

## **KAIMAI WARD COMMUNITY FORUM**

**15 FEBRUARY 2023**

<b>DATE:</b>	Wednesday 15 February 2023 at 7.05pm
<b>HELD:</b>	Council Cafeteria, Barkes Corner, Tauranga
<b>TOPICS:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Kaimai Ward Roothing – Weather Events and Cyclone Gabrielle</li><li>2. Ōmokoroa Roundabout</li><li>3. Omanawa Road Concerns</li><li>4. Variations in Standard of Contractors Workmanship &amp; CCTV Processes</li><li>5. Fibre Connection in Kaimai Ward Areas</li><li>6. Pip Way Development</li><li>7. Three Waters Reform</li><li>8. Maramatanga Community Centre</li><li>9. Drinking Water Supply in the District</li></ol>
<b>GENERAL MANAGER RESPONSIBLE:</b>	R Davie (General Manager Strategy and Community)
<b>FORUM MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Councillor D Thwaites (Convenor), Councillor T Coxhead (Co-Convenor), Mayor Denyer, Councillor M Grainger, and Councillor M Murray-Benge
<b>OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Councillor G Dally, Councillor R Crawford, and Councillor A Henry
<b>STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	G Allis (Deputy Chief Executive Officer), C McLean (Senior Transportation Engineer), R Davie (General Manager Strategy & Community, and G Golding (Governance Manager)

## INTRODUCTION:

The Convenor introduced all Councillors and staff present and welcomed all in attendance. A brief overview of the purpose of the Kaimai Ward Community Forum was provided, outlining that the majority of the Kaimai Ward were not represented by a Community Board. Mayor Denyer introduced himself and welcomed all present.

The Convenor gave an overview of topics and projects currently being undertaken by Council, including:

- Resource Management Act (RMA) Reform
- Three Waters Reform
- District Plan Review
- Inflation issues in relation to the Long Term Plan (LTP)
- Revaluation of properties within the District
- Representation Review

### **1. Kaimai Ward Roading – Weather Events and Cyclone Gabrielle**

The Senior Transportation Engineer provided an update on the damage to the roading network in the Kaimai Ward during recent weather events, highlighting the below points:

- Te Puna Station Road had been the worst affected road and a large portion of it was currently closed. A drone video was provided showing several over/under-slips on the road. There was a Pohutukawa tree on Te Puna Station Road that was home to a colony of Shags, which placed some major ecological restrictions on what Council could do in regard to repairing the under-slips surrounding the tree.
- Council was currently working on a plan to repair the slips on Te Puna Station Road, but there was a high chance that more slips would develop along the road, and that current under-slips would deteriorate further.
- Traffic numbers on surrounding roads before and after the closure of Te Puna Station Road was provided. Council did not have information on how much of the traffic was from residents of Te Puna, and how much of the traffic was using the road/s as a 'rat run'. If Te Puna Station Road was to close permanently, it was predicted that 25% of traffic would use Clarke Road, and 75% would use Te Puna Road.

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The presenter/s responded to questions as below:

- The cost for repairing and re-opening Te Puna Station Road would be relatively low. The issue was the high costs involved in meeting the Department of Conservation and Bay of Plenty Regional Council's consenting and ecological requirements.
- If the damaged portion of Te Puna Station Road was to be permanently closed, the cycleway would be retained. It would also be of huge benefit to the Waipuna Hospice, as it would become a 'no exit' road instead of a main thoroughfare.
- Council was working on developing a Speed Management Plan to replace the Speed Bylaw process. This would help to address some of the speed issues on roads within Te Puna.

The Senior Transportation Engineer presented photos showing the damage and slips on various other roads within the Kaimai Ward, including Wairoa Road, Ōropi Gorge Road (which had been reopened), Old Kaimai Road, and top of Ōropi Road.

The presenter/s responded to questions as below:

- Concerns were raised about Upper Ohauti Road, and the lack of communication and recognition from Council regarding the damage caused by the recent weather. The weather events over Auckland Anniversary weekend had done more damage on Western Bay of Plenty roads than Cyclone Gabrielle. Priority remained with main roads that needed to be open for traffic flow.
- Emergency Operation Centres (EOC's) were active during the last two main weather events, with real time information on road closures and incidents. There was a limit on the number of roading/emergency crews that were available, and the EOC's had attempted to contact residents who were blocked in from road slips. It was raised that Antenno needed to be used as another main communication line during emergency events.
- The emergency funding that had been provided by the Government was to be mainly used for national welfare, for areas such as Hawke's Bay and Auckland. The Waka Kotahi subsidy rate that Council received for roading works was to increase to 71%, due to the cost of weather damage repairs.

It was requested that the Senior Transportation Engineer's presentation be made available to the public.

## **2. Ōmokoroa Roundabout**

The Deputy Chief Executive provided a brief update on the progress of the Ōmokoroa roundabout, highlighting the below points:

- Council had a preliminary design for this project, for a two-lane circulating roundabout. There was not currently a leg on the roundabout for Youngson Road within the plans.
- Majority of the project would be built offline (does not impact traffic), with some if it being built online (impacting traffic).

