

# REPORT

**TO:** Members, Engineering Services Committee

**FROM:** Chair, Trevor Norriss

**DATE:** 13 June 2007

**SUBJECT:** **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – JUNE 2007**

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Welcome to today's meeting. As a Council we have just and are possibly still dealing with submissions and final outcomes for this year's annual plan. In my time as a Councillor I believe this year there have been more requests for funds for different projects than any other. These requests cover a range of issues and are very important to those making them.

We receive a large number of requests under the so-called "regional benefit criteria". I believe that while ratepayers in our neighbouring authority pay considerably less than our own ratepayers we need to look at this very carefully. As Engineering Chairman I believe our roads, rivers, bridges etc. are a regional benefit but we get no cross-boundary contribution. We also maintain and provide a large number of facilities and services in our own district which are also for regional benefit with no contribution from our neighbours.

It also appears that every time we get into some arrangement with our neighbouring council it turns to custard. Examples are regional land transport, rubbish and now it's Trafalgar Park (maybe it's me!).

On the brighter side, Cr Noel Riley, Jeff Cuthbertson and I attended a meeting in Golden Bay with Manawhenua ki Mohua and have finally reached agreement going forward for consent issues at the Takaka Wastewater Treatment Plant. This group have been a pleasure to deal with and this contact needs to be kept up so both parties have a better understanding of each others views and issues. My thanks to all involved.

At this meeting we will have a number of verbal updates:

- NCC/TDC Solid Waste (update from meeting of 18 June 2007)
- Corridor Study (Update after Monday's Political Steering Group meeting).
- Automobile Association – Roger Ashworth and I will be attending a briefing on 19 June.

## **River Works**

Finally, any Councillor passing by McLean's Camping Ground in the Motueka Valley please take the opportunity to have a look at recent river works undertaken. Gravel extraction and channel clearance. This would have to be the best example I have seen of what we should be doing in my whole term as Engineering Chairman. Our Rivers Engineer, Philip Drummond should be congratulated.

Regards

Trevor Norriss

## Chair - Engineering Services Committee