

MINUTES

TITLE: Full Council
DATE: Tuesday 3 June 2008
TIME: 1.00 pm
VENUE: Tasman Council Chambers, 189 Queen Street, Richmond
PRESENT: Mayor R G Kempthorne (Chair), Crs E J Wilkins, S J Borlase, B W Ensor, N Riley, R G Currie, J L Inglis, G A Glover, T B King, S G Bryant, J L Edgar, M J Higgins, T E Norriss, B F Dowler, T B King
IN ATTENDANCE: Corporate Services Manager (M W Staite) (part meeting), Strategic Planning Manager (S Edwards) (part meeting), Executive Assistant (V M Gribble)

1 ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION PRESENTATIONS

No 4 D C Honeybone

Mr Honeybone was in attendance to speak to his submission. He supports the introduction of a targeted rate for community boards. He suggested that if the carriageway on Two Mile Road included a cycle lane it would make it safer and would alleviate the need and cost of a separate footpath.

No 1 Murchison and Districts Community Council

Mr S Blakemore and Ms W Wood were in attendance to present the submission on behalf of the Murchison and Districts Community Council. The Council supports the targeted rate for community boards and supports work being carried out on Two Mile Road to make it safer and requested 8 Mile Bends – Matakita Road be sealed. Mr Blakemore said the Council accepts that the Buller River erosion is not an urgent issue at the moment but acknowledged that it is vulnerable to flooding and would like some protection to be given to the bank.

Ms Wood requested that Council confirms its support to Nelson Tasman Tourism for the management change at the Murchison Information Centre and to commit funding as a matter of urgency.

Mr Blakemore said the Information Centre is the most important issue and highest priority.

Ms Wood said the Management Committee is unable to continue running the centre and the decision was made to hand over the business to Nelson Tasman Tourism. It has an annual turnover of \$500,000.

No 2 J Easton

Ms Easton was in attendance to speak to her submission. She is concerned about the effects of climate change with increased extreme weather events such as droughts, storms, floods and storm surges. She submitted that Council needs to urgently undertake research and strategic planning and actively involve the community and Nelson City to ensure that this district has a sustainable future. She asked that Council joins the Communities for Climate Protection programme.

No 5 Tasman Regional Sports Trust

Mr N Male was in attendance to speak to the submission on behalf of the Trust. He congratulated Council for making provision in the draft 2008/2009 Annual Plan for development of community facilities.

Cr King asked if the community hubs would be involved in organisation of activities.

Mr Male said they would like the community hubs developed to the extent that somebody would be employed to be the co-ordinator of activities. He is looking for further financial support from the District Health Board and would like to see seven or eight community hubs established around the district.

No 6 R J Schmuke

Mr Schmuke was in attendance and spoke about the targeted rate charged in the Tata Beach UDA. He said Tata Beach residents do not receive any benefit from stormwater services. He considered it unfair to have targeted rates based on capital value for this charge. Mr Schmuke said they would like to have been consulted on the establishment of the UDA. He said there are no stormwater services in Tata Beach, except in a small area.

Mayor Kempthorne said if the UDA for Tata Beach was dis-established there would be no targeted rate and no work done there either.

No 7 Nelson Tasman Connections

Ms N Robb and Mr R Butler were in attendance as part of the Connections Steering Group to speak to the submission. They thanked Council for its support and asked for an increase in support to \$10,000 to match the contribution of Nelson City Council.

Mayor Kempthorne said the two people from Tasman that work with Connections are M Tasman-Jones and himself.

Ms Robb said they have 2,500 youth on the database. Some are contacted once a year and others have more ongoing contact.

Mr Butler said there are only about 20 youth who chose not to be included on the database. All 11 high schools across the region are included.

