

KATIKATI-WAIHĪ BEACH WARD COMMUNITY FORUM
27 MARCH 2023

DATE:

Monday 27 March 2023, 7.00pm

HELD:

Pātuki Manawa Digital Hub, Katikati

TOPICS:

1. Katikati Boating Club
2. Recycling
3. Stormwater
4. Waihī Beach Library
5. Walkway/Cycleway along Uretara Estuary
6. Representation Review for Waihī Beach
7. Local Procurement (Local People providing Local Goods and Services) for Council
8. Business Parks
9. Quality of Services
10. Council Systems & Performance
11. Lund Road Water Supply
12. Adela Stewart Drive / Adela Stewart Drive West

**GENERAL MANAGER
RESPONSIBLE:**

R Davie (General Manager Strategy and Community)

**FORUM MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

Councillor A Henry (Convenor), Councillor A Sole (Co-Convenor), and Councillor R Joyce

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Councillor R Crawford, Councillor T Coxhead, Councillor G Dally, Councillor M Murray-Benge, Deputy Mayor J Scrimgeour, and Councillor D Thwaites

Katikati Community Board Chairperson J Clements, Waihi Beach Community Board Chairperson R Goudie, Norm Mayo (Katikati Community Board), and Jane Nees (Councillor, Bay of Plenty Regional Council)

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: J Holyoake (Chief Executive Officer), 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 Katikati-Waihi Beach Ward Community Forum was provided, outlining that it was an opportunity for members of the public to have an open and informal discussion with Councillors.

1. Northern Tauranga Harbour Protection / Katikati Boating Club

There was a discussion regarding the protection of the Northern Tauranga Harbour. A presentation was spoken to, and the following points were raised:

- A group of members were intending to put together some information on taking care of the Northern Tauranga Harbour.
- Multiple groups had come together to discuss regeneration of the inner harbour, and how it can be returned to its natural strengths, such as the return of sea life and kaimoana.
- There were discussions about bringing agriculture/horticulture into the area in an ecological way, dubbed “eco-agriculture”. For this change to take place, the region must be prepared, and be committed to being a leader in this area. It was noted this is a 20-year vision. This would improve and future-proof the Katikati area, while transforming it into an eco-agriculture area. It was believed that Katikati could build these technologies for the future and influence the rest of New Zealand.
- Project Parore had done a lot of work in this space, and there were many scientists in the area that had undertaken some research, as well as a committed agriculture and horticulture sector.
- The degradation in the inner harbour was caused by too much sediment, swans and geese, weeds in the coastal margin, animal and fish pests, and pollutants.
- The narrow band of coastal margin in Katikati was home to five species of endangered birds.
- When birds migrate into the area, there was no place for them to nest as the mangroves etc. had taken over these areas.
- Project Parore was catchment-focussed, and concentrated on what was in the catchments and how can it be improved to stop the coastal issues and degradation.

The director of the Katikati Boating Club was introduced to speak, and raised the following points:

- The boating club operated off the end of Beach Road, which hosted sailing clubs such as junior club and senior club.
- Council had previously purchased a piece of land at the end of Beach Road near the boating club, which was converted into a carpark and green area for the use of the public and boat club. It was noted that, at high tide, there was no beach area in this space, and it was only accessible at low tide.
- There were plans for the first 20 metres of the boat ramp to be raised and widened, so that users could drive in and turn around to reverse in boats. The current ramp was a half-tide ramp only, and not usable at full tide and low tide.
- The price for the building and supplies for the boat ramp project was estimated at \$30,000, which could potentially be fundraised by the boating club. The club had obtained the resource consent already, and requested whether Council staff could assist in designing the concept plans. The club also had plans and required resource consents to remove sand from one beach to place on another, to restore the shoreline and protect it from erosion.
- There was also a need to protect the shoreline at the end of Beach Road so that the local iwi and hapū could still have access to the Urupā.
- The end goal was to develop the land into an area like the Ōmokoroa Domain, with a playground and seating areas.
- There was always a 'background level' of sediment flow into waterways, which has been accelerated by human activities.

