beyond a single TCC Bylaw, the proposed changes to the Bylaw penalize the business owners, staff, shoppers or diners who visit the CBD & other retail areas.</p> <p>The beating heart of a city, should be a vibrant downtown area, pleasurable & safe to visit. Not a downtown area where stepping over the beggars & their waste is a daily occurrence, not a downtown area where staff & shoppers are intimidated or pressured into giving beggars money, not a downtown area where beggars routinely disrupt our customers nor a downtown area that forces its to visit elsewhere.</p>
208	Anthony Campbell	Judea	<p>Tēnā koe e ngā rangatira, the "begging bylaw" was an atrocious and poorly thought pieces of local government legislation. The moral and practical implications of it were not thought out properly, if at all.</p> <p>I support resending the begging and rough sleeping provisions of the street use and public places bylaw.</p>
209	Chris Jenkins	Gate Pa	<p>I fully agree with the repeal and refocus on a real solution rather than sweeping under the rug.</p> <p>However, there are real fears among retailers in greerton and elsewhere - ensuring they feel safe and supported should be a priority during the change.</p>
210	Zara Lynch	Otumoetai	<p>I agree with the proposed changes.</p> <p>I feel that the current bylaw is not appropriate for addressing this issue.</p> <p>The underlying issues that cause begging and rough sleeping in our community must be addressed with empathy and compassion, in collaboration with local social agencies and homelessness service providers, along with central government, rather than through a bylaw.</p> <p>I am pleased to hear that Council will continue to support and work alongside community organisations set up to work with people experiencing homelessness in Tauranga.</p> <p>We need to focus on the causes of this issue - not the symptom - if we want to make Tauranga a welcoming, safe and happy community.</p>
211	Erica Jane	Papamoa	<p>I agree that this isn't a matter that could or should be enforced through a bylaw. It demonises homeless people who are already disadvantaged and vulnerable. These people need their community's support, not it's scorn.</p> <p>Threatening behaviour is a separate issue, and is a matter for Police.</p>
212	Glennis Watson	Greerton	<p>I moved to Greerton in 2008 and brought a property. I moved from Otumoetai and found the Greerton village a very friendly lovely place to visit then the beggars arrived and I found it very disturbing to go to the village and do my shopping the beggars were constantly outside the Bakery and I found them very intimidating asking for money they didn't want food because I offered food but they wanted money. Since the by law the Village has started to flourish again like it used to be. I implore you to please not revoke the by law or I will be forced to get in my car and shop elsewhere and I don't want to do that</p>
213	Kelvern Parker	Mount Maunganui	<p>I definitely do not support revoking the by law that is currently in place. There is nothing worse than trying to go to businesses and be confronted with these dirty stinking sods blocking the footpaths, business entrances and being pestered for money which is most of the time spent in the TAB or other places that are certainly not benefiting them selves. To me it is just a wrought as many are from out of town and brought in to do the begging. Kelvern Parker, Mt Maunganui.</p> <p>██████</p>
214	Helen Scott	Papamoa	<p>I support the revocation of the begging and rough sleeping provision in the Street Use and Public Places Bylaw 2018.</p> <p>I would like to see more investment in services to support the community rather than penalising this section of the community</p>
215	Kristy Robinson	Welcome Bay	<p>I support revocation of the bylaw, which infringes on a number of human rights, and is impractical to enforce.</p> <p>I support and encourage the Council instead to focus on SUPPORTING these people experiencing homelessness... they are vulnerable people and need assistance rather than persecution.</p>

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
216	Chrissy McNeill	Gate Pa	<p>I live in Fate Pa and shop in Greerton. Despite sometimes negative behaviour, I fully support the need to combine the many agencies to engage in finding accommodation and put in place support programmes to deal with the social issues these people face.</p> <p>I am not well off and don't have a religion, but I give food when I can (not money), and engage in conversation. It's not for us to judge the choices they have made, or whether they have lost their employment. They are human beings with feelings and needs. My approach seems to work well and there's usually a smile from them as I continue with my shopping.</p>
217	Richard Hume	Greerton	<p>Please do not rescind the begging ban!!</p> <p>Greerton shopping area has improved immensely since the ban. It feels safer as I walk through it, in the evenings, and no longer feel intimidated as I pass through.</p> <p>It would be a terrible shame if it reverted back to before the b</p>
218	Patrick J Gallagher	Papamoa	<p>I am fed up of beggars asking for money, leaving rubbish and sleeping material on the streets and in shop door ways.</p> <p>Retailers are having a hard time trying to compete with the shopping malls.</p> <p>It is also a bad look for the tourists/ cruise ship visitors.</p>
219	Sophie Rapson	Tauranga South	<p>I support Council revoking the begging and rough sleeping provisions as it is not an appropriate response to the issue of homelessness.</p> <p>Enforcement is difficult and inhumane and not going to achieve positive outcomes for homeless people in Tauranga.</p> <p>Please look towards the efforts being made by Wellington City Council in the homelessness space - Te Mahana Homelessness Strategy. This needs a holistic response that tackles the underlying reasons for homelessness, which are many and varied.</p> <p>This is a good start in Tauranga City Council showing an understanding that they need to be more proactive not reactive to complex issues. So thank you for proposing this change.</p> <p>Please continue to keep homeless people at the centre of this discussion, not about them, without them.</p>
220	Barbara turley	Gate Pa	Don't do it, tauranga streets have been a lot nicer and cleaner, don't go back
221	Steve Porter	Welcome Bay	Leave the law as it is. It is working. Address the homeless problem in some other way and let Tauranga businesses carry on without the problems that they previously encountered,
222	Francis & Hilary Talboys	Papamoa	<p>We agree 100% with the proposed changes to the bylaw. You do not overcome homelessness by passing a bylaw.</p> <p>Council would be better to employ a social worker to work along side people who obviously need help.</p> <p>The Council web site lists the many agencies who are already set up to help, perhaps a social worker/coordinator could liaise with all those involved.</p>
223	Pamela Somerville	CBD	<p>Please do not change anything!</p> <p>I live in the CBD and require some reassurance that I can be reasonably protected from the nuisance, the harassment and intimidation, and the mess left by rough sleepers and beggars. I stay away from the shops, and feel unsafe walking alone in the street where I live.</p> <p>Why cant you leave the by-law alone PLUS work with community groups to help these unfortunate people? Does it have to be either/or?</p> <p>The retailers in Devonport Road need all the support they can get right now. I know Tenby told us that when all the new apartments and hotels are built and people buy in to live, retail will pick up, but that is going to be several years away, and during that time the rough sleepers etc will be taking full advantage of empty shop doorways. A lot of people who live in the apartment block I live in supported Tenby, and are feeling very let down and disappointed that he is supporting the change. Not representing us at all!</p> <p>Our CBD address is becoming a rough area to live. That includes the Strand extension behind my apartment building, where it seems there is no liquor ban or glass bottle ban in place, and residents are having to clean up mess and broken glass especially at weekends.</p> <p>Revoking the bylaw amendments will make dwelling in the CBD more unpleasant than it has already become.</p> <p>Please do not change the bylaw. Please keep those amendments in. AND work with community groups to help the unfortunate. That would be more of a win/win.</p>
224	Eric Sutherland	Welcome Bay	To Councillors , I am opposed to the Proposed Revocation of the bylaw relating to " begging & rough sleeping. I am a ratepayer & have lived just 200 meters from central Greerton until just 11days ago when I moved to Welcome Bay. I watched several times these so called homeless/ destitute people were delivered into Greerton in a late model SUV! These are Professional Beggars & they have even stated to close friends of mine that " they earn more than a pensioner on the street + draw the Dole". They were also territorial chasing off anyone who tried to beg in their patch. Many businesses have closed & moved because of the aggressive behaviour of these people [not just because of the appalling mess the Council made of the traffic] Since the bylaw came into effect some new retail has opened & Greerton a less threatening place to shop. Please do the sensible thing & keep the law until alternative measures become effective for these people in the future.
225	Mrs J L FREEMAN	Te Puna	Until alternative ways of dealing with homelessness and rough sleeping are demonstrably in place and working, I am not in favour of revoking the bylaw
226	Kathleen smith	CBD	<p>Do not change the current bylaw.</p> <p>This came about due to extreme frustration and security concerns and is the only option available without police involvement</p>

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227	Susie Skilton	Greerton	I work in Tauranga CBD and can say since the bylaw came into place the problem got worse, not better, and many of the homeless have found loopholes such as sitting half a metre out of the "boundaries". However, something needs to be put in place that WILL be enforced as well as programs to help the problem: homelessness. I have been threatened by the homeless, called racist, and screamed at for using the ATM as well as just walking to and from my job. My work has called the police many times for threatening behaviour and told "what do you want us to do? They'll go away eventually." But if we were to defend ourselves, we'd get in trouble. It is absolutely wrong that we have to deal with this. Something that can be enforced needs to be put in place, such as relocation of these threatening people. I believe more programs for the homeless need to be put in place, but I disagree that the homeless problem is caused by a failure in the system to help those who are out of work. There are plenty of helpful things in place and from personal experiences, most of the homeless are choosing the life they have now as well as the attitude they have towards pedestrians walking in the CBD as well as Greerton. To summarize; the current bylaw is useless, a new bylaw needs to be put in place that WILL BE ENFORCED, the police need to DO their JOB, and the despicable behaviour of the homeless can NOT be tolerated any longer.
228	Aaron Skilton	Greerton	Since the law come into effect, there has definitely been a lot less people loitering around the Greerton area. The CBD hasn't had any improvement, but that's because the TCC and police would rather sit and argue over whose job it is to enforce it. If they both just got over it and worked together it might work better. Instead we're wasting all the time, money and effort altogether by doing away with it. What a great idea. Putting services in place to help home or feed the homeless is only as good as the homeless attending such services and taking responsibility on their side of things and actually trying to remain off of the streets. And that's just the ones that can be functioning members of society, as a good deal of those who loiter in town are either drunk, on drugs, and/or need the immediate attention of mental health services. People with those issues don't really care about services to get them off the streets, especially when it starts with handouts that enable them to walk away and come back.
229	Dr. Sandrine Fabre	Bethlehem	Good afternoon, I am really pleased that the new Tauranga Council has decided to revoke the begging and rough sleeping provisions contained in the bylaw 2018. As a human being, as a member of the community, as a French General Practitioner with a long and deep experience of working beside homeless population, as a PhD student studying on the end of life of homeless people in New Zealand, from my perspective, this bylaw 2018 is the expression of a lack of committed political and ethical responsibility towards this group in society that lead to always more marginalisation and social exclusion. Supporting homeless people start by acknowledging their fundamental human right to be integrated into the community not pushing them outside increasing their vulnerability. Homeless people have complex lives and complex needs due to, among others, complex and interwoven causes. The repeated messages conveyed by the previous council and therefore by the community against homeless people lead to a loss of self-esteem in a tragical manner and sustain the vicious circle of homelessness. The council has the duty to educate community for thinking in a more justiciable manner, not the converse. I really hope that this bylaw will be revoked to transform Tauranga into a city of kindness. Sandrine Fabre, volunteer at StreetKai
230	Digby Green	Parkvale	Dear Sirs Please do not revoke the by-law It seems to be working, so why change it. People were not only harrassed by the beggars, it also makes us look third world. is that what you want? Those people all get a befit from the tax payer
231	Ken Green	Hairini	Why was it, that when this bylaw was enacted, there was a marked reduction of begging and rough sleeping in the areas of concern, and yet beforehand, all other social agencies' efforts such as those now proposed largely failed to address the situation to the same effect? More direct action from these "local social agencies and homeless service providers, along with central government" AND retaining the bylaw as it stands as a deterrent (because it actually has been proved to have worked) might be the better way.
232	Merinda Pansegrouw	Pyes Pa	Dear "Councillor wanting to revoke the begging, rough sleeping ban"...have you ever been approached by an intimidating aggressive beggar on your way to the office, 7:00 am, woman alone, in a deserted Devonport? Quite a stressful situation! However, since the implementation in April 2019, it has been a much safer walk to the office. Please do not let us go back! Why change something that has made a positive difference to the retailers and general public shopping public in Greerton too? This is now a much safer environment for the elderly that live and shop in this area – who are also vulnerable and find it difficult to protect/defend themselves against aggressive beggars. Does the New Zealand Bill of Rights not apply to the vulnerable elderly too?? Council's time and resources spent on this review could instead have been used to creatively focus on solving the real issues: homelessness and housing shortages in Tauranga. With the election promises of "prepared to listen", "for the ratepayer" and "democracy" fresh in the public's ears... looking forward to see if you walk to talk.
233	Grant Wilson	Papamoa	Do not revoke the bylaw but rather keep the bylaw in place and find a way to enable those breaking the law to be prosecuted
234	Laura Wood	Pyes Pa	We support REVOKING the begging and rough sleeping ban in Tauranga.
235	Liam banbury	Poike	This law needs to be lifted and we need to work as a community social and mental tip help out our whenua.
236	Laura Rees	Papamoa	I support revoking the begging and rough sleeping provisions
237	Ben Cawte	Judea	I belive the begging and rough sleeping provisions contained in the Street Use and Public Places Bylaw 2018 needs to be revoked.

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
238	Chantelle Callagher	Katikati	I support the revoking of the begging and rough sleeping provisions - Street Use and Public Places Bylaw 2018. This is an inhumane and unjust bylaw that discriminates against our most vulnerable people in our community. It does not resolve the problem of homelessness and makes their situation more dangerous and vulnerable. This by-laws violates basic human rights for even basic shelter of doorways and begging is essential for their survival since the government doesn't provide for, or inadequately provides for or protect them. Business owners have a home, access to food, resources and money which won't be taken away from the homeless people being on or near their establishment. Even if it effects businesses, that is no excuse to penalised and discriminate against people who have nothing and little support or hope for their future. Shame on the council for introducing this by-laws in the first place, putting commerce before basic humanity. We need a compassionate council, not one that just pays lip service to caring for our most vulnerable people in our community.
239	Clare Birch	Greerton	Agree, the best solution is to figure out sustainable solutions so people in NZ and in our community do not need to beg. We have worker shortages in key industries like kiwifruit, yet cannot figure out how to help people with addiction issues and to empower them to rent / work / live a reasonable life in our amazing city. It would be awesome to put Tauranga on the map for working with people who are begging or rough sleeping so they don't need to anymore. Everyone deserves a fair chance, and we would have a stronger community and more powerful economy for these actions.
240	Sarah Baker	Greerton	I support REVOKING the current rough sleeping and begging bylaw
241	Andria Goodliffe	Bellevue	I support the REVOKING of the Begging and Rough Sleeping ban in Tauranga. It would be better to develop a microcommunity somewhere to help people out instead of punishing the troubled people
242	Gloria	Ohauiti	... "I support the REVOKING of the Begging and Rough Sleeping ban in Tauranga."
243	Valma Roberts	CBD	Would the council please consider NOT revoking the By Law regarding beggars in our streets for a period of 1 year. This would give them time to see if their other options are working. As residents in the CBD we also have human rights
244	Paul Steele	Papamoa	Paul feels that the Bylaw should not be changed. In fact, it needs to be strengthened. There is rough sleeping in Arataki Park and nothing is being done about it.
245	RL	Greerton	I think the bylaw should be in place as it has helped the begging in Greerton. I myself was scared to go home in the afternoon to my car. since the law had come into place i haven't seen hardly anyone sitting outside our office. couple of time we had to lock our office doors as they came upstairs to the office for money. Clients felt scared and intimidated as well and didn't want to come to the office and we had to go and visit them instead.
246	Alison James	Ohauiti	I do not think that the bylaw should be revoked. Shopkeepers and customers are now enjoying being able to go about their legitimate business without fear of being harassed and intimidated.
247	Jan Jameson	CBD	It would be a retrograde action if Council made these changes. If you drive by in a car you will feel safe. I live in the CBD and frequently walk around the city. I felt very unsafe before the Council introduced the current restrictions; stepping around people reclining across the pavement, being accosted for money, threatening dogs not on leads and twice observed a car stop and a transaction take place for an envelop. The CBD retailers are struggling and a camper in the shop doorway adds to the problem. All the initiatives to attract tourists to Tauranga are negated by the image created of a CBD populated with the homeless. All city's have a homeless population especially the growth of substance. Humanity is about how we deal with that. I believe that a smart city provides support but not in a way that endangers others and also impacts on the viability of businesses. I do not support the proposed changes.
248	Glenis Farrington	Greerton	As it is right now it is working so well. We don't want Greerton to go back to how it was with the beggars and homeless intimidating our local people. These people also have rights and we want to keep them coming to the Greerton village shops and enjoying the experience etc. Keep it as it is right now.
249	Mike Harman	Papamoa	The council must keep the law that they passed regarding Begars and rough sleepers. These people do not pay their way and until this law was introduced did nothing but cause trouble to shoppers and in particular to the shop owners who in turn pay the rates on the property they lease. This new council needs to take a good look at the CBD and the other shopping centres and as to WHO PAYS THEIR WAGES and start listening to these people and the WIDER public that also CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR WAGES via paying rates. The law is working so DO NOT CHANGE IT.
250	Brendan Hodson	Papamoa	Please do not repeal the bylaw. Council should have a clear policy stating that begging and street sleeping is not tolerated in Tauranga. The wider issues do not fall under council core responsibilities Please make downtown tauranga a pleasant place for ratepayers to be
251	Sandra	Papamoa	Stop vilainising people and start freaking to the why they're in this position. I personally found it uncomfortable to enter a cafe which had signs up saying 'don't give them money,' when there in front of me was a container looking for tips!!!!
252	L S Heavey	Bethlehem	I don't agree with revoking these clauses, they should be amended to ensure it is illegal to sleep in doorways etc. Police need the power to remove these people. The question of where they go to is another debate and needs addressing, Many of these people are Maori so why don't their Iwi step up and take more responsibility for their welfare? We don't want an unsightly and messy CBD like is seen overseas. If Tauranga citizens have to walk to the shops etc past comatose bodies, rubbish and excreta then you can say goodbye to inner city business we will just go to the Malls instead.
253	Michael Willmott	Katikati	Should the council remove the provisions from the bylaw, absolutely not, withdraw these provisions and you are indicating that you condone this behavior. By all means address the causes while leaving the bylaw in place.
254	Sue Nicholas	CBD	I believe the current by-law should stay....there has been a marked improvement since it was invoked....the locals certainly feel more comfortable and safe.
255	Craig	Greerton	Having seen what happened before the bylaw came into effect, especially in greerton and seeing how the elderly stopped shopping in town cause they felt scared, I think removing the bylaw is a total waste of time. I didn't see it in bethlehem much but got told by a lot of people what it was like. How many shops is tauranga are empty? This is mainly due to lack of customers scared off by the homeless. Don't allow them to rule this great city again

