The University of Auckland has made a once-in-a-generation decision to establish a new campus in the heart of Newmarket. The campus, which will initially focus on Faculty of Engineering research, offers a unique opportunity to revitalise this important inner city site. This newsletter is the first in an occasional series intended to provide information and updates as development of the new campus progresses.

Public meeting well attended

A public meeting held by the University on 18th June saw an excellent turn out of local resident association members, business representatives and other interested parties. The meeting provided an opportunity for the local community to hear about the University’s initial plans for development of the campus, to share their concerns on key issues, and ask questions. Jenny Dixon, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Strategic Engagement) and Peter Fehl, Director Property Services, made a brief presentation and responded to a number of questions.

A key theme raised in the Q&A related to the potential impact of the University development on car parking availability in the surrounding streets. The University will be upgrading and using the existing car park areas on site. This will provide sufficient parking for both the construction phase and when the new and current buildings are fully operational. The University continues to actively engage with Auckland Transport to support strong public transport networks that benefit students, staff, residents and the wider Auckland community.

What’s happening on site?

The early phase of demolition work is underway on many of the old brewery buildings. As part of this work, most of the major buildings fronting Khyber Pass Road will be removed to approximately 2 metres above footpath level. Demolition is expected to be completed in September 2013.

Existing carpark areas and entrances/egresses will be retained. While the main site access is currently on Suiter St, the main entrance to be used during the construction phase will be Gate 3 on Khyber Pass Rd.

Remaining existing warehouses alongside the railway will be totally refurbished in a staged plan commencing in August 2013 through to May 2014. Construction of a new Engineering Research building will also commence in late 2013 and continue through 2014. These initial plans see the University initially investing in excess of $80 million on new Engineering research facilities.

Professor Margaret Hyland, Deputy Dean of Engineering says at Newmarket there will be cores of engineering expertise in built environment, structures, earthquake research, fluids and transport, along with the wind tunnel and yacht research. “For example, multi-disciplinary teams could work on new environmentally-sound structures and materials for the building industry and model these for earthquake and tsunami-resilience in NZ conditions.”

There will also be a hub of research activity around materials innovation comprising light metals, composites, plastics and polymers. This research focuses on developing new multi-material, high-value products for export.

Find out more

You can find information about the history of the site, FAQs and background on the University’s strategic goals that led to the acquisition here: www.auckland.ac.nz/uoa/home/about/the-university/newmarket-campus-development