

MAKETU-TE PUKE WARD COMMUNITY FORUM

22 MAY 2023

- DATE:** Monday 22 May 2023, 7.00pm
- HELD:** Te Puke War Memorial Hall (Settler's Lounge), 130 Jellicoe Street
- TOPICS:**
1. No 1 Road
 2. Traffic Congestion
 3. Pongakawa Bush Road
 4. No 3 Road
 5. Climate Change
 6. Kerbside Bins
 7. Flood-Zones and Stormwater Contamination
 8. Pukehina – Mowing and Main Turn-Off
- 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 J Denyer, Councillor D Thwaites, Maketu Community Board Chairperson L Rae, Te Puke Community Board Chairperson K Ellis, and Te Puke Community Board Member's D Snell, and K Summerhays
- STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:** G Allis (Deputy Chief Executive Officer), R Davie (General Manager Strategy and 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 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. No 1 Road

A member of the public was in attendance to raise concerns regarding No 1 Road safety and repairs, and spoke to a slideshow of photos. The following discussion took place:

- Constant potholes were appearing faster than they could be repaired. It was believed that they were an accident waiting to happen, as it is near impossible to swerve around them due to the size.
- There was a lack of lighting on No 1 Road, and the middle lane marking was invisible in wet weather. There were no reflective cat-eyes through the middle or edges of the road.
- It was noted that these issues mainly applied to the bottom 2km of the road.
- There was an issue with speed on the road, mainly trucks speeding through.
- Any repair work that was done was not lasting very long and was not of acceptable quality. It was believed that there should be an investment to permanently fix the road, rather than endless repair works.
- It was queried whether:
 - Council owned the farmland from No 1 Road through to Cattle Farm Drive;
 - Trevelyan's Packhouse were still planning to contribute towards a future walkway;
 - Tauranga City Council had contributed any funding for reinstatement of the road since the Waiāri Water Supply pipe-laying.
- It was suggested that a cycleway be included in any plans to upgrade the road.
- There was a need for residents to be provided with an update on the plans of the road.
- Flooding on the road near the Trevelyan's Packhouse was a concern.
- Potholes and roads were unable to be fixed during wet weather, and it was noted that this road was a priority for Councillors.
- The Committee noted that there was a Facebook group "*No 1 Road Residents and Users Group*", run by the community, that kept residents up to date on No 1 Road concerns.

2. Traffic Congestion

A member of the public was in attendance to speak regarding concerns with traffic congestion. The following discussion took place:

- There was significant traffic congestion surrounding the No 1 Road and Jellicoe Street intersection.
- It was believed that the traffic was comparable to larger city traffic during peak kiwifruit season.
- There was concern that the traffic issues in Te Puke were not included on any of Council's Long Term Plans.
- There were plans for Zespri to triple the production of kiwifruit in the next 10 years, and that Council needed to consider how to address traffic issues sooner rather than later, to allow for this growth.
- It was believed that, since the main road was reduced to single lane, there had been significant negative impact on the town.
- It was suggested that slip-lanes be considered to reduce the impact of traffic congestion.
- The Te Ara Kahikatea Pathway Group were working with Council towards making cycleways/pathways safer for children to get to school and to improve the connectivity of cycleways for users.
- Council had applied to Waka Kotahi's Transport Choices fund for 12 projects, of which one was successful and funding of \$2.4 million was allocated. To qualify for the funding, Council was required to include public consultation in this process. Council has sought feedback from schools in Te Puke in the first instance, before going out to the wider community.
- There would be a letterbox drop and community public consultation for this project. If Council could not prove the feasibility of the project, the allocated funding from Waka Kotahi would be withdrawn.

3. Pongakawa Bush Road

A member of the public was in attendance to speak regarding concerns with Pongakawa Bush Road. The following discussion took place:

- Since 2016, there had been ongoing issues with the road washing-out, which had deteriorated further since the recent weather events.
- The road was in such a bad state, that residents were worried that emergency services would not be able to travel up the road.
- It was believed to be a significant safety issue, and the road desperately needed to be upgraded to allow for water run-off.
- The issue was exacerbated by blocked culverts.
- It was queried why the clearing of culverts across the district before a wet weather event was not part of the service programme. The Chairperson noted that levels of service was currently a priority topic for the Projects and Monitoring Committee.