## **3. Omanawa Road**

A member of the public raised concerns regarding regular slips on a corner on Omanawa Road. The road had been closed several times recently due to this, and if State Highway 29 was closed due to an incident, Omanawa Road becomes the main detour. It was requested that Council investigate fixing the corner, so that slips no longer occur.

## **4. Variations in Standard of Contractors Workmanship & CCTV Processes**

A member of the public was in attendance to discuss the variations in the standard of workmanship that occurred in response to the many service requests he had sent into Council to keep the area maintained. The below points were highlighted:

- It was believed that there needed to be a change in the service request process. Currently, the service requests were being actioned and closed off by Council's contractors. For there to be quality control, it was suggested that the closing off of the service requests should sit with Council once the workmanship had been reviewed.
- In a recent Official Information Request received, it was reported that 98% of the service requests in the area were sent in by the public. It was believed that this was a poor statistic, and that staff and contractors who are in the field should be submitting more service requests in the best interests of the public, rather than relying completely on the public to report issues.
- The Deputy Chief Executive Officer highlighted that 90-95% of roading service requests that Council received from the public were already in the system and had been pre-identified. Council has a level of service agreement with contractors, and any works would not be undertaken until an issue had been deemed to be at a point where service was required, or if works were being undertaken nearby.

Concern was also raised about the need for a defined process when it comes to reporting illegal incidents caught on Council's CCTV cameras to NZ Police. In previous incidents, members of the public were required to do a lot of the 'leg work' to get incidents from

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Council's CCTV to Police. It was requested that this process be reviewed, as members of the public had very limited authority, and should not be expected to action any incidents.

### **5. Fibre Connection in Kaimai Ward Areas**

It was raised that Council needed to continue to advocate for fibre installation in the Kaimai Ward area, specifically Whakamarama. This issue had been raised multiple times in the past with Council, as well as directly with Chorus and Tuatahi First Fibre. Mayor Denyer advised that meetings between Council and Chorus had been set up but had not yet eventuated.

### **6. Pip Way Development**

A large plot of land in Kayelene Place had been sold for development of housing, and there were concerns with the accessway into the development. It was asked whether there was an application before Council, for Pip Way to be made into a road other than the current cul-de-sac. The General Manager Strategy & Community responded to queries as follows:

- There was a subdivision consent approved for BGT Developments some time ago. BGT Developments was no longer proceeding with the development and the land was purchased by the New Zealand Housing Foundation, who were now the holders of the existing resource consent. Another consent was lodged in December 2022, and there was currently a proposal for an access off Pip Way. It was noted that it has not yet been decided whether the second resource consent should be notified to residents.
- An overview of the internal processing of resource consent applications was provided. There were concerns raised that the notification process for resource consents classifies some consents as having no impact on nearby residents, and it was often believed that this was wrong.
- A copy of the application was able to be made available to anyone who wished to view it at no cost, as it was public information.
- Residents were encouraged to put their concerns about any resource consent in writing and send it into Council. These concerns would be filed with the application and considered during the notification assessment.

Councillor Murray-Benge requested a copy of the resource consent.

## **7. Three Waters Reform**

It was raised that the public still had a lot of queries that weren't answered about the Three Waters Reform. There were concerns about the international loans that were needed for the Reform, amongst many other concerns.

The General Manager Strategy & Policy advised that there was a distinction between legislation, noting the following:

- The Water Services Entities Bill had now become law, and there was no submission process remaining for it.
- Council had received an extension on its submission into the Water Services Legislation, which was separate from the Water Services Entities Bill. Mayor Denyer advised that Council would be making a submission within the next few weeks.
- There was a third piece of legislation that Council was currently working through, in relation to consumer pricing and protection, as well as quality control.

There was also great concernment about the compulsory fluoridation of water in areas of New Zealand, specifically in the Western Bay of Plenty, and how this affected resident's health. The Deputy Chief Executive clarified that the Ministry of Health had required Council to install fluoride at the Athenree and Wharawhara water treatment plants by June 2025. Council had sought funding for this, as it would cost approximately \$2 million to install. It was advised that Council no longer had jurisdiction over this decision, as it sat with the Government.

## **8. Maramatanga Community Centre**

The decision had been made to demolish the Maramatanga Community Centre, and the remaining funding would be used for a temporary facility in its place. Consultation with the community would take place regarding what future buildings were required in Maramatanga Park and the wider Te Puna area.

## **9. Drinking Water Supply in the District**

It was queried whether, with the growing population in the Western Bay of Plenty as well as Tauranga City, there was a shortage of water supply to certain areas, such as Pāpāmoa and Ōmokoroa. The Deputy Chief Executive advised that Council had no concerns about a drinking water shortage and that there were sufficient amounts of water for the District. There were additional water sources being developed on Youngson Road, as well as No 3 Road in Te Puke, and Tauranga City Council had built the Waiāri Water Treatment Plant.

Members of the public thanked Mayor Denyer for creating the forum and thanked the Convenor and members for listening to their concerns. Mayor Denyer advised that the forums were planned to be quarterly, but there was facility to hold more for the Kaimai Ward.

**The forum closed at 8.48pm.**