

MAKETU-TE PUKE WARD COMMUNITY FORUM

4 APRIL 2023

DATE: Tuesday 4 April 2023, 7.00pm

HELD: Paengaroa Hall, 4 Old Coach Road

TOPICS:

1. Te Puke Economic Development Group
2. Traffic Issues – Wilson Road and Old Coach Road
3. Stormwater Systems Maketu
4. Lack of Roding Maintenance – Wilson Road North & Waewaetutuki Road
5. General/Mowing Maintenance & Contractors Level of Service
6. Pukehina Beach – Removal of Sand & Dump Site
7. Maketu/Beach Road Emergency Access
8. High-Density Classification of Land in Te Puke
9. Maketu Estuary / Kaituna River
10. Graffiti – Maketu Road Bridge
11. Multiple Points
12. Te Matai Road

GENERAL MANAGER RESPONSIBLE: R Davie (General Manager Strategy and Community)

FORUM MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor R Crawford (Convenor), Councillor A Wichers (Co-Convenor), Councillor G Dally, and Deputy Mayor J Scrimgeour

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Denyer, Councillor D Thwaites

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: G Allis (Deputy 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 Maketu-Te Puke Ward Community Forum was provided, outlining that the purpose of the forum was to have a free and frank discussion between Councillors and members of the public.

1. Te Puke Economic Development Group (Te Puke EDG)

The Managing Director for Te Puke EDG was in attendance to speak regarding multiple topics, and raised the following points:

- The Community Forums were a great opportunity for the public to engage with Councillors across the District and provided an avenue for issues to be raised to Council Committees through the Community Committee.
- There were significant concerns about road safety in the area, and there were many roads that were in poor condition.
- It was believed that Te Puke was often viewed as a 'low wealth' area, but it provided a significant contribution to the economy of the District.
- Many of the parks and reserves were not maintained to standard. There were poor parking options in the area, with most parking lots being gravel and covered in potholes.
- Land and water infrastructure was not fit for purpose, especially considering the recent weather events/Cyclone Gabrielle.
- The town centre is a bustling hub, with a variety of shops.
- The main street was continually dirty, and there was a focus to get this cleaned up within the community. There needed to be better continual service and maintenance from Council within the town centre.
- A letter had been received from Council regarding the helicopter pad project, noting that there was progress on this project.
- A focus for Te Puke EDG is for Te Puke to be strong, serviced, sustainable and satisfied.

Other points raised from members of the public:

- Concerns were raised that the variety of shops in the area was poor, with many \$2 shops and liquor/vape stores.
- The police presence in the area was poor and needed to be improved.
- Traffic in the area was terrible during the peak hours, and parking was less than ideal in the town centre.
- It was believed that Council needed to improve the area generally, including roading and parking.
- The pedestrian crossing through the town centre should be traffic lights, and double lanes each side.
- The plantings through the town centre impacted the visibility of drivers.

2. Traffic Issues on Wilson Road South and Old Coach Road

There was concern regarding traffic issues on Wilson Road South and Old Coach Road, raising the following points:

- Truck and trailer vehicles, along with other vehicles, travelled at a much faster speed than the limit. It was believed the speed signs were not sufficient, and there should be additional signs installed along these roads.
- This issue was urgent, due to the danger posed by speeding, noting there was a school in the area. It was requested whether some pedestrian crossings could be placed on Old Coach Road/Wilson Road South.
- There were vehicles breaching the 'no overweight vehicles' sign on Wilson Road South.
- There was a request for bollards to be placed in the reserve at the intersection of Old Coach Road and Wilson Road South, to stop boy racers.
- It was requested whether there could be a footpath installed on McKenzie Road, which would benefit children who use the bus stop.
- There were speeding issues through the Paengaroa Village near Gull Paengaroa, with drivers doing speeds of 80km/h through the 60km/h zone.

Other points raised from members of the public:

- It was echoed by residents that the speeding issues and trucks were a major concern, especially with the number of children in the area.
- McKenzie Road was very narrow and was not fit for the use of trucks.