No 8 Mapua Districts Cycle and Walkways Group

Ms S McLeod was in attendance to speak to the Group's submission. She suggested that pathways, walkways and/or cycleways should be given parallel status with roading under Land Transportation in Council budgets. Projects they would like to see undertaken are: Seaton Valley Stream walkway, Pomona Road to Crusader Drive, drainage and reconstruction of Old Mill Walkway, Mapua wharf extension, safe crossing facility in Aranui Road, Old Coach Road reconstruction and safe routes to school. She suggested that signage for public access onto the Ruby Bay beach area needs to be upgraded.

No 9 Nelson Forests Ltd

Ms H Arnold was in attendance to present the submission on behalf of Nelson Forests Ltd. They asked that the reference to "afforestation" from the measure of performance levels (page 23) be removed. Provision should be made in the annual plan to actively promote and support self management/accredited operators. Transport issues facing Tasman District must be resolved and clear provision needs to be made in the annual plan to allow this to happen. They requested provision be made in the annual plan to offset the costs of private land managers having to collect and dispose of rubbish illegally placed on their properties, eg car bodies, tyres, general refuse. They requested that Council not increase the charges for resource consents to the levels proposed in the draft annual plan. Any increase should reflect the level of service to be delivered by the Council. Nelson Forests Ltd consider the fees associated with the extraction of gravel/shingle on freehold land are inequitable. There should be no fees for this activity on freehold land.

Cr Bryant asked about the firm's policy concerning rural roads.

Ms Arnold said they spend money upgrading Council roads and look to ensure the safety of their trucks and other vehicles.

Cr Norriss said the heavy transport operators did not support the Council in resolving the issue in the Nelson to Brightwater Transport Strategy.

No S7 Walk Nelson Tasman

Ms Judy Cox and Mr R Butler were in attendance to present the submission. They submit that Council needs to develop and implement a code of behaviour for shared pathways as a matter of urgency. It requested Council become a signatory to Walk 21, the international walking charter.

Mr Butler said the issues are around existing construction of footpaths in urban areas and there are now national standards. If they are not applied they can create barriers to people with mobility issues.

Mr Staite left the meeting at this time and Ms Edwards arrived.

No 3 C Watson

Mr Watson was present and thanked Council for supporting the Suter Art Gallery and asked for an increase in funding. He said they are not fundraising for expansion and advised there is urgent repair work needed.

No 12 Nelson Regional EDA

Mr B Findlater and Mrs R Reid were in attendance to present the submission on behalf of the EDA. They thanked Council for its support.

No 13 Nelson Multi Ethnic Council

Ms E McAuliffe, Ms B Ryan and Mr Adams were in attendance to present the submission on behalf of the Council. They asked Council to assist in the establishment of a centre where services to migrants, including former refugees, would be co-located and ongoing provision of such a centre.

Cr Edgar asked if government subsidy is available for capital items or only service provision, where in general are both migrants and refugees located and, if the location of the proposed centre is Nelson, is that the best location for it?

Ms Ryan said there are different sources of funding. Internal Affairs and Community Trust have indicated support for fitout of a building. There is a commitment from Ministry of Social Development to contribute. They are looking at a concept and have a site identified. \$20,000 will be the shortfall. A contribution from Tasman District Council will ensure future development of services in the area. 17% of Nelson/Tasman Region is overseas born and they are spread throughout the region. More research is needed to find out where they are.

Ms McAuliffe said refugees have been housed in the Nelson area. Victory School provide programmes for children as well as adults.

Cr Bryant asked if the Council would be looking for funding from Tasman District Council on an ongoing basis and if so, how much.

Ms McAuliffe said they will be seeking funding but not sure how much at this stage.

Cr Riley asked if funding is received from other organisations.

Ms McAuliffe replied that funding comes from Lotteries, Canterbury Community Trust, COGS and Family Services (MSD). Nelson City Council is giving \$20,000 over four years.

