

REPORT

TO: GB Community Board

FROM: The Chairperson

DATE: 2rd August 2009

SUBJECT: Report to the Board for 11th August Community Board meeting

Meetings, activities and events attended over the past month include:

July 3: Together with other Board members met with Mayor Kempthorne in Takaka as a follow up to our meeting on 11 May 2009. Issues discussed were:

- Unjustified staff charges to the community board budget;
- Takaka and Eastern Golden Bay Environment Court mediation outcome;
- TDC scheduling meetings on Board meeting days;
- Pohara General Store lease.

6 July: Agenda setting for the July Board meeting, Takaka.

7 July: Community meeting Collingwood Area School room with Gibbs Rd area residents being briefed by TDC Engineering staff and contractors regarding forthcoming drainage work. It was helpful for residents to hear of the work plan and to ask questions. Swiftsure Street drainage issues are yet to be resolved.

8 July: Cultural Heritage Forum, Takaka Service Centre – Tasman District Council policy planning for the Tasman Resource Management Plan where there was an opportunity for residents provide feedback and to ask Council's Policy Manager, Steve Markham, and Planner Stephanie Trevena questions about proposals.

14 July: Community Board meeting Takaka. Unconfirmed minutes are available on: <http://www.tdc.govt.nz/pdfs/GB090714%20Minutes.pdf>

14 July: Public Meeting Takaka to discuss Part IV of the Tasman Resource Management Plan which covers the 'Beds of Lakes and Streams'. Power point presentation by Council staff Trevor James and Mary-Anne Baker. Issues include the need to control pollution and sedimentation and to retain 'naturalness' for healthy water ways i.e. 'meanders'; variety of depths; bank form and shape; bank side vegetation. Five members of the public attended.

22 July: Collingwood Hall Committee meeting at the Hall Library. Issues discussed included: Accounts for payment; current financial balances; electrical work planned; new door lock; excessive power bill follow up; Memorial window replacement impasse (a price will not be provided until we take the damaged window to the contractor, there is a reluctance to take window out until a firm price has been provided and funding arranged); fire alarm testing.

23 July: Joan Whiting Rest Home AGM Collingwood. The Rest Home is in dire straits financially and will reportedly have to close if the proposed integrated health facility on another site does not go ahead. This would be a great loss to our community and we must explore all options to retain a rest home facility in the Bay. Such a closure would simply shift costs onto individuals in our community who would have to travel to keep in contact with family members requiring rest home care.

24 July: Presentation of Board submission to Parliamentary Committee on Auckland Governance Review by teleconference raising issues such as the implication of target rating communities with community boards and the need for legislated resourced empowerment so that a Council cannot withhold appropriate delegation.

25 July: Funeral service for Harry Riley CBE, JP, in Collingwood Hall. A very well-attended service in honour of a man who had made a fine contribution to the Golden Bay Community through the Golden Bay County Council and other Local Government organisations.

28 July: Community Whanau Meeting Takaka. Prior to 'Community Notices' from various participants, guest speaker Geoff Gore spoke on holistic medicine and the need to treat the whole person in times of trauma.

28 July: Golden Bay Civil Defence Exercise Takaka. Attended the latter part of the exercise when procedures were reviewed. The Community Board member role is to look after our immediate family and local neighbourhood situation in the first instance and once the cause of the emergency passes, to assist in the recovery phase.

28 July: Tasman District Council part IV of the Tasman Resource Management Plan public meeting in Collingwood on proposed policies and rules for the beds of rivers and lakes. Five members of the public attended.

30 July: Discussion with Milnthorpe Park Society Secretary, Dick Nicholls, in preparation for the forthcoming AGM.

30 July: Collected correspondence from Council Service Centre and inspected new walkway/cycleway on Rototai Road and improvement to the Rototai Road corner near Arapeta Place.

30 July: Keep Golden Bay Beautiful Committee meeting, Onekaka. Issues discussed included:

- Discussion with LINZ regarding Takaka Ox bow survey; work plan for fencing Ox-bow; Local cycling tourism company 'Escape Adventures' has donated 220 trees to the Ox bow project as a contribution towards their carbon off-set;
- The "New World" 'Clean up NZ Week' is on 4th to 11th September 2009, KGBB is open to suggestions for Golden Bay areas other than roadsides, riparian margins and beaches in need of a clean up. Volunteers for Clean Up Week can contact Kathy Hindmarsh on 525 8332.

