

KATIKATI-WAIHĪ BEACH WARD COMMUNITY FORUM

15 August 2023

- DATE:** Tuesday 15 August 2023, 7.00pm
- HELD:** Bowentown Boating Club
- TOPICS:**
1. Financial Contributions
 2. Waione Boat Ramp and Reserve
 3. Athenree Footpaths
 4. Roading and Drainage
 5. Athenree-Waihī Beach Cycleway
 6. Reserve Maintenance and Planting
 7. Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan
 8. Māori Wards
 9. Dune Erosion
 10. Rubbish bins at Anzac Bay
 11. Lifeguard Building Bowentown
- GENERAL MANAGER RESPONSIBLE:** R Davie (Deputy CEPO/General Manager Strategy and Community)
- FORUM MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillor A Henry (Convenor) and Councillor R Joyce
- OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor R Crawford, Councillor G Dally, Councillor M Murray-Benge, Deputy Mayor J Scrimgeour, Mayor J Denyer,
Katikati Community Board Chairperson J Clements, Waihī Beach Community Board Chairperson R Goudie, D Simpson (Waihi Beach Community Board Member).

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: J Holyoake (Chief Executive Officer), G Golding (Governance Manager) and R Leahy (Governance Advisor)

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. Financial Contributions

Discussion was held on financial contributions (FINCOs) for developers. The following points were raised:

- When determining where FINCOs should be applied, Council looked at population growth across the district and decided where additional infrastructure may be required.
- FINCOs were used to build new infrastructure or increase the capacity of existing services, they were not used for the maintenance of existing services.
- FINCOs had been reviewed and recalculated for this year and adopted, in principle, by Council.
- Council was currently reviewing whether FINCOs was the best model to use as they were generally tied to waters infrastructure. A decision on the model would likely be made once Affordable Waters Reform had been finalised, or through the LongTerm Plan process.
- Given the structure of FINCOs, investment in new infrastructure for Waihi Beach would need to come from other funding sources.
- Councillors could decide to increase the fund for town centres and provide an alternative source of funding for improvements.

Other points raised by members of the public:

- Waihi Beach did not have a vastly growing population; however, the population dramatically increased during summer.
- Members of the public felt that given the population increase during summer, FINCOs should be increased and shared across Waihi Beach area.

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- If the community wanted to make improvements to infrastructure in the area there was not the funding sources outside of the LongTerm Plan and Annual Plan to do so. Communities needed rejuvenation to encourage population growth.

2. Waione Avenue Reserve and Boat Ramp

Concern was raised regarding Waione Avenue Reserve and Boat Ramp. The following points were raised:

- The Athenree Action Group requested Council investigate installing bollards and parking spaces at the Waione Avenue Reserve and Boat Ramp.
- Concern was raised regarding the lack of drainage at the reserve.
- The holiday park in Athenree had become increasingly popular over summer which had led to an increase in traffic.
- A shelter and BBQ area for Waione Avenue Reserve was planned for by Council, but not yet installed.

3. Footpaths in Athenree

Concern was raised regarding footpaths and curbing in Athenree. The following points were raised:

- The Athenree Action Group requested Council investigate installing curbing and footpaths in Athenree. There was no curbing between 61 Athenree Road and Sandleigh Drive.
- Members of the community felt that developers had not been required to complete their contribution obligations, which had led to a lack of investment in roading infrastructure.

4. Athenree Cycleway

Concern was raised regarding the Athenree-Waihi Beach Cycleway. The following points were raised:

- Members of the community requested an update on the progress of the Athenree-Waihi Beach cycleway.
- Council had consulted with local iwi and were at the final design stage of the project.
- Once the design was finalised, there would be a new round of engagement with the community prior to the resource consent being lodged.

5. Roading and Drainage

Concern was raised regarding roading and drainage. The following points were noted:

- Several potholes and road damage had “popped up” on Seaforth Road.

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- During winter, potholes were often repaired on a temporary basis. During the summer period, more permanent repairs could be undertaken.
 - Concern was raised that the amount of money taken in rates from the Bowentown did not equate to the level of road maintenance in the area.