No 1081 NZ Federated Farmers

Mr E Newport and Mr E Baigent were in attendance to present the submission. Federated Farmers supports the use of a capital value rating system. It supports uniform annual general charges and would like to see them increased until they reach the 30% cap imposed by the Local Government Act. Federated Farmers suggest

Council should extend tar sealing and maintain to a higher level the high-use gravel roads. It supports the commitment to Bovine TB Vector Control Programme. They believe the community's councillors are adequate representatives of local communities and those communities that choose to have a community board should fund it through a targeted rate. Federated Farmers recommends that the Council advocates to central government for meaningful reform of local government funding.

No 15 Cephass Group Ltd

Mr F Bacon was in attendance to speak to the submission. Cephass Group is involved in development of the Richmond Mall. The main concern is escalating costs and asked if Council could provide some relief from development impact levies. They requested dialogue with Council to discuss policies that could be shared more evenly throughout the community.

Cr King said in terms of parking and payment of levies, the requirement is part of the permitted standard.

Mr Bacon said something more definite would be of assistance when planning a project. There needs to be examination of the issue outside the realm of a particular issue. With the annual plan process we're more concerned with how the levies are rising.

Cr King left the meeting at 4.10 pm.

No 20 A A Aubrey

Mr Aubrey was in attendance to speak to his submission. He spoke about targeted rates as they relate to ASB Bank Aquatic Centre. He believes a survey should be undertaken to determine the beneficiaries of the Centre.

Cr Norriss said at the time it was proposed the people in the benefit area were surveyed/pollled and the majority of the people in the area supported the pool and it was quite clearly set out what the costs were.

Mr Aubrey said it wasn't the majority of the people in the area, it was the majority of the people surveyed. It was a survey, not a poll, which said that people would have discounted use of the pool. He said the survey was totally inappropriate and the rules implemented for targeted rates are not applicable to that facility.

Cr Higgins said in most parts of New Zealand there are differential rating systems. The outcome of our rating system is very close to that stated by the Commission.

Mr Aubrey said the main thrust of the report was to do away with the UAGC.

No 17 M Kjellberg and Others

Ms M Kjellberg and others sought that part of Doran Street be rezoned to incorporate their residential properties into the CBD. Their houses are right next door to the Commercial B zone.

Mr Haddock said there is a buffer zone within the bus company property but they use that zone to park their buses on. A lot of fumes blow into Mr Haddock's property.

Mr McBrydie said the panelbeaters now work on Sundays. He has approached Electro Services about their hours of operation and said a hotwire has been put up on the boundary fence. He said his property is devalued because of the zoning.

Cr Norriss asked if there was a natural buffer zone between these places and the next properties.

Mr McBrydie said doctors surgeries or quiet businesses should be in the buffer zone. A property zoned commercial and bordering onto a residential section should have restrictions as to what can be established there.

No 18 Tiakina te Taiao

Mr B Thomas and Ms A Sheridan were in attendance to present the submission. Mr Thomas said Tiakina is the iwi environmental agency representing four iwi – Te Atiawa, Ngati Koata, Ngati Rarua and Ngati Tama.

Ms Sheridan asked Council to fully recognise iwi's tangata whenua status, consult iwi in a much more open and receptive manner, develop improved avenues for iwi liaisons, eg the appointment of an iwi liaison office and the establishment of specific iwi forums to consider issues. She asked that Council genuinely listen to iwi feedback and take appropriate action.

Mr Thomas said Tiakina Te Taiao Ltd did not receive a copy of the draft annual plan and he was disappointed that iwi was not consulted on the draft annual plan. He said there are a number of issues that should be addressed. Council should consider employing an iwi manager at senior level. He asked that Tasman District Council employ and use Maori commissioners at RMA hearings. He suggested that iwi nominate their own Councillor to sit on Council. He said any decision that tangata whenua makes should be beneficial for the whole community. He said the true spirit of consultation is in good faith, active engagement and willingness to change course of action. He said they are hoping that by the end of June 2008 the Crown and iwi will have sorted the Treaty of Waitangi claims. They want Tasman District Council to consult iwi in a much more open manner. We've set up a process, and we're trying to assist entities like this Council, Nelson City Council and applicants. They consider it would be beneficial to have iwi representation on appointment panels, eg employment. He said they expect a response from feedback they give.

