

STAFF REPORT

TO: Motueka Community Board
FROM: Service Centres Manager
REFERENCE: E859
DATE: 15 May 2006
SUBJECT: May 2006 Report

FROM LAST MEETING

Former Stanton's Site

Shortly after the last Board meeting the owner of the site carried out extensive tidying of the area, and as can be seen from the attached before and after shots, the site now looks very good.

The resource consent for the site remedial works has been addressed by Councils Environment and Planning Staff, and their response is as attached.

Note that the owner has requested to carry out building work on the site and provided this is not affected by the remedial works, is likely to proceed. This will be a positive move for the town as empty sections in the central business area are not the best advert for any town.

Perhaps the Board may wish to write to the owner of the site thanking him for tidying it so well.

Intersection Developments

The intersection island at the junction of Pah/High Streets has been recently completed (refer attached photo). The improvements appear to work well providing a much clearer pedestrian crossing point than existed previously.

The Board made a resolution at the last meeting in regards to pedestrian crossings.

MK06/04/09

“THAT the Motueka Community Board write to the Minister of Transport advising of their concerns about anomalies in the warrant system for pedestrian crossings - using Motueka as an example. A copy of the letter is to be copied to the local MP's and to the Director of Land Transport New Zealand.”

The letter containing the resolution together with background information has been prepared. I am, however, aware that Council has been concerned with Community Boards sending out letters to Government Ministers. The concern is that such letters may create confusion or possible tension between Government and the Tasman District Council. I therefore referred the letter to the CEO for advice. The advice was to explore other options to resolving the issues concerning the Board, rather than pursuing Ministerial involvement as a first call. The warrant system that sets the legal requirements for the placement of pedestrian crossings is to objectively assess the factors using national 'science based' standards.

Should the Board accept my recommendation, the previous Board resolution MK06/04/09 would need to be rescinded and a new resolution to follow my recommendation as below:

THAT the Motueka Community Board write to Council's Engineering Services Committee advising of their concerns about anomalies in the warrant system for pedestrian crossings - using Motueka as an example. The Board also requests that the Committee resolves to ask the relevant Government Agencies to consider options for dispensations to the warrant system, for pedestrian crossings where special circumstances can be determined to promote the development of such crossings, notwithstanding the prescriptive standards in the warrant rules.

One of the other main issues concerning the Board is the traffic snarl-ups in Motueka at certain times of the year, and it would seem likely that additional pedestrian crossings would exacerbate the traffic flow.

The Board has also previously raised issues regarding planning improvements for intersections of Tudor/Wallace/Pah/Greenwood Streets with High Street. Following discussion with Council's Roding Asset Engineer on the matter, it would appear that the need for his suggestion of an integrated road traffic/pedestrian study for central Motueka is now of some urgency.

Note this issue has been brought to Council's attention under the LTCCP submission process.

Letterhead

When the Board sends out letters on TDC letterhead, there is a possibility of confusion where the recipient may believe that the letter purports to be from the Council (as opposed to the Community Board). Whilst the Board may have areas where they wish to dispute current governmental rulings (such as speed limits and pedestrian crossings), it is important that there is a clear distinction between the Board's views, and those that might be otherwise held by the Council.

When such a conflict arose in the past with the Golden Bay Community Board, the matter was discussed with Senior Management and the solution recommended was to provide the Board with its own clearly individual letterhead. Golden Bay uses its letterhead (copy in info pack) frequently, and since that time there has been no further problems with such conflicts.

Note, however, that where there is a matter clearly affecting current Council policy, the Board should always address initial communication with the Council so that the matter may be resolved internally.

Should this Board wish to pursue having its own letterhead, I have included in the Board's info pack examples that could be used. As well as the current Golden Bay Board's letterhead, I have enclosed a copy of the proposed signage for Motueka Aerodrome which the Board may wish to emulate as a 'theme'.

The Board may, however, wish to consider that some form of competition be held by schools/community by way of a competition for the 'Best Letterhead' and/or "Best Slogan".

Recommendation:

THAT the Motueka Community Board decide whether it wishes to have its own letterhead, whether one of the letterheads provided is suitable, or whether it wishes to explore community input into this matter.

Foreshore Dune Protection

I have discussed the matter of Resource Consents with Council's Coastal Scientist Engineer and Coastal Planner (Ros Squire). There appears to be no impediment to using existing established flora on a beach that may assist with erosion. As the land is under the control of Council's Community Services Department, there will be a need to liaise with that Department before any further extension of plantings proceed.

I have arranged for one of Community Services Staff (Kathy Tohill) to contact Bob Cooke to discuss. Whilst it seemed clear from the Board's beach inspection that the ice plant is having a positive effect, the Golden Bay Board Chairperson following my promotion of the use of ice plants for beach stabilisation has commented that *"Having been involved with Golden Bay Coast Care, I would caution against this (use of ice plant). We have been replacing both ice plant and marram with native pingau and spinifex which have evolved to provide the most appropriate protection for the coastal margin. From observation I would recommend planting these wherever coastal erosion is a problem in sandy foreshores instead of non-native species"*.

Given the highly modified environment and gentler wave action generally along Trewavas Street foreshore, I assume that the ice plant in that situation seems a good choice but would acknowledge that it may be a matter of 'horses for courses'.

TOPICAL ISSUES

Energy Conservation Issues

I have discussed the proposed briefing sessions for both Boards on energy conservation issues with Council's Environmental Education Officer, Claire Webster, and whilst in her role means she has a good background knowledge of this (and many other) subjects, we have decided to defer her briefing to this Board until after a scheduled meeting by Martin Lynch, Regional Manager Genesis Energy, whom is to address management (mid June) on specific energy conservation.

Claire is also extremely busy at the moment with Ecofest which is held in August.

Claire is also involved in the 'Eco-Home' project. The Eco-Home is a mobile environmental education unit, the size of a 20 foot container (6m x 2.4m). It will be transported around the Nelson/Tasman region; stopping for a month at a time in Murchison, Takaka and Motueka, with longer periods in Richmond and Nelson, as well as attending the region's A&P Shows and other appropriate public events.

It will offer examples and information, in a fun and interactive way, about the various measures that can be taken in and around the home in the areas of energy-efficiency, water and waste management, air quality, and general sustainability products and services. (Many of these examples will need to be cut-down demonstration versions of the actual product.) It will be an independent, solar powered unit that can be placed almost anywhere.

The project will be launched at the Ecofest Expo this year, 12-13 August 2006, and the roadshow programme will be commencing after that, but probably not reaching Motueka until next year.

I would recommend that the Board supports this project and resolves to allow the 'eco-home' to be positioned in the Service Centre Carpark when its our turn, and that the Board also considers using that opportunity to run a special public forum at its Board Meeting to discuss with residents and ratepayers energy conservation issues.

River Care Update

Council's Engineering Services Committee at its meeting on 27 April 2006 discussed the proposed terms of reference for River Care Groups and made the following resolution:

Moved Crs Kempthorne/Henry
WK06/04/11

THAT the following Terms of Reference be established for Council's River Care Groups to provide clear guidance for their function:

- 1. That the Council encourages the formation and maintenance of River Care groups evenly distributed throughout the major river catchments and consisting of ratepayers along sections of classified river length.***

2. ***That the purpose of River Care groups be to assist the Council to maintain better communications between the Council and ratepayers generally regarding the level of service along the classified river length.***
3. ***That the Council meets formally with each River Care group on at least an annual basis to review the proposed annual operations and maintenance programme, receive expressions of opinion and given such explanations as may be requested.***
4. ***That Council publicly advertises annual meetings with River Care Groups, conduct open meetings for all interested ratepayers that attend and provide administration services.***
5. ***That complaints or other matters pertaining to individual ratepayers not be considered by River Care groups but be redirected to the Council.***
6. ***That River Care groups not make decisions on the Council's behalf, as such decisions must rest with the Council in terms of its statutory authority.***

CARRIED

Following on from that resolution, this Board can now reconvene those persons who indicated an interest from the Board's initial workshop meeting held late last year, with the purpose of formerly establishing the Motueka River Care Group.

A date has not yet been confirmed, but is likely to be June. Board Members will be advised directly.

Sportspark Opening

I have included some pictures of the opening of the new Sportspark stadium which occurred on Saturday 13th May 2006.

This is a fantastic family sports facility and one that Motueka can be clearly proud of.

The Tasman District Council's financial support from the facilities rate was pivotal in the success of this facility, and on behalf of the community the Board may like to thank the Council for its enormous financial help.

Sponsorship from the Community is still being sought, so those wanting to contribute in a tangible way can still sponsor one of the stadium seats (\$100.00) and have your own or your family's name attached to it.

The stadium has also had good support from this Community Board, and members will be aware that it was previous Board Chairperson, Kelvin Bradley, that was the driving force in getting the old stadium replaced.

The Board Chairman has authorised the making of a small brass plaque that is above the Referees room at the stadium. The Board will need to make a resolution authorising the payment for the plaque (actual cost not available at the date of writing this report but will be under \$100) , which will be drawn from the Board's Discretionary Fund.

Recommendation:

THAT the Motueka Community Board resolves to make a payment of up to \$100 for the Kelvin Bradley Memorial Room Plaque that is fixed to the Referees Room at Sportspark Motueka Stadium.

The room was formerly opened by the Mayor, Kelvin's mother Nola Bradley and brother Graham. (Pictures attached).

George Sturgeon and Board Member Barry Dowler have worked their respective butts off to realise Kelvin's dream, and their efforts reinforce my belief that Motueka, whilst only a little town, is made big with the hearts of the people who live here.

Bob Askew

Service Centres Manager

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