

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

RODNEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES: of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Rodney District Council which commenced at 9.00 a.m. in the Kumeu Community Centre, Access Road, Kumeu on Monday, 18 May 2009, and reconvened at 12.06 p.m. on Thursday, 21 May 2009 in the Council Chambers, Centreway Road, Orewa.

PRESENT: Penny Webster, Mayor (Chairperson)
Crs Ross Craig
Pat Delich
Michael Goudie (from 9.05 a.m.)
Gaye Harding
John Kirikiri
Dave Parker QSM (from 12.30 p.m.)
Grahame Powell
Zane Taylor (from 9.10 a.m.)
June Turner
Greville Walker
Wayne Walker (from 9.18 a.m.)
Suzanne Weld

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive (Rodger Kerr-Newell)(from 9.10 a.m.)
Assistant Chief Executive (Warren Maclennan)
Director: Customer Service (Lloyd Barton) (from 9.30 a.m.)
Director: Corporate Service (Kevin Ramsay)
Director: Infrastructure (Murray Noone)
Executive Manager (Paul Garbett)
Manager: Finance (Morna Macfarlane)
General Manager: Strategy (Rory Palmer)
Democracy Services Officer (Elaine Stephenson)
Democracy Services Administrator (Therese McDonald) (from 9.05 a.m.)

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291/05/09 APOLOGIES

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1

Note: Apologies were received from Crs W Walker and Parker for lateness.

Apologies were received from submitters Louisa Miller, representing the Te Awaroa Youth Club, and Rosemary Bonda.

The Mayor welcomed submitters and introduced the Councillors and staff, explaining that the LTCCP process is a requirement of the Council's budget, that the Council was carrying on business as normal, as directed by the Government and that it will be Council expenditure on items outside of the LTCCP that will be under the scrutiny of the Transition Board.

18 May 2009

Cr Weld tabled a petition signed by 82 Helensville residents who are concerned about the Housing New Zealand development in Helensville, requesting that the Mayor present the petition to Minister of Housing Phil Heatley on their behalf.

Weld /G Walker

That the petition on behalf of the Helensville residents be accepted by the Mayor and presented to the Minister of Housing on behalf of the signatories.

Carried

**292/05/09 HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS TO THE LONG TERM COUNCIL
COMMUNITY PLAN 2009 – 2019**

FILE REF DG/11/3

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2

The Council proceeded to hear the Western Ward submissions to the 2009 - 19 LTCCP.

Submitter number W0070: Karen Body

Ms Body distributed a copy of a map of the Riverhead area and provided a PowerPoint presentation in support of her submission (hard copies on file). Ms Body highlighted points which included:

- the importance that items are included in the plan so that they go forward into the supercity;
- that the Riverhead area is growing and there is a need to support that growth;
- support for the budget of \$103,000 for carparking on Edward Street and a request that this budget, currently allocated to 2010/11, be brought forward to 2009/10;
- the need for a footpath on Coatesville Riverhead Highway;
- support for wastewater reticulation and stormwater networks, but not the supply of potable water;
- support for planned capital expenditure for public open spaces, libraries and community assets;
- that the \$2.4 million allocated for the Orewa offices should be spent on footpaths in Riverhead;
- that the previous allocation of \$53,000 for the provision of car parking at the war memorial be included back in the LTCCP;
- that the community is a walking community and needs footpaths to support the township;
- that the proposed upgrade of three roads had been dropped from the plan;
- that the planned coastal walkway was not included in the plan;
- that there were paper roads in the area that need connecting.

