

Chairperson's report for Aug - Sep 2016 – Paul Walden

1. RESIDENTS' ENQUIRIES

The local board office received enquiries regarding animal management, rates and reserve maintenance.

2. PROJECT UPDATES

2.1. Strategic Projects

Essentially Waiheke – the four week consultation of the draft Essentially Waiheke Refresh closed on Sept 7th with 87 returns submitted to Shape Auckland. Over 80% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with the themes expressed in the draft document. This represents a significant validation of the views and concerns of the local Waiheke community captured in the Refresh. It will be used to inform the incoming board's Local Board Plan, future initiatives of the board and upcoming reviews of statutory documents.

Matiatia planning – preparation of a strategic plan for the sustainable management and development of Auckland Council owned land at Matiatia. Project underway and project management meetings have been held to determine timeframes and process. Public information session held 13 September 2017. A report summarising work carried out, including key findings from the literature search, stakeholder interviews and workshops together with recommendations on areas of focus is due October.

Onetangi Backpackers – Facility was transferred to Community facilities from Panuku in July and scoping to bring the facility up to compliance level has been carried out. Substantial work includes water treatment, fire, electrical, security, lighting, painting, spouting, bathrooms, fitout etc. Community facilities have committed to completing these works and have the facility open and operational by 1 December 2016 with a temporary manager until end of April. During that time they will work with the board to develop a future long term plan for the facility.

Swimming Pool – Meeting scheduled with the schools, MOE and council officers to discuss possible next steps.

3. PORTFOLIO UPDATES

3.1. Planning & Regulatory

Unitary Plan – The board are progressing possible action on the implications for Waiheke following the Governing Body's removal of the Rural Urban Boundary (RUB) at the Governing Body meeting on 11 August.

3.2. Public Open Space, Sports and Recreation:

Ostend Boat Club - Waiheke Boating Club are delivering the boat wash area hardstand, footpath and seawall project under the empowered communities model. Progressing well.

Te Atawhai Whenua walking track upgrade – track design being finalised with Forest and Bird.

Interpretation signage roll-out – installation of interpretation signage at beach and wetland destinations on Te Ara Hura route. Enclosure Bay and Sandy Bay are priorities. Design approved. Installation due September / October.

Putiki Bay, Waiheke Island, Vessel and Mooring Management – monitoring and enforcement ongoing.

Waiheke Recreation Centre – annual operational funding agreement has been workshopped with the board. Improving community access is under discussion.

Waiheke Greenways Plan – a plan that connects Waiheke's arrival points, villages and popular destinations with a network of safe and enjoyable walking, cycling and riding trails. Will provide a strategy and action plan which Auckland Transport, Auckland Council, the local board and community groups will be able to use to prioritise funding and support for new projects. Scoping underway.

Ecological restoration programme – FY17 funding agreement signed and programme underway. Volunteer enthusiasm continues to support the Waiheke Resources Trust to work through the restoration programme deliverables which concentrates on reducing weeds, planting, maintaining and monitoring at the following sites:

- Matiatia headland (Church Bay esplanade reserve)
- Te Whau esplanade reserve
- Rangihoua wetland
- Te Matuku Bay esplanade reserve

3.3. Environment:

Assessment of Marine Reserves – The Hauraki Gulf Conservation Trust has completed phase one of the project, with the submission of a major report assessing the five locations proposed by the board for marine protected areas. The report found that all areas were suitable, with the northern sites most appropriate for increasing the abundance of reef fish (especially snapper) and crayfish, whilst the southern sites best for juvenile fish and shellfish. The report stated that the five sites were largely consistent with scientific recommendations for the establishment of networks of marine protected areas. He stated that successful no-take marine reserves have increased fish abundance up to 14-fold and that there is an urgent need for action in the gulf to address declining biodiversity.

Coastal assessment for wildlife – Assessment underway to better understand the location of bird wildlife around the Waiheke coastline. Report back due in November.

3.4. Arts and Culture:

Artworks building roof repairs due to commence this summer.
Headland Sculpture on the Gulf meeting held with event managers.
Christmas festival event coordinator engaged.
Agreements for the Art Gallery and Artworks Theatre finalised.

3.5. Community:

Waiheke Youth Voice – The Learning Centre continue to provide a valuable mentoring programme delivery role with the Youth Voice.

Housing Needs Analysis – the board has undertaken an analysis of housing needs on Waiheke. The report looks at the range of housing provision on Waiheke, rental housing supply and demand, attempts to quantify the numbers of people on Waiheke with a housing issue and identifies those sectors of the community most in need. This information is required to provide an evidence-base for the local board plan and future housing initiatives on the island.

3.6. Transport:

Matiatia Terminal Parking Design – the board met with Auckland Transport's parking designer to put forward its final position after consultation with transport operators. There was agreement on most points, however the board advocated to: retain pre-booked parking on the traffic island, make more room for large tour buses for the use of all companies, install a pedestrian crossing to the head of the taxi/shuttle rank, develop a standing area for large buses away from the keyhole, install additional signage in the terminal directing a passengers to pre-booked vehicles, develop a clear guideline of the new

procedures for transport operators and to arrange a meeting of all stakeholders to explain the new rules.