No 19 D Win

Mr Win was in attendance to speak to his submission which made comment on numerous issues throughout the draft annual plan.

No 22 Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

Ms J Atkinson was in attendance to speak to the submission on behalf of the Board.

Mayor Kempthorne asked if the ASB Bank Aquatic Centre has the facilities the Health Board is looking at as a replacement for the Ngawhatu pool.

No 24 Sustainable Transport Futures

Ms H Valkenberg was in attendance to present the submission on behalf of the group. They would like to serve on the Tasman Regional Land Transport Committee when it is up and running.

The Nelson car pooling scheme is not very successful but the group is trying to make car pooling more attractive and then present it to the Nelson City Council on 12 June 2008. Their aim is to get car pooling up and running in Nelson and then extend further out.

Ms Valkenberg said they would welcome anyone from Tasman, but at the moment it is only Nelson.

Cr Higgins asked if any consideration had been given to electric motor vehicles.

Ms Valkenberg said public transport is good but there will be people who cannot access public transport. We promote anything that is environmentally sustainable.

No 26 Hope Tennis Club

Mr J Dunlop was in attendance to speak to the submission from the Hope Tennis Club. They appreciate the help from the Council to be able to build four more astrograss courts.

No 27 Nelson Grey Power Association

Mr E Millar spoke to the submission from Nelson Grey Power Association. He said Council needs to signal a change in direction with its rate rises now, rather than be party to the complete collapse of the system.

No 31 Nelson Motor Cycle Club Inc

Mr Searancke spoke in support of a motorsport park. He expressed concern that Nelson City Council has not put funding in its plan for a park and asked Council to act as a facilitator for Tasman Motorsport groups that are incorporated societies.

No 30 E M O'Regan

Mr O'Regan was in attendance to speak to his submission. He doesn't support the increased uniform annual general charge and noted that on lower value properties the UAGC is beyond the 30% allowed by the Local Government Act. He submitted that the huge increases in pan charges are not sustainable. He urged Councillors to be cautious with the huge so-called regional demands. He supports the general concept of the beneficiaries of community boards paying. He was concerned about the amount of money being spent on refuse education.

No 1051 Murchison Sport, Recreation and Cultural Centre Inc

Mr O'Regan spoke to the submission on behalf of the Centre. They expressed appreciation of the Community Services Department and the handling of the DILs account. They ask that Council at least maintain the figure of \$20,000 allocated to Murchison sports fields. The Centre asks that the previous proportion of the total rent subsidies allocated to Murchison, be maintained. Mr O'Regan said the Committee has now raised over \$700,000 towards the Centre.

No 32 Nelson Tasman Housing Forum

Mrs G Collingwood and Ms C Mozena were in attendance to present the submission on behalf of the Forum. They requested funding for development of a joint Housing Strategy with Nelson City Council. Ms Mozena tabled a supporting submission from Women in Nelson Inc.

No 33 Nelson Millennium Centre Trust

Ms B Monopoli, Mr B Smythe, Mr J Palmer and Mr P Rainey were in attendance to present the submission on behalf of the Trust.

Ms Monopoli said the Millennium Centre concept is more relevant today than when it was first mooted in the 1990s and Nelson City Council has signalled its intention to move forward with it during this term of office. She encouraged Tasman to be part of the team developing the concept and asked for financial commitment to fund the work going on in the next 12 months. She asked that an amendment be made to the LTCCP to reinstate the Millennium Centre in the capital programme for 2010 – 2011.

Mr Smythe said the Millennium Centre concept plan incorporates facilities which would place Nelson high on the list of preferred venues from larger conferences and conventions. He said once a site is secured, the Trust is ready to go into the design and funding stage.