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
256	Linda Crossman	Greerton	<p>I would like to keep the begging bylaw. I have a Post box and do my general shopping at Greerton.</p> <p>Prior to the current bylaw being brought in, it became an awful experience to be in Greerton with the people begging on the street intimidating the shoppers and shopkeepers alike. The only the positive from this was the ability to be able to get a carpark wherever you liked. These people should not have the ability to cause such harm and I feel the council would be letting down the Greerton community by revoking the begging bylaw. They make more money intimidating people than going to any service that may help them, if they actually need help - they were organised gangs. One has to wonder what the council is trying to achieve by bringing this issue back up?? The time would be better spent investigating a homeless shelter or services for those that need. I have a Post box because I have found myself homeless at times in the last four years. It is the most degrading experience and I wish it on no one.</p>
257	Peter Pollett	Matua	<p>If there are better ways of controlling this offensive behaviour would it be more sensible to try those remedies before revoking the existing by law.</p> <p>If successful that may be a better time to change existing methods if necessary.</p> <p>P Pollett</p>
258	Mary Capamagian	CBD	<p>Begging and rough sleeping on their own are not the problem, it is rudeness, assaults, discarding filth, obstructing and trespass which are the problem.</p> <p>On page 2 of the proposal it states,</p> <p>"Council will continue to work alongside the community organisations set up to work with people experiencing homelessness in Tauranga."</p> <p>I suggest that the Council also work alongside the police. This may entail liaising with the local area police commander to have a blitz on anti-social behaviour, using the Summary Offences Act 1981, of which some of the relevant sections are as follows:</p> <p>3 - Disorderly behaviour 4 - Offensive behaviour or language 21 - Intimidation 22 - Obstructing public way</p> <p>As part of this, the Council would need to have a strong focus on conveying to the police that it and the citizens of Tauranga abhor some of the behaviour that has been occurring and need help in curtailing it.</p> <p>If satisfactory results are not achieved, via the local police, the Council may need to send a representative or representatives to the Minister of Police and/or Commissioner of Police, with some examples of the obnoxious behaviour and a request to curtail it (and if they fail to act, keep following up until results are achieved).</p>
259	Johnny MacKinnon	Mount Maunganui	<p>If you have any law or bylaw or any other condition that is not enforced all the time then you make the enforcement department into judge and jury all at once. Concentrate on things that can be done. The no sleeping and no begging would pertain to many situations and where are all the enforcement people. Soon we have come up with a cop for each person and then someone to watch them. It becomes a quagmire of your own making. Leave people alone and concentrate on trying to make our community a fairer place to live and it will be much safer and healthier if all are given a better deal.</p>
260	Grant Nelson	Matua	<p>Council members, (9/12/19)</p> <p>If banning is not "appropriate" no other measure will prove appropriate because beggars have chosen this lifestyle because they can. By lifting the ban you have disenfranchised everyone else, who now have to step over or around these people and ignore the looks and/or abuse for not giving (only money) to top up their welfare for drugs or alcohol.</p>
261	Robert McLaughlan	Parkvale	<p>I do not agree with the council's decision to revoke this bylaw for begging and rough sleeping.</p> <p>This bylaw has certainly cleaned up the streets in Tauranga CBD and Greerton of these people and I would like it to remain this way.</p> <p>Certainly the council should investigate other ways of helping these people, such as setting up a hostel where they can reside while being helped to get back on their feet.</p> <p>This law must remain in place while this investigation is carried out.</p>

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
262	John Harney	CBD	<p>1. Why is it that I feel that I am wasting my time in providing this feedback?</p> <p>2. It appears that a majority of the Tauranga City Councillors have already made up their mind to revoke the begging and rough sleeping provisions from the Street Use and Public Places Bylaw 2018.</p> <p>3. Since the Bylaw was instituted in 2018 the number of vagrants taking possession of our public places, including business premises doorways, has diminished. In the past Tauranga citizens have been avoiding the CBD.</p> <p>4. I have seen people 'presumably using drugs', what else would they be using a bong for? Their surrounds tend to be untidy and they urinate in public places.</p> <p>5. If the council considers that there is a 'perceived problem' that they were meant to fix, then do something positive to fix it, removing the bylaw will certainly not fix it, it will only exacerbate the 'perceived problem'.</p> <p>6. If the council considers that it is unable to enforce the bylaw, then are all other bylaws also unenforceable?</p> <p>7. The homelessness problem is surely not a local government problem, that is not what we pay our rates for, it is a central government issue, that is where some of our taxes go.</p> <p>8. Please take notice of the business owners of the CBD, Greerton and Mount Maunganui.</p> <p>9. Please also take notice of what Tauranga ratepayers are wanting, also that Councillors who vote to revoke the bylaw be reminded that there will be Local Body Elections again, in 2022.</p>
263	Richard Procter	Papamoa	<p>Council is proposing to revoke the begging and rough sleeping provisions on the grounds they are no longer the most appropriate means of addressing begging and rough sleeping.</p> <p>The current by law has been effective:</p> <p>The current bylaw appears to have been very effective, and certainly more effective than the situation that pertained before its adoption. Because it has been effective seems a very sound reason not to abolish it.</p> <p>Irrespective that the current bylaw is effective, Council are seeking to reverse the bylaw:</p> <p>Apparently, Council are seeking to reverse the by law because it has been difficult to enforce, and/or it is or should be the Police's problem. Instead the Council suggests working alongside the community organisations set up to work with people experiencing homelessness..". In other words, turning the clock back. There are many laws that are difficult to enforce, nevertheless at the very least they act as a deterrent. "No longer the most appropriate" of its own does not mean anything.</p> <p>Why not leave the by law in place and instead support it with other mechanisms when and if they become available:</p> <p>Why not both retain the bylaw (because it has apparently been effective), and in addition also work alongside the community organisations set up to work with people experiencing homelessness.."? </p> <p>The current bylaw is justifiable:</p> <p>Begging and rough sleeping impinges on the rights of shop-keepers to provide customers free and unfettered access to their shops. It also detracts from Council's own plans to rejuvenate the CBD. In the balance between the negative effects of begging and rough sleeping on shop keepers and shoppers and achieving appropriate outcomes for people experiencing homelessness, it would seem that retaining the bylaw should be preferred.</p>
264	Ian Smith	CBD	<p>I'm of the opinion that the initial bylaw was poorly thought out, poorly drafted, was never going to be enforceable in any legal way and so was always going to be a great waste of taxpayers money.</p> <p>I am also cognisant of the imported begging problem in Greerton but public nuisance laws should have been leant on.</p> <p>Rough sleeping and begging are not in the same category and council should do more to work with groups who are trying to help.</p>
265	Sue Blomquist	Greerton	<p>The Begging and rough sleeping Bylaw must stay.</p> <p>It seems to me that people (including Councillors) are getting confused with the difference between 'Rough sleeping and the Homeless'. Also according to a University Study 90% of homeless people do not beg.</p> <p>The beggars and rough sleepers that we see in Greerton are not homeless! The beggars and rough sleepers that we see in Greerton all have housing or have been offered housing and have access to income. These people are just supplementing their benefits to support their habits. I question whether the money they get \$80 - \$400 per day is doing them any good anyway.</p> <p>This Bylaw has been working for Greerton. Our customers and staff feel safe to shop and work in the area again</p> <p>The aggressiveness of these beggars has not been exaggerated. We have been verbally and physically abused, Customers have had their chemist prescriptions taken from them, some can't even get out of their car before they are harassed for money.</p> <p>As a community we have lost retailers, customers and staff. What about our human right to make an income and the rights of our staff and customers to shop in safety.</p> <p>Keeping the bylaw is the answer. It is working don't change it.</p> <p>The alternative would be to have security guards patrolling the area 24/7. An expensive alternative.</p> <p>By banning begging and rough sleeping within 5m of a retail or hospitality premises will hopefully put a stop to the scammers and will make the real homeless more visible.</p> <p>We are a compassionate community. We support the real needy. We have just had a gutsful of being ripped off by this new breed of beggars.</p>
266	Jodie Moore	Otūmoetai	<p>I am in support of removing the bylaw. Our community's homeless do not need further ostracism from the city centre.</p> <p>Please remove the ban and consider other ways we can support this people.</p>

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
267	Fiona Baker	Greerton	<p>I'm a Greerton resident of 11 years duration. Greerton was a scary and undesirable place to live when the beggars and 'homeless people' were inhabiting the village. For a year or so i did not use any shops or the P.O. nor did i visit the Library or go for my evening walk through there. I was not the only one.</p> <p>I saw businesses folding and closing because no one wanted to enter a shop with several menacing men lounging about on the pavement outside asking for money. NOT food but money, Food they tossed away as they were not genuine beggars nor homeless for the most part. It was well documented at the time that car loads of men would arrive in the morning an beg all day, the gang boss would do rounds and get cash during the day and drive off with them late in the day.</p> <p>Don't the Council know this? Easy pickings in a place where there are many older trusting people who were giving them cash. I was thinking of selling and moving to someplace safer, the relatives of my elderly neighbors were shopping for them rather than have them run the gauntlet of the street people.</p> <p>Many of the beggars seems to have substance abuse and mental health issues, pretty scary when they start yelling and challenging those who decline to give them anything.</p> <p>There is help and plenty of it for genuine people in trouble.</p> <p>There is a primary school there and if i had children I would have been very anxious about them walking through Greerton at that time. Some rough sleepers used the school grounds.</p> <p>Since clause 20.2 and 20.3 were bought in the so called beggars and homeless have gone, as far as i know not one of them has died of starvation or exposure from not having a doorway in Greerton to sleep in. These are not genuine people in need, Council need to understand this fact. They are a menace to individuals, they ruin businesses by driving away custom and they make our village a no go area.</p> <p>Please don't revoke those clauses its a retrograde step.</p> <p>I put a lot of thought and so did everyone else, into my selection of Mayor and Councillors but alas obviously we have placed our faith in the wrong people if this is the sort of idiotic decision you are even contemplating,let alone passing.</p> <p>My bet is that none of you live in the area and you all feel nice and comfortable and safe where you are, Good, how about considering us and how we feel? Vulnerable, afraid, facing having to sell up and move else where, business owners going into receivership, parents afraid for their children's health and safety.</p> <p>Keep those clauses IT'S WORKING. Why would you change it, what is wrong with you all? Did you sign or pledge something when sworn in to keep the community safe and make wise decisions to preserve a first world standard of living.</p> <p>Don't let Greerton become a ghetto where the residents move out, businesses close children are in danger from these people,</p> <p>Now year later, anyone can see Greerton is flourishing again, new businesses have opened, existing ones are confident of a bright future. Residents can shop, socialise, patronise the services of the Library, P.O doctors etc. without the menace of gangs of mostly men posing as homeless and beggars inhabiting the village and trying to get money from pensioners and hard working people to fuel their habits or hand in to the boss.</p> <p>Please don't spoil all this for us. DON'T WE MATTER TO YOU? how dare you revoke those clauses, YOU wont be living with the consequences. Ponder that.</p> <p>I'm disgusted that I even have to make this submission, shame on all of you who are in favor of revoking the clauses.</p>
268	Aren Kievit	Greerton	<p>The present bylaw works perfect and is a good for the shops and the people that shop in those areas. I feel much safer this way.</p> <p>If the council want to do something for the homeless, they can do this while leaving the present bylaw in place.</p>
269	Tony Ryan	Greerton	<p>After hearing from a lot of the local businesses, if the by-law is revoked completely it would be really bad for Greerton so would not like to see it revoked. Would like to see something else in place to deal with the issue before any changes are made to the by-law. I like the idea of businesses leasing the areas surrounding their business for a nominal fee to make it a private issue if no other alternative can be found.</p>