Submitter number 109: C Davies and N Babbington

A verbal statement was presented in support of this submission, pointing out the items to be clarified:

- the Muriwai area is subject to larger rates increases than the rest of the district and that this is unfair as their community does not get much for their rates;
- there is no need to amalgamate the HBC and rural Rodney rating system;
- any monies planned for the refurbishment of the Council building should be delayed;
- the emphasis should be on safety, footpaths are an important issue in rural areas and should be a priority;
- a small amount of foot paving has been done and there is some planned spend in the next two years but this should be pulled forward before the supercity comes into being;
- that wastewater consultations are a waste of time and money;
- the submitter is fed up with fighting two councils and hopes this will change with the supercity

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Submitter number W0253: Adam Knezovic

Mr Knezovic distributed a written statement in support of his submission (hard copy on file) and introduced himself as the Chief Fire Officer for the Shelly Beach Rural Fire Service, noting that his submission would help the Council to save money by the integration of the Rodney Rural Fire Service with the NZ Fire Service and pointing out the benefits. In response to questions regarding set-up costs, Mr Knezovic said that his understanding was that it was just a matter of an agreement. Mr Knezovic had presented the idea before but was formally presenting it now. Comment was made that this idea had been explored a couple of years ago and abandoned by the Fire Service, Mr Knezovic said that it was his understanding that the Council needed to approach the fire service on the issue. It was pointed out that Mr Knezovic's submission may provide an opportunity for further negotiations with the fire service.

Submitter number W0103: Colin and Cheryl Buckwell

Mr and Mrs Buckwell distributed a written statement in support of their submission and spoke of items that their submission focused on such as the provision of a footpath connecting a loop between Oraha Road and Riverhead Road to allow safe pedestrian access, pointing out the dangers in this area including:

- speeding vehicles;
- road width of only 6.5 m;
- poor visibility;
- danger to pedestrians and push chairs or wheelchairs;
- the substantial amount of fitness and exercise activity on this part of the road.

Mr Buckwell pointed out that there have been nine recent subdivisions in the area and the Council would have benefitted from the subdivider contributions. In response to questions Mr Buckwell said that it was possible to create a footpath without any modifications to the road and that the length of footpath required was the whole length of Koraha Road and a piece of Oraha Road.

Submitter number W0007: John Harre, accompanied by Jim Evans

Mr Evans introduced himself and distributed a written statement on behalf of Mr and Mrs Harre and four other properties concerned. Mr Evans gave background information about the properties involved regarding their location and lack of accessibility by road. Mr Evans commented that the Harre's rates would rise from \$286 to \$780, which was an increase of 172%, he felt that the Council's rating philosophy was unfair to all five properties and pointed out the ways in which he thought the Council could address the issue, highlighting the fact that they are on the border of Rodney and Waitakere and that there is no special connection between these properties and Rodney roads, which meant that the owners would be more likely to use Waitakere roads. Mr Evans pointed out that by his calculations, Rodney District Council pays for the maintenance of approximately one fifth of the part of Bethell's Road used by the property owners to access their properties and therefore they should pay 10% of the island and sea category 40% differential, i.e. 4%. In response to a question Mr Harre confirmed that his property was in fact a bach and not a residential property.

Submitter number W0045: Cedric and Dianne McLeod

Mrs McLeod made a verbal statement, providing photographs and a chronology of events (hard copies on file) in support of their submission relating to the reinvestment of Parakai Recreation Reserve Lease revenue and a targeted rate for Helensville Museum, offering support for the Council's view on community services. Mrs McLeod noted that the Parakai Recreation Reserve and the Helensville Museum are important assets for the whole district, further noting that the reserve consists of 45 acres, yet the only recreational facility is one small playground and the reserve requires investment as there is little to offer locals, visitors or tourists. Mrs McLeod showed photographs of the reserve to show the level of neglect and then went on to talk about applying a targeted rate for the Helensville Museum, recognising that ratepayers must be consulted and noting that it was not included in this plan even though it was requested.

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In response to questions Mrs McLeod said that the reserve needed facilities for children from school age through to young teenagers, stating that possibilities might include a BMX bike park, a skate park, cycle paths and seating as the size of the reserve gave lots of scope. Mrs McLeod said that she had not asked the community for donations. In discussions about the targeted rate it was confirmed that it had been discussed but was not included in the LTCCP, it was also confirmed that the Council would have to consult on the matter and that the first opportunity to apply the rate would be 1 July 2010. It was suggested that the museum consider becoming an approved recipient of the Auckland regional amenities rate.