2. Recycling in the District

Concern was raised regarding recycling in the District, raising the following points:

- Many councils had been mentioned on a television programme, where it was discovered that residential recycling was being dumped into landfill. It was queried how committed Council was to recycling.
- It was understood that this was not happening with the recycling in the Western Bay of Plenty. Cr Henry noted that Council was looking at developing policies and procedures for waste minimisation and were investigating whether certain items can be reused or given a second life – such as old appliances.
- Cr Joyce raised that there were issues with rubbish being included in kerbside recycling bins, and encouraged the public to ensure that they follow Council's recycling guidelines.
- There was nowhere to dispose of old appliances, such as mobile phones and computers, in the District. The Hub in Katikati collected batteries for recycling, and there were locations in Tauranga which collected old technology appliances. The Katikati Rotary Club also refurbishes computers and technology to send overseas

3. Stormwater Issues

There was a discussion regarding stormwater issues in the District, and the following points were noted:

- In 2013, there was a major flood in Waihi Beach, which impacted a significant number of properties. A group of residents in Waihi Beach formed the Storm Water Action Team (SWAT), who worked with Council to mitigate any further flooding events.
- There were a lot of measures decided upon and included in the 10-year plan. Now, 10 years on, there were still major flooding issues in Waihi Beach.
- There had been discussions with Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC) regarding the placement of catchments in the area.
- The stormwater system in Waihi Beach desperately needed to be improved, as each storm that occurred caused flooding and devastation. Improvements that had been planned in 2013 had been pushed out further than promised, and the area could not afford for these improvements to wait much longer.
- It was requested that there be an opportunity for SWAT and other interested parties to meet with Council's utilities team.

Other points raised by members of the public:

- A significant part of the issue was the lack of progress on the development of Two Mile Creek.
- Many drains and pipes in the area were constantly blocked and full of sand. There had been no checks to the stormwater pipes and drains prior to storms for a significant length of time.
- There was concern regarding a set of four-storey units in the Waihi Beach town centre, where the carpark was built below flood-level, and the lack of measures put in place to avoid flooding. Concern was also raised about some buildings around the Waihi Beach area which had been built on the whole section of land and leaving no area for water drainage on the property.
- It was believed that the level of scrutiny from Council for subdivision plans and stormwater plans needed to improve.

4. Waihi Beach Library – Multiple Speakers

Concerns were raised over the lack of communication of the concept plan for the new Waihi Beach Library. The following points were raised:

- The concept plan that had been circulated was good, but there had been word of mouth that it was now going to be altered because of the cost of the original plan.

-
- The cost for the new library had increased from \$2.5m to \$6.5m, as well as \$300,000 being provided to refurbish the Community Centre. Council was looking at options regarding different concept plans that were closer to the original price point. There were no plans currently to proceed with the \$6.5m concept plan. There was \$450,000 put aside to assess/investigate the situation and develop a new plan for the design and development.
 - Public consultation on the Annual Plan was taking place in April 2023, and there would be an opportunity for residents to provide their thoughts on the library.

5. Walkway/Cycleway along Uretara Estuary

There was concern regarding the concrete pathway planned for installation along the estuary. The following points were raised:

- There had been petitions created and signed, with over 250 signatures, in disagreement of the concept.
- It was believed that this plan should be reconsidered, as concrete would impact the natural state of the estuary.

Other points raised:

- Cr Henry noted that the walkway was first raised in the Reserve Management Plan in 2018. In 2022, there was public consultation for submissions on what colour concrete was preferred.
- During the winter months and during wet weather, parts of the path were unusable, as it became muddy and boggy.
- The decision on the walkway had gone to Council in 2022, where the decision was made for the walkway to go ahead.

6. Representation Review for Waihi Beach

There was a discussion regarding the Representation Review for Waihi Beach, and the following points were raised:

- Cr Henry noted that there was a new Representation Review coming up in 2023.
- In the past, Waihi Beach had its own Councillor, prior to being amalgamated with Katikati, and there was an opinion that there was not a sole representative for Waihi Beach around the Council table.
- It was believed that each main area of the District should have its own Councillor, rather than a joint Councillor such as Katikati-Waihi Beach, or Maketu-Te Puke.
- There would be an opportunity for people to make submissions during the Representation Review to the Representation Commission, who make the final decision.

