

REPORT

TO: Golden Bay Community Board
FROM: The Chairperson
REFERENCE: E855
DATE: 3rd March 2008
SUBJECT: Monthly Report – March 2008

Activities, events and meetings attended during the past month included:

1 February: Agenda setting for 12 February Community Board meeting

5 February: Together with Leigh Gamby and Karen Brookes **met with Cr Judene Edgar and provided a guided tour of Eastern Golden Bay areas** discussing issues including safe walking accesses Pohara Camp frontage and Pohara Camp – Hall, Port Tarakohe, Ligar Bay, indicative roading, Tata Beach and Wainui Bay.

5 February: Onekaka Hall committee meeting to discuss quotations for replacing tennis court. Clarification from quoting firms to be sought.

7 February: Met with Barrister Warwick Heal to discuss legal aspects of TDC's proposed targeted rate.

11 February: Community Board workshop Takaka regarding targeted rate and Mr. Heal's legal opinion.

12 February: Community Board meeting Collingwood

14 February: Full Council meeting, Richmond - Information only made available mid-day 13 February (legal opinion and costing detail). The costings paper on which councillors voted is highly questionable as was the meeting being advertised as 'no public forum'. Unscheduled Forum held for Board Members to address Council on targeted rate issue; five minutes per speaker then an entirely different issue discussed (additional funding for Heritage Trust) followed by a Citizenship Ceremony before the targeted rate issue was discussed.

It was quite clear from some councillors that this is carry over from the Representation Review. Calculations made from the costings paper revealed charge-out rates of \$116.00 per hour for a secretary, \$187.00 per hour professional staff and \$345.00 CEO/managers.

Council also voted not to support the seeking of a declaratory judgment on the legality (or illegality) of targeted rates. It was noted that the council solicitor Stuart Ritchie was in attendance for the meeting. This is likely to have been at considerable cost to ratepayers.

15 February: Together with Carolyn McLellan **met with our electorate MP Hon Damien O'Connor** to discuss the targeted rate issue; provided copies of relevant papers for his consideration and action.

16 & 17 February: **Joined a camp on Farewell Spit** adjacent to Lighthouse. Assisted with weeding of seedling Pine trees and beach litter clean up. It was heartening to note that the beach was much cleaner than on previous visits.

22 February: **Takaka water meeting at Takaka Fire Station** to discuss provision of water supplies for fire fighting purposes in the Takaka CBD. Various options were identified for further consideration and costing.

26 February: **Meeting with TDC** acting CEO and Community Services manager Lloyd Kennedy and Corporate Services manager Murray Staite regarding the TDC costings paper for targeted rates. The managers reduced the total sum proposed for Golden Bay from \$134,760 to \$58,042.

Our Community Board does not accept that targeted rates for Community Boards are legal when the relevant provisions of the LGA 2002 are read in context with each other and with the intent and purpose of the Act. We also do not accept that there is justification for any rate when the benefits of Boards are properly taken into account.

We appreciate the managers' efforts to reduce the amount but are very concerned why this was not done before the paper went to Council on 14th February. Discussions on the proposal with the boards prior to it going to Council were promised by the CEO in July 2007. These never happened. A copy of our Board's revised Cost/Benefit paper is attached.

27 February: **Inspected excavation at Onekaka Hall Tennis Court site.**

27 February: **DoC Community Forum Takaka**

Update issues included:

- Canaan mountain bike routes marked and tracks being formed.

- Possum control – planning for Cobb and Abel Tasman winter programme underway.
- Old Man’s Beard – annual work on Takaka – Waingaro and Aorere control areas completed.
- Search for *Spartina* along the inside of Farewell Spit, Pakawau and Ruataniwha inlet to be undertaken by Helicopter.
- Whale strandings over summer comprised 3 Grays Beaked Whales, 1 Sperm Whale, about 20 Pilot Whales, 1 Orca and 2 dolphins.
- Information gathered in preparation for upgrading visitor facilities at Te Waikoropupu Springs.
- Snail monitoring in Southern Wakamaramas shows recovery.
- Whale Hui held at Onetahua Marae.
- Second batch of Weka released at Totaranui
- Very good flowering of *Pittosporum Patulum* reported in Cobb Valley.
- Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust launched.
- Didymo found in Cobb River at Trilobite.
- Totaranui Homestead being upgraded July – September 08.
- Waingaro Forks Hut restoration due to start.
- Signage at Harwoods Hole being reviewed following recent rescue of stranded climbers.
- Staff again employed at Te Waikoropupu Springs informing the Public about risks of spreading Didymo.

Agenda Issues included:

- Collingwood Estuary.
- Helicopter access – Kahurangi National Park. Consideration of submissions on hold due to a staff change.
- Milnthorpe issues – possible impact on Conservation land from building projects to be checked out.
- Historic sites – discussion on destruction of unrecorded and/or specifically mentioned historic sites. Decided such matters need to be referred to the Golden Bay Heritage Group. This matter arose following the reported removal of part of the historic Takaka Tramway embankment.

28 February: Community Board meeting with Global Students visit to discuss Local Governance in context. Provided history of local governance in Golden Bay and how this fits with District and Central Government. Learnt from the 20 participants as to where their homes are in various sized towns, cities and megatropolis’s in the US. Discussed planning for land use through zoning and annual and long term planning.

