

**Date:** Thursday 12 February 2015  
**Time:** 5.15pm  
**Meeting Room:** Oneroa Bowling Club  
**Venue:** 100 Oceanview Road  
Alison Park  
Waiheke

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## Waiheke Local Board

# OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

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Item 9.2

Attachment A





Item 9.2

Attachment A



Item 9.2

Attachment A



RB to WLB 12 02 2015.

In my submission to the Waiheke Draft Local Board Plan 2014 and the WLB hearing on 04 09 14 – submission number 6580 – I made continued references to the “board’s key initiatives which do not seem to be borne out by this plan which again focuses on the role of the board regarding council facilities to the exclusion of activities and facilities developed by the community.”

The reply from the chair of the board dated 9 December 2014 thanked me “for taking the time to attend and speak at the hearing on 4 September to support your submission focused on the Reserve Management Plan for the Onetangi Sports Park and Ostend Domain and the needs of young people on the island.”

This sentence – apart from the name, address and number – would appear to be the only difference from the reply to every other submitter.

The “highlighted key issues and considerations of the board and the “result of the community feedback” did not mention any of the matters which you acknowledge that I raised or those which were unacknowledged.

We have another similar “message from the chair” received with the Household Summary of the 10 year Budget 2015-25. This did include “develop a management plan for Rangihoua/Onetangi Sports Park.” But this is only one of the “mish-mash of past failures of local government management ...” Some comments on the priorities for 2015/6:

- The sports park pavilion was badly designed in the first place more to the designer's whims than the practical considerations of the community.
- Development of a community swimming pool has been on the cards for over 20 years.
- We had a resource recovery centre and composting facility until a much debated contract was given by the Auckland City Council to an overseas company which in its turn has sold the business on to other overseas investors.
- We were working on a Reserve Management Plan for the Onetangi Sports Park in the late 1980's before the aforementioned city council found it could not afford to draw up this plan.
- Pensioner housing developed by the community was sold off by a former mayor of the aforementioned city council to Housing NZ as it was not core council business.
- Community housing and properties now sees these community assets handed over to the property CCO and rented out to commercial tenants with the local community having increased costs for community hall hire.

Clearly the Household Summary puts forward for consultation leading questions in anticipation of answers it wants. From the headlines in the Gulf News, 12 February 2015, this demonstrates the “obfuscating verbiage” of the council’s PR team and does not provide any “reassuring clarity” for easy comprehension or to make submissions on. This budget needs to be worked on from the bottom up through community-led development as the Auckland Council advocates in its *Thriving Communities – Action Plan*.

Roger Bryant  
12 February 2015.



To the Editor, Gulf News, Oneroa, Waiheke Island.

Jingoism etc 08 02 15

Following the editorial – Gulf News 5 February 2015 – *One giant jingoistic national tantrum*, I found the opinion piece by Brian Fallow – New Zealand Herald business section February 6 2015 – *Key dodges funding issue*, an excellent follow-on to Gordon Campbell’s article in Werewolf issue 52 December 2014 – *Why good journalists are so ‘rude’*.

As Fallow writes: “ever increasing rates bills are a growing burden for elderly rate payers”. This can be confirmed locally by the increasing numbers of elderly ratepayers leaving the island because of “limited income growth.”

The latest rates review by the Auckland Council has seen increases in the value of the land but not in the value of improvements. If we bother to read the council’s “Household Summary”, delivered to every letter box recently, of the draft 10 year budget for 2015-2025, we will find the statement “same rates for same value properties. However the recent property revaluations of three Waiheke properties with \$30,000 of “improvements” are on sections with land values of \$240,000, \$470,000 and \$740,000. To me this means that people are paying more for their views and/or situations, as dictated by real estate companies, not for the minimal services received.

Fallow makes an interesting comment: “a persistent sore point is the propensity for central government to impose responsibilities on local government without any contribution to the increased costs they thereby incur, or any evident consideration of how these costs might be met”. This makes a farce of the Unitary Plan and the draft Budget with the government dictating to the council rather than working with the council.

The council in its turn does not work through the local boards and in producing this summary of its budget by overpaid public relations experts, trivialises the decision making rights of the ratepayers. The Waiheke Local Board may well ask “have we got our priorities right?” but the leading questions from the summary only provide more work for council staff and consultants to report back on to councillors before the “priorities” are again put forward in the next annual plan or three-year update.

The prioritized proposals of the local board are merely a mish-mash of past failures of the local government management of the island community ignoring our position in the Hauraki Gulf. In putting this *Household Summary* in every letterbox the Auckland Council ignores its own “Thriving Communities – Action Plan” which it advocates as “a more community-led approach to community development”.

I look forward to more “reassuring clarity” and less obfuscating verbiage from our elected representatives and council officers if this consultation is to have any meaning for the ratepayers and residents.

Roger Bryant  
08 February 2015.