

## **MAKETU-TE PUKE WARD COMMUNITY FORUM**

**21 AUGUST 2023**

- DATE:** Monday 21 August 2023, 7.18pm
- HELD:** Pongakawa Hall, 952 Old Coach Road, Pongakawa
- TOPICS:**
1. Pongakawa Tennis Courts
  2. Pongakawa School Speed Limit
  3. Maketu Infrastructure
  4. Pukehina Community Patrol Vehicle
  5. Māori Wards
  6. Kaituna River Re-Diversion and Maketu Estuary Enhancement
  7. Te Puke Infrastructure
- GENERAL MANAGER RESPONSIBLE:** R Davie (Deputy Chief Executive Officer/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, Cr M Murray-Benge, Cr T Coxhead, Cr A Henry, Maketu Community Board Chairperson L Rae, and Te Puke Community Board Chairperson K Ellis,  
11 members of the public.
- STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:** R Davie (Deputy Chief Executive Officer/General Manager Strategy and Community), and J Osborne (Governance Advisor)
- 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, noting this was an opportunity to have a free and frank discussion between Councillors and members of the public.

## **1. Pongakawa Tennis Courts**

A member of the public was in attendance to discuss the replacement of the Pongakawa tennis courts. The following points were raised:

- There had been significant discussion with Council regarding the replacement of these courts, including an historic land-swap that took place involving the land where 'The Action Centre' now sat.
- It was requested that Council move forward with construction of two multi-use tennis courts, as agreed when the land swap took place. This would eventually become four courts.
- It was encouraged that tennis courts be built rather than the planned full hockey courts.
- It was thought that plexipave would be the most suitable material.
- The school was willing to assist Council with fundraising if needed.
- The school had no funding for the asset itself, but there was 'sweat equity'.
- The school was seeking guarantee of funding and project management from Council and asked that Council work with the school to ensure that the courts were built.
- There was a desire for the Pongakawa Domain (which was situated next to Pongakawa School) to become a sporting hub, with the exclusion of rugby as this was already established in Te Puke.
- There was funding within Council put aside for the tennis courts.

## **2. Pongakawa School Speed Limit**

A student at the Pongakawa School was in attendance to speak regarding concerns with the speed limit surrounding Pongakawa School. The following points were raised:

- The Pongakawa School Road speed limit was currently 100km/h, and they believed it needed to be reduced to 40km/h during drop-off and pick-up times, for the safety of the students.
- Student ages ranged from 5-13 years old.

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- In 2016, there was proposal from Council to reduce speed limits near schools during collection times. Other schools in the area were reduced, but Pongakawa School was not included.
  - There was concern that there was a fatal accident waiting to happen, as many children cross the road before and after school.
  - A pedestrian crossing was also needed to ensure safety, as many children cross the road to be collected by parents.
  - There had been multiple crashes in the area that had been serious or fatal.
  - The speed that vehicles travelled was also distracting for the students, as it generated significant noise.
  - Old Coach Road/Pongakawa School Road was a State Highway detour, and many travellers were not aware that a school was just up the road.

Discussion within the forum took place as follows:

- Council was currently undertaking a speed limit bylaw review, which would include this area of concern. There would be an opportunity for public consultation through this process.
- It was thought that Pongakawa School Road should be 80km/h as a standard.
- Rural roads throughout the district would be reducing in speed as part of the speed limit review.
- It was recommended that this issue be presented to a meeting of Council through public forum, and a submission be lodged with Council during the speed limit reviews.

### **3. Maketu Infrastructure**

A member of the public was in attendance to speak regarding concerns with infrastructure in Maketu. The following points were raised:

- There were significant infrastructure improvements needed for Maketu, which had been highlighted by the weather events that had taken place in 2023.
- There was a concern with the infrastructure that was currently in the area, which included;
  - No kerbing/channelling alongside footpaths;
  - Flooding; and
  - Gravel roads being dug out.
- The footpath along the top of Arawa Avenue was the only improvement made in recent years however, with a lack of kerbing, all of the stormwater travelled through the nearby properties, as well as the Spencer Avenue drain, which was consistently unmaintained.

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- It was believed that a reservoir would assist with drainage in the Spencer Avenue area.
  - It was suggested that there be oxidisation ponds for stormwater drainage to treat stormwater before it was released into estuary and wetlands.
  - Little Waihī Road was under-maintained and needed significant attention.
  - It was queried whether there were any future plans for the areas of concern.

The below discussion took place:

- Concerns relating to roading infrastructure could be addressed through the local Community Board in the first instance, noting that each Community Board had their own Roading Budget.
- Although still in its early stages, the Town Centre funding rate was highlighted, noting that this was a rotational 'rejuvenation' fund for each town. This proposal was currently with Council to decide on the best way forward.
- It was suggested that Councillors tour the town with local Maketu residents who knew the issues in the area, as this would help determine a priority list.
- Flooding was a major focus within Council due to the serious flooding in Waihī Beach and throughout the district that took place at the beginning of 2023. There had been a liaison group set up between Council, Elected Member's, and residents, to get a grasp on the issues as seen by the locals. A similar liaison group could be created in Maketu and other areas.
- The Maketu Community Board's Annual Plan submission included projects to address roading, kerbing/channelling, as well as stormwater.
- It was believed that the continued maintenance and clean-up of the area, would be more expensive than a permanent fix.

#### **4. Pukehina Community Patrol Vehicle**

The Chairperson of the Pukehina Ratepayers & Residents Association (PRRA) was in attendance to speak regarding a Pukehina community patrol vehicle. The following discussion took place:

- The current community patrol car was in disrepair and needed replacing.
- The patrol car was an important asset, and was used throughout many areas in the ward, including Paengaroa, Maketu, and Otamarakau.
- PRRA was seeking support from Council for a replacement vehicle and were planning to seek sponsorship from external entities.

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- There had been an increase in crime in the Pukehina area.

The below discussion took place:

- The Community Matching Fund was suggested as an avenue to receive funding.
- It was suggested that PRRA approach Ultimate Motor Group in Te Puke to seek support.

## **5. Māori Wards**

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

- It was believed that there needed to be a minimum of two Māori wards, to represent Te Arawa and Tauranga Moana separately, as they had different views and aspirations for their rohe.
- The decision regarding number of wards would be decided through the Representation Review in 2024.
- There had already been significant discussions with local iwi and hapū regarding their aspirations for Māori Wards, and this would continue as part of the Representation Review discussion.

## **6. Kaituna River Re-Diversion and Maketu Estuary Enhancement**

A discussion took place regarding the Kaituna River Re-Diversion and Maketu Estuary Enhancement, noting the following:

- Pim de Monchy, from Bay of Plenty Regional Council, was meeting with the Maketu community to provide their annual update. There would also be a presentation at a subsequent date, involving the Maketu Community Board, on some of the issues raised.

## **7. Te Puke Infrastructure**

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

- The Maketu-Te Puke Ward area was the economic driver for the rest of the district, and it was believed there was a shortfall in infrastructure in the ward.
- The lighting in the Heritage Walkway was due to be reinstalled.
- As part of the Commerce Lane refurbishment, there had been a safety audit done, which recommended a pedestrian crossing for this space.

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- There was a need for the helicopter pad to have a levelled deck.

From the discussion that had taken place, it was noted that some issues could be resolved on the night through Councillor or staff responses, and others could be progressed through staff raising service requests. The focus for these forums was to ensure that issues were followed up on, and that solutions or answers be provided.

Any decisions that needed to be made would be referred through to the Community Committee.

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

**The forum closed at 8.21pm.**