

REPORT

TO: Golden Bay Community Board
FROM: Chairperson
REFERENCE: E855
SUBJECT: Chairperson's Report – RGB10-06-08

Activities, events and meetings attended since the last report have included:

30 April - John Weston's 70th Birthday, Onekaka. A great Onekaka celebration for another thoughtful community contributor. John has served as Headmaster, Collingwood Area School and as a Trustee on Joan Whiting Rest Home.

1 May - Don Mead's 70th Birthday, Takaka. Another great community occasion. Don is a forestry expert and currently serves as Chairperson of Friends of Golden Bay.

3 May - Agenda setting for 11 May Community Board meeting, Takaka.

3 May - Tangi for Te Aroha (Losa) Holmwood, Onetahua Marae. Aunty Losa took a great interest in Maoritanga in her latter years and sensitively brought this aspect to events and activities around the Bay. Our sympathy is extended to her family and friends.

4-9 May - On leave. Attended Otago University Graduation in Dunedin on 8 May. It was great to see other Golden Bay residents present to celebrate the success of family and friends. Golden Bay graduates included Garth Sullivan (BSc) and Peter Bell (MSc).

Some random observations during travel via Maruia, Geraldine, Mt Cook, Cromwell, Milton, Dunedin, Blenheim and Nelson included:

- Huge expansion of irrigated dairying on to dry lands.
- Two rivers observed with little or no residue flow below dams.
- Condition of roads generally excellent.
- Provision for cyclists with sealed verges outside of sidelines. (We have been requesting this for Golden Bay.)
- Many 'Share the Road' signs.
- Read of the possibility of tourist road funding in the Geraldine newspaper.
- The sheer stupidity of trucks and trailers crowding the road alongside under-utilized rail. Especially on roads with few passing lanes or passing opportunities such as the Hundalees.

- The Graduation March and presentations are a wonderful Dunedin occasion.

10 May - Coba Holdings Ltd consent hearing, Tarakohe.

11 May - Community Board meeting Takaka. Unconfirmed minutes are available on: <http://tdc.govt.nz/pdfs/GB100511%20Minutes.pdf>

12 May - Queen Elizabeth II Trust visit to three covenants of Gerard Hindmarsh and Melanie Walker, Onekaka; Frank and Berna Soper, Waitapu Hill; and Shannel Courtney, Pohara. Each quite different and interesting. Credit is due to all covenanters for their willingness and effort to preserve and improve their covenanted areas.

12 May - TDC News Briefs from 11 May Board meeting.

13 May - Recorded interview for Fresh FM TDC Lowdown,

13 May - Keep Golden Bay Beautiful meeting Onekaka. Issues discussed included:

- Releasing of plantings Onekaka.
- Fencing programme for Takaka Ox Bow.
- Planting for 2010 season.
- Concern about negative impacts of freedom camping on Reserve areas: effluent, litter, damage to plantings etc. to be taken up with relevant agencies.

14 May - Public meeting with Paula Bennett (Minister of Social Welfare) and Chris Auchinvole in Takaka. Ms Bennett spoke about the need for local initiatives. Golden Bay has been doing this through the student advisor initiative for which there is now no funding. Raised this issue during the meeting. The Board has previously written to Ms Bennett about this and will follow up again.

18 May - TDC Hearing of submissions to 2010-11 Draft Annual Plan Takaka. Together with Board members Leigh Gamby and Karen Brookes presented Board submission. (Copy in info pack). Also my personal submission opposed to targeted rating community with Community Boards.

19 May - Funeral Service for Norm Riley, Collingwood Hall. A great attendance to farewell a long standing Ferntown resident. Norm was community-minded and served on sporting club committees and as the RSA Welfare Officer. Sympathy is extended to his family and friends.

20 May - Community Board correspondence.

28 May - TDC Workshop meeting Richmond on Swiftsure Street drainage and roading issues. Drainage solution proposed; roading issues discussed.

28 May - TDC meeting Richmond of Mayor, Deputy Mayor, CEO, Susan Edwards, Pamela White with Community Board and Association representatives.

Matters raised by the mayor included:

- Frequency of meetings - three monthly for Community Boards and six monthly for Boards and Associations proposed.
- Summary of TDC work: Annual Plan and social structure planning; water management; outstanding landscape areas; cycle ways/walkways.
- Discussion on delegations held over for a future meeting.
Report and recommendations arising from the 2009 Southland visit is still being compiled. (It must be difficult to compile a report after so much time has elapsed and the delay demonstrates a reluctance to address the issue).
- TDC Transportation Manager is developing a 'matrix' for prioritizing projects. It was suggested by Tasman District Council that projects which failed the priority test could be locally targeted rated so they could happen sooner. (This suggestion conflicts with 'Think District' and could disadvantage smaller communities and low decile areas).
- In response to a question: Tasman District Council has a 'very low' leaky building liability with 4 claims. Two have been settled without Council contribution.

31 May - Agenda setting for the 8 June Community Board meeting.

ISSUES

Takaka Aerodrome

The suggestion during the Annual Plan process that Golden Bay ratepayers be target rated for improvements to Tasman District Council's Takaka Aerodrome 'because of business advantage to Golden Bay' is contrary to the "Think District" policy and the reality of what happens elsewhere in our District and Region.

For examples:

- The huge business advantage to Richmond by having the main TDC office there. Should there be a targeted rate on Richmond to pay for the \$4m spent on office upgrades plus the \$2m reported for further expansion?
- Employment and business opportunities for Wards with Council forestry.
- The business advantages for Nelson and Richmond residents in employment and provision of goods and services to Nelson Airport and Port Nelson.
- The huge advantages to Richmond businesses over their Nelson counterparts through 'free' parking.

