

## **REPORT TO MOTUEKA COMMUNITY BOARD : 11 MARCH 2008**

### **1. Special (Targeted) Rate for Community Boards**

Considerable time has been spent discussing and debating this issue. It has been frustrating and destructive of relationships. The Council has reduced its Motueka preliminary figure from \$138,260 to \$59,767 (per ratepayer \$29.87 to \$12.91). While this is pleasing, we have been debating from quite different "playing fields". We have endeavoured to argue from an "actual costs" basis rather than "overheads inclusive", believing that Council costs (eg car parks, parks and reserves, Council vehicles, Councillor costs etc) are not relevant to costing the administration of the Board.

There is also doubt whether the Board's remuneration and the \$5,000 discretionary fund should be included. Over-riding all is the initial and essential issue whether any levy is legal (2002 Local Government Act).

We requested that both legal and financial aspects be referred to the Auditor-General and a non-Council accountant for an independent perspective but this was declined.

The next four months (the Annual Plan is decided 30 June 2008) could prove to be equally distracting and divisive. The unit per general ratepayer "saving" is less than \$6 across the District, and I wonder whether the issue is really worth the time, energy and cost given the considerable negative factors. (\$120,000 approximately compared with recent reports of \$300,000 Saxton Field Complex, \$750,000 Headingly Centre, \$275,000 Brook Waimarama Sanctuary.

### **2. Liaison Meeting : Transit NZ /Opus/TDC Engineering**

I attended this liaison meeting on Tuesday 26 February and was able to highlight SH 60 issues for Motueka. A study of High Street issues is scheduled for the 2008 – 2009 year with the pedestrian crossing between New World and The Warehouse under particular study. There appears to be no long-term solution to High Street congestion with any by-pass suggestion apparently beyond 20 years. (Is this now more urgent than the proposed Ruby Bay by-pass?).

Transit NZ's focus is clearly on traffic flow in its administration of SH 60 including High Street. Our concern is retaining High Street as a pleasant, safe retail/business experience for our residents and visitors.

Notwithstanding the lack of immediate action, we have been asked to meet the Transit Engineer (Jack Hansby) at a mutually suitable time. Hopefully such a meeting will lead to a positive strategy (short term and long term) for us. Considerable consultation will be a necessary pre-cursor to developing any strategy.

### **3. Outcomes**

- (1) Although Council has declined the request for a pedestrian crossing at the Greenwood Kindergarten, they have signalled street-marking "CHILDREN" on either side of the bulbous kerbs.

- (2) Memorial Park seats have been repaired and concreted into position. Some extra bins are to be placed there; also the burnt sections of the hedge to be removed. A new Pah Street fence is being considered.
- (3) Good progress on the shared walkway/cycleway along Lodder Lane and School Road in Riwaka.
- (4) Tenders called for the 2007 – 2008 footpathing project and also for the Wastewater Pipes CCTV.

The Pah Street – Marae footpath, and the Queen Victoria Street – Lower Moutere “shared” path will be gravel with a crusher-dust surface. (Similar to High Street South and Wildman Road).

- (5) The report by Rose Biss on Motueka’s Planning Strategy (see Reports) will be of interest. Knitting the various planning strands into a practical strategy is always complex – we mustn’t ignore how Riwaka/Kaiteriteri impacts on Motueka facilities. (Population 2,451 in March 2006).
- (6) Go-By-Bike Day Breakfast was handed to 40 – 50 people (on Wednesday 27 February). Brent Maru and Jacqui Taylor provided both the fare and the fun.

#### **4. Annual Plan**

Attached is a report from Murray Staite on the Annual Plan timetable.

#### **5. Conclusion**

Today (11 March) marks the 150<sup>th</sup> day since the October 2007 election! Although recognising the planning, strategising, programming and inherent delays of Council our own role is defined in statute as a vital link between the Motueka community and the District Council initiating, responding and monitoring activities. Although as individuals we will have diverse views on various topics our unifying feature is our passion for the Motueka community. Our involvement with community groups reflects this vision and attitude.

David Ogilvie