

REPORT

TO: Motueka Community Board Members
FROM: David Ogilvie, Chair
DATE: 1 April 2009
SUBJECT: Report to meeting of 14 April 2009

1 LTCCP (Ten Year Plan) 2009 – 2019

The ten year plan has already received wide publicity with varied responses.

For Motueka ratepayers, the three new targeted rates – Tourism levy; Lower Motueka Stopbank Reconstruction; Water reticulation – have been highlighted, but increases in other rates have not been noted, or various projects/activities given a low priority.

The needs of residents/ratepayers have been expressed continually through public meetings, public forums, submission processes but the Council appears to be placing little weight on these community preferences. Footpaths, cycle-lanes, relieving High Street traffic congestion, the Riwaka-Kaiteriteri road upgrade are examples, while the wastewater and stormwater improvements are scheduled for later years in the ten year period.

There is continuing frustration and concern at the under-expenditure in the Motueka Ward compared with the high rating increases.

Many ratepayers are to receive a 7.5% to 10% increase in their 2009 – 2010 rates demand with significant increases when the stopbank and water reticulation rates take effect. The tourism levy will also impact tourist and retail businesses – those activities which receive direct or indirect benefit from tourism.

The wastewater rate is projected to increase to \$627 (from \$519) but should this be a targeted rate for Motueka Ward residents who benefit, it could be reduced considerably (see page 14) and yet meet all the costs of the Motueka oxidation ponds, pipes and pumping stations.

There are three public meetings to engage the community:

6 April 2009 – LTCCP
14 April 2009 – Lower Motueka stopbank
15 April 2009 – Water reticulation

There will be afternoon clinics preceding the evening sessions.

Public submissions are to be finalised by Monday 27 April 2009, after which the Council will conduct hearings before amending/confirming the LTCCP (ten year plan) by 30 June 2009.

The meetings, clinics and submissions time frame for this document of 4 – 5 weeks seemed too short allowing for the size of the plan and its co-existence with the Regional Land Transport Plan and the Motueka Central and West Development proposal. Moreover, the Easter period is involved.

I requested to the Mayor that a two-week extension would be appropriate given these pressures but the request was declined (see correspondence).

Consequently, in addition to the Council-organised meetings, the community board will conduct and promote a submission programme of meetings and plan responses to accommodate the community. Already, Rose Biss has spoken to Our Town Motueka, and the Neighbourhood Centre re the Central/West Strategy (in addition to her own meetings). Tasman Bay Promotions has arranged a public meeting (1 April) with Nelson Tasman Tourism to discuss the tourist levy issues.

There will be a large advertisement seeking responses in either the Motueka News or Guardian (14/15 April).

As a Board, we will need to meet after 22 April to finalise our own submissions to a) ten year plan; b) Regional Land Transport Plan; c) Central and West Motueka Strategy.

2 NZ Community Boards Conference (19 – 21 March 2009)

I attended the Conference at the Christchurch Convention Centre and found it of immense value. The keynote speakers and workshops were of a high standard, interesting and relevant to our communities. The speeches by Rodney Hide, Lawrence Yule and Bob Parker were particularly pertinent in their chorus of strong support for community boards and the necessary links the boards developed with their respective communities.

Joe Bell has written a full report on the conference, which I have included in the information pack.

3 ANZAC Day Representatives

Representatives of Motueka Community Board attending remembrance services to be confirmed.

4 Correspondence and Reports

A number of items from the correspondence/reports reflect ongoing concerns on various issues:

- Freedom Camping/Overnight Stays
- Restoration work at the Old Motueka Wharf
- Walking and Cycling

For information purposes, the tourism rate report is included; councillors discussion as minuted (19 March 2009) on the disaster funds, Engineering Services items; Enterprise Subcommittee agenda and Joe Bell's report on the Community Boards conference.

The Board's submission to Council in October 2008 for the ten year plan is included.

b) Rivers Disaster Fund

I was concerned that Council resolved to transfer \$500,000 from the Rivers Disaster Fund to the General Disaster Fund at its 19 March 2009 meeting.

To my mind, the rivers account is a separate, targeted, account and consequently "untouchable". Any transfer of funds to another account should not happen.

