

Western Bay of Plenty District Council

**Minutes of Meeting No. CC14 of the Community Committee
held on 22 November 2018 in the Waihi Beach Community Centre, 102 Beach Road,
Waihi Beach, commencing at 10.00am**

Present

Councillor P Mackay (Chairperson), Councillors G Dally, M Dean, M Lally, D Marshall, M Murray-Benge, J Palmer, J Scrimgeour, D Thwaites and M Williams

In Attendance

M Dowd (Acting Group Manager Technology, Customer and Community Services), F Begley (Community Relationships Manager), C Lim (Community Team Leader), B Wilson (Community Relationships Advisor), G Ayo (Community Relationships Advisor), J Rickard (Senior Policy Analyst), L Nind (Governance Advisor) and M Parnell (Governance Advisor)

Community Boards

A Sole, (Chairperson, Waihi Beach Community Board)

Others

14 members of the public and as mentioned in the minutes.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Mayor Webber and Councillor Marsh.

Resolved: Thwaites / Williams

THAT the apologies for absence from Mayor Webber and Councillor Marsh be accepted.

Public Forum

Resolved: Scrimgeour / Thwaites

THAT the meeting adjourn for the purpose of holding a public forum.

Phil Bowyer encouraged Council to spend more funds on facilities at Waihi Beach. He specifically spoke about a local playground in need of refurbishment and suggested a shared footpath / cycleway at Island View Reserve and advised the current footpath was in disrepair and needed attending to.

Kevin Wright advised he had been to recent Waihi Beach Community Board meetings and that there had been some good financial statistic reported through the Community Board, and questioned if this would lead to a reduction in rates.

Mike Hickey advised that he had concerns about the security monitoring at Waihi Beach. He explained that the response time was too slow and that members of the community had been harassed by dogs but, by the time the monitoring service had been able to send anyone, the offending dog owner had gone. He also did not believe that people responded well to the uniformed presence.

Laurell Cullen-Wright advised she had been a resident of Waihi Beach for 36 years and had had some difficulty with dogs in the area. She had contacted Council regarding this and was advised that because the dogs were not registered in this district that there was little that could be done and she asked that this be investigated further.

Resolved: Scrimgeour / Marshall

THAT the meeting be reconvened in formal session at 10.09am.

CC14.1 **Community Team Update**

The Community Committee considered a report from the Community Team Leader dated 8 November 2018.

The Community Team Leader introduced herself and the team to those present and spoke to the report and explained the following:

- Reviewed the highlights of meetings held in 2018.
- The Committee would continue to be a platform for the community to the Council.
- The draft meeting programme for 2019 would be available at the next meeting of the Community Committee on 14 February 2019.

In response to questions, staff advised as follows:

- The Council was in the process of seeking to increase the amount that would be available for the Community Matching Fund through the 2019/20 Annual Plan process. The Chairperson explained some of the criteria of the fund and invited those present to apply in 2019.
- Clarification was given that there were to be fewer meetings of Council and its Committee in 2019 because it was an election year.

Resolved: Murray-Benge / Williams

THAT the report from the Community Team Leader dated 8 November 2018 be received.

CC14.2 Waihi Beach Community Board

Allan Sole, Chair of the Waihi Beach Community Board, was in attendance to speak to the Committee regarding the Waihi Beach Community Plan - 'Defining Our Future'.

Mr Sole spoke to a tabled powerpoint presentation:

- Although Waihi Beach was not a designated growth area in the Western Bay, Waihi Beach was still growing and moving forward.
- The plan from 2007 was not necessarily relevant for 2018.
- He spoke to the community feel, cultural heritage, the thriving local economy, the social and community groups and the natural environment at Waihi Beach.
- He advised of the Waihi Beach History Days, a very successful event, and the Historic Society that was formed from the event.
- He gave a status of the Athenree Homestead rebuild.
- He advised of a new business group that was working with the existing events and promotions group.
- He explained the process that the Waihi Beach Community went through to get their Town Connector Bus Service twice a week.
- He advised of the importance of Waihi Beach to be an age friendly town including the need for a residential rest home facility.
- There was a current project for an internationally recognised skate park and \$1.2 million would need to be raised for this.