Each Ward has 'costs' and 'benefits' which need to be fairly considered.

Golden Bay does not have a Facilities Rate project but we haven't begrudged Murchison and Upper Moutere theirs.

We are still paying towards the Mapua cleanup under the 'Think District' policy.

We do not have ready access to the 'business advantages' listed above but some still want to prejudicially rate us by suggesting a targeted rate for the aerodrome on top of the pernicious rate on communities with Community Boards.

It appears that some in Richmond and Waimea Wards were happy to spread their costs through their pre-amalgamation wastewater and stormwater liabilities being assigned to all Wards under 'Think District' and now seek for Golden Bay and Motueka Wards to pay for our own representation and infrastructure as well!! It is therefore recommended:

"That the Golden Bay Community Board supports improvements to the aerodrome, but does not support a proposal that our community be target rated to fund improvements to the Takaka Aerodrome and that this project needs to be considered as a project that has benefits for the whole of Tasman District."

NZ Transport Agency/TDC SH60 Liaison Meetings

SH60 has a big influence on Golden Bay. Serving as the main arterial *and* local road it is vital that we have input into decision making. Our two Ward Councillors are invited to attend the meetings. It is therefore suggested:

"That the Golden Bay Community Board requests that when Golden Bay Ward Councillors are not available a Board member be able to attend NZ Transport Agency/TDC Liaison meetings so that Golden Bay State Highway issues are represented".

Review of TDC Gambling Venues Policy

Tasman District Council is currently reviewing rules and policies about pokie machines.

http://tdc.govt.nz/pdfs/TDC_GamblingVenuesPolicy_StatementOfProposalForConsultation.pdf

It is recognized that these machines are very much a double-edged sword. On one hand they are a source of funds for community organizations, on the other, their use can lead to serious problem-gambling issues which impact on individuals, families, organizations and the wider community. It is therefore recommended:

"That the Golden Bay Community Board makes a submission to the Tasman District Council Review of Gaming Machines, requesting that no more machines than presently exist be permitted and, as licenses for particular premises lapse, they are cancelled" and further, "that license holders be required to ensure that a responsible gambling policy similar to the responsible drinking one is followed on their premises."

Swiftsure Street Drainage

Following road works carried out in 2008 which resulted in stormwater being directed by pipe work onto properties on the western side of the road, efforts have been made to address stormwater issues. Meetings have been held with the property owners involved and various options considered. Property owners require stormwater reticulation to be confined to legal road as far as is possible. It is therefore recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board supports resolution of the Swiftsure Street Stormwater issue by:

- a) Routing of stormwater reticulation on the western (downhill side) of Swiftsure Street to Washington Street so that it is no longer directed on to private properties as at present.*
- b) Improving stormwater collection at the Gibbs Road end of Swiftsure Street via an additional pipe to the stream alongside the walkway”.*

Swiftsure Street Roding

Apart from a short section adjacent to the Gibbs Road intersection, Swiftsure Street has been formed on its legal road line to access the Collingwood water supply reservoir.

The Gibbs Road intersection, although formed as part of the carriage way, is on private land. Some Swiftsure Street frontages have ROW over this private land to access Swiftsure Street. Some do not. This situation needs to be addressed. Adjoining landowners should not be denied access onto Swiftsure Street. It is therefore recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board requests that efforts are made by Tasman District Council to:

- a) Form Swiftsure Street on its proper road line. Or*
- b) Negotiate to purchase the small area of private land which Swiftsure Street has been formed on adjacent to the Gibbs Road intersection.*
- c) Pursue other available options if options (a) or (b) do not eventuate.”*

Local Government Act 2002 Amendment Bill

This is open for submission until 18 June 2010. It is therefore recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board makes a submission to the Local Government Act 2002 Amendment Bill and requests to be heard”.

Community Board Delegations

Board members will recall the Local Government Commission in its 2006-07 Tasman District Council Local Governance Determination stating that it had been assured by Tasman District Council that a thorough review of delegations to the Community Boards would follow the 2007 elections:

60 *"We do take issue with the argument presented to us that councils should be wary of delegating responsibilities to community boards because they ultimately remain liable and accountable for community board decisions. This is not a concern shared by many other councils. It also highlights the degree to which the effectiveness of community boards depends on the quality of their relationship with the parent council. This relationship is the responsibility of both bodies working toward common purposes, as set out broadly in the LGA. The above argument strongly suggests the need for a thorough review of community board delegations in the Tasman District. We were assured that this will occur following the 2007 local elections".*

We are nearing the end of the 2007-10 term and no delegations have been made. It is very difficult to understand why they have not happened. Newly appointed staff are given delegations. Other councils without community boards in each Ward grant delegations to their boards. Our current Board Members have provided a total of 34 years community board service as evidence of our commitment to local governance. Delegations will only work if they are granted (and accepted) willingly. 'Delegation' means that the work that is being done by someone is allocated to someone else. It is therefore recommended:

"That the Golden Bay Community Board requests that the Mayor provides the long awaited report on delegations arising from the 2009 visit to Southland to the Tasman District Community Boards without further delay."

Further:

"That the Board seek an assurance that this report will be provided at no cost to the Community Board's budget."

Incidentally, in light of the Ward councillors declining to take up appointment to the Community Board this term, it is also interesting to read item 5 in the LGC TDC 2006-07 Determination decision:

5 *"The Golden Bay Community Board shall comprise four elected members and two councillors elected by the electors of the Golden Bay Ward and appointed to the Community Board by the Council."*

Joe Bell