

KAIMAI WARD COMMUNITY FORUM

18 SEPTEMBER 2023

DATE:	Monday 18 September 2023, 7.00pm
HELD:	Ōmokoroa Sports Pavilion (Social Room), Western Avenue, Ōmokoroa
TOPICS:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Overview of Kaimai Ward-Related Outcomes2. Te Puna Station Road Closure3. Ōmokoroa Road/State Highway 2 (SH 2) Intersection4. Plan Change 925. Te Puna Business Park and other Resource Consents6. District Plan7. Ōmokoroa Community Board Update – Community Policing8. Māori Roadways
GENERAL MANAGER RESPONSIBLE:	R Davie (Deputy Chief Executive Officer/General Manager Strategy and Community)
FORUM MEMBERS PRESENT:	Cr T Coxhead (Co-Convenor), Cr M Grainger, and Cr M Murray-Benge
APOLOGIES	Cr D Thwaites (Convenor)
OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:	Cr A Henry, Cr A Wichers, Cr R Joyce, and Ōmokoroa Community Board Chairperson P Presland. 6 members of the public.
STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:	A Curtis (General Manager Regulatory Services), C Crowe (General Manager Infrastructure Services), 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 purpose of the forum was to have a free and frank discussion between Councillors and members of the public.

1. Overview of Kaimai Ward-Related Outcomes

The Co-Convenor provided a brief overview of the recent Kaimai Ward-related items that have been presented to Council and Committee meetings since the last Kaimai Ward Community Forum, outlining the below:

- The Community Matching Fund had taken place, and the following groups had been awarded funding:
 - Kaimai Canoe Club
 - Ōmokoroa Football Club
 - Ōmokoroa Library of Things
 - Ōmokoroa Settler's Hall
 - Oropi School
 - The Old Library Ōmokoroa
 - Friends of Kaimai Views
 - Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust
- Council (held 17 August 2023) voted in favour of establishing a Māori Ward or Wards for the next two trienniums.
- At the Projects and Monitoring Committee (held 8 August 2023) there was a proposal for one lane of Te Puna Station Road to be opened temporarily. The Committee resolved that staff consult with the Te Puna community and wider district on the proposal to reopen one lane of Te Puna Station Road on a temporary, to one-way, east-bound traffic.
- The 'Tō Wāhi – Your Place' event received 17,050 pieces of feedback across the district, which included the following:
 - Whakamarama: 924
 - Ōmokoroa: 696
 - Oropi/Ohauti/Pyes Pa: 597
 - Omanawa/Lower Kaimai: 95

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- The CCTV Working Party and delegations were established, and were responsible for considering applications for CCTV across the district and allocating the \$50,000 of funding. The Working Party included Councillors Joyce, Murray-Benge, and Crawford.
 - Council held (6 June 2023) approved the request from Ngāti Te Wai (or its elected entity) to enter into a License to Occupy part of Tahawai Reserve, to operate a Kauri/native tree nursery.

2. Te Puna Station Road Closure

The General Manager Infrastructure Services provided an update on the closure of Te Puna Station Road, noting the following:

- Council had received four submissions on the proposal for opening one lane on Te Puna Station Road.
- WSP Opus was currently undertaking a feasibility assessment in terms of the slip damage to the river, and the costs related to this.
- There were two stages for the rectification of Te Puna Station Road, the first being the potential temporary opening of one lane. The second stage would be a report from WSP Opus on the wider picture, to then create a plan of action.

The below discussion took place:

- There needed to be consideration for the ecological and cultural aspects of this project, and not just the traffic congestion effects.
- There were statistics available on the traffic count and traffic times on State Highway 2 (SH 2).
- The truck count had increased exponentially on Te Puna Road and Clarke Road.
- It was queried what the impact would be on traffic when the SH 2 bypass was opened, which would not be open until 2025.

3. Ōmokoroa Road/State Highway 2 (SH 2) Intersection

The General Manager Infrastructure Services provided an update on the Ōmokoroa Road/SH 2 Intersection, noting the following:

- The preliminary designs were almost complete, and the project was on schedule.
- Council was looking at utilising Waka Kotahi's contracts for construction.
- The project was on track to begin construction in late October/early November 2023, with completion planned for 2025.