4. No 3 Road

A member of the public was in attendance to speak regarding No 3 Road. The following discussion took place:

- There were 12 slips on No 3 Road during Cyclone Gabrielle and the recent weather events. Residents up the road had been trapped for two days during the events, and it was noted that Council's response to this was very quick.
- There was a rumour that Council was no longer maintaining the last 70 metres of the road. It was noted that this has always been maintained by Council in the past.
- There were nine households on this portion of the road, and it was currently in a bad state.
- A concern was raised that infrastructure in Te Puke would not be able to withstand continued population growth into the future.

5. Climate Change

A member of the public was in attendance to speak regarding climate change. The following discussion took place:

- There was a concern that Council had not planned appropriately for climate change for the coming years.
- Council was planning for climate change using a rate of Representation Concentration Pathway 8.5 (RCP8.5), which was the global basis for high-risk climate change scenarios.
- Bay of Plenty Regional Council (BOPRC) were responsible for stopbanks and flood protection, however, Council had made submissions to BOPRC on these when needed.
- Land use was determined by the District Plan, and it was believed that houses should not be built on floodable land.
- It was believed that Council was not planning sufficiently for climate change. It was noted that Council was working towards community resiliency in relation to climate change.

6. Kerbside Bins

A member of the public was in attendance to speak regarding kerbside bins. The following discussion took place:

- An exemption had been applied for the kerbside charges, as the kerbside service was not used by this member of the public. Their bins had been returned to the Council, and it was queried why the service was still paid for as part of their rates.

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- It was clarified that the fixed rateable charges covered recycling and food scraps only, and rubbish was collected on a pay-per-collection basis (Pay as You Throw tags). This charge was only applied to properties where they were eligible to receive this service.
 - This process was the preferred option when consultation took place prior to implementation of the service.
 - This process intended to incentivise residents to recycle, rather than simply throwing items in the rubbish.
 - Council had information available on the kerbside service, which included recycling statistics, where rubbish/recycling goes, and diversion of rubbish from landfill.
 - Council had reported approximately 20% of contaminated recycling annually, which was better than the national average of 30%.
 - Recycling was handled/transported as follows:
 - Glass and paper were transported to Auckland.
 - Plastics were transported to Wellington.
 - Cardboard was transported to Tokoroa.
 - Plastics 1 and 5 were sold on the local market.
 - Batteries could be recycled at Council's libraries and head office.
 - The Waste Minimisation and Management Plan was coming up for review, and feedback from the public would be sought.
 - There had been discussions with Tauranga City Council (TCC) about a sub-regional transfer station.

A breakdown of the handling of rubbish/recycling can be found on Council's Kerbside Collective website - <https://kerbsidecollective.co.nz/faqs/>

7. Flood-Zones and Stormwater Contamination

A member of the public was in attendance to speak regarding flood-zones in Te Puke. The following discussion took place:

- There was a concern with levels of flooding in flood-zones, and the lack of drain-clearing in these areas.
- The drains on the side of Lawrence Oliver Park and Jamieson Street needed to be cleared. It was noted that requests for this had been lodged with Council, but had not been rectified.
- Usually, when there was flooding in this area the water was clear, but recently the water contained a milky sediment.
- There was a concern with stormwater contamination, and it was believed that production/industrial companies in Te Puke needed to further consider their environmental effects.

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- There was a suggestion for a public group to be formed, in an attempt to 'keep Te Puke beautiful' and litter free.
 - Concern was raised over metal processing plants in Te Puke, and the pollution of heavy metals into the waterways.

8. Pukehina – Mowing and Main Turn-off

A member of the public was in attendance seeking an update on several topics in the Pukehina area. The following discussion took place:

- An update was sought on the mowing in Pukehina, which had been raised at the last Maketu-Te Puke Forum. The Chairperson noted that Committee members had a list of answers/actions to a range of potential questions and invited the public to discuss this with members after the forum meeting.
- An update was sought on the tidying-up of the Pukehina turn-off, noting that it was becoming an increasingly popular spot for dumping, and that there had been conversations with the Chief Executive Officer and Senior Transportation Engineer. The Committee would follow this up with staff.

A member of the public thanked the Committee for providing a platform where these issues can be raised, and discussions can be had.

It was noted that there were many Council projects that the Maketu-Te Puke residents could feed in to, including:

- Te Puke Spatial Plan
- District Plan Review
- Long Term Plan
- Waste Management and Minimisation Plan
- Te Puke Town Centre Plan

Council would provide communication to the public regarding these processes and how the community could submit feedback, on platforms such as Council's website and official Facebook page.

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

The forum closed at 8.46pm.