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
270	Shirley McCombe	Tauranga South	<p>SUBMISSION</p> <p>Street Use and Public Places Bylaw 2018</p> <p>Tauranga Budget Advisory Services supports the removal of the begging and rough sleeping provisions in the current bylaw. The homeless are a group already extensively marginalised in our community and this bylaw does not address the underlying causes of homelessness. We would welcome the opportunity to be part of both the Tauranga and Western Bay Homelessness Working Groups.</p> <p>Our service is one of the largest budget service in New Zealand as is well respected nationally. We provide financial mentoring to people who are homeless in our community and as a result, we are acutely aware of the complexity and breadth of the issue in Tauranga.</p> <p>We see the need amongst those we work alongside in three distinct subcategories.</p> <p>Those struggling to find or pay for a house</p> <p>We see whanau after whanau struggling with the cost of rent and we have clients living in cars, sheds, and tents. The debt we saw presented for accommodation in 2019 was four times the level it was in 2018. For those in transitional housing (usually motels) the cost is enormous and I imagine much of this debt presented are recoverable costs to Work and Income. Our service works with these whanau to ensure they are receiving their correct entitlements, create sustainable budgets, manage their debt, ensure they meet their financial obligations to their landlords and managing other costs where ever possible. We have helped a number of our clients purchase their own homes.</p> <p>The issue of housing is further complicated for whanau who have been evicted because of rent arrears, illicit drug use or poor behaviour resulting in police call-outs and complaints by neighbours. These situations quickly spiral as they are not considered suitable tenants by private landlords and the pool of social housing is small. Often the poor decisions that have created their situation intensify and it becomes more and more difficult to help those involved move forward.</p> <p>Those unable to live with others</p> <p>This group often includes those living on the street. Their lives are complicated by mental health distress, disability, addiction and abuse. Being trespassed from public areas drives them into more remote areas of the city where they are in danger of being assaulted and robbed of the few possessions they have. We work closely with this group and the other social services involved in their lives. They are often people who have fallen through the cracks and because they do not have children in their care, they sit very low on the housing lists. In addition, due to their mental distress, many find living with others very difficult and are unable to find, never mind afford, a suitable single person's accommodation. They are people who struggle to deal with Work and Income and quickly become overwhelmed and disengage. Our flexibility and willingness to walk alongside these clients has made a huge difference for many of our clients who are now in safe, suitable and permanent housing.</p> <p>Young person, estranged from whanau</p> <p>For young people from whanau struggling with poverty, addiction, violence, and trauma, the streets are often safer than their homes. Many have already experienced the Ministry of Justice and are distrustful of the "system". They have no one in their lives to assist them to navigate the world and they do not know how to access the services available. Being able to engage with these young people early on (often when they come for a food parcel) enables us to provide support and direction so that they can connect with the people they need. Our MoneyMates programme delivered in schools, alternative education, Toi ohomai, Te Wānanga o Aotearoa and the University helps connect these young people with our service early on and can help prevent unhealthy and debilitating debt</p>
271	Witheld		<p>Please don't revoke the provisions without addressing the issues in another actionable way.</p> <p>Working with community providers is great, but it should have been happening regardless.</p> <p>Revocation would send an encouraging message of the same magnitude as the introduction had. We shouldn't encourage unruly behaviour.</p> <p>Please also be considerate of people on the streets. Many of them are forced to beg, not by their circumstances, but by the organised crime. Don't give the overseers more power.</p>
272	Kath mcdonald	Pyes Pa	I do not consider that a bylaw is necessary to curb sleeping rough etc. there are other measures available to the community and more solution based avenues need exploring and action. Let's make Tauranga a place of compassion and a place to call home for everyone!
273	Kally	Mount Maunganui	Take the ban away and provide more places for homeless shelters
274	Adrienne Ardern	Bethlehem	If you are proposing to remove the bylaw then AT THE SAME TIME you need to propose what you are going to do to house the Homeless (some of whom don't want to be housed). It's not a simple solution but we have elected you to help Tauranga prosper. Improving our city includes helping the homeless as well as supporting the shop owners. Please don't undo what is helping one sector without having a comprehensive plan in place to help the other sector of our community. Can you not use/tweak the existing bylaw to ensure the rough sleepers accompany the social workers/police to a more suitable venue where they can congregate without upsetting the retailers.
275	Arthur Flintoff	Papamoa	I support removal of any bylaws that discriminate a sector of the public use of public places. I also support treating social issues through social services rather than as a criminal or civil issue. I support initiatives that encourage compassion, support and understanding rather than segregation.
276	Ian Hudspith	Brookfield	<p>Banking begging and rough sleeping is mean spirited and an embarrassment for the city.</p> <p>We're trying to look like a progressive place to do business but we keep showing ourselves to be small and pretty</p>
277	Kathryn McColl	Mount Maunganui	However the law has to be changed or made. I strongly believe that sleeping in shop doorways is not right. The shopkeepers pay high rentals and then have to clean up their doorways after these people. It is also upsetting to be accosted and asked for money outside shops or anywhere for that matter.
278	Thomas Fritz	Matua	I fully support the proposed changes to the bylaw. Engaging with social service providers and central government on the root cause will provide much better outcomes than trying to move on the homeless people.

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
279	Cherise Tkatch	Pyes Pa	I am frustrated that these amendments are being considered. I sat with a family member in Greerton and watched the 'street people', perceived to be homeless to address whether we wanted to do some shopping or go elsewhere While we discussed our choices we watched a couple of drug deals occur with a gang member picking up and delivering to the street sellers. Interesting that the drug selling was within a block of the primary school which I think is unacceptable During another visit to the area I listened to some of the women comment on collection of money and discuss the party they are attending and how much alcohol they will now be able to purchase. With one electing to stay longer to collect more for the weekend activities. Greerton is now more enjoyable to walk through and it is easier to access the shops and restaurants. I think the small business owners, young children and seniors in the neighborhood deserve a safe neighborhood.
280	brad	Mount Maunganui	I support the removal of these bylaws. They are difficult and ineffective to enforce and aim to shelter us from the real issue of homelessness in Tauranga. However this must be a two phase approach. Removing this baylaw to focus on the root cause demands the we then follow through and focus on the root cause by devising a plan and allocating resources rather than pat ourselves on our back for decriminalising the less fortunate.
281	Ciska Vogelzang	Otumoetai	I totally agree with revoking the begging and rough sleeping provisions contained in the Street Use and Public Places Bylaw 2018 as it sends in my opinion the wrong message to people in need. I believe we need to deal with the underlying issues that result in begging and rough sleeping through yes 'collaboration with local social agencies and homelessness service providers, along with central government, rather than through a bylaw'. Pushing people out of the CBD or Greerton centre can be potentially quite dangerous for this already marginalised community as other places will inevitably be darker and lonelier with increase risk of violence. Intimidating or aggressive behaviour can be dealt with through police and should be followed up by appropriate service providers.
282	Charlotte Logan	Omanawa	I agree with the councils proposal to revoke the begging and rough sleeping provisions contained the street use and public places bylaw (2018) I believe that the solution to the problem that the council wishes to address, is greater support of organisations working to help the homeless, and better access to overnight shelters for the homeless, particularly for men, who have little to no access to free places to sleep over night, and therefore end up sleeping in the street. Charlotte Logan
283	Ross	Poike	I think its discusting that people should be allowed to sleep on seats on wharf street where tourists come to use inter city service. they leave there stuff stored behind seats during day. they abuse and beg for money or cigarettes from public. and if say no the get very abusive. take them to ferguson park at least they can clean them selves in the sea. They need to removed from CBD altogether.
284	Chris Parnell	CBD	We need to accept that for complex reasons there will always be a subset of the homeless population that specifically seeks out "public" (in the sense of heavily trafficked areas) sleeping and begging, even if general homeless support and care was hypothetically provided adequately. This is strongly supported by the Lifewise 'Rough Sleeping Report' produced in January 2015, based on interviews with rough sleepers and their families. The clauses in question send the wrong message, are counterproductive through damaging the relationship between rough sleepers and the rest of the community, and are functionally toothless, therefore should be removed as proposed. Left as-is the Retail community will find its situation worsen as the CBD goes through its current growth phase, not improve. Retailers of course should have the right to operate in peace and security as well. In terms of action from the Council, I would like to see facilitation of a way for the Retail community to work with the needs of our rough sleepers to really understand their safety and security needs and what is driving the behavior that Retailers object to. A mutual respect is the outcome that will change behavior and Retailers are in a far more secure position to be making the first step.
285	Monika	Ohauiti	The beggars should be moved away from the cbd.so many elderly people stopped shopping and coming in to cbd because of harassment and intimidation by those so called beggars. Open up the cargo shed and give them a place to sleep.
286	Ryan Plank	Papamoa	I support the changes to remove this bylaw. Homelessness and financial need is not something that should be hidden away by council. Council should assist and support its constituents, not create bylaws to make them feel unwanted and criminal in a time of need. Council would be better to spend its resources on assisting its constituents in such need, rather than spending money on ways to hide/cover up/pretend it's not an issue that we have in our community. These issues are a systemic problem created by the environment that we all create in our city. Attempting to suppress the reality of this problem is not the way we should be addressing it. Council needs to put its constituents needs ahead of its own and aim to create a city that achieves its desired outcomes through positive assistive steps instead of criminalizing those in need.
287	Jennifer Custins	Hairini	I do not agree with the bylaw 20.2 & 20.3 being removed. I feel, as a shopper, it has made the retail areas safer for both consumer and the retailer. It has made an impression and has alerted people that something needs to be done with homeless people. Don't just move them somewhere else and feel the problem has been solved but at the same time the city and suburban shopping centres are not appropriate places for these people to be particularly where children and older folk are needing to negotiate the footpaths.

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
288	Bill Campbell	CBD	The problems in the CBD are not from homeless people but from those people that choose to live rough and to sleep in door ways of shops. They are all receiving a government benefit of some sort but they are loose with their money and enjoy having a good time on alcohol and drugs which of course costs more than the benefits they receive. Hence the reason they need to beg or steal. There is also the occasional problem of the professional beggars being transported in to the city to spend the day begging for a tax free income. The Council should compare these people to freedom campers because that is exactly what they are but with the additional problem of their aggressive attitude in their quest for additional funds to keep them in the life style they all seek and enjoy. I know as I have a business in the CBD and regularly talk to these so called homeless people about themselves and I believe I have a reasonable relationship with them to be able to control our patch. It is the new street people/beggars that are a real problem. They create havoc for a couple of weeks and then disappear and then the cycle continues with others coming and going. This problem is not a perception it is actually a reality and the suggestion of Council being able to ban these people has been working since it's inception as can be seen by the lack of trouble on the streets recently. Those of you that want to change the bylaw back should actually talk to those of us that are in business in the CBD before you all go off half cocked and drag the CBD down even further than it has sunk to already. As with 87% of the Sunlive readers pollsters I would be happy for Council to spend money on defending the bylaw.
289	L Wickham	Omanawa	We have a special needs daughter that travels on the bus routes and lives in supported living. She is very uncomfortable with the intimidating behaviour/attitude of the people who hang around the bus stops and the central city and various shop fronts asking for money. She is frightened of them and does not feel safe with them around her means of transport. It is a basic human right for her and other people trying to live independently to be able to feel safe when they are going about their business during the day. She makes sure she is home by 4pm each day so she is not even outside her house in the evenings. I would have thought that she should be safe in a city like Tauranga during the day. When you are considering human rights, please take into account EVERYONE'S human rights not just one group who have many agencies helping them.
290	Vicky	Greerton	Greerton has just become a safer place to be again since the bylaw. It no longer holds that tense, heavy violent. I stopped shopping there (i am a Greerton resident) due to witnessing shouting and violence from the beggars almost every time i would go. I never wanted my child to see this where he lives and for him to feel unsafe. It would be a shame to take away something that seems to have helped, because i was just starting to feel better about shopping in Greerton. Could you not keep the bylaw whilst also working on other levels of prevention of this sad situation?
291	BILL CAPAMAGIAN	CBD	Why is the Council proposing to abolish something that is working ? Why is TCC being so negative in the info on this issue? So its not being enforced ... Why not?. Ok it needs a Court Order. That's easy .. Get the Parking wardens to take a photo & get a Court Order They take photos of offending cars Does Council really consider the bylaw is not appropriate etc ? The previous Council thought it was appropriate. Why are you bothering to go back over old ground ? Haven't Councillors got better things to do?. So there are other provisions re behavior.. Great. and the begging/ Rough sleeping bylaw has been a successful part of that.. and should stay that way
292	Ella Shirley	Mount Maunganui	This bylaw is completely unfair and does nothing to address the terrible issues of homelessness and poverty in Tauranga. It's also unenforceable so a waste of time and embarrassing for this city. Please remove it and look at holistic means to tackle the problem long-term rather than kick the problem down the road for someone else to deal with.
293	Kaye Dixon	Oropi	I do not agree with the removal of these two Bylaws. It will make it unbearable, uncomfortable and the feeling of being unsafe again to shop in these areas if you remove the Bylaw. Greerton Shopping area for example became quite a popular place for the homeless (or so some portrayed to be "homeless" which was questionable) until these Bylaws were put in place. I stopped shopping in Greerton as I was beginning to feel unsafe to do so, especially when needing to use one of the cash machines! Once this Bylaw was put in place, I returned to Greerton shops. If you revoke these, then I will not shop in these areas again as there is no way I wish to be hounded by these "homeless" people nor do I wish to put myself in a situation where I feel unsafe. This will in my opinion "ruin" the shopping areas if you remove these two Bylaws - I just hope common sense prevails! Also, removing these are not going to change the fact that these people are "homeless"!
294	Wayne Henderson	Brookfield	Begging is the biggest turn off for my family visiting the CBD. The beggars are frequently aggressive and I support retaining the bylaw as a last resort for removing individuals that continue in CBD areas with antisocial behaviour. Dont get rid of the legal bylaw tools that may be legally required in some instances. Tauranga CBD cannot become vibrant again without safe streets that do not have menacing occupants. Tauranga CBD needs more people living within the CBD area in high rise apartments and that injection of large amounts or residents will assist to clean up the streets. Currently the streets are barren and empty shops dominate the desolate landscape.
295	Sheena Jones	Welcome Bay	I read your proposals, and I fully disagree as a Rate payer and citizen. Your current system works well, and once again you have given in to the bleeding hearts brigade. If its not broken, dont fix it. You can still keep the bylaw AND work with these organisations.

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
296	Lyn McCarty	Gate Pa	<p>Council should NOT consider revoking the current begging bylaw. Since it has been in place the Village is a much nicer place to shop and just walk around. Beggars are intimidating and untidy in their appearance, plus they always have rubbish around them. I work one day a week in the Village so I notice the difference on a regular basis.</p> <p>Some wording changes could be considered, although this needs careful management with people who are directly involved.</p> <p>I understand the difference between "the homeless" and "the beggars". Although, having said that I also understand that there are no current "homeless" people from this area.</p> <p>The beggars are a different kettle of fish - they are usually ring-ins from other areas and they definitely DON'T need the handouts they scam off locals. They are also very rude and take up space on the footpath.</p> <p>PLEASE PLEASE reconsider before a decision is made.</p>
297	Tania Hayward	Tauranga South	I'd like to see the bylaw kept in place as you work alongside the community services as I get approached while at the parking meters and while sitting in alfresco restaurants for money. Since the bylaw the city is looking and feeling safer
298	Pam Wright-St Clair	Mount Maunganui	Keep by-laws as they are. Please do not remove them.They have worked well. We are residents who live near the Mt CBD and prior to the by-laws often felt intimidated by the homeless around the shopping centre. They drink alcohol on the footpath, leave their rubbish and have been abusive. Immediately the by-law was put into effect, we noticed a significant change in their behaviour. Surely the by-law can exist alongside support systems for the homeless.
299	Donna	Mount Maunganui	<p>I think the bylaw should stay as it is including 20.2 and 20.3. As a resident of the CBD I find the beggars to be intimidating and rude to us as we go about our business. In particular the men who beg for money for food then walk into the of licence and buy liquor.</p> <p>Make our city safe for everyone and keep beggars out of the CBD.</p> <p>Yes some want real help but many where I live don't want food or help , just to harass.</p>
300	Kirsty Buxton	Greerton	<p>I do NOT agree with revoking the current bylaw regarding begging. I live in Greerton, I own my own house, pay my rates on time & have lived here since I was a child so feel I should get a say about the future of Greerton. The beggars we had been having problems with before the current bylaw was passed are professionals. They are people who already collect a benefit (I know this for a fact as my background is in banking & served some of these people) then go around harassing people minding their own business. Until the bylaw was passed my young Daughter & I could not walk around Greerton village because of the number of professional beggars & knowing stories of how aggressive they could be. Security guards were introduced at first but that did not fix the problem at all, the bylaw has been amazing & we've seen Greerton restored to the lovely village it has always been.</p> <p>I have no issue with homeless people sleeping rough, my issue is purely around these professional beggars coming in & ruining our suburb & making it impossible to enjoy. Revoking the bylaw would be a massive mistake & we will end up with lots of empty shops as a result.</p>
301	Annette Cookson	Pyes Pa	<p>Leave it as it is. Terry Molloy worked so hard to make Greerton free of beggars and the new council has been in office for 5mins and wants to undo all the good work that he did. Think of the shop owners and the public who have to tolerate them.</p> <p>There is projects that are more important that need attending to.</p>
302	Angela Wallace	Whakamarama	<p>I support the proposed changes to the bylaw. Marginalising vulnerable members of our community with a bylaw prohibiting them to sit or sleep near shops in the CBD is not a kind or humane solution. Removing the references to begging and rough sleeping in the bylaw is the right thing to do.</p> <p>Vulnerable homeless members of our community should be supported with services and referred to agencies who can help them. Funding which is currently used to enforce the bylaw should be distributed to groups who support our homeless community.</p>
303	Jenny Falconer	CBD	<p>I have been working fulltime at Greerton now for the last 15 years, and every week day morning have sat and had a cup of coffee prior to work at 730am. Until the bylaw came into effect it became increasingly noticeable and visible to me, that on a daily basis shop owners, customers, members of the community were being harassed. I witnessed prior to the bylaw being passed, that "homeless" people were sleeping in shop doorways, they were abusive when asked to move on, they were seen by me to urinate in the street and on the footpath and they verbally threatened passerbys, those sitting in parked cars, and retailers. I have seen these people verbally threaten an elderly women, and demand money from her, and also demand food and drink from a cafe. When they have not been able to get what they want, again they have been abusive to those who are around along with innocent bystanders and passerbys. I watched a woman buy a takeaway breakfast for someone who was sitting in a door way, begging. The woman who bought the breakfast and went and gave it to him, she drove away in her car, and the person she gave it to, promptly put it in the rubbish bin. I have seen at times, man/woman go and confront someone sitting in their car, yelling at them to give them money, and then abusing them and kicking their car, when they could not get their own way. The used to sit in groups outside the Greerton post office, by the BNZ bank, and hassle people, like myself, who went to clear the mail boxes. My mother, an elderly woman in her late 80's used to shop frequently at Greerton and while this 'nonsense' was going on, has stayed away from retail shopping here in Greerton, declaring she will not put her life at risk by going "out there again to shop"</p> <p>Since the bylaw has come into effect, Greerton has become the shopping centre it used to be; the peaceful and and safe Greerton of old, I have witnessed no one sleeping "rough" on the streets or in shop doorways, nor have I seen anyone being intimidated or abused. Greerton is a much safer and less threatening area of Tauranga now. I am hoping that the revocation of the begging and rough sleeping provisions in the Street Use and Public places Bylaw adopted late last year does not occur - I am not in favour of any changes made to the current bylaw.</p>
304	Tamara Coory	Otumoetai	leave it the way it is

