

STATEMENT TO BE MADE AT THE MOTUEKA
COMMUNITY BOARD'S PUBLIC FORUM ON 8th
FEBRUARY by Jim Butler

I thought we would start off by recapping the end of 2010 and our current plans for 2011.

In December, Ross Robertson MP, addressed a public meeting, arranged by Grey Power Motueka, on how some of the issues affecting the elderly, have been, are being, and could be met.

Our Chairperson, Valerie Rae has been arranging for a public meeting to be addressed by the Mayor and CEO in the meeting room of Community House. This is yet to be confirmed, but the tentative time and date is set for 1pm on Wednesday, 16th of March. What we wish to address at this meeting includes:

- the need for TDC to limited uniform and targetted rating,
- increased expenditure on footpaths and curb crossings to be paid for by reducing expenditure on carparks in Motueka. This ties in with our concern that Engineering Services' "Matrix" for determining Works Priorities is a convenient way to ignore or minimise any input from the community, including this Board and Councillors.
- our concern about the Motueka River Flood Control Scheme Document prepared by MWH, dated November 2010. This document, from what we can determine, has cost the ratepayers of this Ward, through the Motueka Stopbank targetted rate, over a quarter of a million dollars. Those members of our committee who have read it, have found it very technical and not an easy read, greatly in need of more diagrams and maps to make it more understandable. We are surprised that it has been accepted both by Council and this Board without similar comments. In particular we are very concerned with a

sentence in this document which states "The relative effect of the bridge's presence was minimal."

Observations show that this depends on how much debris becomes jammed against the bridges's arches during flood conditions. In the 1997 flood, the down river water level was at least half a metre below the up river level and NZTA, Transit NZ then, had to take desparate measures to clear the debris because the bridge was shaking. Also this damming effect was placing additional pressure on adjacent up river stopbanks. We intend to take this further. We feel that the recent catastrophic floods, both in Golden Bay and abroad, rather than making the case for elaborate "100 year" flood preventions schemes, show how ineffectual these schemes are when nature really lets loose.

Regarding the Amalgamation issue, at the December Hearing of Submissions, our Chairperson, Valerie Rae, spoke in support of our submission against Amalgamation. Grey Power Motueka is concerned that since the change of electing Health Board members, there has not been a member elected to the NMDHB from outside of the Richmond area. We have sent letters to the 3 MPs covering this area and to the Chairs of this, and the Golden Bay Community Boards requesting the need to get the Ward back which used to cover the rural areas of TDC so we can have a local member elected onto the NMDHB. Also we would like to get into a close arrangement with OTM to make joint submissions on issues we can agree on. These we consider will then carry more weight.

Finally we are concerned about how few residents take advantage of this Board's Public Forums. There have been occasions that I have been the only member of the public present. As a consequence we are considering making representations for this Board to return to having evening meetings.