Submitter number W0058: Don Nicholls

Mr Nicholls made a verbal statement in support of his submission regarding South Head Road, noting his concern that South Head Road had only been mentioned once in the plan. Mr Nicholls talked about the volume of traffic on the road, pointing out that the road produced \$1.5 million of rates and commenting that logging traffic from the removal of 240 hectares of pine trees had been very heavy, numerous lifestyle blocks had appeared and the golf club was open all year round and that all of these factors put a strain on the road. Mr Nicholls would like to see the upgrade of the road included in the LTCCP, noting the need for passing areas. It was pointed out that there would be no more logging for a while so any upgrade of the road would last longer.

Submitter number W0266: Louse Ashby

Ms Ashby made a verbal statement in support of her submission regarding the sealing of Cambridge Road, explaining the problems associated with dust contamination of water and providing a brief history of the development of the road since 1985, pointing out that increased traffic was producing heavy amounts of dust. Ms Ashby gave support for Karen Body's submission with regard to expenditure for footpaths. In answer to questions Ms Ashby said that there was no problem with tank water as a method of supply, the problem was just with the contamination of the water by dust. It was confirmed that financial contribution information relating to subdivisions in the area would be available for the Council deliberations on the submissions.

Submitter number W0250: Ian Dutton

Mr Dutton made a verbal statement in support of his submission, listing projects in the LTCCP which he and his wife approved; items that they would like included in the plan and items that they opposed; details of which are included in the written submission. In response to a question Mr Dutton clarified that he felt that subdivision to one acre blocks should be allowed in the area, with new properties being required to connect to the wastewater system.

Morning tea adjournment 10.45 – 11.00 a.m.

Submitter number W0065: Bruce Cowan

Mr Cowan requested that the fact that he was unhappy with the timing of the hearings be recorded, as he and his wife had wasted several hours of their time at the hearing. Mr Cowan pointed out that this was a personal submission although he is a member of the Kaukapakapa Ratepayers and Residents Association Inc. (Karra). Mr Cowan distributed a written statement in support of the submission, pointing out that their business would be subjected to rates increases, under the capital value system, of over \$1,000 which was 51.2%, that this was not what was indicated in the LTCCP and such a big increase was unacceptable. Mr Cowan explained that his business was in a rural setting, had minimal impact on the surrounding area, was not in receipt of many Council services, was situated on a dirt road and that the cost to his business of providing dust suppression alone was approximately \$30,000 per year. Mr Cowan felt that the use of a capital value system for their rating was not correct and requested assurance that their rates would reduce.

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Submitter number W0048: Diane Hampton, accompanied by Gary Restien, representing the Murray Jones and Riverhead Mill Advisory Committee

Ms Hampton made a verbal statement in support of the Committee's submission supporting an allocation of \$80,000 for an underbridge walkway to connect the Murray Jones Reserve with the Murray Mill Reserve. Ms Hampton noted that due to the speed limit there had been a reduction in speed on the road but that the Advisory Committee was still concerned about safe access to the Reserves, pointing out that a lot of work had been done on the reserve but that a lot of work remained. Mr Restien referred to a map of the Riverhead Forest and spoke of the Rawhiti River, the history and community spirit of the area and thanked the Council for their attention to the speed limit of 60km, noting that it had provided a big improvement on the bridge and emphasised the underbridge walkway would complete the good work that had been done and would benefit the children of the area.

11.18 a.m. Assistant Chief Executive (Warren Maclennan) in attendance.

Submitter number W0031: Bernadette Limbrick, representing the Kumeu Visitor Information Centre

Ms Limbrick thanked the Council for its support for the Centre and distributed a written statement in support of the Centre's submission providing information on the Visitor Centre, including:

- the Centre's plans to gain full I-site membership;
- future planned publications to attract visitors;
- statistics and information on tourism in the Kumeu area.

The Centre requested the continuation of funding as this would be a factor in progressing from associate to full I-site membership. Ms Limbrick stated that Kumeu Coast and Country Promotions were unable to be present at the hearing but were happy for Ms Limbrick to speak on their behalf. It was suggested that it would be helpful to see a trading report of the Centre's activities.