Other points raised by members of the public:

- A member of the public requested that Council install a drain on the Western side of Seaforth Road between Pio Shores roundabout, to Anzac Bay. It was also noted that Council should reseal the road to prevent flooding.
- There was a lack of drainage and maintenance on Seaforth Road through to Anzac Bay. Concerned homeowners were having to maintain drains themselves to avoid flooding.
- Council installed a drain outside 440-442 Seaforth Road, however, there was no record of this asset on Council plans and had not been maintained under Council's Levels of Service.
- There were parts of Bowentown that were prone to flooding that had not been addressed by the Council.
- The road chip used by Council on the road outside Pio Shores was lifting.

6. Native Planting and Wetlands

There was a discussion regarding planting native trees and creating wetlands. the following points were noted:

- A member of the of public wanted more variety of native flora planted on dunes and along cycleways to attract birdlife and bees to the area.
- An ecological study could be done to identify areas that could be restored to their natural state.
- There was a balance between having grass recreational areas and creating wetlands. Identifying areas to be restored as wetlands could be looked at under the Reserve Management Plan.

Other points raised by members of the public:

- Pio Shores residents and Council were working together to replant the berms with appropriate trees to attract birdlife.
- Due to an increase in moisture, the Island View Reserve was creating its own wetland. Island View Reserve and other unused grass areas could be transformed into wetlands.

7. Council Mowing

Concern was raised regarding the mowing at Tui Reserve in Bowentown. The following points were noted:

- Council contractors had mowed the Tui Reserve at Bowentown when the soil was still wet, which caused ruts in the grass. Members of the public felt that the reserve was now unusable for recreational purposes.
- There were issues with contractors leaving grass clippings on reserves in Bowentown, which were untidy.

8. Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Plan

Concern was raised regarding Waihi Beach's Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan. The following points were noted:

- A member of the public wanted information relating to the threat of overflow from the Waihi Beach Water Reservoir and storm water retention ponds, included in the Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan.
- The Bay of Plenty Regional Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan was currently being reviewed. The plan did not have a localised response plan included. Council had its own local Civil Defence Plans, which could be updated to include localised threats.

Other points raised by members of the public:

- The tsunami warning sign by the Bowentown campground was faded and illegible.

9. Sand Dune Management

Concern was raised regarding sand dune management. The following points were noted:

- Dune management was primarily a Regional Council issue, resilience planning was included in the Long Term Plan.
- There had been issues with restoring some of the dunes, as not enough sand had come back. In addition, there had been a severe shortage of planting dunes.

Other points raised by members of the public:

- Council needed to install more signage to educate people and maintain accessways to prevent further damage.

10. Māori Wards

Concern was raised regarding the establishment of Māori Wards. The following points were noted:

- A member of the public was concerned that there had been no consultation with residents about the establishment of Māori Wards.
- Council was legally obligated to decide on whether to establish Māori Wards before 23 November 2023. There was no requirement to undertake public consultation on this matter.

11. Pest Control

Concern was raised regarding the management of Black Swans and Canadian Geese. The following points were noted:

- Black Swans and Canadian Geese were affecting the ecosystem in the estuary and harbour.
- It was noted that Bay of Plenty Regional Council was responsible for pest management.

12. Rubbish Bins in Bowentown

Concern was raised regarding rubbish bins in Bowentown. The following points were noted:

- A member of the public requested more rubbish bins at Anzac Bay and on Plom Road.

13. Lifeguard Building Bowentown

Concern was raised via email (not discussed at the forum) to the Convenor regarding the proposed Lifeguard building in Bowentown. The following points were noted:

- Waihi Beach Lifeguard Services was considering building a new hub at the reserve behind the Coastguard building.
- The BMX track and cricket ground were popular and used all year round by members of the public. The Lifeguard building would encroach on this recreational space.
- There were alternative spaces in Bowentown that could be used to build a storage area for the Lifeguard.

The forum closed at 8:48pm