3. Stormwater Systems Maketu

Concern was raised regarding Maketu Stormwater, and the following points were noted:

- The culvert on the corner of Spencer Avenue and Maketu Road was not being regularly cleaned, and was a main stormwater drain for Maketu. If the drain blocks up, this could result in flooding.
- Service requests had been placed for cleaning the grill on this drain, but there had been no action. The drain was silting up and was polluted with weeds.
- It was requested that this drain and culvert be cleaned regularly.

Other points raised from members of the public:

- An extended pipe was installed on the stormwater pipe on Beach Road near the waterfront, which was inefficient as it was constantly blocked with silt in all the inspection sites of the pipe. Service requests had been placed which had not yet been actioned.
- There were similar issues in Pukehina, and many of the stormwater catchments were blocked and overgrown with weeds. It was requested there be an annual maintenance programme implemented for the area.
- On Little Waihī Road, there were no stormwater connections from the Hapimana Road culvert and the Kotukutuku gully to the main drainage in Maketu.
- It was believed that local contractors should be working on local maintenance.
- There was a submission made from a member of the public against the stormwater modifications at the Maketu Sports Ground.

4. Lack of Roading Maintenance – Wilson Road North & Waewaetutuki Road

It was believed that there was a lack of road maintenance on Wilson Road North. The following points were raised:

- There were too many heavy vehicles using Wilson Road North, which was under width for that purpose and was degrading the road edges.
- Council contractors were not keeping up with maintenance, including overgrown grass causing lack of drainage.
- The Community Board had been consulting with Council for the last six years on these issues, and there had been no progress to date.
- There was significant flooding on Wilson Road North, with concerns that this would cause a vehicle crash.
- The Chairperson of the Maketu Community Board noted that there was a resolution in the next Community Board agenda to deal with drainage issues on Wilson Road North. There was also a recommendation for Council to reinstate the mowing of the neglected section on the road, as it was part of Council's maintenance area. There were also resolutions on the agenda regarding the stormwater network to get the issues resolved.
- There was a need for Waewaetutuki Road to be sealed and properly maintained. The current maintenance on the road was the bare minimum, and it was noted that there was no drainage maintenance being undertaken. The road had been surveyed, and it was understood that the first half of the road was already vested in Council.

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- The Deputy Chief Executive Officer noted that the road was a Māori Roadway but was for public use. Council previously maintained Māori Roadways differently to general roads, but this has since been changed to allow for Māori Roadways to have the same maintenance as all roads.

5. General/Mowing Maintenance & Contractors Level of Service

There was a discussion on the level of service provided by Council contractors. The following points were raised:

- Roadside mowing was based on safety and visibility, and rural roads had an 'envelope' that was maintained by contractors. Rural roads were mowed maximum twice annually.
- With the recent rainfall, Council had not been able to keep up the requirement for mowing and had prioritised high-use areas.
- It was believed that WestLink was not providing the level of service required, and there needed to be consequences. The Deputy Chief Executive Officer noted that it was clear that WestLink were not meeting their agreed levels of service, and there was a significant monthly deduction/penalty on the contract. There was a dedicated roading engineer who monitored the work carried out by contractors.
- It was believed that the poor mowing in the area was due to lack of care, and that local contractors should be instated.

6. Pukehina Beach – Removal of Sand & Dump Site

There was a discussion regarding removal of sand from Pukehina Beach during large scale developments. The following points were raised:

- It was queried whether there was any protection against removal of sand from dunes during new developments/buildings, and whether the sand was kept within Pukehina.
- There had been discussions regarding the clean up of the dump site at the entrance of Pukehina, at Pukehina Beach Road, including metal and old tar seal. There had been a lack of communication from Council staff when contacted by the public.
- It was requested that this dump site be relocated so that it was not at the entrance of Pukehina.

7. Maketu/Beach Road Emergency Access

There was a discussion regarding the issues with emergency access during natural events/disasters in Maketu. The following points were raised:

- Cyclone Gabrielle had triggered a civil defence meeting in Maketu, and it was noted that the Te Awhe Road and Otimi Street would have no access if there was a disaster and Beach Road was blocked.