In response to questions, Mr Sole advised as follows:

- There was still a faction within the community that believed that Waihi Beach should be part of Hauraki Council or Thames Coromandel District Council. There was concern about high rates in the Western Bay and he believed that Council was not necessarily selling themselves to Waihi Beach well enough in terms of debt reduction and the positive space this Council was in.
- The clinics Mr Sole ran had good quality ideas coming through but not many people attending. He advised the time the clinics ran and the length they ran for may be reviewed at a later date.
- There was a short review of the Community Plan in 2014/15. He believed that reviews needed to happen more regularly.
- There was a feeling in the community that Waihi Beach had been forgotten by Council in the past but he believed that this was changing.
- There was only one rest home in Waihi Beach that was a hospital care facility but he believed that there was more scope of a village type residential facility.
- The circumstances for Waihi Beach had changed and so a review of the Community Plan was appropriate but there was an issue finding people with the expertise to be able to do this.

Resolved: Dean / Thwaites

THAT the presentation from Waihi Beach Community Board be received.

CC14.3 Age-Friendly Communities / Age-Friendly Community Planning

Dame Peggy Koopman-Boyden was unable to attend the meeting and make her presentation.

Change to the Order of Business

The Chairperson requested that the next item of business be Keep on Your Feet - Sport Bay of Plenty, as the previous presenter was unavailable and Ms Garden was in attendance to present on behalf of Sport Bay of Plenty.

Resolved: Murray-Benge / Williams

THAT in accordance with Standing Orders the order of business be changed and that the item Keep on Your Feet - Sport Bay of Plenty be dealt with as the next item of business.

CC14.4 Keep on Your Feet - Sport Bay of Plenty

Rachel Garden, Project Leader of Sport Bay of Plenty, was in attendance to give the Committee an overview of the Keep on Your Feet programme - a nationwide Accident Compensation Corporation funded initiative to reduce falls and fractures and support older people to 'live stronger for longer', including benefits to participants/communities in the Western Bay District area.

Ms Garden introduced herself and spoke to a tabled powerpoint presentation:

- The Keep on Your Feet programme was attached to the Live Stronger for Longer national programme.
- Part of her role was to accredit classes as an approved strength and balance programme, to offer training programmes to help people become accredited and to liaise with community groups regarding the programme from Waihi Beach through to the East Cape.
- There was one class each in Katikati and Omokoroa and nine in Te Puke. There were plans for classes in Waihi Beach and Maketu communities and the team were open to facilitate more.
- There were different kinds of classes with different skill levels and the cost for participants was between \$2.00 and \$8.00.
- There had been positive outcomes in terms of the confidence of the participants.

In response to questions, Ms Garden advised as follows:

- The Keep on Your Feet programme in Te Puke that was a Tai Chi was the non-Taoist version of Tai Chi. The Judea class was Taoist Tai Chi.
- They were aware of the psychological limitations to people who are referred to them and understood it was a difficult hurdle to overcome.
- Their trainers provided both regressive and progressive programming and would offer options like first class free and did not commit people to more than one class at a time. They were aware that getting people to the first class was a challenge.

- Recommendations to the programme were not just for people who had fallen but were at risk of doing so.

Resolved: Scrimgeour / Dean

THAT the presentation from Sport Bay of Plenty regarding the Keep on Your Feet programme be received.

11.16am The meeting was adjourned for morning tea.

11.35am The meeting was reconvened.

CC14.5 **Population Aging Technical Advisory Group**

Anne Pankhurst, Population Aging Technical Advisory Group Chairperson, was in attendance to speak to the Committee regarding older people in the workforce.

Ms Pankhurst spoke to a tabled powerpoint presentation:

- Population Aging Technical Advisory Group think of aging as a complete process rather than creating age groups.
- The challenge of managing an aging population was a worldwide concern.
- The average age of a nurse was 54 years old and a truck driver 56 years old.
- She explained the myths about older workers, the business case for older workers and considerations for both employees and employers and how to value older workers.
- She believed that part of the way forward was to change ideas about aging and understand that an aging population was an inevitability.

In response to questions, Ms Pankhurst advised as follows:

- The argument about raising the age for retirement needed to be balanced with the workers ability to do their job (i.e. those who do manual labour) with the possibility of doing other duties within the business.
- A flexible retirement age may help remove the stigma from the age 65 for people. She believed that the discussion about retirement needed to be had.

Resolved: Dally / Murray-Benge

THAT the presentation from the Population Aging Technical Advisory Group be received.

CC14.6 **A Friend's Place - Waihi Beach**

Trudy van Stee, Founder and Programme Leader of A Friend's Place, was in attendance to speak to the Committee regarding the growing needs of the

elderly and key findings through experiences coordinating social groups for older people.