30 July Aorere River Care meeting, Collingwood, regarding forthcoming work programme Council Rivers, Council Engineer Phillip Drummond and Montgomery Watson Harza consultant Rick Lowe and Ferguson Brothers contracting staff John Hornby and Alan Sowman in attendance. Issues discussed included:

- New contract work programme explained, work to be decided in November/December in concert with landowners; crack willow being removed and replaced with a variety of other species.
- Council has a consent to manage gravel for river management purposes.
- Aorere River groyne in lower reaches needs repair.

30 July Milnthorpe Park Society AGM, Milnthorpe. I serve on this committee as the Council and GBCB representative. The committee was re-elected.

Issues raised in reports included:

- Heart Art sculpture week and public day was held January 2009;
- Two new tracks have been established ('Round the Mountain' and 'The Esplanade');
- Thanks expressed to Dick Nicholls, Guy Nicholls, David Ruddlestone, Dai Thomas and Pete Corby for the work they have done in the Park during the year;
- Healthpost Ltd has provided 500 Rimu trees as part of their carbon off-set together with printing of the Park Brochure;
- Changing pattern of beach front erosion noted;
- Concerns expressed about visitors camping and toileting on the Milnthorpe Quay Esplanade Reserve. More visible 'No Over night Stopping' and 'Toilet' directional signs requested;
- Concern expressed about erosion of access track to the wharf.

31 July: The Board met with fifteen South East Asian students and two tutors from Nelson/Marlborough Institute of Technology in Takaka. The students are here as part of the ELTO programme. We were invited by the group to discuss a range of issues including:

- The structure of a Community Board and how it is elected.
- Funding from central government to help local government.
- Particular problems or issues facing the Board and Golden Bay at present.
- Ways in which public consultation takes place in Golden Bay.
- Examples of policies enabling sustainable farming and tourism to take place in Golden Bay.
- Examples of environment protection policies in place in Golden Bay.
- An explanation of what central government does to help economic development in Golden Bay.

ISSUES

Amalgamation Petition

It is time for a study to be undertaken on Tasman/Nelson governance review proposals so that the issues can be considered on a factually informed basis. Our Board has made submissions on this to the Annual Plan/LTCCP for at least the last three years:

2007 and 2008 Annual Plan/LTCCP Submission - Regional Governance Options Study

- The Board supports a definitive study being undertaken to determine the pros and cons of various governance options, including amalgamation, so that decisions can be made on an informed basis.
- The Board has written to the Local Government Commission seeking funding for this study. While being neither for nor against any particular model, we feel that without this information the issue will continue to be raised without meaningful informed debate or resolution.

2009 LTCCP Submission - PP56-59. Regional Interests.

The identification of 17 'settlements' is positive and **supported**.

Representative government works best when it is as close to the individual as possible. In Golden Bay our community is served by elected representatives located across the Bay, in Bainham, Milnthorpe, Takaka (2) East Takaka or Pohara and Upper Takaka in an inclusive governance model application. This provides for local representation connected through to District and Region.

The Golden Bay Community Board reiterates support for an independent study into regional governance with empowered community boards as proposed for Auckland.

Pohara General Store Lease 'Tender'

It was disappointing to see this lease advertised. The business of the Pohara General Store belongs to the tenant not the landlord. Calling the process a 'Tender' is a misnomer. The rent and out goings have already been set. What is being called for by the landlord are 'expressions of interest' to take over and run a business which is currently being run by the existing tenant. It is understood the tenant wishes to take up a new lease and continue with his business. For Council as a community-owned service organization leasing a community-owned building, the conditions of 'Tender' are draconian. For example **12.1 Confidentiality:** *"all tenderers shall treat in confidence all information obtained or supplied by Tasman District Council in the course of the tender process and shall not disclose such information to any person, other than its professional advisors, without prior written consent of Tasman District Council."*

The form-style lease document with its many crossings and alterations is also unsatisfactory. For reasons of clarity and understanding a lease such as this deserves to have its own specific lease document drawn up.

Council Enterprises Sub-committee

Once again the Agenda for the meeting to be held on 29th July lists all business to be considered in-committee. Council is required to operate openly and transparently. This is not happening with this committee.

Ligar Bay

The Community Board needs to hold a workshop to specifically discuss Ligar Bay issues. It is understood Tasman District Council is to invite us to make a recommendation. We have not received this as a formal request yet. It is therefore recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board holds a workshop to discuss Ligar Bay issues and the next steps to be taken in the community process on a date to be decided.”

Visit to Eco House

Michael and Spring Thomas have kindly invited the Board to visit the new house on Labyrinth Lane to a tour and afternoon tea following the Board meeting.

Get Well Wishes

We wish Cr Stuart Borlase all of the best for a speedy recovery to good health.

Joe Bell