**A Vision for Public Realm - Integration of Place and Movement**

An abstract for a presentation to 2 Walk and Cycle People Power: The path to low carbon transport

The Copenhagen urban designer Jan Gehl states that “cities are for people”. Gehl Architects has set up a methodology of Public Life Public Space studies to evaluate how well cites are delivering on this mantra. These studies have been undertaken in cites on every continent and focus on improving the quality of urban life. Movement around the city is refocused on pedestrians and cyclists. These more sustainable transport systems are part of the competing demand for public space.

Gehl Architects promote for the betterment of public life: “*Our work is based on the human dimension. The built environment’s effect on social interaction between people. People experience the city using all of their senses”.*

This presentation reviews the 2 studies Gehl Architects have undertaken in Wellington in 2004 and 2021 to better understand the influence and effectiveness of the competing demands in the Wellington context. The role of place and movement is considered in the context of climate change, growth and social cohesion. How is life in the city best catered for from a global best practice perspective?

Gerald Blunt first worked for Wellington City Council in 2000 when he engaged with Jan Gehl and advocated for his study of Wellington in 2004. Having worked in Auckland for 4 ½ years, where he was able to further engage with Jan in a review of central Auckland, he returned to Wellington where the LGWM programme was the opportunity to re-engage with Gehl to update their earlier work.

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