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- It was requested that Council investigate and make sure that all communities could evacuate from their homes in the case of a natural disaster.

8. High-Density Classification of Land in Te Puke

There was a discussion regarding high density classification of land within Te Puke. The following points were raised:

- There was disappointment in the lack of communication to queries relating to high-density classification, and the lack of in-depth analysis on the implications of high-density development within communities.
- Concern was raised over water meters in high-density development and having one water meter for multiple properties/homes. It was clarified that Council policy was to have one water meter per property/house.

9. Maketu Estuary / Kaituna River

A member of the public was in attendance to speak regarding the Maketu Estuary/Kaituna River. The following points were raised:

- There was concern regarding the control gates at Maketu Estuary, and it was believed they had not improved any issues. The flow in the river was not enough to feed the gates into the estuary, with the remainder of the water coming from the sea, and bad quality water entering the estuary.
- Every Summer, since the installation of the gates, there had been a significant amount of sand ending up on the Kaituna bar. There were concerns that the river could not feed the gates, which was drawing in more seawater and more sand. This could also pose issues for boat users.
- It was believed that the basic function of the estuary was struggling with the amount of water, and it was suggested that channels and dry beds be created.
- Okere Gates in Rotorua were opened during the recent weather events, which worsened the Kaituna bar and flushed bad quality water down the river.
- It was believed there was no communication between gate operations throughout the Kaituna River, and what was needed in Maketu regarding flow.
- Cr Crawford noted that this issue was for Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BORPC), and Council's position should be to advocate for action.

10. Graffiti – Maketu Road Bridge

There was concern over the graffiti on the Maketu Road bridge. The following points were raised:

- It was suggested that murals be painted, or anti-graffiti paint be used, to stop the graffiti on the road bridge.
- Service requests had been raised in the past when graffiti issues arose.
- It was also raised that the peninsula at the end of Bledisloe Park Avenue needed maintenance, as there were potholes along the track and the wharf was collapsing.

11. Maketu Rock Bridge / Sports Ground Skate Bowl / Maketu Ūrupa

There was a discussion regarding multiple topics, and the following points were raised:

Maketu Rock Bridge:

- The rocks were falling away from the rock wall, and it was the responsibility of Council to maintain this wall.
- It was requested whether Council could upgrade the steps down to the water and choose better rocks to replace the ones in the wall.
- Concern was raised that the cost of the wall had not yet been paid off. The Deputy Chief Executive Officer clarified that the wall had been fully paid off, and there was a site meeting with the contractor to discuss repairs.

Sports Ground Skate Bowl:

- There had been plans put in place regarding the sports ground, but all that had been installed was bollards. The road had been narrowed, allowing only one vehicle to drive down it.
- It was believed that the skate bowl should be filled in, as it is constantly flooded with water.

Maketu Urupā:

- There was concern that residents and Tangata Whenua were not consulted regarding work on the Urupā. There had been an area sectioned off for the burial of young children, but it was noted that Māori custom was for children to be laid with members of their family.
- This issue had been rectified, but it was requested that Tangata Whenua be included in consultation during any project in the community.

12. Te Matai Road

A resident of Te Matai Road in attendance to speak regarding safety issues and the vehicle accidents. The following points were raised:

- There have been many accidents on the S-bend on the road.
- Over the last four years, weekly accidents had been reported to Council, with details such as the time they took place. Neighbours in the area had also sent reports in.
- The surface of the road is uneven and slippery in wet weather. The camber of the road veers vehicles into the centre of the road. There had been two fatal crashes on the S-bend in the road.
- Residents were frustrated that Council has not actioned this dangerous corner, as there has been too many deaths and accidents on the corner.
- Logging trucks were using Te Matai Road to avoid the weighbridge.

Cr Crawford thanked all attendees for sharing their thoughts and concerns.

The forum closed at 9.08pm.