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Report to: Golden Bay Community Board
Meeting Date: 10 April 2012
Report Author: Carolyn McLellan, Chair
Subject: RGB12-04-01

The month seems to have whizzed around awfully quickly and it is time to do another report. Initially I didn't think there was much to write about until I looked at my list which continues to grow.

1. Annual Plan Consultation Meetings

I attended both Annual Plan Meetings, one in Takaka and one in Collingwood, and although there were small turn-outs for both there were plenty of questions which shows there is a healthy interest in what is proposed in the plan.

There has been a lot of work go into the plans with severe pruning in some areas to try and live within budget. This means that while there will be some very disappointed ratepayers, there are others who are very happy to see cuts and believe the pruning has not gone far enough to ensure rates are more affordable. The example was given for a sample Takaka property valued at \$345,000 which will pay rates of \$1,543.47 (no water) and will have a rate increase of 7.74% for 2011/12 (including targeted rates).

The planning for this Plan, (the Long Term Plan – LTP), (which is updated every 3 years) is for the next 10 years and beyond.

The extreme rain events over the last 3 years - Tapawera, Aorere and Richmond/ Golden Bay have had a very serious impact on Council budgets. Key projects such as the Lee Valley Dam at \$41.6 million and the Coastal Tasman pipeline at \$23.9 million have implications for the future growth of the wider region.

Submissions to the Plan are open until 3rd April and Council is very keen to hear your viewpoint.

Ask to be heard if you want to expand further on your submission, it is always good to have the opportunity to engage with the Councillors – they can question you further about your ideas and it allows a positive interchange of viewpoints.

The Golden Bay Community Board submission is attached to my report. Thanks to Board member Symmons for preparing this for us.

2. Amalgamation Meeting

The meeting on Sunday 18 March was possibly Nick Smith's last public meeting as a Minister as within 2 days he had resigned his portfolios - Minister of Local Government (in which capacity he spoke in Takaka), Minister of Climate Change, and Minister of the Environment.

I think that most of those who attended (80-100) would have been impressed with his remarkable ability to quote facts and figures without any notes although he did have a Power Point presentation to which he spoke, with his concerns at the burgeoning debt of the Local Government sector throughout New Zealand. He answered everyone's questions, assisted by Gavin Beattie from the Local Government Commission.

Key messages from Nick:

- We are fundamentally one region;
- A single council will give the region a stronger, unified voice;
- Consistent approach to key infrastructures and facilities like Port Nelson, Nelson Airport and sewerage, transport and water issues;
- Prevent silly parochialism and anomalies of having two councils;
- One resource management plan will result in better decisions over land, coast and water management;
- Greater efficiencies; with one Mayor, one CEO, one finance dept, one planning dept, etc;
- Unified advocacy will help the Nelson region get its fair share of Government resources;
- A combined council would be the 8th largest in NZ as compared to current rankings of 20th for Tasman and 22nd for Nelson.

I believe it was a worthwhile and helpful evening no matter what perspective you have on this issue.

3. The Amalgamation Vote

By the time this report goes out we will all probably have our voting papers.

It is a postal vote and the closing date for voting is the 21st April so make sure you get your papers returned in good time. If you have any questions you need to have answered there is a website where residents and ratepayers can get factual information and be better prepared to vote in this very important poll. For more information go to: www.askaboutamalgamation.co.nz

4. From the Full Council Meeting 22nd March

4.1 Takaka Aerodrome Report

The responsibility for managing the aerodrome will transfer from Engineering Services to Corporate Services Committee which means both Motueka and Takaka Aerodromes will be under the same administration. It ensures that any changes that occur with Civil Aviation rules will be carried through for both Aerodromes.

Questions were asked about the election processes for the Takaka Aerodrome committee and Manager Property Services, Jim Frater, stated these elections should be lined up with Council elections so that every 3 years members are elected.

Councillor Sangster has been attending these meetings and it is proposed that there be a second representative from the Golden Bay elected representatives either Councillor Bouillir or a Community Board Representative.

Recommendation:

“That any Golden Bay Community Board member be able to attend the Takaka Aerodrome Committee meetings in addition to Councillor Sangster, however, if Cr Sangster is unable to attend he will notify the Board to ensure that the Tasman District Council/Community Board is represented.”

4.2 Representation Review

Council is required to review its representation under the Electoral Act 2001 every 6 years. This time Council agreed to retain the current number of councillors, the current election of councillors by ward, the ward names and the current two community boards.

