

REPORT

TO: GB Community Board
FROM: Chairperson
REFERENCE: E855
DATE: 2nd April 2009
SUBJECT: Report for 14th April Board Meeting

Meetings, activities and events attended during the month included:

2 March: Onekaka Resident's meeting re SH60. Discussion about issues and the best ways for them to be addressed and avoided, remedied or mitigated.

5 March: Keep Golden Bay Beautiful Committee meeting, Collingwood. Discussion about Takaka Oxbow proposals and current planting proposals there and at other locations. Updates received on stream care plantings at Motupipi and Aorere.

6 March: Seaweed talk by Dr Paul Gillespie about his research on the Tasman Bay seabed and the consequences arising from the effects of siltation. The interesting, thought-provoking address was followed by a panel discussion on aspects of the talk with implications for Golden Bay. It was clear from the talk and ensuing discussion that the need for a comprehensive Marine Management Plan for Golden Bay was confirmed.

7 March: Fund raising performance evening at Kahurangi Lodge and Conference Centre, Tukurua - Funds are being raised by Rebecca Reider for the Kichwa people of the Amazon who are fighting the loss of their homelands through illegal sales of land titles which they were unaware of.

9 March: Golden Bay Community Centre Takaka meeting of community representatives regarding the non-violence campaign. Discussion about possible initiatives. I undertook to write to Sky Network Television to express concern about screening of films which glorify teenage gangster violence.

10 March: Community Board meeting, Collingwood

10 March: Hearing of submissions of the Takaka Fire Fighting reticulation proposal

11 March: Chaired meeting of Onekaka residents with New Zealand Transport Agency and other road related Representatives including, Opus, Tasman District Council, MWH, and the Police. Two petitions were presented, one with approximately 800 signatures for a 70kmph zone through Onekaka and another with 2,000 signatures for more recognition of vulnerable road users.

11 March: Chaired AGM of Golden Bay Forest and Bird in the absence of the sitting Chairperson. Guest speaker National President Peter Maddison provided an interesting power point presentation on zoological biodiversity and the huge range of creatures which contribute to this.

13 March: Met with contractor Dick Lamb at his request concerning the Nelson Street water table on the frontage of a subdivision. Advised Mr Lamb the matter was between himself as contractor and TDC as the roading authority and that the conditions of the relevant resource consent need to be complied with.

13 March: Met with consultant Stuart Hughes regarding the Collingwood Boat Ramp entry and carparking proposal which involves infilling 2500m² of the Estuary. Discussed proposal layout and options together with issues raised by members of the Public during the Community Board Forum on the 10th March.

14 March: Bike ride from Tarakohe – Pohara to raise awareness about vulnerability of cyclists. A very well attended community event.

14 March: Inspected the recently installed (and blessed) Library Sculpture. The shape and form is a wonderful compatible addition to the Library and War Memorial. Perhaps there could be a little more separation between the two poles and kites at the rear as one tends to overlap the view of the other.

19 to 22 March: Attended New Zealand Community Boards Conference in Christchurch - This attendance is the subject of a separate Report; a copy is attached.

24 March: Compiling Conference Report

31 March: Combined Community Boards briefing on Council's Long Term Council Community Plan 2009-19 at Motueka

31 March: Combined Community Boards workshop on governance matters arising from Conference.

ISSUES

Rototai Road Footpath

Concern has been expressed by a resident who is an athlete in training about the layout of the recent concrete footpath alongside Rototai Rd between Wadsworth St and Boundary Rd. Usually the grass strip is on the outside of the footpath. This is not the case here. The narrow and partially sloping configuration of the grassed area makes it unsafe and difficult to run on for training purposes when completing a circuit. It is not suggested that the new footpath be redone. However, the request is made for a grassed strip on the outside of the concrete/asphalt footpaths where new footpaths are laid. It is therefore recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board supports the current Council policy of placement of grassed strips on the outside of new concrete/asphalt footpaths where this is possible and practical”.

Sealing Outside of Sidelines

With the lack of progress in being able to develop off-road cycle ways practical suggestions have been made to improve safety for vulnerable road users. It is accepted that wider roads can result in higher speeds, however during the 11th March public meeting, and subsequently, a suggestion has been made to mitigate this.

The suggestion is that there be 1 metre of seal beyond the sideline which would remain. This would provide more safety for vulnerable road users and more room for margin of error for motorists whilst still maintaining the current (narrow) lane width. This would be a cost effective way of mitigating risk. It is therefore recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board supports a 1 metre sealed strip beyond the marked sideline of SH60 and other arterial roads as a means of providing improved safety for vulnerable road users in areas where dedicated off-road cycle/walkways are not provided.”

