

REPORT

TO: GB Community Board
FROM: Chairperson
REFERENCE: E855
DATE: 31st March 2008
SUBJECT: Report for 8th April 2008

4.1.1 Activities, events and meetings attended during the past month included:

3 March: Agenda setting for the 11 March Board meeting.

6 March: Full Council Meeting Richmond. Spoke in public forum about the Targeted Rate proposal and requested that the targeted rate proposal not be in the Draft Annual Plan until the outcome of the Review of the Local Government Act was completed. A Mark III costings paper was tabled. Calculations from this reveals hourly rate charges of \$70 secretary (previously \$116), \$110 professional (\$187) and \$200 CEO/senior staff (\$345).

8 March: Community Bike Ride Tarakohe –Pohara to raise awareness about safety for vulnerable road users.

10 March: Briefing of Board members by TDC managers at main office Richmond re activities/responsibilities of respective Departments. This was followed by a tour of the building.

11 March: Community Board meeting Takaka.

15 March: Official launch of the Bainham Reunion Committee publication ‘Collingwood to Waitapu’ at the Kahurangi Centre Tukuru. Field visit to the ‘Blue Lake’, Parapara, as part of the launch.

17 March: Delegations meeting TDC Motueka with Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Council staff and Chairs and Deputy Chairs of both Boards. Meeting was generally positive. Staff to investigate delegations model

suggested for compatibility with council systems with a further meeting scheduled for 22 April.

18 March: Hearing of submissions and further submissions to Variation 57 of the proposed Tasman Resource Management Plan. This variation relates to Takaka and Eastern Golden Bay Planning. The Board lodged a further submission in support of others requesting greater recognition of planning principles relating to S6 of the RMA.

24 March: John Mitchell Memorial planting – Onekaka. Working Bee to weed native grasses bed adjacent to the Onekaka Bus Bay.

25 March: Community Whanau meeting Takaka sharing of Community Notices regarding:

- Elder abuse seminar – free ½ day Victory Community Centre Nelson on 13 May 2008
- TDC Annual Plan meetings Takaka 4pm, Collingwood 7.30pm 22 April 2008.
- Cobb Mitigation Fund meeting moved to Senior Citizen rooms.
- 31 May World Smoke Free Day.
- A 'Tool Box' parenting course proposed for Golden Bay.

25 March: Visit to Board member Leigh Gamby convalescing after a hip replacement operation. We all wish Leigh a speedy recovery.

26 March: Civil Defence meeting Takaka. Local agencies working through the Golden Bay Planning document Draft.

Representatives from Police, Takaka, Collingwood and Rural Fire Brigades, St Johns Ambulance, Search and Rescue, Community Workers, TDC and Community Board in attendance along with Nelson/Tasman Civil Defence coordinators Jim Burrows and Roger Ball.

27 March: Keep Golden Bay Beautiful meeting Collingwood.

Discussion about:

- Current projects.
- Trust Power Award nominations.
- Cobb Mitigation Fund meeting outcomes.
- Takaka Ox bow planting and enclosures.
- Accounts.

The meeting was followed by a visit to and inspection of the Stream Care Nursery at Collingwood Area School. The healthy plants and general appearance of the nursery is a real credit to those responsible for it.

30 March: Hands Market Onekaka. Another very successful community market and an opportunity to informally discuss various issues and community projects with attendees.

30 March: Collingwood Hall Committee AGM. Committee re-elected. The hall is very well run and managed and is a credit to the committee. The recent revamp of the hall toilets was funded in part by hall funds. Costings are being obtained for new curtains for the northern windows in the main hall as the next project.

31 March: Agenda setting for the 8 April Community Board meeting.

4.1.2 Targeted Rate Debate

The divisive targeted rate issue continues to be a debilitating overhang from the Representation Review. It is very disappointing to hear councillors, who are elected through exactly the same process as community board members, expounding expressions of claimed elitism.

Community Board members have shown through their work to be worthy community representatives and do not deserve in any way the opprobrium which is cast by some councillors. On one hand we are told that we are worthless and then on the other we are told that the cost of our existence is such that it must be recouped from our communities. The benefits have been ignored.

From the various versions of costings papers it is clear where the real costs are.

We have taken the targeted rate process up with Council directly on 14 February and 6 March to no avail. We must now look at other ways to have our concerns about the process addressed.

Enquiries reveal that we cannot take concerns about Full Council decisions to the Office of the Ombudsman. However, we can refer our concerns about the flawed process to them. For example, our exclusion from the development of the initial inflated costings paper despite the promise of the CEO in July 2007. We can also request the Ombudsman to investigate the legality of targeted rates.

It is therefore recommended: "That the Golden Bay Community Board takes the matters of legality and the process leading to the inclusion of the targeted rate for communities with Community Boards in the 2008-09 Annual Plan up with the Office of the Ombudsman and any other relevant agency."

4.1.3 Bio fuels paper

A Parliamentary Select Committee is currently considering the issue of Bio fuels. It will be very important that the mandatory introduction of Bio fuels does not disadvantage rural areas such as Golden Bay. Peter Foster from Collingwood has prepared a thoughtful submission identifying relevant issues.

It is therefore recommended: "That the submission be received and be considered by the GB Community Board as a basis for its own submission to the Select Committee on this issue, listing matters of concern which could arise for our community."

4.1.4 Local Government Act Review

It has been apparent from the divisive TDC Representation Review and targeted rate machinations that there needs to be a better way of enabling community representation. At present Community Boards only receive specific governance delegations granted by council when we could efficiently and effectively provide most day-to-day governance for our Wards.

Parliament needs to investigate the option of 'bottom-up' governance as part of its review of the LGA and other relevant legislation. It is recommended:

"That: The Golden Bay Community Board makes a submission to Parliament requesting that consideration be given to Community Boards being established in each council Ward as the only elected local government representation. These Boards then elect/appoint their representatives to form the council and those councillors then elect/appoint their chairperson/mayor".

This would put the power back to the local communities with community boards as the key entry into local government and help ensure that local government is truly community driven.

The three tier system we have at present with its inherent exclusive elitism is not serving our communities well. Having a mayor elected at large can also lead to presidential-style personality campaigns.

We need to strengthen our governance connection and accountability directly back to our communities.

4.1.5 Collingwood to Waitapu” Book

The recently launched Carol Dawber/Cheryl Win book from the Bainham Reunion Committee is a fine publication and brings together a pictorial historical record. The committee deserves recognition for their work in bringing this project to fruition. Accordingly, it is recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board writes to the Bainham Reunion Committee congratulating them on the compilation of their latest book”.

4.1.6 Annual Plan Meetings

It is very disappointing to read in the TDC Newslines advertisements in the Guardian and Golden Bay Weekly last week that a Golden Bay Annual Plan Meeting is to be held in the Senior Citizens Hall Takaka on 22 April at 7.30 pm when the meetings schedule has the Golden Bay Annual Plan meetings as being Senior Citizens Hall at 4pm and Collingwood Hall at 7.30 on 22 April.

From the very clear information on the 2008/09 Annual Plan Meeting Dates Schedule it is very hard to understand how this misinformation could have happened. It is essential that the adverts are clearly corrected as soon as possible. Even so there will be people who have been inconvenienced.

Joe Bell