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
305	Mrs J Pollett	Matua	If you are proposing to try other means, why could these not be tried before the bylaw is removed. Hopefully if you consider this to be workable it should be shown before the bylaw is removed. It definitely does create an intimidating atmosphere when you see people sitting on the street trying to have money given to them. It can be quite frightening to women who are far more approachable as you are not sure of the intentions of the person. Many people do not carry cash these days & when none is given to the street person, abusive language & actions can come forth. Some can be using drugs where movements can become erratic. If they remain it definitely would make me avoid visiting the centre city to purchase goods. I do not think it gives a good impression of the main city area. Does Hamilton not apply a similar policy of removal?
306	Rachel Hawkins	Welcome Bay	I worry especially for the retailers, the elderly and nervous or vulnerable citizens walking to shops or ATM's if the bylaw is revoked. Begging was getting out of hand, particularly in the Greerton & Tauranga CBD areas & even Welcome Bay. It was putting people off shopping in these places. Scammers were set up like shift workers profiteering from pressuring kind-hearted &/or intimidated people to supply them with money. I do want to see homeless & those in genuine need helped out with food & shelter solutions but I don't like the idea of allowing begging again. That is not fixing the problem & it is not what's best for the community.
307	warren & Rae Smith	CBD	Please, please leave the current Bylaw alone, Greerton hasn't been this safe for us oldies for the past 2 years. Why cant you councilors leave well alone. If you really think changing the Bylaw is what the people of Tauranga want then I and all our friends think you all should get out on the street and talk to the citizens and shopkeepers. Your only going to increase the problem by reverting back to the previous laws. I'm sorry but we all now seriously regret voting your council in. You would of only got a couple of homeless votes had you made it clear to us voters that one of the first new council tasks was to change this Bylaw.
308	Peter Yerex	Papamoa	I strongly support that begging and rough sleeping is dealt with. If the council allows retailers and other businesses to put up with the 'social responsibility' of the beggars and rough sleepers then why charge them rates on the property that they occupy, Hey let's all go and sort the problem by taking all the homeless to the curb of council members. Homeless and beggars should not be a problem to the business people that not only pay rates for commercial properties but probably domestic and rental properties also. For goodness sake. Make the cbd for a cbd. Sort your out tcc. I have possible answers but let me know if I can help. Let's solve the issue whatever road it takes. Let's not allow our business district to become like the back roads of Patpong. No good will come to either the business people, or the rough sleepers if council allows the status quo. Give both parties what they need and deserve. Does no one in tcc have the clues or compassion for all parties? Probably not and just a chance for another consultant.
309	Ngarimu Solomon	Welcome Bay	Those who are begging, I do understand they don't have appropriate roof over their heads because of circumstances, surely they must get some kind of income (benefits) to support themselves weekly or seeking assistants for help, anyway I would not give them money to feed their habits (drugs, booze and cigarettes) but I would buy them food to eat, you wonder where their money is going. There are some helpful places out there not much of them don't know how to use these sources because of their circumstances, lost and maybe its getting to certain places where they can not get to, I reckon TCC should help provide community vehicles or set up a program for the homeless who don't have anything, TCC wants the NO begging and rough sleeping, hey, help solve the problem make it easy that most will understand. Luckily Ex mayor Brownlee whatever not in, he could not solve the problem, find something that will work, make life easier on the homeless, the public and for TCC. TCC you wouldn't need to spend much money, set up night shelters for females separate males in Tauranga central, Mount Maunganui, Greerton, where ever the numbers are with showers/toilets and breakfast in return they can pay weekly and help clean/tidy the premises before leaving for their daily routine.
310	James Murcott	Omokoroa	Keep the current bylaw as it stands. (There already appears to have been an improvement in Greerton CBD as a result). Improve the bylaw further by giving the appropriate authorities more power to remove begging and sleeping that impinge on business and public access. Objectionable behaviour by these few homeless should not be allowed to affect the larger socially acceptable community. Its no different to drunk and disorderly behaviour and should be treated accordingly.
311	Mathew Manninen	Papamoa	Hi as a business owner I have seen a massive change in Greerton where by business is once the bylaw came into effect. These changes include the following Feeling Safe, seeing people in the community confident in entering the shopping also feeling safer. The area is cleaner. It should be simple and easy for people including the public and business owners to go about their daily routines without being harassed by members of the public for money and or food. There are already a large number of agencies to help these people. At the end of the day there has to be protection of the law abiding citizens in this city.
312	Dylan	Ohauiti	Do not revoke the bylaw. It is much easier and calmer to walk around shops when you don't have beggars around. It feels intimidating and makes me less likely, and less willing, to be in areas where beggars are, and also those sleeping in doorways. It's also bad for business.

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
313	Judith Harney	CBD	<p>I am in my seventies and am once again in the CBD on most days, since the number of itinerant beggars and rough sleepers have become almost nil.</p> <p>There was a period in the CBD more than a year ago when I preferred to go to Bay Fair or The Crossing because I felt that I was not intimidated by beggars and homeless. I have experienced being harassed and intimidated by these people and have gone in to a shop to get away from them.</p> <p>Since the bylaw was introduced and has taken some effect I am now comfortable going out in the evenings because of the absence of beggars and homeless. I donate generously to charities as do many other people so I consider that those charities assist itinerants and there is therefore no reason to feel a need to give them money, which is probably used for alcohol and cigarettes rather than food.</p> <p>Health wise, the rough sleepers do not help the city, I have seen them urinating in public places, also scavenging for food in rubbish bins.</p> <p>I expect that there will always be a situation of homelessness, there are organisations which do help, there is no need for anyone to camp in business premises doorways, whether the shop space is in use or is vacant.</p> <p>These people tend to be untidy and belligerent, they do not contribute to an environment which under the council's 'Street Use & Public Places Bylaw 2005' and subsequent amendments which are in place for 'Public Health and Safety', 'Protect Public from nuisances'. 'Minimise the potential for offensive behaviour' and 'To Manage Public Places for the well being and Enjoyment of the Public'.</p> <p>I believe that the Council has nipped a growing problem in the bud with the introduction of the Bylaw.</p> <p>Please do not revoke the Bylaw so that we can have a city centre that we can be proud of for our visitors and tourists to Tauranga. The city needs every encouragement to fill the empty business premises, would you open a business in the city where you know there are beggars and rough sleepers camped in doorways or perhaps in front of your own residential properties?</p>
314	Jean Linn.	Pyes Pa	<p>Re submission on Street Use and Public Places Bylaw.</p> <p>I am a regular shopper in Greerton.</p> <p>My doctors, pharmacy and bank are in Greerton along with other businesses that I support.</p> <p>Since the Bylaw was put in place in 2018 I do feel so much safer doing my shopping in Greerton. Before this Bylaw was put in place I had been harassed with people lying around,sitting in shop doorways, following me asking for money and know of others that have had to put up with this also.</p> <p>There is a large number of elderly people living in Greerton and rely on being able to do there everyday shopping in the village without having to be harassed like I was and I'm not as old as a lot of the people are you feel very vulnerable.</p> <p>The previous council has spent a lot of money in Greerton Village making it a lot safer for people to cross roads etc and it is a lovely looking village so why does this council want to change this law when it is working well as it is and people in general are much happier and feel much safer as are the business owners.</p> <p>I feel very much for the business owners having to put up with these people lying about stopping there customers being able to get into there shops as they are to frightened to walk past them. I believe that businesses in the village were really struggling before this bylaw was put in place and if we want Greerton Village to continue to be a thriving little village don't change the bylaw.</p> <p>You have only been in office a few weeks so STOP AND THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU WILL DO TO THIS VILLAGE IF YOU REVOKE THIS BYLAW.</p>
315	margaret collins	Judea	<p>I request that you revoke the ban on rough sleepers.</p> <p>While I agree this is not an idea situation these people are amongst our most vulnerable citizens and deserve a safe place to be preferably provided by you.</p> <p>Let us be a city of kindness</p>
316	Carra	Greerton	<p>I have noticed a great change in Greerton since it was introduced and you going back will just invite the group of violent intimidating organised orchestrated beggars back to Greerton where they can prey on the elderly and vulnerable. Keep it as is. It was working as a deterrent to those who were making a nuisance.</p> <p>You are not the ones that have to walk around Greerton with your children and deal with this. My children were exposed to disgusting behaviour and it made us drive. You want people to walk and bike then keep the village feel by keeping these disgusting people away. The genuine homeless caused no problems at all it is a group of scammers so please dont ruin what has been a positive change.</p>
317	Tanya Maxwell	Pyes Pa	<p>Please do not allow beggars and the homeless to sleep in these areas. When they used to be there I felt intimidated and unsafe and I stopped shopping in these areas. It is not a nice environment to take children into either when they are present.</p>
318	Heather Chander C/- Indelible	CBD	<p>I am a Retailer 'Indelible' at 31 Devonport Road, located between Just Jeans and Hallensteins.</p> <p>Our store is long and narrow with two small shop windows; we don't have a lot of Street exposure. I have had trouble in the past with opportunists and beggars sitting or standing just down from my shop window. This makes it uncomfortable and intimidating for potential customers to stop and view product in our window.</p> <p>Being a Retailer currently in the CBD is hard enough without customers being frightened away by beggars and abusive behaviour.</p> <p>We have noticed a significant difference since the 5 metre ban has been in place.</p>
319	Phillip Leng	Ohauiti	The only change that should occur is an extension of the 5m to 500 metres.
320	Sam	CBD	Leave it,
321	Tracey Carlton		<p>Street Kai voices of our vulnerable,homeless Community in Tauranga CBD since August 2017. The 5m bylaws begging and roughsleeping have impacted greatly on us...pushed us out of shelter,windbreak,lighting and cctv cameras...which gave us a degree of shelter and safety at night.The impact on our wellbeing,mental health has been very negative...we feel discriminated against,marginalised and not wanted by our own community. Racism...bias,judgement,privelege and stigma has pushed us out into the avenues and suburbs....away from our street whanau,community meals and important services we need on a daily basis: eg: public toilets,drinking fountains,winz,peoples project and mental health and medical services and many agencys we need access to. Many of us are unable to read or write and need support to fill in forms. Mostly its made us feel crappy and not wanted by our own community...its a pretty stink feeling. We would like the oppurtunity today to have our voices heard...thankyou.</p>

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
322	Sally Benning		I strongly advocate for the Bylaw to be kept exactly as it is. It is working and the greater Greerton Community have indicated their displeasure at the thought of it being revoked - on social media and in the press. Whilst I accept there may be reason to amend some wording - if that is the only option to keep it, then lets look at that. As an employee working in Greerton Village for over 4 years I witnessed the detrimental change to the village when being approached on almost a daily basis, asked for money, abused when not forthcoming etc. I also witnessed first hand on almost a daily basis, members of the public being abused verbally, stopped outside the pharmacies where people were demanding their prescription drugs, being harassed at our ATM machines and intimidated enough to keep away from Greerton - just so they did not have to walk through the large groups of people outside many of the shops daily. Greerton became an unpleasant place to be and since the bylaw was introduced, over a couple of days - the whole ambiance changed and over time, the "good" vibe returned, as did the shoppers and Greerton Village became a great place to be and to work again and I personally am concerned and fearful if the bylaw goes and we have to revert to those "bad days" again. If so - my question to the council who want to revoke it - come up with a better solution that can be implemented right now, not next month or next year. If you are intent on revoking it then show us a better solution
323	V Odey		I disagree with the revocation of the begging and rough sleeping provisions contained in the respective bylaw . It needs to stay , and be strengthened or given some teeth . It's an ugly and undesirable problem , can be intimidating and in a country like NZ which has a dearth of wraparound social services , unnecessary and unacceptable . We are not a third world country . Of those who do this, who is in genuine need and who are manipulating the generosity of the public . The bylaw provisions may be largely ineffectual as alleged, but the public feel at least something is in place , small step tho ' it may be. The council does have a responsibility in my opinion in dealing with and preventing such behaviours , on behalf of the ratepayers , businesses, others , that come in to the city to enjoy all that the city offers . It's not a good look , potentially affects the businesses in the respective area ,possibly drives away potential business , harms the cities image ,affects the public , is visually very disturbing and has the potential to grow if something is not being seen to stop this . The provisions in the bylaw are just one small thing and as ineffectual, as alleged it may be , by being stated , it is reassuring that some attempt has been made to address such an ugly social problem . People also have choices and 'preying ' on the public in this manner is not really acceptable and should not be encouraged . There are other solutions , The awareness of such a bylaw may contribute to a lessening of this issue . There has to be something in place for the well being and consideration of the general public and the businesses etc , by the city Council , in the same way it is mandated to regulate and govern so much else to do with the City .
324	Keryn Hawkes		I support the proposal to remove the begging and rough sleeping provisions in the current law. The current by law conflates these issues with the issues of anti social, nuisance, threatening or offensive behaviour. There is no evidence that additional measures are needed to prevent these people, in particular, from presenting a threat to other people's safety or liberty. Homeless people are not a permanent fixed group of people who are separate from the rest of the community; rather they are people from across the spectrum of our community. Their reasons for rough sleeping are as varied and individual as they themselves are. Some will need a place to sleep for one or two nights due to a break down in arrangements or relationships. Others will have a longer term need and additional support services. None of us is immune from the circumstances that contribute to loss of income, health, family support or secure accommodation. The council would be better employed investigating what support they could offer to people who are in this situation.
325	Mike Brooker		The existing bylaws seem to have worked successfully in Greerton so why change them?
326	Brian Conning		Once having run a business for 22 years in the CBD, I have seen first hand the nuisance the homeless bring to trhe CBD and Greerton village. Personally, I would make things harder, not soften the laws surrounding this problem.