Heaphy Highway

It was disappointing to see that a Golden Bay-Karamea road proposal had again surfaced via the Mayor’s report to the 5 March Council meeting as a late agenda item.

This proposal has been determined as not being in the best interests of Golden Bay for reasons which include:

- Golden Bay is special as a road end destination (as are all of our attractions).
- A six hour tour bus day would be unlikely to include an overnight stay in Golden Bay.
- The average per person bed-night stay is presently longer in Golden Bay than places with a through route.
- A road would compromise the Kahurangi National Park.
- The present single access inhibits transiting crime.
- The cost would be huge and unwarranted.

It is therefore recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board advises that we do not support a road from Golden Bay to Karamea taking into account identified benefits and costs”.

State Highway 60 Onekaka

During the meeting on 11th March the following initiatives were requested.

- A reduced speed limit through the area.
- Advisory speed signs and chevrons for the two corners at Otere Stream. (These have been approved but not installed.)
- “Welcome to Onekaka” signage to denote entry to a settled area.
- Improvement to the sightlines where possible. The two worst situations are the southern bridge side over Otere Stream and the blind rise at Iron Works Rd.

It is therefore recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board supports and endorses the initiatives requested by Onekaka residents during their Meeting with NZTA on 11 March 2009.”

Collingwood Boat Ramp Entry and Parking Proposal

Whilst there is general support for the proposal in principle concerns expressed to date include:

- Residents not wanting parking behind their properties, (King and Smith/Watson).
- The amount of infilling of the estuary.
- The proposed layout of the parking. Most boaties launch their boat and drive the vehicle forward to park ready to retrieve on their return. Parking directly in front of the ramps (but clear of them) needs to be maximized for this purpose.
- It is understood that the proposed rock wall is designed to reduce debris build up. Concern has been expressed it may cause more build up in the corner behind Beachcomber Motel and needs to be considered.

Consultant Stuart Hughes has advised that these concerns will be addressed before the final plan is submitted for planning approval. It is therefore recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board studies the final plan before deciding whether or not to make a submission to the Resource Consent Application for the Collingwood Boat Ramp entry, infilling and car park proposal.”

Labyrinth Park Process

When Board members met with the staff engineer and a representative of the Labyrinth Park Group on site on 16th December 2008 there appeared to be agreement on the car park project. There was the opportunity to have the work done at a good price with the machinery available near-by. Four months later, the same basic proposal is being revived. It is therefore recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board seeks the development of policies to ensure timely consideration, decision-making and outcomes for local projects such as the Labyrinth parking area.”

Tourism Levy

Phone calls and e-mails have been received concerning the proposed tourism levy. The issue has not been helped by the advice of various incorrect figures for the two tiers.

The actual amended figures from the unconfirmed Minutes of the 5th March 2009 Council meeting are: Tier 1: \$322.87 (GST Inc) and Tier 2: \$79.87 (Inc).

The other concern is about equity. Within the tiers there is a wide range of businesses. As highlighted during the recent conference, “one size does not fit all”. There needs to be a mechanism to take into account the disparity between businesses.

Perhaps the rates could be set on the basis of turnover or number of employees? It is therefore recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board makes a submission on the proposed tourism levy suggesting a mechanism to improve the fairness of the proposed rate.”

Broadband

The TDC Information Services Manager has reported to the 19 March 2009 Corporate Services meeting that the present government has closed down the previous government’s Broadband Investment Fund. We had submitted to and

were relying on this fund for the Riwaka to Takaka broadband link. The present government has proclaimed support for extending broadband. This included comments made by Prime Minister Key during the Community Board Conference. Subsequently a new proposal for broadband has been made which excludes West Coast /Tasman (and Golden Bay). However, there is reportedly a separate \$48M fund 'to extend rural broadband' in undefined areas. It is therefore recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board writes to Prime Minister John Key, Communications Minister Steven Joyce and electorate MP Chris Auchinvole expressing the need for improved broadband services to Golden Bay and asking how the Government intends that this be achieved.”

Long Term Council Community Plan & Draft Regional Land Transport Programme

Suggested Recommendation:

“That the GB Community Board makes submissions to the Tasman District Council LTCCP and also the Draft Regional Land Transport Programme before their respective closing dates. “

Joe Bell