

REPORT

TO: Motueka Community Board Members

FROM: David Ogilvie, Chair

DATE: 30 October 2009

SUBJECT: **Report to meeting of 8 December 2009**

1. The Year – The Decade

It's almost a cliché to ask at this time of the year:- "What happened to the year?" In December 2009 we can also add "What happened to the decade?" As the year, and the decade end, on personal matters we can pause and usefully look back, but with community and government issues it is always more fruitful to look forward. For Motueka, the year ends as a number of planning projects are about to be progressed, particularly the Transportation Study and the Central and West Motueka Structure Plan. More focussed is the Lower Motueka River Stopbank investigation, planning for a larger Library and a swimming pool, and with work about to begin on the Recreation Centre.

The national backdrop to much of this is the Auckland "Super-City" governance and functions decisions as they relate to Community Boards, the urge from central government for New Zealanders to accept climate change as a reality, and an economic recession which is continuing to hurt our communities.

2. Annual Plan 2010 – 2011

The newspaper advertisement response has been quite good, although the Annual Plan public Forum (Thursday 26 November 2009) was disappointing. The discussion was helpful and we covered a wide range of topics. It seems that public attendance is low on general meetings, but in contrast is high for more focussed meetings – cycling/walking, freedom camping, river stopbank controls, domestic water reticulation etc.

We have retained many of the LTCCP/10 Year Plan factors for our Annual Plan 2010 – 2011 summary. This is not unusual when we remember the considerable effort into the various submissions we made earlier in the year towards the 10 Year Plan, with 2010 – 2011 being year 2 of that Plan.

A summary of our 2010 – 2011 Annual Plan submission is attached and we have noted a reference back to our April submission for the 10 Year Plan. There will be opportunity in March – April 2010 to comment in detail on the draft Annual Plan as presented by the Council.

3. Transportation Study : Central & West Motueka Structure Plan

(a) Transportation Study

The presentation by Ray Firth (MWH) and Jo Draper (NZTA) of the Transportation Study on 10 November 2009 was worthwhile – in general the suggestions for High

<http://tdctoday:82/Shared Documents/Meetings/Council/Community Boards/Motueka/Reports/2009/RMK091208 Chair.doc>

Street traffic alterations were acceptable, although there will undoubtedly be robust opinions expressed on issues surrounding pedestrian crossings, and intersection controls and bypass alternatives.

NZTA & TDC will decide soon on how to progress this Transportation Study. Hopefully, the draft for public discussion can be made available prior to the Christmas break with submissions closing late January – early February 2010. This would mesh in with the 2010 – 2011 Annual Plan with some project/activities recommendations being implemented almost immediately. (Motueka has waited a long time for this Study, and unlike previous attempts, it is hoped that actions will quickly follow the words).

(b) The Central & West Motueka Structure Plan

This can also be re-introduced, now that the Transportation Study has got to this stage. The two “plans” can easily and effectively be co-ordinated. The suggestion, made to Rose Biss – our Policy Planner – is that the Council complete the Draft Structure Plan by the end of February 2010; there be public comment on this for the following three months, and a further three months for preparation of the Final Plan. This would provide for Notification of the Variation to the Tasman Resource Management Plan in September 2010.

Again, the two “plans” dovetail in with the Council’s Annual Plan. Although this seems that the year 2010 will be hectic, much work has been completed, and it will be a matter of hearing submissions, amending and finalising plans, rather than the analyses, surveys and research effort which was done in 2009.

4. Cycleways, Footpaths, Mobile Scooter Crossings

(a) Cycleways

It’s frustrating to learn a proposed Cycleways Strategy meeting has been postponed – again. This was promised in 2008 – the Community Board held its own public meeting (over 35 in attendance) which Opus and the Council declined to attend; a Motueka Cycleways map was prepared and presented to both Opus and the Council.

NZTA and Council combined to fund the shared footpath/cycle lane from Staples Street to Riwaka School and Council has recently completed the Lower Moutere shared footpath/cycle lane.

These have been pleasing developments which provide better safety for pedestrians and cyclists in those areas.