7. Local Procurement (Local People providing Local Goods and Services) for Council

There was a discussion regarding the desire for local people to provide local services for Council services. The following points were raised:

- The mowing services were outsourced from Tauranga when it was believed these jobs could be undertaken by local companies.
- Cr Henry noted that there has been improvement in sourcing local services since last triennium.
- Council was working on a social procurement policy, which will allow for hiring of local services.
- It was believed that Katikati is looking increasingly unkempt, and this needed to improve.

8. Business Parks

Concern was raised regarding business parks, specifically the one planned for Te Puna. The following points were raised:

- It was believed there was a need to attain some definitions about what a 'business park' was, who were 'affected parties', and what were 'amenity values'.
- The plans for the Te Puna Business Park that had been circulated were vastly different from the general idea of what a business park was believed to be.
- It was requested that there be some definitions included in the District Plan for a business park and its related terms.
- Cr Coxhead noted that Council was working towards resolving the issues associated with the Te Puna Business Park, as it affected all road users and residents.

9. Qualities of Services

It was queried why there were continual issues with delivery of infrastructure services in the District, when there was a vast selection of contractors that would be willing to take on Council's work. The following points were raised:

- It was noted that until Council's current contracts ended, Council could not replace the contractors that provided services to Council.
- Concern was raised over the repair work of potholes in the Katikati area, as it seemed the repairs were short term and insufficient. There had recently been several potholes repaired on Tetley Road, but only nine out of the 18 potholes were dealt with. It was raised that the process of repairing these potholes was not carried out to the level that was required to ensure that the fix was long-term. Within two years, a pothole on Tetley Road had been repaired five times.

-
- It was believed that Council contractors should be audited.
 - Local reserves were not being maintained to the specifications in the contracts with Council.
 - It was believed that the timeframe to respond to service requests was too lengthy, and the results were of very poor quality.

10. Council Systems & Performance

It was believed that the systems and processes that Council had in place were failing local communities. The following points were raised:

- The public wished for more involvement and more information sharing regarding what happens in their areas.
- Concern was raised over the lack of consultation regarding, and the demolition of, the pensioner flats in Katikati, when there had been information provided by local builders that these concrete-floor units had significant residual value and could be moved in a matter of days.
- It was thought that a local towns person should be reinstated, to assist in the maintenance of the Katikati town.
- Most of the funding for the Heron Crescent pensioner flats redevelopment was coming from a funding allocation of \$5.34m, from the Government's Three Waters Reform Better Off Funding package. There was concern whether this funding would still be allocated to Council if the Reform does not go ahead. It was noted that whether the Reform goes ahead or not, Council would still be eligible for the Better Off funding.

11. Lund Road Water Supply

Residents from Lund Road spoke regarding the requests for Council to connect houses along Lund Road to the sufficient mains pressure water supply. The following points were raised:

- There had been a meeting with Council utilities staff at a residents home in 2021, and it was promised that water would be available to their homes by June 2022, but the water had not been commissioned until March 2023. The water that had been provided to the homes on Lund Road had insufficient pressure to service the needs of the residents, as the road was uphill. Several of the homes further up Lund Road received no water at all.
- Many homes were being serviced by a private water supplier, who were planning to discontinue in December 2023, which would result in homes with no water. It was also noted that many homes had livestock, and there was concern regarding how this livestock would be kept alive with no water.
- The issue was that there was not enough water to fill the tanks at the base of Lund Road, to be pumped up the road.

-
- Concern was raised over rates charges for availability of water before there was a pipe installed up Lund Road, and before water was made available. There was also concern raised over a bill that Lund Road residents had received to pay for the installation of water supply, when the project was a Crown Infrastructure project.

12. Adela Stewart Drive / Adela Stewart Drive West

Concern was raised over the naming of Adela Stewart Drive, and Adela Stewart Drive West, which was causing issues with the postal systems and services as the names were too similar. It was requested whether Council could consider renaming one of the roads so that there was no confusion. Cr Sole raised that this issue was already being dealt with within Council, and a report was being presented to the Katikati Community Board regarding this.

Cr Henry thanked all those present for their contributions, and informed attendees that the date for the next forum was yet to be set.

The forum closed at 9.31pm.