

Board Member Report July-August 2017

Kia ora koutou,

Busy as always on The Local Board. We've been through the feedback process and are now finalising the local board plan. The feedback suggests people are generally satisfied with the direction we're taking. The summary of feedback can be found at

http://infocouncil.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/Open/2017/08/WHK_20170802_AGN_7699_AT.PDF?fref=gc There were also a few comments stating a desire to see more specific initiatives mentioned or things that reflect our particular community as it was difficult to identify the content behind the words.

The main themes to emerge for me from the feedback were the importance of affordable housing, protection of the natural environment, more cycling and walking options, residential care facilities and better management of stormwater. There was a big variety of presentations at the hearings from a desire to protect wetlands through doing better place-making in our village centres, to the need for more space for a community space for youth on the island.

The proposal for a marina at Kennedy will now find itself in mediation in early September to try and resolve the gap between those who would like one and those who enjoy the Bay and Waiheke the way they are. Unless things are resolved in mediation, there will be an environment court hearing following this.

Matariki provided a great opportunity to reflect and enjoy community events and there were a number of inspirational activities on the island. Piritahi Marae also celebrated a year since the Tuwhera and it was lovely to see the progression of the work through Baraka's lovely film. I'm not sure if I've been here long enough to be considered a local but being able to be a tiny part of such an amazing experience, certainly helps to ground me here.

I was in France in July to see my parents and took the opportunity to find out about social housing in the rural town where they live. In France, each municipality must include 15% of social housing stock. Failure to do so or work towards this, results in fines that need to be paid to central government. To provide this, the municipality is required to buy suitable land at commercial rates and then onsell this to developers. The developers either develop the land, and onsell a percentage of that to a special development agency to build the social houses, or the whole project is taken on by a social housing provider. Central government subsidized the purchase of the land by developers for the creation of social housing. The model is not providing sufficient social housing but at least it's a start with the government being proactive.

Given the NZ national inertia on housing, it was really exciting to go to the launch of our own Waiheke housing trust which is working towards building up a stock of affordable rental properties. If you'd like to find out how to get involved or to donate check out the Waiheke Community Housing Trust <https://www.wcht.org.nz/about-hayden/>

In early August the Local Government Commission invited submitters to see a presentation by Morrison Law on the costs of running Waiheke as a unitary authority or district council. Their conclusions were that Waiheke would run at a 43% deficit as a percentage of rates over 1 year as a unitary council and a 36% deficit as a District Council. This was discounting the cost of the overheads Auckland Council incurs in delivering a service as a large organisation, and also providing the current level of service. It also excluded the costs of Auckland Transport. Lots of questions were asked about whether the analyses could be provided for scrutiny, whether any analysis could or would be made on Waiheke as a community board existing under Auckland Council. They did acknowledge that there could be other social benefits from having a Waiheke authority. Now the Commission will take into account the figures they have, and combine that with their other research and communication with the community to come up with some recommendations.

There is a grant application that is current open and closing on September the 8th.

<http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/newseventsculture/communityfundingsupport/Pages/findagrant.aspx#377>

You might also like to express a view on the name change consultation for Omiha. <http://www.linz.govt.nz/news/2017-06/consultation-proposal-change-%E2%80%98omiha%E2%80%99-%E2%80%98rocky-bay%E2%80%99>

Upcoming events on Waiheke....

Spring and Summer - yay. I'm looking forward to the days getting longer and warmer. Recently there seem to be a few more flirtatious birds on the powerlines so we can't be far away.

Arohamai

Shirin