Submitter number W0064: Clifford Wright

Mr Wright made a verbal statement in support of his submission regarding rating proposals for 2009/10, noting that his rate increase would be just over 9% when Council costs should be reducing due to the economic climate, pointing out that he is on a fixed income, which had fallen by \$7,000 per year. Mr Wright felt that a reduction in property values in the area was due to Council decisions relating to non-conforming developments and this was covered in the petition which Cr Weld had presented to the Mayor. Mr Wright stated that the rates information on the Council website bore no relation to previous years' rates with no explanations and asked why this change had been made.

Mr Wright supported other submissions relating to foot access, pointing out that no provision for a footway had been made in the Te Kari Place subdivision and this had contributed to trespass problems. Mr Wright felt that rainwater storage should be obligatory in new properties as this would take pressure off the stormwater system. In response to a question Mr Wright confirmed it is his opinion that the impact on property values was as a result of subdivision in the area.

Submitter number W0071: Roy Brooks

Mr Brooks made a verbal statement in support of his submission relating to the increase in wastewater and supply charges for his multi-unit rental property, noting that the water charge had gone up by three times, and that as a landlord he was not allowed to charge tenants for water unless separate water meters were installed, questioning how the Council is allowed to charge any differently. Mr Brooks said that under the blanket charge he would be charged for nothing happening. It was said that under the draft LTCCP, the pan charge would be dropped so the empty flats would not have to be paid for; that the Council is attempting to make this fairer and attempting to bring in a remission policy. In reply to a question Mr Brooks confirmed that he could provide details of current and proposed charges.

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Submitter number W077: Chris Pairama

Mr Pairama made a verbal statement in support of his submission relating to the funding and operation of a zero waste policy, commenting that the reason he decided to speak to his submission was to elevate awareness of zero waste and to answer questions. Mr Pairama referred to the 2002 and 2005 Waste Strategy plans, congratulating the Council on adopting these and noted a review was due in 2008 and that the Council must adopt a zero waste plan for 2009 as part of the LTCCP. Mr Pairama pointed out that as from 1 December 2009 a waste levy could be gained by the Council under the Waste Minimisation Act 2002, commenting that a zero waste events strategy could be funded, referring to part 6 waste management. In response to questions Mr Pairama said that zero waste at public events was a matter of splitting the waste stream and ensuring it goes to be recycled where appropriate and not just to landfill and that he believed zero waste is possible.

Submitter number W0211: Leo Floyd

Mr Floyd distributed and read a written statement in support of his submission relating to the issues of wastewater, potable water and development contributions. It was clarified that the Kumeu-Huapai-Riverhead wastewater system would be built and provision had been made for it in the budget, that there was no minimum sign up and that the Council would be offering a package of funding options, these options were then explained. Mr Floyd said that he thought it was a good idea to provide mailed information to the residents. In response to questions Mr Floyd spoke of the current financial issues for developers.

12.10 p.m. Assistant Chief Executive (Warren Maclennan) retired from the meeting.

Submitters number W0102: Pam Pratt and W0097: Tanya Franklin

Ms Pratt made a verbal statement in support of her submission regarding the sealing of Hamilton Road, explaining the difficulties that the level of dust from the road caused, reducing the quality of life of the residents. Ms Franklin, who lives at the opposite end of Hamilton Road, read from her written submission, highlighting the issues involved and speaking of the difficulties the dust causes, mentioning the average vehicle count was 314. In discussion it was pointed out that the Council would not receive government subsidy towards sealing the road and the question of targeted rates was brought up. The submitters commented that they had contributed before in the way of an item on their rates bill for future sealing and it was explained that this was a charge that was levied across the board and not specific. In response to questions Ms Pratt confirmed that it was her belief that subdivisions had caused the increase in traffic down the road. In response to a question from Ms Franklin it was confirmed that the NZTA was looking at roundabout design in relation to SH 16 and Waimauku Station Road.

12.25 p.m. Assistant Chief Executive (Warren Maclennan) in attendance.

12.30 – 1.10 p.m. Luncheon adjournment.