This policy review raises the question on how "sacrosanct" are these special, targeted accounts and can they be inter-changed by a simple Council resolution. The role of the Council as Trustee is pertinent in this matter where a significant principle is involved.

c) Old Motueka Wharf

Rose Biss and I have communicated over restoration matters and we are meeting with Cr Wilkins, DOC adviser and Council staff on 1 April to develop a programme of work. Coastal Policy requirements, Heritage Policy issues, as well as engineering difficulties are adding to the delays (and likely costs).

David Ogilvie
31 March 2009

Meeting – Tasman Bay Promotions – Tourism Levy Proposal

Tasman Bays Promotions Association arranged a public meeting on the tourism levy (Tuesday 1 April) at St John's Hall.

There were approximately 40 attendees (33 members of the public). I chaired the meeting with Phil Taylor (Tourism Nelson Tasman Ltd Board Director) backgrounding the financial matters involving the two councils, Paul Davis (Chief Executive of Tourism Nelson Tasman) gave a powerpoint presentation and this was followed by a question and answer session.

It was evident that two main conclusions were reached:

- 1 Strong opposition to the tourism levy with opposition expressed against **any** levy in any form, and also against **this** particular levy because it was significantly inequitable, discriminatory, unfair and even unjust.

The over-riding expression was that promotion of the District was a public good and a “core business” responsibility of the Council.

Consequently, the \$490,000 budget item must be met from the general rate – this is an increase of \$100,000 on the 2008 – 2009 contribution to Tourism Nelson Tasman.

- 2 Destination Marketing by TNT needs to be increased and the \$390,000 to \$490,000 increase in the budget is acceptable, particularly in the current economic situation. Members of the audience pointed consistently to their own marketing costs for their own tourism activities but there was an ongoing requirement for support from TNT as well as from I-sites.

At the end of the meeting the following resolution was put and passed: 28 in support; 5 did not vote.

“That this meeting expresses its strong opposition to a targeted rate for Destination Marketing, and that the general rate be increased to meet the \$181,000 required for Destination Marketing”.

David Ogilvie
Chair, Motueka Community Board

Summary of Meetings – March 2009

| Date | Meeting |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1 March | <p>Potato Growing Project – prize-giving. Scott Sinclair assisted Tara Forde with weighing and counting. Largest number of potatoes per root was 25.</p> <p>Top Town Motueka on TV2. A special presentation at the Post Office Hotel. The Motueka team was piped by Taupo but got a “wild card” entry into the semi-finals, but were defeated then.</p> |
| 2 March | <p>Our Town Motueka monthly meeting. Rose Biss explained the Motueka Central and West Development proposals. Discussion also re the proposed tourism levy on retailers.</p> |
| 2 March | <p>Motueka District Museum meeting. Marahau Residents and Ratepayers meeting</p> |
| 10 March | <p>Motueka Central and West Development Plan – public clinic during the afternoon and public meeting in the evening (approximately 40 attending)</p> <p>Motueka Community Board meeting</p> |
| 16 March | <p>Keep Motueka Beautiful Committee</p> |
| 17 March | <p>Motueka Central and West Development – clinic in early evening (5.00 pm – 7.30 pm) poor attendance.</p> <p>Tasman Bay Promotions</p> <p>Motueka Arts Council – re a short presentation suggesting a Motueka Arts Strategy.</p> |
| 19 March 20 March 21 March | <p>NZ Community Boards Conference in Christchurch. Superbly organised, wide range of speakers and workshops. Most interesting and well worthwhile.</p> |
| 24 March | <p>Keep Motueka Beautiful Committee – meeting with Lloyd Kennedy re the Beach Reserve, camping issues and related concerns</p> <p>Motueka Music Group AGM – John Spicer continues as Chairman, Alison Gamlen as Secretary and Donald Horn, Treasurer</p> |
| 25 March | <p>Motueka Memorial Park Sports pavilion Committee (Cricket/Soccer) – six monthly meeting.</p> |
| 28 March | <p>Earth Hour – 8.30 pm – 9.30 pm</p> |
| 31 March | <p>Community Boards meeting with Councillors and Managers for a briefing/discussion on the LTCCP (10 Year Plan)</p> <p>Meeting with the Golden Bay Community Board and general discussion of mutual issues.</p> |