Also the proposal to alter the Motueka Ward boundary to increase the population and the ward areas and therefore reduce the Waimea/Moutere Ward so it is more closely aligned with the population requirements according to the Local Electoral Act was rejected by the councillors. They have resolved that the ward boundaries should stay the same.

It was this review 6 years ago in 2006 that began the process by Golden Bay and Motueka to retain our two community boards. Council at that time had moved to abolish the two community boards as part of the representation review and it also recommended to have one less councillor for Lakes/Murchison to meet the population requirements of the Act.

In 2007, following a lengthy campaign by the Golden Bay community, the Local Government Commission made the decision that saw the two community boards retained.

Golden Bay was granted isolated community status (the only community in mainland NZ to have this status) which meant we did not have to comply with the + or -10% rule for population to retain 2 councillors.

Board Chair, Joe Bell, was untiring in his efforts to ensure we retained our local representation and a huge debt of gratitude must go to Joe for the outstanding role he played in ensuring that Golden Bay retained our local governance voice.

Unfortunately Lakes Murchison was not so fortunate and did not retain their second councillor due to the + or -10% rule for population.

Golden Bay Community Board always supported Lakes Murchison in this as we recognise the huge distances that are part of this area and the very enormous task for one councillor to represent this extensive rural community.

4.3. Rates Remission for Land Affected by Flood

This item engendered a huge amount of discussion and although councillors are very sympathetic there were concerns about setting a precedent and how they put whatever is decided into a policy. In the end they decided to ask staff to come back with a report that would better reflect the thinking and would hopefully allow them to make some concessions to those people affected by section 124 notices whose homes are no longer habitable. Both Councillors Sangster and Bouillir spoke strongly in favour of granting remissions now, however, this decision has been deferred.

5. Port Tarakohe Ltd and the Big Burn

There has been some concern in the community about the fires and resulting smoke emanating from the quarry land belonging to Joan and Bob Butts at Pohara. By the time this report is circulated this burn will be well over however I believe that the very clear explanation given here by Joan Butts needs to be made public. Joan responded to concerns with following points.

- Port Tarakohe Ltd did not want any of the sand, mud, logs or other debris in its quarry. We operate a quarry not a dump.
- Fulton Hogan and the TDC could not find anywhere else in close proximity to Tata and Pohara Valley to store this material, so we relented.
- They set up three sites for flood debris, one at Tarakohe, one at Wainui and the other at Rototai. These sites were chosen so that heavy trucks would create the least disruption to residents and holiday-makers. The debris was sorted into soil, slash and material that would rot down but the huge logs were a real problem.
- PTL allowed Fulton Hogan to use one of the quarries to store slip material. They paid no rent and they agreed to leave the site as found. All their material has been recycled except for one pile of large logs now almost burnt. This was a massive job dealing with thousands of cubic metres of material.
- TDC rented a site from us (finished today/site clean) as their material was more difficult to deal with. We've agreed to leave a quantity of smaller logs and forestry slash to rot in an area we won't be quarrying. The clean fill has been separated and spread around the property. Again we did not need or want it. The huge quantities of muddy logs were cleaned as best as possible and put into piles for burning.
- No one wanted the wood for firewood as the grit and dirt destroyed chainsaws – it was offered.
- Mulching the huge logs was too expensive. The TDC costed moving the logs to Rototai and the cost for such a huge quantity was prohibitive.
- It is very naive to offer to have logs moved onto a private land. We have struggled to deal with the quantities.
- The cost to load and move the logs to Clifton or Rototai would have had the ratepayers complaining (approx. \$18 + GST per cubic metre for extra labour, digger and trucks for several thousand cubes), approximately \$500,000 extra. The original cost to get them into the quarry during the emergency was cheap as we used internal quarry roads and back shingle roads and hauled them a short distance in dump trucks. That is no longer an option.
- The TDC and PTL received complaints from a couple of Pohara Valley residents when the trucks were moving the debris into the quarry. They complained about the dust and noise.
- It was not an option to leave the large logs to rot in our quarry site. The logical and cost effective way to deal with the log piles after every other option was considered was to burn them.

- Considering the number and size of logs the burn has been very efficient as a contractor has attended the fire 24/7 rather than letting it smoulder over night and then re-starting it. Less smoke over a shorter period of time
- They waited for southerly/south east conditions so the smoke blew out to sea. On 2 nights the wind stopped blowing and the calm conditions caused the smoke hanging around that your Clifton residents complained about.
- TDC contractors got the fire permits and lit the fires on their leased property. They certainly investigated every other option first. They have burnt 98% of the logs. The last remnants of the last fire are burning now.