Submitter number 202: Mike O'Neill, representing Helensville Parakai Ratepayers Association

Mr O'Neill made a verbal statement in support of the Association's submission, noting that he had access to a wide range of opinion from a wide age bracket. Mr O'Neill commented that he hoped the LTCCP was trying to improve things, detailing his areas of concern and confirming that he did not wish to change any areas of his submission. In discussions Mr O'Neill commented that motivation to improve things was low because of previous vandalism, believing that the Council should set up a framework to deal with this. In response to questions Mr O'Neill said that he felt that management of the Parakai Domain was lacking, that the lessee should be doing more maintenance and the whole area is lacking a coordinated management approach. Mr O'Neill felt that there was no satisfactory explanation for why there were two financial districts, commenting that this gave a perception problem. It was confirmed that the issue of the Dairy Factory in Helensville would be addressed in deliberations.

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Submitter number W0190: Pat MacMahon, representing the Kaukapakapa Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc.

Mr MacMahon made a verbal statement in support of the submission relating to the transport differential rate and gave examples of where the Association felt the calculations were incorrect, requesting that it be reviewed accordingly. Mr MacMahon went on to speak about zoning issues in Kaukapakapa and Karra's concern that structure plan items had been removed from the LTCCP, pointing out that capital input was required in the area. Mr MacMahon spoke of a subdivision which was allowed, with no notification, and had significantly affected the area, commenting that this highlighted the need for a structure plan. Mr MacMahon spoke of river clearance issues in the area. Mr MacMahon commented that the ten minutes allowed to speak to a submission at the hearing was not acceptable when representing a body of people. It was clarified that all of the submissions are read, regardless of whether people come to a hearing to speak to them and that ten minutes is a standard time to be heard, even in Parliament. In response to questions Mr MacMahon said he did not know of anyone in the area that had received a decrease in their rates payable. With regard to land sales Mr MacMahon spoke of the land next to the tavern pointing out that the land was integral to the structure plan and was critical for future commercial development.

Submitter number W0076: Mihi Shaw, accompanied by Tracy Davis, representing Tu Tangi Ora.

Mr Davis greeted the Councillors and said that he was present to support Mihi Shaw speaking to the Tu Tangi Ora submission. Ms Shaw made a verbal statement outlining the background of Tu Tangi Ora and their aims, including promotion of health and physical activity in the area, pointing out that sports were a high priority for the youth of the area and facilities were badly needed. Ms Shaw commented that Rautawhiri Park was a possible location for a sports complex, asking that this be investigated. Ms Shaw said that by 2018 there would be no resources available for people wanting to participate in sporting activities. Mr Davis spoke of the lack of indoor sports facilities and endorsed the suitability of Rautawhiri Park as an ideal area for developing a multi-sports facility. In response to questions Mr Davis said that he envisaged it as an ideal base for community activities in the region. Mr Davis confirmed that at the moment they just wanted provision in the LTCCP for this. Ms Shaw advised that she had attended meetings of the Rautawhiri Park Advisory Committee, who just wished to advise on the maintenance aspect at the moment but it was still hoped that they could work together on the issue.

Submitter number W0083: Mihi Shaw, accompanied by Christine Salmon, representing the Women and Family Centre

Ms Shaw made a verbal statement in support of the Centre's submission, thanking the Council for previous funding and requesting the development of a partnership with the Council in order to ensure quality services and to develop what was working well at the moment. Ms Salmon expanded on the work of the Centre and highlighted schemes that the Centre is involved in.

Submitter W0269: Gary Moss, representing the Huapai Reserve Advisory Committee

Mr Moss made a verbal statement in support of the Committee's submission, referring to a copy of the Huapai Reserve Management Plan and making further reference to points in the submission regarding the walking track, club rooms, car parking and the need to improve the reserve as it would soon reach capacity usage. Mr Moss said that the Committee was grateful for the support thus far received from Gavin Flynn but was disappointed to see that no land had been set aside for the provision of additional recreational areas. In response to questions Mr Moss agreed that land next to the showgrounds would be ideal for this purpose and that it would not matter if additional recreation areas were situated near the existing domain.