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
327	Simone Cuers		<p>Submission to Tauranga City Council – Street Use and Public Places Bylaw 2018 - Proposed revocation of begging and rough sleeping provisions.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed revocations. The People's Project's area of focus is rough sleeping and unsheltered homelessness using the evidence-based Housing First approach.</p> <p>Background to this submission Homelessness is an incredibly complex issue which no single organisation working alone can solve. It takes the community working together.</p> <p>We all recognise there has been a growing problem with homelessness in Tauranga. It has affected many people in the community, including business owners.</p> <p>Three years ago, the Tauranga community came together to try and find a positive solution – this resulted in Our Community Project – OCP – forming a working group of key stakeholders from across the city.</p> <p>After researching and better understanding the problems we have in Tauranga, particularly for those people who are sleeping rough/on the street, OCP invited The People's Project to come and share its successful approach to rough sleeping in Hamilton.</p> <p>Our relationship then grew into a partnership to find a sustainable source of central government funding to set up The People's Project service in Tauranga.</p> <p>In January 2018, the Ministry for Social Development announced it would fund The People's Project to work with 100 chronic homeless people in Tauranga over the next two years. Today this contract sits with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.</p> <p>The People's Project is solely focused on those people who are sleeping rough in Tauranga. These people are the chronic, long-term, homeless and they have multiple and complex needs which require ongoing support such as mental health and addictions services.</p> <p>Our service opened its doors to the Tauranga public on Tuesday, 5 June 2018. Today we are nearly one and half years into this contract.</p> <p>As at 20/12/19 we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieved 72 housing outcomes for 54 people: Just under one quarter of the 54 people housed have had more than one tenancy. Reasons for this include properties being leased or sold and clients in shared-house arrangements finding themselves in unsustainable situations (most of our clients do best living alone). More than one tenancy is normal in Housing First where a relocation rate of 20-30% is the average. We rehouse people as soon as we can. We never give up. • 79% of people have found a home in the private rental market; 12% have public (state) housing and 9% have a home managed by a community housing provider.
328	Graeme Purches		<p>The current by law has gone some way towards resolving the problems it was put in place for. These include, obstruction, the creation of nuisance, the harassment of innocent people, littering, creating an impediment for people to take their customer to affected businesses, and cleanup and other expenses plus loss of business and income for those businesses. I have personally been abused by one rough sleeper who crashed his cycle when returning to his place of sleep in the doorway of a CBD business, and then proceeded to swear and abuse everybody in the vicinity, and those arriving at the scene. A neighbour, working in a business in Elizabeth Street, as followed by a rough sleeper/beggar carrying a beer bottle, and asking "give some money lady" while leaving her place of work. She was terrified. I have personally observed beggars working on a shift basis, at both Elizabeth Street and Greerton, with new people coming on a regular basis to "take over and man the stand", joking and laughing with the departing minder/beggar as they did so. at times, there were three of four people congregated there, some of whom were clearly under the influence of something. I believe some of these people, in particular at Greerton, were regularly driving over from Rotorua in a 7-10 seat mini-van. Yes - I agree, the current bylaw is not a long term solution to the problem. But it has resulted in a significant reduction in these activities.</p> <p>I submit that council would be doing everybody a favour, if it did as proposed and worked with other parties to seek an enduring solution to the problem.</p> <p>But I also submit, that this can still happen while the by-law remains in place, maintaining a deterrent, but still leaving the way open to remove the by-law if a solution to the problem is found.</p>
329	Jordan		<p>We do not want it lifted because the beggars will be back , which is bad for businesses. There is already beggars coming back onto the streets and sleeping over the footpaths in direct way of people walking throughout the day, this is already making people not want to come into greerton to shop because they don't want to be hassled by the beggars or frightened when they say no to them. People don't want to shop in fear or have to step over a sleeping body on the footpath. As a store manager i am already hearing customers come in and complain about it and telling me they wont be back in if it continues to become an issue.</p>

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
330	Barry Scott		<p>The bylaw as it stands does not forbid begging and rough sleeping altogether, and is , in my submission, fair to both parties. It protects the right of the shopkeeper and shopper to be able to go about their business without undue interference and it preserves the right of others to carry on their own lives as they choose - or are forced to do - provided of course they keep within the law.</p> <p>The bylaw has had benefits for shopkeepers and no loss for others. In fact, for some of those "others" their have been benefits in the form of steps towards better living.</p> <p>It works; don't try "fix" it.</p>
331	A Linn		<p>The bylaw has been working and needs to stay.</p> <p>Tommy Wilson from Te Tuinga Whanau admitted (at our meeting in Greerton Library with the Mayor and council representatives) that the bylaw has been the stick that has driven many 'streetfolk' to seek help, so that is great.</p> <p>The legal challenge hinges on people's rights, but what about the rights of the majority – the people who would like to enjoy a friendly, safe community.</p> <p>Council's own website states:</p> <p>'The aim of Safer Communities is to make Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty a safe place to live, work and play' with one of their goals being 'Safety goal two: Public spaces are used freely and without fear (crime prevention)'</p> <p>TCC needs to work towards their own goal and take into account the rights of their ratepayers to have safe, positive communities.</p> <p>I sincerely hope this new Council recognises the value in keeping the bylaw and making sure Tauranga is a place that people want to visit and live in.</p> <p>To back down now would be such a waste of all the hard work and progress that has been made.</p>
332	Mohammad Zaber		<p>It doesn't matter what TCC is going to change in the bylaw. What is important to us, the outcome.</p> <p>It's very clear that before the bylaw, the council & police couldn't manage the situation with existing laws & member of the public was intimidated with those so called 'homeless' beggar. As a retailer I've witnessed many issues with those homeless beggar. I've seen my customers got highly intimidated with those aggressive beggar and they were highly disappointed. As a retailer I've faced many issues with those homeless people. They threatened me many times & I felt humiliated with their behavior because it clearly shows I can't do anything. My rear window was broken one time & my front glass door got a big crack (I still couldn't fix it). it was a total nightmare to run the business. Because you can see those criminals everyday but no way to protest them rather we had compromise that to avoid any bigger problems. Many times I've got the smell of weeds when they were out there & many times alcohol as well.</p> <p>Last but not least, My wife got intimidated with those homeless in the city when she was changing the bus near TCC. They said something (like, go out of our country) because probably she wears Hijab. She was shocked and scared a lot. After that She wanted to avoid Tauranga City centre.</p> <p>In conclusion, What I want to say is that whatever change TCC doesn't matter. Only the result is matter. TCC shouldn't take any steps where member of the public will be disappointed & criminals will be the ultimate winner.</p> <p>TCC Please mind your Step.</p>
333	Michelle Hoolihan		<p>To me it seem that council members have no understanding as to why these provisions were put into place. My children at the time were attending Greereton village kindergarten and primary school. One time when I took my youngest to kindergarten their out doors playground wooden equipment had burnt down during the night from rough sleepers getting into the kindergarten to sleep and had made a fire and used the wooden supplies at the kindergarten to burn. Their were still hot ambers in the yard when children attended the next day. The school had bad problems with rough sleepers drinking in the grounds and smashing the glass bottles. My child found glass in the sand pit one time. They now have the school fenced off but still accessible for adults. The childrens parents were also warned to not drop their kids off early as their were still drug effected homeless people hanging around in the morning. And also walking my kids to school and getting through the park next to the library only to have to tippy toe past men sleeping. And I have seen many beggars hassling the elderly outside shops. I work at Mc Donald's in Greerton and had beggars hiding outside where cameras weren't able to reach with signs begging customers. Greerton is now more alive and ceasing these provisions will do harm to lovely Greertons economy. So I'm very against this provisions lift.</p>

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
334	Colleen Spiro		<p>SUBMISSION COLLEEN SPIRO Begging and Rough Sleeping By-law</p> <p>P: [REDACTED]</p> <p>E: [REDACTED]</p> <p>(BEGGING & Rough Sleeping BY-LAW) 20th Dec 2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20.2 No person shall beg in a public place within five metres of a public entrance to retail premises within defined areas in the CBD, Greerton and Mount Maunganui. • 20.3 No person shall rough sleep within five metres of a retail premises within defined areas in the CBD, Greerton and Mount Maunganui. <p>I personally became interested in our Street Whanau as I am a resident of Greerton Village. I am of the firm belief that these false beggars/drug dealers that were being ferried into the village where not dealt to quickly enough, or effectively by the LAW</p> <p>I was very active in my community, volunteering at Waipuna and running an op shop page, which required me walk the streets, go into the op shops, meet the Managers, take photos, and post photos to a FB page that I had set up, which had a couple of thousand people on it. I also at the time, promoted other Greerton businesses, as I felt that the Greerton Village Mainstreet admin was not doing this, so I did it for her for over three years.</p> <p>Let me very clear...I believe that retailers have the right to go about their business without interference and I believe everyone should walk the streets and feel safe. There are many laws already in place that every citizen has to abide by.</p> <p>When the beggars first started to appear in Greerton, it was obvious right from the very beginning to EVERYONE that MOST of these people were being ferried in and that it was an organised CRIMINAL ACTIVITY. I had on several occasions witnessed and heard from others that drug dealing was taking pace, and in my opinion, should have been nipped in the bud, right from the very beginning and dealt with by the appropriate people which would have been the POLICE.</p> <p>I spoke to Leanne Fairbairn, our local Community Constable and on my almost daily visits to Greerton Village, spoke to retailers and implored them to call the Police, after EVERY incident. Apparently the Police were not responding WHY NOT. We need to be quite clear here, that most of these people were being ferried in from out of town and were NOT LOCAL HOMELESS people. I was aware of one local family who did beg, but they have been fortunate enough to find a home, and couple of other locals, with mental health issues.</p> <p>The problem continued because the Police were not responding, so instead the Council REACTED by placing Security guards in Greerton for MONTHS, at huge cost to the ratepayers, \$1500 per week, and there were two guards. There were also about 5 guards employed in the CBD at a cost of \$5,500 per week. These guards in the CBD could not cross the road to the bus stop and deal with any illegal activity. I know.....I have asked them on more than one occasion.</p> <p>https://www.sunlive.co.nz/news/174656-1500-week-to-deter-bad-behaviour.html</p> <p>The people who were participating in the criminal activity knew that these guards had no official capacity to solve the issue, as far as the begging was concerned, and were just there to give a false impression to the people of Greerton, that they would be safe and to assure the retailers that TCC were actually doing something about the problem.</p> <p>I reiterate, if the criminal activity had been dealt with effectively in the beginning, it would not have escalated to the point that it did. We have a Police force for a reason, and laws around intimidation, being drunk/drugged, unlawful assembly in a public place, and other laws that could/should have been dealt with as CRIMINAL ACTIVITY. I do not deny that one OR two people may have had a prescription taken from them, or that people were intimidated, but I do feel a FEAST</p>

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
335	Colleen Spiro (Street Retreat)		<p>SUBMISSION COLLEEN SPIRO Begging and Rough Sleeping By-law</p> <p>██████████ ██████████</p> <p>Kia ora koutou, Ko Colleen Spiro taku ingoa</p> <p>I am the facilitator of Street Retreat, which is held out the Holy Trinity Church each Wednesday, and the hall is offered to us by the Church at no charge, to feed and spend some time with our Street Whanau, and people vulnerable from Tauranga Moana</p> <p>We operate through donations, and do not take money away from Awhina House, although they generously donate food when able to do so and are hugely supportive of our kaupapa, as it so closely aligns with theirs.</p> <p>We are unique in the fact that we are able to spent TIME with our Street Whanau, from 11.30-3pm. We feed upwards of 40 people each Wednesday and have a team of dedicated volunteers who prepare a healthy main meal, dessert and other donations of food are given by the public. After a meal, people are welcome to spend the next few hours with us, in a warm, dry, non-judgemental environment. Our volunteers are happy to give haircuts, massages, paint the ladies nails, chat, or our Street whanau can join in many of the activities offered, whether it be crafts, crosswords, colouring in, Trivial pursuit, chess or more physical activities, like indoor basketball, table tennis etc. Our guitar is often picked up and the sound of people singing is wonderful. Some may choose to have a rest on one of our three mattresses provided. Often our Street whanau choose to sleep in the daytime for obvious reasons. There is the opportunity to charge phones, which is an essential item to keep in touch with appointments etc.</p> <p>We are fortunate to have a prescribing nurse who calls in to see if her assistance is required. She is able to if necessary help our whanau register with a doctor, free of charge. This service is invaluable as we all know that being exposed to the elements can cause all sorts of health issues for our people.</p> <p>We encourage people to tell us if they are having difficulty accessing help, so that we can assist them with making appointments with agencies like Winz, the People's project, Takitimu House and Awhina House, or any other agency to receive appropriate assistance.</p> <p>We have a rule at Street Retreat that we never ask how our guests HOW they got to where they are, but I have been privy to have a couple of our people tell me their stories.</p> <p>One afternoon at Street Retreat I had the sad task of informing our Street whanau that a young lad and friend of theirs had committed suicide and advise the time of his memorial and Tangihana....during this time, I reminded them, that if they think no one cares, they are wrong, that all our volunteers are there because we care about them. That afternoon a couple of the guys did open up to me</p> <p>I can tell you that if ONE of the horrific incidents that they shared happened to you, or myself, let alone all the rest of the tragic stories told, we may not be here. We may have chosen another way to deal with the pure trauma, as their friend had just done. I had one chap tell me, he had never spoken to anyone else about what he had told me, so how can you heal, when you don't know how to access the right people to start healing, or there simply are no places for them to go. Our mental health services are stretched to the maximum.</p> <p>People say they choose to live on the Streets. I know two people who do, and these people would NEVER beg, they are too proud to beg, but then then there are others who would NEVER CHOOSE to live on the streets. WHY WOULD THEY? It is not a life of luxury, and hugely frightening for all our whanau. I have often</p>
336	Nedra Harvey		<p>Please leave this bylaw as it stands. Even though this bylaw has no teeth supposedly, it has made the biggest difference in our city, and especially Greerton. I won't mention the CBD here because I rarely go there being little to interest me and great difficulty in getting a parking spot to enable me to stay even if I did want to.</p> <p>Greerton though, is a delightful shopping and amenities village, serving quite a wide community. It became totally rundown and disgusting when there were beggars everywhere, threatening people and obstructing ordinary people going about their business. In many cases these were not even bona fide beggars, but ring ins, bussed in from other places.</p> <p>Businesses closed as people were unable to safely enter the premises and the results were widely published in our local paper.</p> <p>The police either turned a blind eye or were unable to attend, having more important issues to deal with, and there is no reason to think this would be any different now.</p> <p>Slowly after the bylaw, as the beggars left, fearing being caught up in legal matters, Greerton resumed its normal, friendly, peaceful identity, and today it is again a joy to visit and wander around the shops, go to the library, post office or banks, buy a lotto ticket and visit the op shops.</p> <p>It is safe to get children from Greerton Village School or safe for them to walk home alone and safe for elderly people to visit doctors and other clinics in the area. I would consider it totally irresponsible of the new council to tamper with what has been a brilliant solution to huge problems of public intimidation and safety.</p> <p>There are very good organisations in place to help the people who want and need help, but it was very obvious the Greerton beggars weren't interested in seeking this help, only getting money by threatening means if necessary!</p> <p>Please leave the status quo and instead help the organisations with their plans in place to aid these people.</p>