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- The largest risk currently was the transferring of overhead powerlines to underground, and the procurement of resources from overseas (12 to 14 months lead time).
 - There were ongoing negotiations with landowners in the area.
 - There was an onsite Youngson Road Public Consultation meeting planned for 22nd September 2023.
 - The design process for the different elements of the structure plan was on track, such as the wetland area.
 - Council was currently in the process of a Speed Management Plan to reduce the speeds on local roads, however, Waka Kotahi controlled speed limit reviews on State Highways. There would be temporary traffic management in place during construction of the intersection.
 - The roundabout would cater for the growth, with the addition of extra lanes and increased urbanisation of the area. Using the roundabout would improve road-users' journey significantly.
 - Concern was raised over the quality of roadworks between Ōmokoroa and Katikati on SH 2, with road edges crumbling away.

4. Plan Change 92

The General Manager Regulatory services provided an update on Plan Change 92, noting the following:

- The Plan Change 92 hearing had taken place from 11-15 September, and there was indication from the commissioners that there would not be a decision until closer to December 2023, due to the information they had to work through.
- A lot of feedback had been provided from the community.
- The information related to this plan change was available on Council's website.

5. Te Puna Business Park

The General Manager Regulatory services provided an update on the Te Puna Business Park, noting the following:

- The Tinex Group Ltd application was for a two-year, fixed-term resource consent for industrial activities on Te Puna Station Road. This hearing was planned for the week of 9 October 2023.
- There were 194 submissions from the public, and the Officer's report had gone live on Council's website on 28 September 2023. This can be found [here](#).
- There were 30 submissions that wish to be heard at the hearing.

6. Other Resource Consent Matters

The General Manager Regulatory services provided an update on the other resource consents in the area, noting the following:

- Council was currently processing a variation to the resource consent for the JACE Town Centre development.
- The purpose of a Specified Development Project (SDP) was to enable fast-paced development of high-density housing in a particular area. These projects would be managed by Kāinga Ora.
- There were only a small amount of resource consents each year that were notified.

It was also noted that there had been a number of substantive resource consents and developments which had been approved in the past month, which involved approximately 350 lots in Ōmokoroa. There had been significant commitment from Council to make sure that traffic management is in place to enable these works. These consent holders included:

- Ōmokoroa Country Club
- Classic Developments – on Prole Road
- New Zealand Housing Foundation Council was currently taking some direction on legislative changes in relation to the District Plan, including the Natural and Built Environments Act 2023. Due to legislation changes and the 2023 general election, the District Pan review had not yet commenced, due to the potential effect that this would have.

7. District Plan

The General Manager Regulatory services provided a response to a query on the District Plan, noting the following:

- Council was currently taking some direction on legislative changes in relation to the District Plan, including the Natural and Built Environments Act 2023. Due to legislation changes and the 2023 general election, the District Pan review had not yet commenced, due to the potential effect that this would have.

8. Ōmokoroa Community Board Update – Community Policing

The Chairperson of the Ōmokoroa Community Board provided an update on the Ōmokoroa Community Policing, noting the following:

- There had been a focus on community safety and the Board had been working closely with the Community Policing Group.
- There was a desire to establish a Police Station and a permanent Ōmokoroa Police Constable for the peninsular, but the Board had been informed that this was an operational decision for New Zealand Police.

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- A community policing hub office was being established on the premise next door to The Running Bird Café on McDonell Street, which was available for use by the Community Constable.
 - Having visible law enforcement would make the community feel safer, and the Community Board was continuing to push for a permanent Constable in Ōmokoroa.
 - There were CCTV cameras at the Ōmokoroa Boat Ramp/Ferry Terminal, in an effort to stop the crime and theft in that area. It was thought that Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras needed to be placed in key areas in Ōmokoroa.
 - The CCTV Working Party that were currently working through submissions for CCTV cameras throughout the district.
 - Concern was raised over smaller crimes that were happening in the area, and how we can prevent these. It was suggested that any issues and suggestions be submitted to the Ōmokoroa Community Board to consider.

9. Māori Roadways

A discussion took place regarding the acquisition of Māori roads by Council. It was clarified that Council had made a decision to maintain Māori roads to the same level as public roads without the need to be vested, and not that these roads would be acquired. Council had adopted a draft policy to this effect, being Council Maintenance of Previously Unmaintained Roads, in March 2022.

The Co-Convenor thanked all attendees for sharing their thoughts and concerns.

The forum closed at 8.09pm.