

REPORT

TO: Motueka Community Board Members
FROM: David Ogilvie, Chair
DATE: 30 June 2008
SUBJECT: **Report to meeting of 12 August 2008**

1 Central and West Motueka Development Strategy

This is a “priority 1” topic for Council’s Environment and Planning Department and it was hoped that a “draft” report would have been available by the end of June 2008 for public consultation.

It now seems likely that such a report will not be available until the end of September and possibly October 2008.

There have been reports to the Policy Planners on residential, industrial and commercial zone requirements; discussions with the Engineering Services staff over the infrastructure needs; liaison with iwi landowners; meetings with the Community Board and with Our Town Motueka.

These (sometimes divergent) responses have been placed into the planning melting pot and a summary presented to the Council on 17 July 2008 and to the Board on 28 July 2008. A further meeting with Wakatu Incorporation took place on 1 August 2008.

Rose Biss is co-ordinating this process and it is expected that a draft plan will be available for public reference and consultation in two months. While the delay is disappointing, the task is significant and, by its nature, quite complex.

In this situation, it is imperative that the Community Board members (and of course, Councillors) are well prepared, conversant with the issues and willing to ask difficult questions and cross-examine the consultants – as representatives of the community.

2 Regional Cycling and Walking Strategy Review

The Board’s public meeting (28 July 2008) went very well with attendance of approximately 25. Paul Hawkes has a report on the responses which fitted 2 – 3 categories; first, to improve the standard of the existing “on-road” cycleways; secondly, to construct “off-road” cycleways linking Kina, Kaiteriteri with Motueka; finally, to raise the level of expenditure and significance of cycleways and walkways throughout the District, particularly in Motueka “the cycling centre of the District”.

Opus and Council representatives did not attend the public meeting, but it is expected they will conduct their own consultation programme when detailed goals and objectives and their strategic approach has been formulated.

The Community Board has indicated its willingness to collaborate, as much as possible, with Opus and the Council on this matter.

3 Lower Motueka River Stopbank Project

The Engineering Services Committee received a summary report on this project on 24 July 2008 (refer Information pack). This report was mentioned at the Rivercare meeting, along with details of the annual operating maintenance programme and gravel extractions for the Lower Motueka. This was another well-attended meeting with real concerns expressed.

4 Public Consultation (Local Government Act requirement)

At each of these meetings (Lower Motueka Rivercare; Cycling and Walking Strategy; Central and West Motueka Development) there has been a level of frustration expressed on poor public consultation by Council officers and consultants, especially **before** “draft reports” go to print. There is a widespread general feeling that consultation **afterwards** is meaningless because little, if anything, is changed.

“Once printed, the draft will not be set in concrete, but it will certainly be set in treacle” – a perceptive comment by a local resident and unfortunately close to reality.

Community Board members, on various community groups, field these comments frequently. We have offered on a number of occasions to assist with consultation, and at times have been pro-active with surveys and public meetings.

Residents and ratepayers want to take ownership of those decisions which affect them. Motueka people are intelligent, resourceful, passionate and patient; they are not indifferent and apathetic; at this time their patience is converting to frustration.

With a number of “strategic plans” occurring (including the LTCCP) it is timely that the Council, through its staff and consultants, commit more obviously to positive consultation.

5 Various Projects

Wet weather has delayed the completion of some projects (King Edward Street, Queen Victoria Street shared footpath/cycleway) but it is satisfying to see other projects finished – McGlashen Street footpath; Pah Street, for example.

Also, to note that various service requests have been actioned (eg street signage Bennett, Simpson Streets).

Thorp Street (near the Fearon Street intersection and opposite the Pioneer Cemetery) remains broken up and badly in need of repair. A service request to repair was made six weeks ago.

Recent letters/queries to Council officers awaiting response:

- Steve Elkington, for footpaths and cycleways in the 2008/2009 Annual Plan

- Dennis Bush-King, re smoke pollution issue (Colin Hooker)
- Dennis Bush-King, re affordable housing (John Krammer)
- Income and expenditure figures for the Motueka water rate over the last two years.

6 Holidaying at Coolangatta, Queensland

My holiday (11 – 25 July 2008) was relaxing and refreshing. Coolangatta is a large coastal town, 1 hour south of Surfers, on the Queensland-New South Wales border. The weather was most fine and warm (20°) and you easily get caught up in the atmosphere, confidence and uniqueness of Australia. We were told that over 37,000 NZers moved to Australia in 2007, of whom 8,000 had been in NZ for fewer than 2 years “NZ – a transit lounge for Australia” was the newspaper heading.