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
337	Robyn Parker		<p>I would like to see the by law stay as it is , as a retailer in Greerton , I see the general public returning to Greerton to support the local businesses. A general comment from people is they feel safe in Greerton as they no longer have to walk around groups sitting around shop entrances. People can use the council car park and safely get their vehicles out without having to pay a fee. As a retailer I feel safer without the begging people on the footpath outside my shop. I no longer have weapons (Canoe paddles/pieces of wood) been waved about at me. I had a lady shelter in the shop one day as she got into a disagreement over money with a beggar and it took the police two and a half hours to arrive and take her home safely. The language used by the beggars before the bylaw was very offence. I am next door to Pizza Hut and members of the public did buy pizzas for the footpath people but 80 % of them went in the bin as they wanted money for their drugs.</p> <p>Members of the public are telling me they will stop coming to Greerton if the beggars and homeless are allowed back into Greerton , this will mean I will be closing the doors of my business as I will not put myself in that amount of danger again. Westpac Greerton is closing its doors and moving , staff safely is a concern for them too.</p> <p>The local police do not have the resources to assist every time help was requested , I probably got a patrol car turn up 1 in 3 times on the day. The bylaw truly did make a difference for me.</p> <p>Please do change the bylaw there are members of the Greerton community that rely on the shopping centre as they have no means of transport to travel or for health reasons are unable to travel to other areas.</p>
338	Rex Parker		<p>Please do not change the Bylaw. My biggest concern is personal safety of myself and customers/shoppers.</p> <p>As a business owner I have had my life threaten and the threat of having my business burnt to the ground. On both of these occasions the police was unable to attend that day. Both of these incidents arose when I asked a female beggar to move from blocking the front door entrance to my business.</p> <p>One night we needed Police assistance to remove a girl sleeping against our closed door so we could leave. They then placed her back down on the ground across the doorway.</p> <p>We run evening classes and had to make special arrangements to ensure the safety of people returning to their cars after classes.</p> <p>If the bylaw is reversed, I feel there could be a loss of someone's life or someone will suffer a major injury or a major business loss.</p> <p>The change when the bylaw came in was immediate, the street was tidy and safe.</p> <p>Begging was the major problem , getting involved with people begging as part of a gang was the most frightening thing I have ever come across.</p>
339	Daniel Sycamore		<p>I have lived in Greerton since 1951. During recent times when the beggars began soliciting money and food from anyone,and everyone,the village was not a nice place to go anymore.Since the bylaw came into place,once again it has become a pleasant place to be. I am totally opposed to this turn around, by the new council. Once again God help the retailers trying to run their business. This will be nothing but bad news to us members of the public(Voters)</p>
340	jan ross		<p>Greerton ,, is a Village...it imcompasses, residential dwellings, business, schools, preschools, medical facilities, etc etc.. This proposal, is , in the state proposed, 'street use'.. is, focusing on.. the specific area of the business and retail center, along Cameron rd and Chadwick roads.</p> <p>I am a retail business owner. in Chadwick rd.... below are my views.. against the, 'to revoke'.....</p> <p>"You only have to sit on a bench, under the Cherry Trees in the village center, and will soon see, how this community works. Demographically, it would appear more senior populatated, but, in recent times, many young families have moved into the area, as it is 'priced affordable'.. for many 1st home buyers..You will see the interaction between these generations, greeting, sharing, laughing..friendships are formed and a friendlyness prevails which makes this whole 'scene' indearing... that is, since the 'bylaw'.. People feel safe, unthreatened, comfortable and settled.. The school walking bus, moves thru with all the chatter and laughter from the children.. and the teachers and volunteers take advantage of moments to encourage a sense of well being and belonging , to the children.</p> <p>.Shop keepers, like myself have loyal and regular customers.. Cordial greetings are exchanged, as with many small communities and towns.. We are not a CBD.. we are a Village.. with schools , preschools medical centers right with in its heart.. The fact, that you(the council) feel, the rights of our people and children i talk about , above, cannot be taken into consideration, above the 'human rights of the beggars'.. is just such a absurd parity..it makes no sense what so ever... The disruption these beggars cause is dramatic.. it is frightening , rude, and nasty.. Why should our elderly and young be exposed to bad language, spitting, horrible gestures ..just so that the beggars can 'use' their human rights.. at the expense of the majority.</p> <p>No its not fair..</p> <p>We are not India.. we have, in nz, the beggars have, people and places that can help them..they do not need to sit and sleep in our doorways.. Peeing in these door was of our shops! Leaving rubbish.. Swearing and harrassing... Not all of them , granted, but... I dont believe for a second that the council will provide 'people' on the ground. to escort the beggars .. to such ..facilities..that can help them....Not for one moment..</p> <p>Please respect our Village..the elderly, the not so elderly, the young and the very young..</p> <p>It takes a village to raise a child.. and no more can you see this happening than in Greerton.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
341	Dinnel Bailey-Gordon		<p>I work in greerton and since the bylaw has been put in place greerton is a much nicer place to be and feels alot safer. Previously you would feel intimidated walking down the street and the by law has made such a positive improvement that I believe it should remain as it. I agree social services should be worked with to resolve the root cause of the issue but that can still work alongside the bylaw. In addition it only prohibits rough sleeping within 5 meters of the shops - this means if a person does not want to accept help and wants to remain rough sleeping they are still able to do so just not in the places limited by the bylaw. The begging is such an issue as it intimidates people. Again there are social services in place to assist people in financial need - they do not need to beg. Many of the beggars previously seen in greerton looked at that as their "job" and were being dropped of daily - if they required financial assistance they could seek that through the proper avenues rather than intimidating the general public.</p> <p>The ways to resolve this issue which you are proposing in place of the bylaw were already in place prior to the bylaw and were not effective. The begging and rough sleeping was having a detrimental impact on business and the general public in greerton and this has improved so much with the creation of the by law.</p> <p>On a final note I understand that there has been talk of 'watering down' the bylaw as an alternative to revoking it in its entirety.</p> <p>My preference is that the bylaw remains as it but failing that a water down version is still much more preferable to revoking it in full</p>
342	Robert Barbour		<p>Since the bylaw has been in place there has been a significant improvement to the safety in Greerton Village - proving it's effectiveness in addressing this issue. The bylaw is definitely the most appropriate way to address these issues and has worked remarkably well to date - without question.</p> <p>And as a rate payer I would be too happy to see my rates used for legal action to retain the bylaw.</p> <p>Before this bylaw is even considered to be removed additional safety measures will have to be put in place and seen to work in Greerton Village, otherwise you are putting the public at harm.</p>
343	Michelle Barbour		<p>Since the bylaw has been in place there has been a significant improvement to the safety in Greerton Village - proving it's effectiveness in addressing this issue. The bylaw is definitely the most appropriate way to address these issues and has worked remarkably well to date - without question.</p> <p>And as a rate payer I would be too happy to see my rates used for legal action to retain the bylaw.</p> <p>Before this bylaw is even considered to be removed additional safety measures will have to be put in place and seen to work in Greerton Village, otherwise you are putting the public at harm.</p>
344	Yvonne Alexander		<p>Please do NOT remove the rough sleeping and begging ban for Tga CBD. The ratepayers are already struggling and do not need further impediment for their customers. We should be trying to revitalise the cbd and make it a vibrant attractive centre. The rough sleepers pay nothing to sleep and beg in the area whereas retailers and offices provide hundreds of thousands of dollars for the council. Is the council prepared to lose this income and destroy the livelihoods of hard working people and families. Imagine councillors if a person sat on your front door every day and asked you for money and went to the toilet in your garden and slept there at night or prevented you leaving your house. Would you do nothing about that?! This council needs to decide who it's working for!!? There are other agencies who will provide help to those less fortunate. The rate payers and general public can only rely on the council for help in this situation.</p>
345	Peter Bennet		<p>I Have been a retailer in Greerton since 2003 and over much of that time Greerton Village has been a pleasant family environment. However over the past few years with the increase of professional beggars and homeless we have seen and increase in antisocial behaviour along with rough sleepers on the pavements and associate rubbish and verbal abuse. Since the current begging ban came into effect the majority of these problems resolved and Greerton is returning to how it was.</p> <p>Some of the specific issues I personally faced during the time leading up to the current begging ban were :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Having to step over a sleeping person at my back door to get into work in the morning - having to switch off the external security lighting at night to avoid attracting rough sleepers as he said "we use the light for reading and our own security" - Urinating, defaecating and vomiting on the rear of the building - cigarette butts and rubbish left overnight, front and rear of shop - verbal tirades heard during the day when they argue or hassle pedestrians - bedding and card board left from rough sleepers - foot path blocked by drunk/drug beggars - shoplifting when they enter the shop as well as drunk behaviour and body odour <p>All these antisocial behaviours have seriously affected Greerton Village and reduced our customer counts as these behaviour put people off even coming to Greerton. Customers are our lively hood and without a safe pleasant, clean environment we will not survive.</p> <p>The current bylaw has worked well to restore Greerton to its 'old' village atmosphere, please do not revoke it...Already we have seen the beggars and rough sleepers returning and they are even more empowered and antisocial.</p> <p>It is important to note that there are two specific groups involved here :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rough Sleepers who have no home and they create a specific set of problems, as they essentially 'live' on the streets. 2. Professional beggars who are here to make money. They have a home and get dropped off here each morning. These groups push out the homeless and take over the footpaths they are loud, rude and hassle the public for money. When given food they will throw it in the bin.

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
346	Raewyn Whiteman CEO For The Victims Of Bullies Charitable Trust		<p>I do not agree with the council revoking this law. The council needs to understand the significant difference between begging and homelessness. Begging comes with all the additives as described in the bylaws of public nuisance, but there has been a great deal more, such as intimidation to extremes, in particular to the vulnerable such as elderly, children and families, all of whom wont call the police as suggested. The street bylaws also point out clearly what the retailers can and cannot do and yet the retailers have suffered the most and many have moved out of the CBD, Greerton and other places because of the begging behaviour. You cannot expect Social services who are already on overload to expand anymore of their time and efforts to take the beggars on board as well. I am an advocate for victims of bullying behaviour and have worked for our Charitable Trust which has been going for 8 years now on a voluntary basis with little or no funding. The steady increase of victims and they are victims of these so called beggars has had serious and long term effects, particularly on the elderly who have feared for their lives in some cases thru the behaviour of the beggars. They will not shop in the CBD or Greerton anymore, many of them cant drive, so where does that leave them. I have spent many hours and many days over the past 2 years watching the so called beggars, and have spoken to many of them. They have made it quite clear to me. 1. They have no intention of working. 2. Its good money because it pays for their drugs, alcohol, and smokes. 3. Their busy season is when the cruise ships come in, they let their mates know so they can come as well. 4. They don't want food, they trash it because they only want money. They have been very open to me about that, so what are they really doing. This is what they are doing, they are not in need, they want the public to subsidise the way they live, and they are very happy about that. They have told me they can make up to \$100 per day and they don't care what they do to get it. This is appalling behaviour, and those of us in the social sector are dealing with the fallout, so don't put this on us to sort out. That suggestion is "passing the buck ". The Council needs to have legal provisions in place to stop this professional, and deliberate behaviour, not tying up the Police time. You have a liquor ban in place in these areas, and this is no different. The shop owners go into their shops to find they have to clean up poop and other rubbish, customers have to walk over the beggars and be intimidated whilst doing so, just to get into the shop. Shop owners have mortgages for their businesses and do an honest days work, so their well being and existence should not have to be threatened every day. As a council you all need to look at the big picture if you want the CBD to survive but most of all you need to listen to what the shop owners have to say and the majority of the people of Tauranga. In the 50 years I have lived here we have never had any problems like this until 2 years ago. This is not about homelessness, this is about opportunists who believe Tauranga is rich and want to exploit the vulnerable. When a councillor says this law is "immoral" I challenge that councillor to consider the meaning of that word when you are the victim of abuse and intimidation for money for drugs knowing that the perpetrator has a choice on how they wish to live and have all the support services in a very caring country.</p>
347	anonymous		<p>Seeing beggars rough sleeping in CBD or beggars outside retail does not help inviting customers to go shopping and for tourists provides a negative aspect of how a country cares for those with serious disabilities (mental health, drugs).</p> <p>Since the bylaw has been questioned and not enforced by Police, it certainly makes more sense for ensuring the genuine beggars at the edge of society have options and accessibility to social services. I would recommend to ensure the genuine beggars are registered with social services in some way, allowing Police or council officers like parking wardens to get the power to check up on them and move those who are not registered away as they may be gang related. Personally i am used to beggars overseas but the majority would not like to appear in public or sit outside supermarkets where caring people would often provide food and have brief small talk wishing them a nice day. Those not having access to social housing could get access to a tent site on camping grounds, spreading them around and allowing them to shower, especially in summer time. In winter time, council could provide shipping containers with heat pumps,bathroom +kitchen TV container and a few kw of photovoltaic to power the containers plus a social worker checking on them. As to day time, these people living a bit outside society, love socialising and therefore sitting outside shops.... may be there is some funding available to encourage them into activities like cleaning beaches and roadside reserves from rubbish, giving them a sense of contributing. It may not work for all and can be hard work... but certainly better than just moving them along.</p> <p>I trust my ideas are not new and in some way the rough sleeping can be aligned with Freedom Camping rules.... ok I opened a can of worms</p> <p>In summary, no specific for or against but please apply common sense and respect to those taking a different view on life but removing those who are not genuine beggars but forced into it .</p>

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
348	Craig McKenzie		<p>We are a new accommodation business at 71 Devonport Road, Tauranga – Quest – Tauranga Central.</p> <p>We have a 42 room apartment/hotel for short term accommodation for the business/leisure traveller.</p> <p>We opened our business on 1 September 2019 and on numerous occasions have had to call both Council and Police because of “beggars and rough sleepers” causing a nuisance, fighting, begging or intimidating behaviour - including yet another incident today – Ref: 825343.</p> <p>Our staff and guests have the right to feel safe entering our property both day and night. There have been instances where our guests have told us that homeless people have been loitering outside our property and they have said – are we safe ??? Also, our carpark is external – with no internal entrance.</p> <p>We have had to install additional security on our entrance door for our staff’s safety as a direct result of the behaviour of these individuals.</p> <p>We thought one of the Council’s initiatives was to get people back into Tauranga CBD. With the “begging and rough sleeping” issue just getting worse with the summer weather where does this leave the business owner if the by-law is removed.</p> <p>We believe that the Council needs to continue to support the business owner and help keep our streets safe for the community by keeping this by-law.</p>
349	Marilyn		<p>The bylaw should remain as it is! I know there are some very genuine people out there that sleep rough out of need, but those people are usually respectful to what is around them. The other side of the coin are the ones that choose to sleep rough and leave litter and excrement in the doorways they have just slept in. No respect at all. These are the people that need to be moved on. They don't care to be part of society. But society would like to continue on with their day to day living without feeling intimidated.</p>
350	Tania Lewis-Rickard		<p>The proposed bylaw ban in 2018 should not have happened without having face to face conversations and consultation with those who work more intimately and closely with the homeless at ground zero ie: community meal groups, Peoples Project, churches, marae, iwi, agencies. Yes something has to be done...for the disorderly behaviour and those who are nuisances, not the labelled beggars and the rough sleepers (also the chronic homeless). To label "begging" and "rough sleeping" dehumanises a specific group of people, we are talking about our own kind, our fellow neighbours, human beings who genuinely have no where to accommodate themselves, people who are already down on their luck, can they go any lower than where they are already at? yes of course, if we, if you allow it, the decision makers are pushing our homeless out further into the shadows if this bylaw proceeds. The begging bylaw and the rough sleeping bylaw should have been treated separately as two separate issues. There are soooo many wonderful people who beg, wonderful people who sleep rough who do not cause disorderly behaviour, who are not menaces to the public and not intimidating others. The bylaw has increased their anxieties, made them feel like dirt, low, not of any other group of people. the bylaw has turned the general public away from those in need. action needs to happen and positive change needs to take place and we can only do it all together if you listen to those who are on the street helping them. Kia Ora</p>
351	Jane Carroll-Gordon		<p>before this bylaw came into place, i felt unsafe walking around the shops in Greerton. Even though i am under 60 i still was approached while using money machines for cash, had people lying (not sitting) in front of shops blocking my way. Was also in chemist once where an elderly lady was approached to buy them items as they couldn't afford it. Since the bylaw came in i have felt much safer and relax. Have started walking back into and around the shops.</p> <p>If your plan is to shut Greerton down then i would understand your reason for reverting the bylaw.</p> <p>Please consider the locals before any action</p>
352	Fred	Greerton	<p>Are you homeless?</p> <p>Not now but was. Now in boarding house (WINZ) - wait thru night shelter</p> <p>Have you ever begged?</p> <p>Greerton Lotto shop the problem (personal?)</p> <p>Has the ban affected you? How?</p> <p>Greerton Lotto shop called Council and they asked "begging"</p> <p>Have you ever slept within five metres of a business premises or shop?</p> <p>Yes. Feel safe? ≠ case. Know unsafe. Was moved on by shop - moved on voluntarily - some shops ≠ mind</p> <p>Do you think the ban on begging and/or rough sleeping should go?</p> <p>Law should change, here on the street w. nothing BEG - freedom & right</p> <p>Any other comment?</p> <p>He is sober 17.5 months - drugs & alcohol Fred never asked as Maori. Now at AA. Grew up in Greerton. Motivated as family & grandchildren</p> <p>H. w. housing - get into trouble - drinking - drugs.</p> <p>Hope?? WB housing (a base) - settle - get treatment</p> <p>≠ force/education counsellors had ideas didn't know about</p>

