

REPORT

TO: Motueka Community Board Members

FROM: David Ogilvie, Chair

DATE: 29 May 2009

SUBJECT: Report to meeting of 9 June 2009

1 Submission to the Ten Year Plan (LTCCP)

The Board made its submission to the ten year plan on Thursday 21 May 2009. Perhaps, disappointingly, the Councillor attendance was low, with six Councillors absent.

In its 15 minute hearing we highlighted:

1. The need for a “steady as it goes” policy.
2. Deferring the tourism levy for 12 months to provide for full discussion and consultation.
3. Continuing the current water reticulation process policy of gradual extension, and no urgency to increase the present rate.
4. limited support for investigations proceeding on the Lower Motueka Reconstruction project and for this to be funded from the current rivers rate.

Our emphasis is that in the current recessionary climate the Council should be “holding the line”. A policy of prudence and restraint is required – it is not the time for big projects.

Our second emphasis is better value for our rating dollar. We are genuinely concerned that the rates paid by Motueka ratepayers are being expended in other parts of the District – too high a proportion for too long a time.

This comment applies particularly to the general rate, stormwater and wastewater rate. (In contrast, the Motueka water rate is confined to Motueka : income and expenditure). For Motueka’s needs, the wastewater levy could remain at \$519; stormwater expenditure requires more work on clearing and cleaning our “open” drains; improved footpaths, cycle lanes, linking Manoy and Talbot Streets, the Riwaka – Kaiteriteri Road upgrade are transport priorities.

At this tie it is the delivery of services based on what the residents/ratepayers want, which is important. Long term policies and projects are not appropriate, particularly if they involve considerable investigation and expense. The realities of the economic situation must be acknowledged and accepted.

2 Items from various Council reports

- New Libraries Manager – Catherine Bryham
- New CEO, Tasman Regional Sports Trust – Nigel Muir
- Marahau Fire Station relocation – Resource and building consents have been issued. An onsite meeting requested that the building be turned 90° and shifted further into the site. These siting variations are now being sought.
- Reserves Manager's report
 - o Deck's Reserve: Final layout of plaques underway
 - o Deck's Reserve: tree planting by BNZ staff of both ornamental trees, along with nut and plum trees
 - o Motueka Cemetery: A site visit with iwi (natural burials area) was held in the last week of May 2009
- Marahau Sewerage Scheme Subsidy - Tasman District Council has declined the subsidy (from Ministry of Health). Council is not ready with a design for the project to proceed.
- SPARC Rural Travel Grants: the following were approved:
 - o Motueka High School - \$2,000
 - o Motueka Basketball Inc - \$850
 - o Motueka United Rugby and Sports Club – \$1,250
 - o MHS Rugby Club – \$1,500

3 Motueka Transportation Study

Despite requests to Steve Elkington and then to Peter Thomson, the Board has not received a copy of the "brief" (Terms of Reference) for the proposed Motueka Transportation Study.

It is interesting that the Community Board's input has been spurned. The Board is keen to play an active role in this study but we continue to be ignored or rebuffed when we seek to have input.

4 Freedom Camping Issue

I fully intended a public meeting to discuss this issue, but personal reasons have prevented this happening. The relevant Council manager is Jean Hodson who is currently on holiday and a meeting will be arranged on her return to work.

5 Memorial Hall

The various LTCCP meetings in the hall demonstrated its ineffectiveness for meetings I met Francie Wafer to initiate discussions for modernising it – its usefulness is limited by both lack of heating and poor sound. Moreover, the interior requires a repaint; the curtains/drapes at the windows are shabby. When time permits I will prepare a list of jobs which are required – it is currently a poor advertisement for the Council and for Motueka.

6 Port Motueka

The Property Manager is proposing a meeting to discuss issues for the Port (see correspondence).

This is timely, the Board has requested different projects for this area, basically from North Street to the Wharf. It is a popular area for residents, visitors, as well as a commercial operation; footpathing, kerbing and channelling, beach reserve options, public toilets, could make it an attractive spot.

7 Thanks

My wife's recent illness has required my being in Wellington during the latter weeks in May. I am appreciative of the support of so many people in our community during this time.

David Ogilvie
Chair, Motueka Community Board