Within central Motueka there is an urgent need for improved cyclists safety. We are told that there are more cyclists in Motueka per population than elsewhere in the District (Regional Walking and Cycling Strategy) and also that more cyclist accidents occur along High Street (and Salisbury Road, Richmond) than elsewhere in the District.

The Community Board previously has requested a cycle lane be marked on the very wide footpath from Woodland Avenue to Monahan Street (eastern side) to be shared

with pedestrians – this would be a low cost, but an immediately effective way to improve safety along this narrow section of High Street/State Highway 60.

Alternatively a cycle lane along Woodland Avenue (off High Street to Monahan – Huffam Streets and Old Wharf Road), or one along the Woodland Canal walkway from Thorps Bush/Avalon Place to the Recreation Centre/Old Wharf Road (most costly, but safest).

The Lower Moutere cycle lane/footpath could easily be extended north along Queen Victoria Street to Whakarewa Street and then to Motueka High School. This would also be shared with pedestrians.

The cycle ways completed in Richmond (and from Richmond to Nelson) are at a high standard. Motueka was assured, at its recent meeting with the Mayor and Managers that the same standard of services would be applied for Motueka.

(a) Footpaths

Poole Street west, Huffam Street, North Street are Motueka streets without footpaths; Hau Road, College Street west, Hursthouse Street in Lower Moutere. The gravel paths along High Street south and from the marae to Grey Street to be cleared of weeds, pot-holes and sealed.

(b) Mobile scooter Crossings

The numbers of these mobile scooters increases (and so does their speed!) The Board has requested that in each year five intersections be upgraded to provide improved crossings for mobile scooters.

Neither the footpaths request nor the crossings request involve large capital outlays, but they are significant improvements for many residents/ratepayers.

Completion of these (and the cycleways) would be appreciated, or allow the Board the opportunity and funding to prepare specifications, ask for tenders and organise the projects.

5. Proposed Amendments to the 2002 Local Government Act

In a bizarre, ironic twist Cabinet is recommending as part of the 2002 Local Government Act review that the Act be amended to allow territorial authorities to “target rate” communities to fund Community Boards.

This is a clear message that the TDC’s target rate on the Golden Bay and Motueka Community Boards is currently illegal.

The Cabinet’s recommendation based on a detailed report by the Department of Internal Affairs, will proceed through Select Committee and its parliamentary phases in 2010 as one of many amendments to the Local Government Act, one of Local Government Minister’s Rodney Hide’s promises.

I have discussed this matter with the Hon. Chris Auchinvole and we will keep each other informed re the legislative process. In the meantime, the rate being levied is illegal.

6. Appreciation

This is the last Community Board meeting for 2009.

I'm grateful for the work and support on the Community's behalf by Board members – a year of submissions and advocacies. Thanks to Valerie, Lynda and Murray for their help and guidance; also to Cr Wilkins, Jim Butler and Alistair Paulin for their individual contributions as regular attendees.

Also, a huge thank you to all the volunteers in Motueka who, individually and collectively, keep the fabric of our local society thriving.

The Christmas/New Year is a relaxing, family time – a time to reflect on a varied 2009 and look forward to life's challenges in 2010!

Enjoy the break!

David Ogilvie
Chairperson
Motueka Community Board

Meetings/Activities – November 2009

Date	
3 November	Met Kathy Tohill, Steve Richards and Keep Motueka Beautiful members to discuss options for improvements at the old Motueka wharf (Motueka Quay)
9 November	Motueka District Museum Trust Board meeting. Abbeyfield Motueka Management Committee meeting.
10 November	Met with MWH and NZTA to discuss the initial draft proposals for High Street in the Transportation Study Motueka Community Board monthly meeting
12 November	Fresh FM interview with Paul Jennings Motueka Clock Tower Trust Board meeting
16 November	Keep Motueka Beautiful meeting
17 November	Tasman Bays Promotions Association meeting
23 November	Met Liz Salt (Our Town Motueka) re streetscaping plans
27 November	Met Hon Chris Auchinvole MP re various local issues: 2002 Local Government Act; transportation; Motueka stopbank and water reticulation
29 November	Motueka Music Group
30 November	Our Town Motueka meeting