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
353	Luke Wilson	CBD	<p>Are you homeless? Yes ±1 yr 2019 Have you ever begged? No Has the ban affected you? How? No Have you ever slept within five metres of a business premises or shop? Church picks up stuff + throws away - x2 6 mths ≠ask as ≠ know who took it Has the ban affected you? How? If church said no, he'd go out of town + not to city. ≠ feel safe = drinks/foot traffic Do you think the ban on begging and/or rough sleeping should go? Go Any other comment? So if sleep in doors, make rules - Council, cops Get up by 7 clean up area only sleep after shops close</p>
354	Judith		<p>Have you ever begged? No - sit by ATM + people give me - don't ask! Give me pies, drinks, change Where? Cameron Road Has the ban affected you? How? No don't beg. BNZ staff are kind Have you ever slept within five metres of a business premises or shop? No - sleep in friend's garage. Or even behind Warehouse. Winter is hard Has the ban affected you? How? No - don't get moved off street. Police very nice + help me home - sore leg. Can't walk far Do you think the ban on begging and/or rough sleeping should go? Yes. So unfair to tell people where to sit</p>
355	3x Anonmays		<p>Are you homeless? Yes x3. Need a base somewhere to be safe. Bongaard?? Never feel 100% safe. Why so many empty shops?? Have you ever begged? Yes Has the ban affected you? How? Yes Have you ever slept within five metres of a business premises or shop? Yes. Police hassel us. Security hassel us Has the ban affected you? How? Go out of town or get out of sight Do you think the ban on begging and/or rough sleeping should go? Yes but so what? What'll change?? Any other comment? Nothing ever changes. Council doesn't care what we think</p>

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
356	Honge		<p>Are you homeless?</p> <p>Sleep anywhere, this is my land</p> <p>Have you ever begged?</p> <p>No, but see mental health + drug issues</p> <p>Has the ban affected you? How?</p> <p>If just sitting should be a "code" - how about a street register for H = empowerment</p> <p>Have you ever slept within five metres of a business premises or shop?</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Has the ban affected you? How?</p> <p>Agree w. ban - should wake up +clean. Help H be tidy (lockers?)</p> <p>Do you think the ban on begging and/or rough sleeping should go?</p> <p>About the city image/money. Us homeys don't count</p> <p>Any other comment?</p> <p>Depends who is enforcing laws - need community constables. Big box unit for personal stuff eg. 6am + lockup/Milo truck</p>
357	Rangi		<p>Are you homeless?</p> <p>4 years. Sleep in car</p> <p>Have you ever begged?</p> <p>Never had to</p> <p>Q what doing w leftovers end of day?? Could take to whare</p> <p>Have you ever slept within five metres of a business premises or shop?</p> <p>No - in car</p> <p>Has the ban affected you? How?</p> <p>No</p> <p>Do you think the ban on begging and/or rough sleeping should go?</p> <p>No. but bros get moved on + see what it does to them</p> <p>Any other comment?</p> <p>Build - place for all of us??</p> <p>Bongaard - come and go as please</p> <p>shelters - criteria we don't meet</p>
358	Rachel Hawkins		<p>Are you homeless?</p> <p>Was but now supported by peoples project</p> <p>Have you ever begged?</p> <p>Yeah. People just gave me things</p> <p>Has the ban affected you? How?</p> <p>Yip moved on by council staff, they were respectful</p> <p>Have you ever slept within five metres of a business premises or shop?</p> <p>Yip. Safer to sleep by shops/lights</p> <p>Has the ban affected you? How?</p> <p>Moved on for sleeping</p> <p>Do you think the ban on begging and/or rough sleeping should go?</p> <p>There will always be people struggling</p>
359	Hemi		<p>Are you homeless?</p> <p>Yes - car was repossessed + can't pay fine to get it out of pound</p> <p>Have you ever begged?</p> <p>No never</p> <p>Have you ever slept within five metres of a business premises or shop?</p> <p>Don't know how to answer. Sleep where lights + safe but people in town kick me when come out of restaurants + call me a "bum" but I'm not a bum</p> <p>Do you think the ban of begging and/or rough sleeping should go?</p> <p>Yes for sure. I didn't want to sleep on street - had car. But now can't get it back. If had car, could go far from kicking, rude people</p>

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
360	Ra & 3 kids		<p>Are you homeless?</p> <p>Yes. In car with my 3 kids. Can't get rental as no references</p> <p>Have you ever begged?</p> <p>No</p> <p>Have you ever slept within 5 metres of business premises or shop?</p> <p>Sometimes in car - park close to lights + feeds.</p> <p>Has the ban affected you? How?</p> <p>The car is not safe - we get accosted if park outside town area. car gets vandalised, lights smashed</p> <p>Do you think the ban on begging and/or rough sleeping should go?</p> <p>Yes - need somewhere to park + use toilets etc safely - why can't we use caravan sites when not holidays?? Most are empty but have all we need. Could use tents also so get privacy from passers</p>
361	Joe		<p>Are you homeless?</p> <p>7 years. Sleep at library - police and security can't move me because not 5m of shop (!)</p> <p>Have you ever begged?</p> <p>I suggest time limit (?) so can beg 2 hr + then must move</p> <p>Have you ever slept within five metres of business premises or shop?</p> <p>Technically ≠ move me as library/bus shelter not a shop</p> <p>Any other comment?</p> <p>Sleep - time 8-8 'curfew'. business times would move on but wake us up at 3am = 'disorderly'</p>
362	Henry		<p>Are you homeless?</p> <p>No @ shelter - \$50 a week. Get \$150 WINZ - so \$100 mine</p> <p>Have you ever begged?</p> <p>No</p> <p>Has the ban affected you? How?</p> <p>No</p> <p>Have you ever slept within five metres of a business premises or shop?</p> <p>Yes but get moved. Had cops take my food and dump it</p> <p>Has the ban affected you? How?</p> <p>Yes - go to shelter + save my earnings - safe @ shelter</p> <p>Do you think the ban on begging and/or rough sleeping should go?</p> <p>Yes - why not sleep in doors "business hours"??</p> <p>Any other comment?</p> <p>Yes - to shelter like in Christchurch - sleeps 40 + free - male + female - great in winter</p>
363	Sasha		<p>Are you homeless?</p> <p>Not now. In WINZ accom. But don't stay there - a mess + embarrassed</p> <p>Have you ever begged?</p> <p>No</p> <p>Have you ever slept within five metres of a business premises or shop?</p> <p>Yes - beach at Mount. Am scared of my accomodation as others break in - want open beach + sound of waves. I get chased from beach front</p> <p>Do you think the ban on begging and/or rough sleeping should go?</p> <p>Yes. I don't cause any hassles</p> <p>Any other comment?</p> <p>Women ar emost risked - I have been assaulted/abused & feel safest when inopen + can see danger</p>
364	Tommy		<p>Are you homeless?</p> <p>Yes - 19 mths since out of jail. Got \$300 + left at bus stop. Nothing no tent/sleeping bag/nothing</p> <p>Have you ever begged?</p> <p>Sometimes but police come & chase me to move - I move because I don't want to go back to prison</p> <p>Have you ever slept within five metres of a business premises or shop?</p> <p>Yes. Greerton before last xmas. but now on race course. or under bridge</p> <p>Has the ban affected you? How?</p> <p>Yes. Get woken at 3am in cold + chased to move along - who wouldn't get grumpy?? not hurting anyone at 3am</p> <p>Any other comment?</p> <p>Why can't we get shelters?? Like even those container-homes? Just want to sleep safely. and moving around i lose my stuff - why not get woken at 6am and have somewhere to store my stuff??</p>

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
365	Peter		<p>Are you homeless?</p> <p>Yes. 1 yr - sleep wherever quiet feel safe</p> <p>Have you ever begged?</p> <p>No</p> <p>Have you ever slept within five metres of a business prremises or shop?</p> <p>Yes bustop - ANC (?). Security guard said would call police so I moved. Have record + police target us "ex"</p> <p>Do you think the ban on begging and/or rough sleeping should go?</p> <p>Yes but nothng will change</p> <p>Any other comment?</p> <p>They don't give a shit what we think, it won't change. Need more facilities eg. caravan park where H can feel safe/tents??</p>
366	Hutch		<p>Are you homeless?</p> <p>Mens sheltor (2 weeks)</p> <p>Have you ever begged?</p> <p>No. See it & not aggressive</p> <p>Has the ban affected you? How?</p> <p>A place for safe drinking - liquor ban?? Get harrassed/ but be responsible</p> <p>Have you ever slept within five metres of a business premises or shop?</p> <p>In tent/Domaine. Left in alone.</p> <p>Was @ rose garden toilets/discreet place left when cleaners came</p> <p>Do you think the ban on begging and/or rough sleeping should go?</p> <p>Open hours then understand to chase customers. when close = why not?</p> <p>Any other comment?</p> <p>Would use lockers. Container city - how about times in/out - toilets/showers/cooking</p>
367	Alana		<p>Are you homeless?</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Have you ever begged?</p> <p>No</p> <p>Have you ever slept within five metres of a business premises or shop?</p> <p>Yip. Nowhere else to go</p> <p>Has the ban affected you? How?</p> <p>No</p> <p>Do you think the ban on begging and/or rough sleeping should go?</p> <p>Yes. Theres nowhere safe for us to go</p>
368	Rupert		<p>Are you homeless?</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Have you ever begged?</p> <p>No</p> <p>Have you ever slept within five metres of a business premises or shop?</p> <p>No. Kind of. Not a commercial business</p> <p>Has the ban affected you? How?</p> <p>No</p> <p>Do you think the ban on begging and/or rough sleeping should go?</p> <p>No. Think its good for the local businesses</p> <p>Any other comment?</p> <p>Begging can fuel addictions but the bylaw doesn't affect. Found the staff at council quite understanding</p>

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
369	Stary		<p>Are you homeless? Sometimes Have you ever begged? No Has the ban affected you? How? There is homeless everywhere. Stay out = build more homes Have you ever slept within five metres of a business premises or shop? No. Utelise old homes or containers Has the ban affected you? How? Yes Do you think the ban on begging and/or rough sleeping should go? No. To many people Any other comment? Build accomodation more for homeless</p>
370	Mokoiria		<p>Are you homeless? Homeless during the week Tues - Sat Have you ever begged? Yes. Started in Hamilton when I was 20. Greerton, Town, Mount, everywhere Why? To support yourself Has the ban affected you? How? No - I've been ignoring the bylaw Have you slept within five metres of a business premises or shop? All the time. Try to find the ones for lease. Come into town and its easier just to stay Has the ban affected you? How? No still do the same thing. Loss in weight Do you thing the ban on begging and/or rough sleeping should go? I prefer the bylaw to go</p>
371	Paraire		<p>Are you homeless? Streetie Have you ever begged? No Has the ban affected you? How? Yes Have you ever slept within five metres of a business premises or shop? Yes Has the ban affected you? How? Yes Do you think the ban on begging and/or rough sleeping should go? Yes. We should have the freedom to be wherever we wanna be Any other comment? Fear of being beatten up. Feel like council don't care about us</p>
372	Katie Davidson	Gate Pa	<p>Supports the bylaw provisions remaining. Hang outside the shops, got a lot of older people, feel intimidated. The post shop in particular is a problem. That they actively approach people in the street. The language is not good either.</p>

Sub #	Name	Suburb of Submitter	Your feedback
373	Alan Reynolds	Pyes Pa	Ban the Beggars. They're ruining the city and making the whole CBD into a doss-house.The problem is they make more money than if they got a real job.
374	Liz Davies (SocialLink)	CBD	see pdf

Submission on Tauranga City Council proposal to revoke the begging and rough sleeping provisions from the Street Use and Public Places Bylaw 2018

Introduction

SocialLink welcomes the opportunity provided by Tauranga City Council to provide a submission on its proposed revocation of the begging and rough sleeping provisions from the STREET USE AND PUBLIC PLACES BYLAW (2018).

About SocialLink

SocialLink Tauranga Moana was established as a charitable trust in 2014 to provide a structure for innovation, collaboration, information, information, research, networking and advocacy for all involved in the social sector throughout the Western Bay of Plenty.

SocialLink's vision is for a thriving social and community sector improving Western Bay of Plenty (WBOP) communities. It manages daily operations at The Kollektiv, the Western Bay's new co-working community service hub in 17th Avenue which opened in October 2018. It organises capacity building, networking and community projects, events, training programmes, forums and educational workshops. It has mapped the social sector to better understand the organisations and services that comprise the social services sector in the Western Bay of Plenty. It undertakes projects, advocacy, research and policy analysis as required on social issues affecting the social wellbeing of the population of the WBOP or the work of social and community organisations.

SocialLink's position on the STREET USE AND PUBLIC PLACES BYLAW (2018).

Evidence indicates begging is a symptom of a complex multidimensional social issue and a broad based approach is required for sustainable change to occur in preventing or reducing it. This includes addressing homelessness because there is an inter-relationship, notwithstanding that a lot of people who are homeless do not beg.

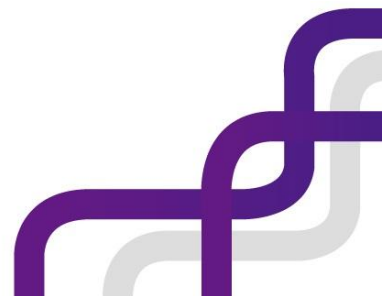
No one grows up with the ambition of being a beggar. People who beg for money or food or to feel connected are well aware of the loss of their mana and self-respect, but complex circumstances have driven them to take such action. The response of fellow community members, social service organisations, local and central government and others should be to prevent people getting to the point of feeling they have no other options and to provide effective multi-dimensional support.

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Sociallink understands a comprehensive homelessness strategy is being developed and is supported by Tauranga City Council. We applaud this approach, by addressing homelessness, much of the rationale for the perceived need for a bylaw will no longer exist.

In this submission we have provided evidence to support the development of a system wide approach to these issues. The submission draws in particular on two pieces of work which the Tauranga City Council may be aware of.

The first was undertaken by Wellington City Council and called 'Begging in Wellington: An Exploration into Our Community's Issue, prepared for the council by ThinkPlace¹'. While the experience of Tauranga may be different to that of Wellington, the study does offer a comprehensive insight into begging from the perspectives of people who beg, members of the public, retailers and businesses and a Street Outreach Team. Please see Appendix 1 for a summary of the research, the report is available on the Wellington City Council's website.

The report recommended three principles be applied for change:

- Understand all the levers – solving at one level without looking at the whole problem may create new issues or have unintended consequences.
- Start small and be biased towards action – complex issues require numerous small-scale interventions.
- Work together - begging is an issue that crosses several agencies and impacts business, visitors and residents.

The Wellington report highlights that alternative forms of giving and banning are mainly aimed at adjusting the needs of the giver but do not address the needs of the person begging, which is a symptom of deeper issues. Tauranga's bylaw can be seen in a similar light: it does not address the underlying issues that lead people to beg.

A second piece of work which SocialLink considers has relevance to begging and related issues is a report called 'The Voices of People in Hard-to-Reach-Communities' undertaken by the Ministry of Social Development (MSD), also done in 2016. This was commissioned as part of its redesign of budgeting services to an approach focusing on building the financial capability and resilience of New Zealanders experiencing hardship and also used ThinkPlace. Although its focus was on financial issues primarily, the research provides information on other issues relevant to begging and to

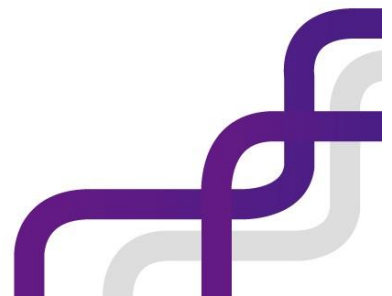
¹ An organisation that works with public, private and not for profit sectors on complex challenges

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homelessness. Please see Appendix 2 for a summary of the relevant parts of the research in relation to the bylaw.

The MSD project findings identified a range of issues and features to consider in helping people who live in vulnerable situations, that can be applied to the Tauranga context in relation to homelessness and begging. Many of their findings will resonate with the experience and knowledge of providers in this city and surrounding Western Bay of Plenty.