Ms van Stee advised the Committee as follows:

- A Friends Place had been open for three years and had been positively received by older people in the community as a social place that they could come and interact with others.
- There were about 64 people regularly attending, 60% of which were women, and was run by Ms van Stee and nine volunteers.
- Food was donated from local businesses for morning tea and lunch.
- Smaller groups at A Friend's Place programme were kept to between eight and ten people at a time.
- People were picked up and dropped off for free. They had had 210 requests for transport in 2018.
- Participants were charged \$5.00, which paid for the rent of the building.
- There were six volunteers who worked in the background, three of which made up an advisory board for A Friend's Place.
- Ms van Stee's vision was to see A Friend's Place programmes all around the country and she was looking at making A Friends Place an incorporated society.
- Average age of participants was 76 and the oldest participant was 94.
- A Friend's Place had been a partner in the Waihi Beach History Days event.
- The A Friend's Place band had been invited to play at community events.
- A Friend's Place participants went to social events together and participated in local RSA functions.
- Ms van Stee started the group with referrals from the local medical centre.
- Housing, social services and transportation were very important issues for older people.

In response to questions, Ms van Stee advised as follows:

- The group was at capacity at the moment but was made up from people in a lot of places in the district so once programmes were established in different communities, she expected the Waihi Beach group would be able to facilitate more people.
- She did not have anything personally to do with the pensioner homes but picked up people from the local pensioner homes and supported more in the area.
- She supported co-habiting as a residential option in the future.

Resolved: Dean / Thwaites

THAT the presentation from A Friend's Place - Waihi Beach be received.

CC14.7

Health in Aging Community Response Team

Jon Pearce, Social Worker, and Katie Ayo, Physiotherapist from Bay of Plenty District Health Board, were in attendance to speak to the Committee

regarding an overview of their services - medical services and assessments for elderly people; issues affecting elderly across our District and those pertinent to Waihi Beach and possible considerations for Council's Communities Strategy.

The representatives from the Health in Aging Community Response Team introduced themselves and spoke to a tabled powerpoint presentation. They advised the Committee as follows:

- Ms Ayo advised that they worked with people who were 80+.
- While all the team members had their different specialities the team members did not work in silos and helped each other meet the needs of their patients. This had the positive impact in that patients were not overwhelmed with many medical professionals with differing opinions at the same time.
- The Community Response team worked on a referral basis, generally after a medical event and were usually able to be mobilised the same day a referral was received.
- They referred patients to local groups and community services. Some of these local groups and services were difficult to connect people who lived rurally to.
- The Community Response team provided a lot of practical help in the community, including but not limited to providing shower stools and helping to fill out application forms for health benefits. Mr Pearce had done a lot of work with people around their health benefits and contacting Work and Income New Zealand.
- Studies had shown that the greatest worry of older people was that they were a burden to their family and to the system.
- A lot of older people had low BMIs and were undernourished.
- The benefits of swimming and water therapy for older people was amazing. Local pools needed to be accessible to both users and their carers.

In response to questions, representatives from the Health in Aging Community Response Team advised as follows:

- Bureaucracies tended to be created as a 'one size fits all', which does not fit everyone making it difficult for some people to use and created a barrier for some older people who were entitled to benefits but could not work out how to access them.
- It was noted that pools in this district still charged for all users as opposed to giving free entrance to the elderly.
- Some support was means tested and meant that important services were not always available to people who needed them.
- Conversations with those who valued their independence could be challenging. Strategies for mitigating this included helping people into community so they understood they were not alone in their situation and introducing aid devices, such as walkers, as sports equipment.
- The team focussed on building relationship and trust with their patients before tackling issues of wellness with them.
- They were not currently linked into feasibility studies for local pools but were connected to the issue through other avenues.

12.45pm Councillor Murray-Benge left the meeting.

Resolved: Williams / Lally

THAT the presentation from the Health in Aging Community Response Team be received.

The Community Relationships Team provided a summary of the meeting and reiterated that the decision regarding an increase to the Community Matching Fund was being discussed within the Annual Plan 2019/20 process.

The Community Team Leader made the following statements:

- It was important to plan ahead for older generations as well as for younger.
- The passion for Waihi Beach was evident.
- There was a greater understanding of Council and its staff of the work done with older people in the community.
- Older people are still active members of their communities.

The meeting concluded at 12.53pm.

CC14