28 February: Keep Golden Bay Beautiful Committee meeting

Issues discussed included:

- Update on planting projects, Paynes Ford, Onekaka Stream, Motupipi and Collingwood water tank. Planter bag plants have done much better compared to root trainer plants.
- 'Kaikoura Coastal Marine Values and Uses Report' tabled. This contains the type of information which will need to be complied for a Marine Management Plan for Golden Bay. It will be a useful information resource.
- Northern Rata planting proposals Puramahoi – Milnthorpe discussed. Rata is frost sensitive. Planting on private properties in this area is already being undertaken under Project Crimson.
- 'Trees for Babies' number to be determined in discussion with the Golden Bay Public Health Nurse. Gifting of Kowhai to take place in May.
- Kahikatea to be potted up for future planting projects.
- Financial report.

29 February: Visited the newly filled site of the Onekaka Hall Tennis Court

29 February: Induction of Captain Richard Dyer as Priest in Charge for the Golden Bay Anglican Dioceses. Attended as a representative of the Community Board and the wider Golden Bay community and participated in the welcome to Richard and his wife. It was interesting to note that during the investiture the qualities of patience, persistence and courage were mentioned as essential in undertaking pastoral service. I'm sure that all who are engaged in community service work can relate to this.

ISSUES:

Targeted Rates

It is a tragedy that the ill-conceived and mean-spirited targeted rate proposal has resulted in much community concern and angst and has taken up considerable time at the expense of positive and productive community initiatives. However, we have learnt from the exercise of the great value of passionate, committed and caring community board members on \$3 to \$5 per hour compared with TDC charge-out rates for staff of up to \$345 per hour. If cost-cutting is the objective it is clear where this should happen for best effect. It is interesting to note that Environment and Planning department of TDC has a proposal to lift its current hourly charge-out rate from \$83 to \$112.50. This rate includes travel and legal advice. Perhaps the other TDC departments should contract E&P to do their work instead of seeking charge-out rates of \$116 for a secretary, \$187 for professional staff and \$345 for CEO/senior manager?

It is recommended that the inward correspondence related to the targeted rate be received and the outwards approved.

Regarding another aspect arising from a targeted rate for community boards community concern has been expressed about another \$250,000 being proposed to be granted to the Grace Church 'Headingly Centre' in Richmond in addition to the \$500,000 previously approved subject to a satisfactory "Heads of Agreement" document.

It was of concern when undertaking an internet search of 'Grace Church' 'groups and activities' in order to learn more about it to end up 'locked into' their website with a log in and password repeatedly sought in order to access information or to be able to exit the site. Information about a private Church group seeking funding from TDC ratepayers needs to be accessible.

In reading in the 27 February 2008 Agenda of the Grants and Community Facility Rate sub-committee re the proposals for District and Regional facilities rates it is noted that there are no specific Golden Bay projects from a forecast rate take of \$30.97 and \$39.97 per rate-able property respectively. (\$70.94 total)

Biosecurity in Golden Bay

Further to our earlier concerns it has been reported that invasive South African brown mussels *Perna perna* were found on an oil rig 'Ocean Patriot' which was cleaned in outer Tasman Bay before being accepted into Australian waters. An extensive clean-up of the sea bed under the rig anchorage is underway. However, if the mussels have spawned their spread could have huge consequences for our marine environment and aquaculture industry. There are also concerns in our community about possible hull cleaning of oil tankers anchored in Golden Bay while awaiting a berth at the offshore Taranaki oil terminal.

It is recommended the Board again writes to Bio security NZ seeking robust proactive measures to be taken to avoid these risks. We also need to seek an unqualified assurance that the tanker hulls are not carrying pest species and have not been and are not being cleaned whilst the vessels are anchored in Golden Bay.

Port Tarohe

There has been some discussion in the community about TDC proposals to change the name of our Port from 'Port Tarohe' to 'Port of Golden Bay'. According to J.N.W. Newport in 'Golden Bay - A Hundred Years of Local Government' published in 1975 "*The name of Tarohe seems to have evolved over a period of time as earlier in the century the creek there went by the name of Tera-Koi, later as Tera-Kohi and Terakohe to the present spelling.*"

For identification purposes perhaps “Port Tarakohe, Golden Bay” could be used. It is recommended that “the views of the Golden Bay community be taken into account before any name change for our port is undertaken”. Concern has been expressed about unrealistic expectations for the Port re size of vessels which may be attracted. An article has been received about the largest vessel to have reportedly used the Port, the 111.91m “*Ngahere*” with a load of gypsum, raising the issue of insufficient depth at low tide. A copy of the article is attached.

Ligar Bay

A meeting of TDC with Ligar Bay Road Reserve bach owners is due to be held on 3 March.

There have also been calls from others in the wider Ligar Bay community keen to see appropriate decisions made for the future of the Bay area and its environs. There is also a Ligar Bay group which has taken an interest in planting in the area.

Accordingly it is recommended that: ‘subsequent to the meeting with bach owners that the Golden Bay Community Board holds a public meeting to discuss the development of a management plan for Ligar Bay similar to the one undertaken at Tata Beach.’

Solar water heating fees

It is noted that Nelson City Council has reportedly dropped its building consent fee for solar water heaters while TDC is to increase its fee from \$184 to \$205. It would be helpful to the uptake of solar energy for TDC to also drop the fee. It is recommended that “the GBCB urges TDC to drop the solar water heating building consent fee to match Nelson in the interests of developing a regional policy of encouragement for solar systems”.

Joe Bell