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Submitter number W0262: Ross Webber, accompanied by Arohanui Grace, representing South Kaipara Residents and Ratepayers Association

Mr Webber made a verbal statement in support of the Association's submission highlighting areas of concern. Mr Webber voiced support for a targeted rate of \$5 for the Helensville Museum, pointing out the South Head Road residents did not get many services and noting that the water tables were not regularly cleaned anymore, there were slumps in the road and as logging of the Woodhill Forest was nearing an end that this might be an opportunity to renew the road. Mr Webber spoke about deep water vehicle access to the Kaipara Harbour, saying how important it was to make this available for the future. Mr Webber spoke of his concern that Shelly Beach was ever popular but may suffer from this popularity. Mr Webber felt walkways were a good thing but posed problems with parking and security. Mr Webber commented on the importance of putting plans in place for the future of the area. In response to a question Mr Webber stated that any plans put in place should cater for the long term future.

Submitter number W0068: Arohanui Grace

Ms Grace made a verbal statement in support of her personal submission relating to South Head issues, highlighting points in her submission. Ms Grace spoke about the capital value rating system and the assumption that those who chose to invest in their property were assumed to have a large income, when this was not the case. Ms Grace appreciated the need to pay for the road, pointing out that it was one of the few amenities she received from the Council and would therefore expect to see consistent maintenance and upkeep of that road. Ms Grace spoke about the need for investment in Parakai and pointed out that the Council needed to make provision for future vehicle access to the Kaipara Harbour, commenting on the lack of consultation and feeling that Rodney District Council should hand over something visionary to Auckland Council. In response to questions Ms Grace felt it was the Council's role to consult with the people to come up with creative suggestions for possible access roads.

Submitter number W0027: Graham Harding

Mr Harding made a verbal statement in support of his submission relating to the proposed change from land to capital rating for the roading rate, making the key point that there is no relationship between land value and the transport rate and that a capital rating system made assumptions on income and ability to pay, noting that it penalised people who developed their properties and gave examples to illustrate his point.

Submitter number W0017: Terry Dimes

Mr Dimes made a verbal statement in support of his submission and noted his support of Mr Harding's submission. Mr Dimes requested that the proposed change to the rating system be rejected as it made an assumption of a person's wealth based on the size of the property they owned and it is unfair as it penalised people who had chosen to spend money on their property.

Submitter number W0024: Heidi Van Duyn, representing Te Awaroa Youth Club

Ms Van Duyn made a verbal statement in support of the Youth Club's submission. Ms Duyn thanked the Council for previous funding and requested continued funding of \$25,000 annually; pointing out that there was a need for funding on an ongoing basis. In response to questions Ms Duyn confirmed that supporting information had been and would continue to be provided, in relation to funding as part of the Youth Club's accountabilities.

The hearing of submissions was adjourned at 3.04 p.m.

18 May 2009

Thursday, 21 May 2009

The hearing of submissions to the Council's Long Term Council Community Plan 2009 – 2019 resumed at 12.06 p.m.

PRESENT: Penny Webster - Mayor (Chairperson)
 Crs Pat Delich (until 12.10 p.m.)
 Michael Goudie
 Gaye Harding
 John Kirikiri
 Dave Parker QSM
 Grahame Powell
 Zane Taylor (until 12.10 p.m.)
 June Turner
 Greville Walker
 Wayne Walker (from 12.11 p.m.)
 Suzanne Weld

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive (Rodger Kerr-Newell)
 Director: Customer Service (Lloyd Barton)
 Director: Corporate Services (Kevin Ramsay)
 Executive Manager (Paul Garbett)
 Democracy Services Manager (Ellen Barrett)

293/05/09 APOLOGIES

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1

Taylor/Powell

That the apology from Cr Craig for absence be received and sustained.

Carried

**294/05/09 HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS TO THE LONG TERM COUNCIL
 COMMUNITY PLAN 2009 – 2019**

FILE REF DG/11/3

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2

Submitter W0260: South Kaipara Youth Forum (not present) provided a DVD presentation in support of its submissions (copy on File: DG/11/3).

The meeting closed at 12.13 p.m.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD THIS 2ND DAY OF JULY 2009

MAYOR