A function of the bylaw might be to address one small consequence of street begging and homelessness. However, as SocialLink urges a comprehensive and humane approach be taken instead, in collaboration and partnership with other organisations to address these significant issues.

These would include people who are directly affected and their advocates/supporters; iwi, social service and community providers; funders, local territorial authorities; government agencies and others.

SocialLink currently facilitates the Homelessness Provider forum and is happy to continue to support a collaborative approach to addressing homelessness and begging.

We would like to take the opportunity to present our submission on the 29th January 2020.

For further information please contact:

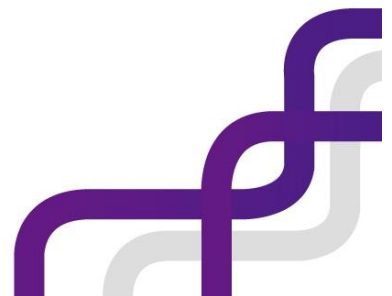
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Appendix 1

Information about begging from the Wellington City Council Study

In 2016 Wellington City Council commissioned a study to find out more about the reasons behind begging. It had received an increase in complaints about begging in the inner city; a growing sense of frustration about it from retailers and business and concern from social services and police. There was also concern that it was becoming 'normalised' in the city's landscape ((Jera, M et al, 2016).

The study sought to document and illustrate the experiences of those who beg, those impacted by it and those who were working to help people who begged.

What the study heard from those who beg.

- People beg for different reasons including because they did not have enough disposable income once accommodation, bus fares, child support and food were covered. Begging supplemented benefit income for people with drug or alcohol addictions, cigarette habits or co existing mental health issues. Money was also used to give something to friends who let them stay or provided meals.
- Life trajectories had often been difficult, for instance growing up in abusive or neglectful families, moving between state care situations, juvenile offending, prison, drug addiction, addiction and isolation from networks. Begging was a symptom of a slow decline.
- Begging provided a purpose, a job for some and was social for others.
- Methods including sitting with a sign, asking outright for money, selling art or other goods, impromptu busking. Many had a dollar figure in mind at the beginning of the day and stopped when it was reached. Other strategies including not overworking a particular spot, shifting so they did not irritate shop owners or overstay their welcome, or leaving the spot so others could get money once their quota was reached.
- Some wanted to get a job but felt trapped by past criminal convictions or struggled with impacts from past or current drug dependencies, traumatic or and/or neglectful upbringing and lack of work-skills and training.

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- Some did not want to go begging but got to a point where they 'had to suck a few eggs and ask and put a sign out' feeling self-disgust in what they did.
- Stopping begging was not easy and participants in the study said they did not want to be forced to stop. Usually those spoken to said they would not stop if it became illegal and would resort to crime to replace begging income.
- Sometimes people who begged saw themselves as 'guardians' of the street. For example they sat outside closed shops at night as security, generated business for shops when people bought them food or drinks and they protected and mentored younger streeties. They reported they did not like it when others begging were rude to people and left mess in front of shops. They generally reported having respect and empathy for shop owners.

Views from members of the public (referred to as citizens in the report).

- Some said begging is effective in making money otherwise it wouldn't be done and also because no one is moving them on. A distinction was made between busking and begging with the former seen as more positive, trying to be entertaining and making the city vibrant.
- There was mixed views on its prevalence but all interviewed agreed it was an increasing problem in the city. There was concern it was normalised but it did not reflect positively on the Wellington community.
- Most thought people begging had a rough life and/or a dependency of some kind and had a good grasp of the complex lives of those who ended up begging. Members of the public were also concerned about untreated or unsupported people with mental health issues and the prevalence of young people.
- Some begging was seen as 'genuine' and some as 'opportunistic' but people found it hard to differentiate between the two. They generally wanted to help people whom they believed were in need.
- They had a low understanding of the realities of getting by on a benefit. They were unaware of how low the benefit can be and of stand down periods. They were frustrated about why the social support system was not supporting people who were begging and thought the government should be looking after them better.
- Some were empathetic and hope for the best, or had stopped to talk to those who begged and had bought food or offered jobs. However those who saw people with cigarettes, mobile phones, iPads, nice shoes or clothes very quickly lost empathy and also when those who begged seemed ungrateful, aggressive or were actively using alcohol or drugs.

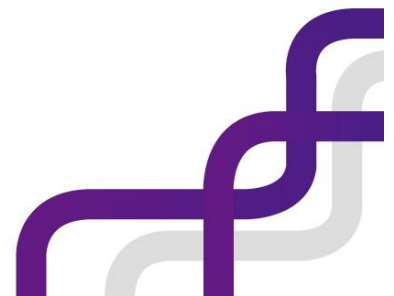
Views of businesses and retailers

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- They felt that begging could be 'annoying and manipulative' particularly when vulnerable people were targeted or people who begged sat near ATM.
- They made a distinction between passively and aggressively begging – just sitting with a sign versus actively asking for money or stand over tactics. They were more concerned about the impact of aggressive begging, however all begging was seen as an image issue for Wellington.
- Other concerns were encroachment on shared public spaces, making people feel uncomfortable or unsafe; negative image for Wellington and the impact this might have on business and the retail environment.
- Some wondered if there was a crossover between begging and busking, especially when buskers were not very good; however good busking was seen to add to the vibrancy of the city.
- Some in this group thought there was a 'criminal 'underbelly' to some of the begging activity such as shoplifting and on-selling items, pooling money and maybe even using heavy-handed tactics with other people begging. The researchers heard also there could be begging 'gangs' in the city; however it was not easy to disentangle begging from other unwanted behaviour.
- There were mixed opinions about whether begging directly impacts negatively upon businesses. Some were seen to have more interactions with those who begged such as convenience stores. For others it was more about the image and perceived lack of safety for customers. Other retailers said there were other anti-social behaviours that plagued their business environments such as public urination and defecation; spitting, graffiti, vandalism, aggressive youth, public intoxication, homelessness and loitering.
- Workarounds were tried in efforts to solve the problem such as ring the Council or an organisation called Local Hosts (street ambassadors who help with information, directions and emergencies); handing out food, managing the physical space outside shops with signage that acted as barriers; using sprinklers and water hoses, and calling police. They also used the 'EyesOn Wellington App' service. (This is a 'prevention first' crime initiative between Inner City Wellington, Police and Wellington City Council with over 250 members. It operates a closed communication network allowing business to share critical information by text or email in real time on shoplifters and anti-social behaviour).
- Retailers and businesses felt there was urgency to remove begging from the CBD but also there was some understanding that begging was a complex social issue.

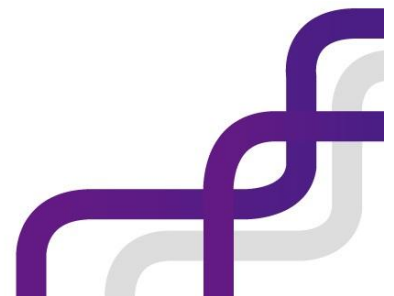
Views of members of the Street Outreach Team

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- At the time of the report there was frustration that people were sometimes paroled directly from prison to the Wellington Night Shelter. They felt social services were disconnected from the Department of Corrections and there could be better support options.
- Costs of living was rising but incomes and benefits had not and begging provided a source of disposable income. Begging filled the gap for beneficiaries with no savings and no extra cash. It could be used to cover emergency expenses. They also said not everyone in need was receiving a formal benefit of any kind.
- Giving cash directly to those who begged may be the only thing people feel they can reasonably and easily do to help, even though it does not solve the issue. People may have money to give rather than time so there was an effective dynamic happening – if someone asks, someone will give.
- There was a strong begging and streetie community, with a connectivity between people who beg. There were strategic spots where there might be more chance of social interaction. Aggressive newbies were dealt to by the street community, they were sorted or moved on. The begging community provided the informal support its members may not get from their families.

The Street Outreach Team noted that those who beg have a lack of a purposeful activity. Their complex circumstances meant people who beg had many barriers to participating in meaningful activity.

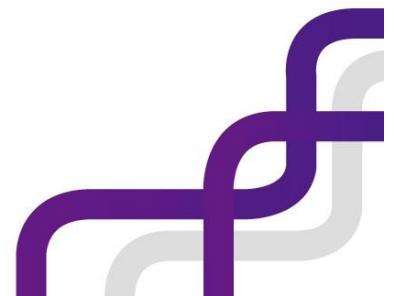
- Begging represented a great loss of pride and mana. It was especially concerning for Māori who were begging because they were often disconnected from their culture, whakapapa and whanau. The Outreach Team were concerned about the vulnerability of those who begged who were usually dealing with co-existing, complex problems such as mental health and addiction issues.
- People who begged needed positive connection to others and the wider society in addition to income, food and shelter. It was important to learn not to judge, to take the time to know their stories, take time to interact and make a connection to those who may be lonely as an essential part of helping them.
- The focus for people who beg was on day to day survival and they did not think about long term objectives. The focus of Interventions should be on helping before someone gets to the point they need to beg. Begging should not be the way people normally get income. Their human rights should be upheld.

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- Begging is not illegal; police or security agents have limited power to act unless someone is being physically intimidating, trespassing or otherwise breaking a law. This caused frustration from some who might expect there to be police enforcement of the issue.

In conclusion the report points out begging is effective with enough people feeling good about giving (its effective, time-saving, low-effort form of charity that makes them feel good) and those who beg are mostly getting what they need from it (some extra income and food).

Therefore alternative forms of giving or an outright ban may not provide the total solution to end begging which is a symptom of deeper issues.

“Alternative forms of giving and banning are mainly aimed at adjusting the needs of the giver, but do not address the needs of the person begging.” (Jera, M pg 18).

Suggestions from a Wellington multiple stakeholder workshop that the authors ran generated the following ideas:

- Multiagency social work database system
- A minimal requirement walk-in-workforce
- Intensive case management
- Safe drop in centres
- Half way houses for prisoners
- Put WINZ officers out on the streets to help
- Wet houses
- Begging permits like buskers
- Incentivise employers to hire people who beg
- Drop in employment centres
- Shelter/wellness vouchers available from retailers, enabling the public to contribute.

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Appendix 2

‘The Voices of People in Hard-to-Reach-Communities’ - Ministry of Social Development (2016)

The MSD recognised there was a cohort of people that were either presenting when in crises or classified as ‘no shows’ to a service or not engaging with services. The research it commissioned included a literature review and interviews with provider agencies and individuals. It found there were two broad groups of people; those with multiple disadvantage and those who were culturally or socially isolated.

The MSD research drew out several insights and features which will be very familiar to people working in the social services in the WBOP.

We think they are useful to record here because they articulate points that a comprehensive and realistic approach to tackling poverty and the symptom of begging amongst vulnerable communities will need to consider.

1. Some people hide when the going gets tough.

While there is an assumption that people seek help in a crisis, the study found from providers such as social housing agencies, that when their tenants ‘drop off the radar’ they know something is wrong; their tenants don’t seek help at difficult times.

Service providers said they need to ‘meet people where they are at’ – both at an appropriate physical location and/or adapting to their emotional state at the time.

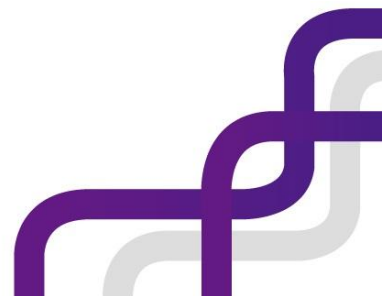
Some people hid because of shame; they experience judgment when they can’t manage their lives. Shame is compounded when they experience negative service experiences such as being turned down for hardship grants or questioned at food banks about where their money is going. Shame also arose for some because they were in a cultural background where needing to seek help was not acceptable or talked about. Others said they needed to hit their personal rock bottom before seeking services.

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People in this group were also afraid of getting caught out or of reprisals – fearful of having their children being taken away, or knowingly or accidentally committing benefit fraud, or unaware of how a change in circumstances may impact benefit payments.

2. A person can't learn or plan when they are in a crisis.

Threats to immediate needs means the brain is unable to be future focused or be in planning mode. As the research noted this happens to everyone, but people experiencing poverty have the added burden of being under constant stress.

"It's not good trying to engage someone when they are not ready and pressuring them, won't help. In such interactions, vulnerable people can proclaim 'I don't want help' or 'I don't need help' which may confuse service providers or others who see their circumstances as dire." Pg 35.

People's focus is solely on getting by – not on learning, developing and planning or future focused thinking like budgeting and financial planning.

3. Living in crisis can become the norm.

For vulnerable people living with complex and compounding factors, a state of crisis can become the norm. Crisis moments may not be recognised and acted on the way a service provider might expect. One person in the study described it as "*treading water for so long [that] you can become accomplished at it and almost seem relaxed and just shrug off the crisis.*" It may mean someone has to hit their personal rock-bottom before they are ready to face problems or service providers have to have patience, ingenuity and love to get people to the point of engaging.

4. The group has a high exposure to violence and being taken advantage of.

Victimisation was extensive in the stories the study heard; with people being taken advantage of or being afraid for their physical safety. It included coercion to assign benefits to others' bank accounts; feeling so pressured by sales people that people bought things on credit they could never afford to repay; extreme financial control by violent partners; a man 'dossing down' in a women's Housing New Zealand's flat for months and refusing to pay anything towards rent or food; being the target of repeated theft.

5. People go where they feel supported, loved and can get 'low-friction' help fast.

The group the research workers spoke to went to where they felt supported, loved or where they could get 'low-friction' help and fast, they were not discerning about what speciality services

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offered. Family and friends were the first they would go to.

Formal supports were not necessarily seen as a place of help

or were considered as totally out of reach for them (language barrier, culture, fear, shame, criminal activities, bad experiences and so on).

They went to people who had helped them before or who understood their realities, even if the help required was outside that person's expertise (eg asking an English language teacher for help with financial advocacy because they were known and trusted.). Going somewhere new such as a specialist financial service might result in a 'no show' unless the teacher/advocate went with them.

6. Providers of help and support in these communities are often culturally or socially isolated as well

Some community helpers and providers were functioning under the radar, doing what needed to be done in a way that best meet the needs of their community, whether or not they were funded.

Many may themselves be vulnerable, with low education levels, low literacy, struggling with English, have gang affiliations and/or criminal convictions.

"They often felt misunderstood, leading to a sense of shame, helplessness and feelings of being isolated themselves. This may have a significant impact if they are unable to meet government requirements for accessing funding, so they choose to continue to assist their communities without funding or training." Pg 39.

7. Many people reject mainstream and or/government services

People who are culturally or socially isolated do not necessarily want to join the mainstream but would like the ability to help themselves in their own way without outside intervention. Insider knowledge was required to engage hard to reach locals in a locally matched way. Mainstream government services and engagement did not work well; comments included 'like talking to a wall' and too many blockages to get from point A to point B and all the while a whole family is suffering." Pg 38. Any resources and services should include the people they are hoping to help in the planning and design process.

8. For many people services are inaccessible

Many people do not know what services are out there to help them. 'Inaccessible' included cultural incompatibility; transportation issues and misunderstanding the connection between the problem (the need) and getting help (possible solution).

9. Money management and ad hoc budgeting services are helpful for some people.

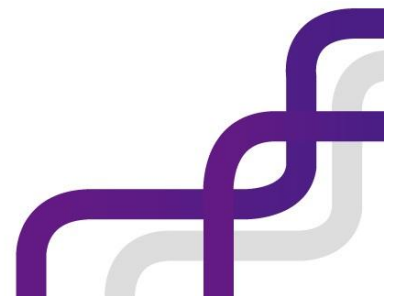
Some providers of services for vulnerable groups have their own systems of money management. They provided a safe place for their cash and issued some as needed, acting like a bank or ATM. This was in response to clients having low capacity issues such as unmet mental health needs, serious/permanent disability such as head trauma. Clients mentioned handing over their money was

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initially a relief, one less thing to worry about while they concentrated on getting themselves better. This particularly resonated with clients with alcohol and other drug addictions. However the research also heard from other groups who said it made it difficult for people to regain financial independence. Some providers also helped their clients with budgeting, even when not trained to do so, because they were trusted and they did what they could to help.

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