Ms Monopoli said figures from the previous feasibility study showed that the centre itself would be self-funding in the operational sense, without funding its capital. Benefit came in terms of social and community benefit and economic impact both throughout Nelson City region and Tasman District region. She said there is a preferred site being looked at presently. If the current preferred site does not succeed in coming to reality then there has to be reconsideration of options that remain, including Trafalgar Park. She said the Trust's submission is to encourage Tasman District Council to operate in partnership with Nelson City Council to see whatever is the most appropriate facility in the most appropriate place.

Cr Edgar said we've been hearing about the strain on ratepayers, why should we prioritise this project that would also require ongoing funding?

Ms Monopoli said the community is asking for it, but as well as that, it is about growth and support for what is already available in our area. Nelson suffers from seasonality and a concept like the Millennium Centre would support an all-year-round economy.

Mr Smythe suggested it might be a mistake to pull back from a partnership because of current economic woes. This is the time to set the foundation in place and do it.

Cr Edgar said there has been strong support for a conference facility, but the case for a performing arts centre has been less clear. Why do you think we need both facilities and why should it be ratepayer funded and not privately funded?

Ms Monopoli said the principles in the feasibility study done in 2001 still apply, which supported integration of a performing arts centre and conference centre. A performing arts centre would struggle to stand alone, but with a conference centre it would be workable. It's about having management synchronised and offer a full variety of spaces and services to someone considering bringing their group here.

Ms Monopoli said there can only be one facility this size in a region this size. To give maximum amount of economic impact and make it a living facility it is essential that it is within walking distance of hotels, cafes and retail shopping.

Cr Higgins said as a Council we're struggling with this. What is appropriate funding?

Ms Monopoli said it would come under the regional funding formula. We understood that Nelson City Council would be looking at a contribution of \$970,000 from Tasman District. At this stage a commitment of less than that is needed but signalling the interest in being involved as a true partner with Nelson City would be what we are looking for.

Cr Borlase asked how committed is the Millennium Trust to ensuring that the conference centre and performing arts centre remain together.

Ms Monopoli said the Trust is totally committed. However they are not the primary funders, we recognise it has to be a council-owned project. The Trust's role is to have accepted the need for the facility. We are still driving for the combined facility.

Ms Monopoli asked for new Councillors to be given a copy of the feasibility study. The economic impact study showed the benefit that would come across the region. The 2001 feasibility study was around \$21 million for the building itself on Wakatu Square and didn't include the cost of the land. When we looked at Rutherford Park there would be significant costs because of redeveloping parking, entry and exit etc. She expected the same facility now would be looking at \$30 million. This is a facility for the next 80 to 100 years. Costs have, and will, escalate. Ms Monopoli said the pricing included in the study was acceptable and expectation of the users would have increased as well.

Cr Currie said we had Nelson Tasman Housing Forum asking for money because there are people who have not got housing or accommodation and they are saying it is getting worse. You come in now for over \$5 million for something that is not going to house one person.

Ms Monopoli said you do a lot of things that won't house people. A vibrant and thriving economy is the way to look after our people. This has a very clear major economic impact throughout the region.

Mr Palmer said it's never the right time to fund projects of this size. The role of the Trust has been to say there are certain projects that can be vital to the region over time and we think this is one of them. The real reason I'm here and part of your role is that there are basic services that have to be attended to and times when visionary things have to be attended to. There is never a right time but there is a point when it's too late to start. I'd say now is the time.

Mr Rainey agreed with Mr Palmer and said he is impressed with the process of the regional funding forum and spirit of co-operation that exists. Saxton Field is a fabulous regional facility. Never once have I heard anyone ask if the regional facility at Saxton Field is going to return a profit but we've poured millions of dollars into it. Here we have an opportunity to get a civic facility underway. Now is the time.

The meeting concluded at 8.45 pm.

Chair:

Date: