

REPORT

TO: Golden Bay Community Board

FROM: Chairperson

REFERENCE: E855

SUBJECT: Report for GB Community Board 13th October 2009 Meeting

Meetings, activities and events attended over the past month have included:

3 September: Takaka Drama Society production 'Stiff' at the Play House. A great local production, with a sell-out season.

6 September: Golden Bay Work Centre 30 year Birthday Celebration, Takaka, including a live musical performance broadcast on Fresh FM together with a HANDS Market.

7 September: Keep Golden Bay Beautiful 'Clean Up New Zealand' week. Participated in cleaning road verges of SH60, between Milnthorpe and Collingwood. Eight bags of litter collected. It was very disappointing to see litter dropped along this strip later in the day.

8 September: Board meeting Collingwood. Unconfirmed minutes are available on:

<http://www.tdc.govt.nz/pdfs/GB090908.pdf>

8 September: Shared lunch kindly organised by Deputy Chair Carolyn McLellan

14 September: Community Board visit to Ligar Bay to look at beach, reserve, baches and road.

16-18 September: 2009 Small Towns Conference Kaiapoi. A very well-run event which is subject of a separate report.

20 September: Report on Small Towns Conference compiled (previously circulated).

21-27 September: On leave. Private visit to Taranaki and across to Hawkes Bay via Te Kuiti, Taumarunui, Turangi and Taupo. Some random observations:

- Impressed with the high standard of roads for both state highways and local roads. One must wonder at the differences of roading standards across the country when national consistency is stated to be the objective.

- Noted dedicated walkways/cycleways in both Taranaki and Hawkes Bay.
- Noted lack of orchard netting in Hawkes Bay. The small amount seen was white. Read in a local horticulture paper where Italian orchardists are only permitted to use green or black netting. Red and white reportedly not permitted there.
- Early concern in Hawkes Bay about the prospect of another dry summer following two drought years.
- Noted considerably lower rates on comparable properties in Hawkes Bay to those in Tasman.

28 September: Together with Onekaka residents Lisa Williams and John Weston, met with NZ Transport Agency manager Jack Hansby and MWH roading engineer Braedan Lobb at Washbourne Road re SH60 safety issues. It was agreed that a pull-over bay on the southern side of the road and relocating the letter boxes on the northern side would be investigated and undertaken. It was also agreed that threshold signs will be erected when the speed limit review is finalized and consideration be given to a localized Onekaka sign design.

30 September: Preparing Draft Board submission on the Ministry of Transport 'Safer Journeys' consultation. A copy of the submission is available on request.

1 October: Full Council Meeting Takaka. Attended on behalf of the Community Board. Spoke in Public Forum about:

- Lack of information from the Council Enterprises Sub committee. Especially about the operation of Port Taranaki. The Local Government Act requires councils to be open, transparent and accountable.
- Concern expressed about the comments recorded in Engineering Service Minutes of 17 September regarding Salisbury Bridge. The condition of the \$40,000 Tourism grant for the 2004 bridge overhaul was for bridge maintenance to be continued. We have unsuccessfully requested details of exactly what the \$40,000 was spent on.
- Attention was drawn to the surface flooding in the Takaka CBD. This is scheduled for work in years 4-10 of the LTCCP but needs remedial work now. This type of flooding would not be acceptable in the Richmond commercial area. The Chair of the Engineering Committee was to look at the issues following the meeting.

Participated in the Citizenship Ceremony for 22 new citizens, some of whom were residents from Tasman District outside of Golden Bay. The visitors were welcomed to the Bay and community congratulations were offered to all taking up New Zealand citizenship.

October 1: Keep Golden Bay Beautiful Committee Meeting Onekaka. Matters discussed included:

- KGBB application to Grants from Rates successful.
- Clean up NZ successfully completed. Most of the Bay covered. A summary of results is being collated.

- 'Trees for Babies' presentation to be held on 18 October at 2.00pm in the Golden Bay Community Centre.
- Takaka Ox-bow. Three quarters of the releasing of previous plantings has been completed. Some losses due to harsh winter and grass grub damage. Some losses are to be replaced with harakeke. Central School children helping with planting.
- Nomination of a group for the Environmental Awards decided.
- Kowhai plantings for shade along the embankment walkway south of Takaka suggested. To be taken up with TDC Reserves Dept.
- Beautification of the proposed BMX area at the end of Reilly Street raised. Also to be taken up with TDC Reserves Dept.

October 5: Agenda setting for 13 October Board Meeting.

October 5: Briefing on Broadband funding processes from Geoff Scrimgeour of the School Loop fibre network project.

ISSUES

Roading Equity

During our last Public Forum the question of an appropriate cycle and walkway to Pohara was raised. On Sunday 20th September on National Radio there was a programme about cycle and walkways in various places. Tony Kokshorn, Mayor of Grey District spoke about a cycle /walkway which is being established between Grey and Taramakau Rivers and beyond. The interesting thing was his saying that this was approved for NZ Transport Agency funding with the usual West Coast roading subsidy of 72%.

Golden Bay has similar constraints to the West Coast: low population; high rainfall; high proportion of Crown Land; similar demographics in population profile; and main industries of dairying and tourism. Our roading subsidy as part of Tasman is 49%. Under Golden Bay County Council we used to get the same subsidy as the West Coast. We cannot even get proper roading improvements for Birds Hill, a most dangerous section of SH60, despite the recent signage and verge clearing. We need to find a way to be considered similar to the West Coast. After all, we are part of the West Coast/Tasman electorate.

It is therefore recommended:

“That the Golden Bay Community Board writes to the three MP’s resident in the Electorate, Chris Auchinvole, Kevin Hague and Damien O’Connor asking them how they can help to achieve electoral equity for us on roading and cycleway/walkway funding”.

Salisbury Swing Bridge

When the \$40,000 tourism grant was made to repair the bridge the agreement was that the Council had to continue maintaining the bridge as a condition of the grant. We have tried to find unsuccessfully exactly what the \$40,000 was spent on. To date we have not seen any invoices or job costing accountability sheets despite

our requests. There needs to be openness and transparency regarding this expenditure especially in light of further repairs being required. It is therefore recommended that:

“The Golden Bay Community Board requests that the bridge be made good as required by the condition of the grant and that the Board be supplied with a detailed breakdown on exactly what was done to justify the \$40,000 charged for the 2004 over-haul”.

Council Borrowing

We have also tried unsuccessfully to obtain answers to questions about Council borrowing approved during the Corporate Services meeting of 3rd September 2009. Despite the questions being referred by the mayor to staff we have not received the answers. It is therefore recommended that:

“The Golden Bay Community Board reiterates the questions asked about Council borrowing relating to: \$103,210 upgrade of the Richmond Council Chamber; \$1,032,100 proposed expenditure on the Richmond office; \$310,000 as a ‘motor sport feasibility cost’; a loan advance of \$402,000 to the Port Motueka Endowment Land Short-Term Funding; \$220,000 budget increase for the Murchison Sports Centre; and a property acquisition of \$564,982.”

Community Meetings

We need to commence community consultation for the 2010-11 Annual Plan in order to have any matters incorporated into the Draft. Accordingly, we need to set dates for the meetings to be held at Upper Takaka, East Takaka, Takaka, Pohara, Onekaka, Collingwood, Bainham and Pakawau. We also need to ensure there is good publicity in order to encourage participation.

Facilities Projects

The commissioned report has been distributed to Board members. It is therefore recommended:

“That the GB Community Board discusses the findings of the commissioned report on Golden Bay Facilities Projects.”

Joe Bell