My Council/Community Board interest notes such items as:

- daily street cleaning of the central retail and business areas
- orange and white pedestrian crossings (strikingly obvious to drivers)
- frequent and low-cost public transport
- rubbish bins every 50 metres in town
- cycle and walkways along the coast (seats at regular intervals)
- a de-salination project in the Bay
- water restrictions (level 6) in place
- seven-day retailing (10.00 am to 4.00 pm Sundays)

As a Gold Coast tourist town, Coolangatta lacks the hustle of Surfers, but appeals for its assured, quiet comfort, providing a very enjoyable break.

Since returning home, it's been a frenetic ten days, catching up on newspapers, mail etc, but now looking forward to the opportunities and challenges involving our Community Board. We have a number of issues concerning us, but foremost are our statutory goals of representing Motueka, overseeing the Council's services and activities, and advocating for Motueka.

7 Motueka Community Bus

Positive discussions with representatives of local transport companies and potential users of the service and D Eddy is looking forward to progressing this plan over the next few months.

D Eddy has suggested that the Board should be asking Tasman District Council to provide a free bus service to take Motueka residents to and from this year's Eco Fest.

8 Burn Offs/Firewood

The response to the letters Motueka Community Board has circulated about reducing burn offs and supplying firewood to low income households has been great. Community Corrections and the Conservation Corps have both indicated their willingness to supply labour and equipment, and a number of local social service organisations have indicated their support for the plan. No response has been received so far from TDC consents department. (copies of letters attached).

9 Youth Transport

Tara Forde, Motueka Community Board member, announced today that a trial 'ride home' scheme is to operate for Motueka young people. "Catch the bus, avoid the fuss" is to encourage young people to get on board, safely out of the cold, on their way home.

The scheme, being run by Motueka Community Board, Motueka Recreation Centre, and Tasman Taxis, will run for 3 months. The first start date is Friday 15 August 2008. This bus will run on a Friday night from 10.00 pm from the Motueka Recreation Centre for a gold coin donation. Young people have travel needs, and parents shouldn't have to spend their lives as honorary taxi drivers.

A route map and ticket will be tabled at the meeting.

10 Public Recycling in Motueka

An application has been lodged with Ministry of Environment for public recycling receptacles across the Tasman District. We are waiting to hear back, but there is ongoing funding and there is the potential for applying again should we be unsuccessful this round.

Community groups, local business, and the community are in the process of being consulted. Parkes Automotive, Keep Motueka Beautiful, Clock Tower, Library, Our Town Motueka, the Motueka i-Site, and the general public are being asked for their thoughts on designs and site locations. It would be good to work on some High Street locations. Engineering staff have considered a range of options as well.

So far the community has expressed the need for bright and colourful bins that are well labeled and easy to use. A large amount of broken glass is found around the area, and many residents have expressed that recycling glass, although not economic for the council, is beneficial for our district in keeping a lid on litter issues.

David Ogilvie
Chair

Summary of Meetings – July 2008

Date	Meeting
3/7	<p>Glenn Thorn (TDC), Bob Cooke (KMB), Cr Wilkins and I met Craig Watson (The Lumber Co) to discuss the Inlet – Estuary walkway. Surveyor Tony Nikkel is surveying the boundaries, project should be reported to Keep Motueka Beautiful at their August 2008 meeting.</p> <p>Visit Motueka Police Station (Constable Grant Heney) for a demonstration of the town's security cameras.</p>
4/7	<p>Festival of Lights opening by Hon Damien O'Connor, MP. Lights are brilliant with a sizeable crown wandering the streets in the evening (Concludes 13 July 2008).</p>
7/7	<p>Primary Schools Seddon Shield District Rugby Tournament at Sportspark. A week of family rugby – Nelson defeats Motueka in the final (11th).</p>
8/7	<p>Community Board monthly meeting. Rose Biss, Jeff Cuthbertson and Beryl Wilkes attend. Excellent public forum.</p>
9/7	<p>Attend "Heart of Nelson" strategic plan public presentation by Kobus Mentz of Urbanismplus Consultants, at Trafalgar Park.</p>
11/7 – 25/7	<p>Holiday at Coolangatta, Queensland</p>
26/7	<p>Abbeyfield New Zealand Annual Conference in Nelson. Now have ten houses in New Zealand with four more in "the pipeline".</p>
28/7	<p>Met Rose Biss to progress the Central and West Motueka Planning Strategy.</p> <p>Public meeting on the Council's review of the Regional Cycling and Walking Strategy. Good attendance with 25 people and open, helpful discussion and contributions.</p>
30/7	<p>Lower Motueka Rivercare Group meet Philip Drummond (TDC), Rick Lowe (MWH) and John Ellis (Sicon) re the 2008 – 2009 works programme on the rivers. Also discussion on the stopbanks, gravel extractions etc.</p> <p>Tasman Area Community Association (AGM). Hamish Rush succeeds Peter Williams as Chair; Tony Pearson as Secretary; Evan Griffiths (Treasurer). Approximately 60 family members. Attendance 20.</p>