I believe everyone involved did their best for the local residents under the very difficult circumstances. (Joan Butts 22nd March)

6. Community Centre Driveway

A very good traffic safety result was achieved after the accident that occurred when a bicycle crashed into a car inching out of that notorious driveway. Steve Elkington, Council's Transportation Projects Engineer, stated:

"After hearing about the unfortunate accident late last week I made this job of reviewing the accessway a priority.

In reviewing various standards and keeping a pragmatic approach I suggest that we remove at least two parks on the northern side in front of the Brigand and shorten slightly the parking bay on the south side of the access."

The pamphlet showing the changes is attached to this report.

Recommendation:

"That the Golden Bay Community Board write to Steve Elkington thanking him for his speedy action in making changes to the parking on Commercial Street to allow visibility when exiting the Community Centre driveway."

7. Pupu Springs Road – Proposal to Change the Name

The matter of the change of name for Pupu Springs Road to Te Waikoropupu Springs Road as recommended by DOC was left to lie on the table until consultation had been completed with Manawhua Ki Mohua. This consultation has now been completed.

Recommendation:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board after consultation with Manawhenua ki Mohua and with the residents of Pupu Springs Road recommends to Engineering Services that the name “Pupu Springs Road” remains unchanged.”

Further, that a letter be sent to Tasman District Council and NZ Transport Agency requesting that all the relevant destination blades say “Te Waikoropupu Springs”.

8. Mayoral Disaster Fund

We have been approached asking what was going to happen to the monies donated to the Mayoral Disaster Fund and how would it be distributed. The media release of 23rd March gives that information.

“Mayoral Disaster Fund Distributed

It has been decided that the Nelson Tasman Mayoral Fund set up to support those affected by the December Rain Event will be shared amongst three agencies at the centre of the necessary welfare action during and after the event.

A number of families were affected directly and relied on the immediate support provided by two agencies in particular, the Salvation Army and the Food Bank group. In recognition of the funds and materials used by these groups to perform their roles during the event, both Mayors believed it was an appropriate use of the fund overseen by the Mayor of Nelson City, Aldo Miccio, and the Mayor of Tasman District, Richard Kempthorne.

“In making this decision we are able to acknowledge the role and support provided by the Salvation Army and Food Bank and return in some way the assistance they provided to those in need and to ensure these groups maintain such a capability for possible future events”, said Mr Miccio.

“In the heat of such an event accounting is not as important as responding to an emergency situation, however, when the event ends, the ability to be financially viable is.”

“With the fund, the brainchild of, and supported by the Nelson Mail, we can go some way to ensuring they are around when we need them next.”

“These contributions will hopefully go some way to building a sustainable future for these groups so when the need arises again they are in a position to help where they are needed most.”

“When a natural disaster hits a community we turn to groups like the ones we are recognising for support and to a degree we take them for granted until such an event occurs” added Richard Kempthorne. “With such a donation we can be assured of them being there when the need is most keenly felt.”

“It is a simple way of saying thank you whilst also saying we hope you are there next time.”

The Mayors, in making this decision, recognised the valuable role the Nelson Mail played in the establishment and support of the fund in the immediate aftermath of the event.

ENDS

Chris Choat, Communications”

The Golden Bay Community Board is investigating the possibility of some funding being available for the Community Workers to distribute to affected families as they see these people and also administer the food bank.

9. Dogs in Takaka CBD

In February the Golden Bay Community Board responded to the petition that had been signed by 364 people and presented to the Golden Bay Community Board in December 2011.

The Dog Control By-law was passed in 2009 and still has 2 years to run and we believed it would be an expensive exercise to initiate a complete review of this By-law. In 2009 the Board had been involved in extensive consultation and had an overwhelming number of people who wanted the Takaka CBD to remain dog free. Having weighed up the pros and cons at our February meeting we recommended:

“Moved Board member Brookes/Cr Sangster

GB12/02/17

THAT the Golden Bay Community Board will not be requesting that the Dog Control Bylaw review period is brought forward, due to the amount of public opinion against an early review.

CARRIED”

However it appears that this recommendation by the Board has been seen to be ignoring the petition published here.

Question : Do you agree that the bylaw should be changed to allow dogs on a leash in the Takaka CBD?											
Response	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K	L
364	Agree	Do not agree	Do not care/mind	Live or work in CBD	Own a dog	Do not own a dog	Visitor to Golden Bay	A&E	A&F	B&E	B&F
	322	31	11	117	178	110	43	164	87	5	16
	88.46%	8.52%	3.02%	32.14%	48.90%	30.22%	11.81%	45.05%	23.90%	1.37%	4.40%

Adrian Humphries stated:

“Ultimately it is a decision of Council as to what bylaws are in force and how they are structured. In my report to Council I will recommend that the Dog Control Bylaw be reviewed as part of a wider bylaw review process and at that time all members of the Golden Bay community will have the opportunity to submit on any proposal. I will make this report in the next few months and you will be informed.”

Mr Humphries has assured me that the community of Golden Bay will not be responsible for paying for this by law to be reviewed. He will be seeking an amendment to the current bylaw to allow dogs in the CBD under leash control. He says this is not likely to happen until about June.

It was also pointed out that we did not communicate with the organizers of this petition to inform them of our recommendation to Council.

Recommendation:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board writes to the petition organizers to advise them of the Bylaw Review process.”

10. Anzac Day- 25th April 2012

We need to appoint representatives to attend the Anzac parades in Takaka and Collingwood to represent Council. I have already spoken to Councillor Sangster who is willing to attend the Takaka Service and I am able to attend in Collingwood.

Recommendation:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board appoints representatives to attend both the Takaka and Collingwood parades on behalf of Tasman District Council and lay the Council wreaths.”

11. Golden Bay Returned Services Association

We have a request in our correspondence from the Returned Service Association regarding naming of the lane into the Library carpark. The RSA had originally suggested ANZAC Way or Lane however that is not possible as there is already an ANZAC Way in Motueka.

The suggestion now is for “Gallipoli Lane” or “Gallipoli Way”. As this is one of the delegations assigned to the Community Board this is a matter we will need to consider and make a recommendation to Engineering Services.

Recommendation:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board pursues the possibility of naming the lane/ access way leading into the Takaka Library car park. This is in response to the RSA request to name this access way/lane with a name to commemorate WW1.”

12. Cobb Valley Soapstone Quarrying Application

Stealite Limited is seeking access to quarry soapstone (also known as Stealite or talc magnesite) and associated ore at three sites totalling just over 5 hectare. John Mason, Department of Conservation Golden Bay Area Manger stated that: “DOC will be evaluating the ecological values of the area and the environmental impacts of the proposed activity along with any steps proposed. He also said that this is a detailed process and is expected to take some months.

The Conservation land is not covered by Schedule 4 restrictions for mining activity. Stealite Limited was in 2009 granted an access arrangement agreement by DOC to undertake some minor exploratory work in the area.

13. Rockland Road Weedbusters

Mik Symmons and Lloyd Kennedy had a tour of Weedbuster’s sites to look at the issues and where work has been done. A lot of the areas are in native bush and previously some were in pasture and weeds were easier to control, however now these are lifestyle blocks the weed issues have become overwhelming for some landowners. Weedbusters have received national funding which is assisting in this huge cleanup. Pohara Water Supply reserve (which is in this area) is of concern with the proliferation of weeds. The funds that have been allocated will not cover the cost of all the work needing to be undertaken so it is vital that Council allocate funds to begin to eradicate weeds from Council’s own water reserve. Council staff have recently agreed to work with the Weedbuster Team to remove the weeds from this reserve.

Recommendation:

“THAT the Golden Bay Community Board writes to Jeff Cuthbertson (Engineering Services Utilities Asset Manager) thanking him for agreeing to work with Weedbusters in the Pohara Water Supply reserve.”

14. Takaka Service Centre IT Upgrade

It would be helpful to have an upgrade of the Takaka Service Centre electronics to accommodate power-point and data projector presentations. Also there is no wireless internet available throughout the Service Centre, which should also be provided. Handheld phones would also be of assistance when wanting to find information while still talking. We are aware that the fibre optic cable will soon be laid and this will be the opportunity to ensure that the Service Centre is able to accommodate video conferencing to enable councillors to attend meetings from a remote location. With the Remuneration Authority’s cutback on mileage, rural councillors are finding it increasingly difficult to be able to afford to attend meetings with mileage allowance either not reimbursed at all or totally inadequate to cover travel costs.

Recommendation:

“THAT Council be asked to consider addressing the following points for upgrades at the Takaka Service Centre:

- *Electronic upgrade to accommodate powerpoint and data projector presentations;*
- *Wireless internet available throughout the service centre;*
- *Handheld phones; and*
- *Video conferencing facilities.”*

15. Disability Tour – Upcoming date

The Disability Tour is to take place on 27 April 2012.

16. Rainbow Valley Community – Public Walkway Proposal

Council’s Manager Property Services will be in attendance to report to the Board on this matter.

Carolyn McLellan