Hospital Bus Shelter – the board has advocated to Auckland Transport for a bus shelter for the hospital bus and AT has agreed to make this a priority. It is currently consulting with local businesses on the issue. The board has asked for an urgent update and is planning to take up the matter with the AT Board of Directors if not satisfactorily resolved.

Belgium St Bus Shelter – AT has agreed to extend the Belgium St bus shelter to cater for increased use by supermarket customers. AT has agreed to retain the character of the existing structure. The works will be funded from the board's Transport Capital Fund.

4. Board Member Reports

4.1. Shirin Brown

Board Member Report

September 2016

Kia Ora Everyone

Well this is my last board report of the term. While it's been quite hard trying to keep up with what's been happening and then phrase it in a way that makes sense, it's been an interesting way to check in with all the projects.

Waidrive launched last week at adult education. Thank you to Pat Knight from the police and Fiona Gregory from Waiheke Adult Learning who scraped together resources, energy and good will to bring us a double-pedalled instructor car, a business model to keep it working over the long term, as well as the training of a local instructor. There was a bit of Board funding both for the instructor training and the development of the business model. What I love is that it's a great example of facilitating and resourcing community to get what we need. Although it seems easy, the project has taken three years to get here and is now on track with good support from Waiheke High School and Waiheke Youth Voice. While we can argue that there are already too many cars on the roads, being able to drive opens up work opportunities and keeps everyone safe from unlicensed drivers.

There has been a governance review of Auckland Council and feedback is being sought from outgoing and incoming local boards. The prevailing feeling in Council is that the Regional governance has worked better but that local boards are feeling disenfranchised. There are some interesting ideas around what kind of model could

work for Waiheke, which I'm sure have been influenced by the One Waiheke discussions. It will be interesting to see how this plays out in the next term. The big limitation is that CCOs haven't been included in the review and this lack of accountability is a source of concern.

Auckland Transport are aware of traffic issues at Countdown and the streets around Ostend, including the effects on Putiki Road. There is also an awareness of the parking issues with goods vehicles, taxis, and temporary parking all vying for space. Unfortunately with the way parking changes are decided and enacted and the need to get it through committees and paperwork, this will take time to sort out.

The tourism forum met last week with ATEED to discuss the implications and opportunities of the Lions Tour and Masters Games in 2017. The tourism forum is holding their AGM on Tuesday 5.45 for a 6.00pm start at The Venue in Onetangi.

A public meeting was held about Matiatia on Tuesday night at Palm Beach Hall. While people seemed generally happy with the long term plan, there were a few queries as to how long it would take and a lot of concern around parking.

My view on parking at Matiatia (please don't shoot the messenger), is that there are a number of issues which need to be addressed. There just isn't enough space for everyone who wants to park so we need to be a bit more thoughtful around taking the bus, cycling or carpooling. While the island doesn't have park and ride facilities, could you drive somewhere that you can park close to a bus stop? At the same time, the bus service needs to reflect real time journeys better (which it doesn't outside of commuter ferry times), and the road to Matiatia needs to feel safe for cyclists. This would free up parking for those with mobility issues, heavy bags, those who have errands to run and kids to pick up. The population of the island has hardly increased, but the car ownership per household has and there are perhaps more people commuting than before.

This Summer there will be 8 parking spaces that are available only after 12pm to allow later travellers to find a parking space. My view is that we should have time zoning in some of our car parks (e.g. no parking before 9, or 11 or whatever) to allow more flexibility so that early commuters don't fill the parking. The alternative is that Auckland Transport put up parking prices but in my view it is unfair to manage parking needs through price as some people need to park but may not be able to afford the fees. We are also expecting a bus review next year.

AT are currently working on a process for the tendering of space at the terminal and sprucing up the toilets there.

There also seems to be a big push to get the Backpackers open before the biggest part of the season. While it's disappointing that things are taking so long, it seems that some of the compliance, maintenance and zoning issues are coming close to being resolved and will come right before the biggest part of the visitor season.

The board has had over \$100,000 worth of grant applications for the last round and we're giving away around \$12,000 so as usual it's a bit of a hard decision.

It's been an interesting three years. I've learnt a lot about people, myself, trying to get things done in a bureaucracy and being positive when things don't go to plan. I hope that people have felt that I took concerns seriously and did what I could in situations where the outcomes weren't always achievable or the responsibility does not sit with the board.

Lastly I'd like to acknowledge my fellow board members. It's not easy being on the Waiheke Local Board and having different approaches and solutions has certainly been a challenge but I think we have all worked in the best way we know how. I'd also like to acknowledge council officers, particularly our local staff and the people who live locally. The vast majority of Council officers I've met work incredibly hard across a number of different boards. Many of them have been with Waiheke for a long time and really understand and work hard for our community. And lastly I'd like to acknowledge those people in my family, friends and the community who have helped me look on the bright side, and stay positive and laugh through the challenges.

Nga mihi nui

Shirin