**Waitākere Ranges Local Board**

**OPEN MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS**

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Note: The attachments contained within this document are for consideration and should not be construed as Council policy unless and until adopted. Should Councillors require further information relating to any reports, please contact the relevant manager, Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson.
CDL Development in Swanson

- Between Christian Rd and Tram Valley Rd
- Next to the huge Penihana development
- Approx. 50-70 houses
- In Resource Consent phase (or just granted)
- Highly visible from Swanson Rd (red arrow)

Request to Local board to:

- **Use the Heritage Guidelines** for Swanson
  (as developed by Boffa Miskell at the request of this local board)

So that:

- We do not get another sea of grey houses with grey roofs
  but instead something more suitable to the village character of Swanson
PROPOSAL FOR COMMUNITY HALL IN SWANSON
25 OCTOBER 2018

There has been ongoing discussion within Celebrating Swanson concerning the need for a Swanson community hall. You will be aware that Celebrating Swanson is an informal group of passionate Swanson people who have for the past 12 years met monthly to foster community spirit, and to organise local events.

There is a community room at the school but this is very small. The school hall is large but utilitarian, and is not ideal for social occasions. There is also a hall behind St Marks Church, and a larger area at the Swanson RSA. Both have their pros and cons, but neither are ideal as a multi-use community facility. St Marks is limited for space and seating layout, and the RSA does not offer every day availability or privacy.

With the development of Penihana the population of Swanson is increasing rapidly, and the need for a suitable facility is becoming more pressing. There is also a need for more hall space for Ranui, which is a 2 minute drive away.

For these reasons we wish to explore the possibility of a community owned hall. We believe land at Swanson Reserve could be used for this purpose. Swanson Reserve is currently under-utilised but has access already in place, but it needs to be upgraded.

There are two possible solutions to provision of a building. One is to relocate an existing Council hall, or perhaps a surplus church or school building. A heritage building is desirable but not essential. The other option is to build a hall on site and to incorporate heritage features in terms of design, colour, and materials.

We have been looking at possible relocation options but unless we have Board approval in principle we cannot do anything, even if we find the perfect building. For this reason we are asking Board to consider our request, and if agreeable to ask the appropriate Council officers to investigate and report on the logistical issues this may raise.

This proposal has support in principle from Celebrating Swanson. We are also having discussions with the Swanson Railway Station Trust with a view that they become the formal entity for this initiative.

John Newick
For Celebrating Swanson
Feedback on:
Draft Code of Conduct
24 October 2018

For clarifications and questions, please contact:
Raewyn Curran
Senior Local Board Advisor – Waitākere Ranges

The Waitākere Ranges Local Board provides the following feedback on the Draft Code of Conduct as follows:

a) Support in general the two principles based upon an affirmative approach

b) With regard to the principle of trust, replace the word ‘community’ with ‘public’

c) With regard to the principle of respect, adjust bullet point 7 to read ‘endeavour to maintain public confidence’ and delete ‘in the office to which I have been elected’. Adjust bullet point 9, adding the words so that it reads ‘maintains the confidentiality of information provided to me that is noted as being confidential’

d) Propose that both principles do not have a list of bullet examples as they in themselves are open to interpretation rather, where possible, give definition through specific legal description

e) With regards to material breaches, adjust the wording in relation to ‘undermining’ as feel that robust discussion could be misconstrued as being seen as undermining

f) Support the overall approach that elected members are not involved in the process

g) Support the use of an independent commissioner, noting the need for them to be held in high esteem or have a relevant background

h) Support an information protocol proposal and that members should be able to access information requested in that the approach should start with the presumption that all information should be supplied and good reason is required to withhold information.
Chair’s report – October 2018

It has been a busy time with a couple of significant citizens dying, a number of conferences and celebrations and with decisions being required for some projects and facilities with significant local importance.

Obituary - Assid Corban

A prominent local government personality who died recently is Assid Corban. He was another larger than life Local Government politician who over an extended period of time gave service to the West Auckland community.

He was first elected to public office in 1956 at the age of 31. He served at different times as Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillor of the Henderson Borough Council as well as Mayor and Councillor of Waitakere City Council and a Councillor of the Auckland Regional Council. He also served for many years as a trustee on the Waitakere Licensing Trust and more recently as a member of the Henderson Massey Local Board.

He had a very forthright direct approach to things and was instrumental in getting a number of civic projects completed. Projects like the West Wave Swimming Complex and the revamp of the Henderson Bowling Facility.

His family was a major driver of West Auckland’s wine industry and a significant contributor to its history. The area rightly has the name Corban stamped all over it.

One comment that he made really impressed me. He said “You have to make the day-to-day decisions, but the ones you make for the future are the most important.”

Rest in peace Assid.

Obituary - Penny Bright

There was some sad news recently. Auckland political activist Penny Bright finally succumbed to ovarian cancer and has died.

Penny was one of Auckland’s unique political activists. She was a regular attendee at protests and had that endearing characteristic of saying exactly, precisely what she thought.

Without fear.

She railed against what she said was corruption at Auckland Council and urged there to be greater transparency.
She engaged in a rates strike, refusing to pay rates on her home until transparency was improved. This led to claims and counterclaims and High Court action. Simpson Grierson’s legal bill to Auckland Council was over $100,000. Rates arrears at the time were $33,000. She offered to settle the defamation suit by being given an apology and $10,000. Council turned down this very economically rational offer.

The crazy thing in relation to the rates arrears is that Council could have sat back and not spent a thing and made more money. Arrears attract a 10% penalty per annum and Bright did not have a mortgage, preventing Council from seeking that the mortgagee pay the arrears.

The stress of the court action clearly had an effect on her. I recommend people never go to court unless there is absolutely no alternative. Life is too short for that sort of stress.

She also stood for public office. She was almost elected as a Councillor in the early 2000s in a by election. Imagine what would have happened if she had won. She also stood in each of the Auckland super city Mayoralty elections. She achieved 2,700 votes in 2010, nearly 12,000 in 2013 and over 7,000 in 2016.

She has been unwell for a while. It is a sign of her fortitude and strength of will that she survived as long as she did.

And one of the most touching things I have read for a while was something that her former nemesis John Banks said. “I haven’t met anyone with more fight than you. Whenever you referred to me as John Banks I knew I was in trouble” he said.

I did not necessarily agree with what Penny said but I could never fault her passion or bravery. Rest in peace Penny.

**Penny Hulse**

Councillor Penny Hulse announced recently that she will not seek election again to Auckland Council. She has represented the west for many years, for one term as a Community Board member, for five terms as a Waitakere City Councillor and for three terms as a Super City Councillor. She has also served as Deputy Mayor of Waitakere City and of Auckland Council.

It has been my pleasure to work with Penny for many years. She has been a passionate and skilful representative. She has always been a strong proponent of Eco City and the Waitakere way which involve highlighting the importance and strength of the community and of environmental protection.

She is doing something rare as a politician, leaving on her own terms and while on top.

I am sure the Government will recognise her skills and find positions where she can contribute her skills and her experience.
Glen Eden’s Pataka Free Pantry

I have been heavily involved in the Glen Eden community since 1988 when I set up my law practice here. I have always liked the place. It is full of good people and has a strong and proud community. And it is a generous community. You just have to see the multitude of groups and organisations that exist here to realise that many people give freely of their time.

The latest example of this is the establishment of three free road side pantries in Glen Eden. A number of people have been involved but Heather Tanguay, Joy Bennett, Lisa Sherwood, Ecomatters Trust, Levelled up Builders, the Glen Eden Residents Association and many others should be praised and thanked.

The idea of the pantries is simple. Locals with plenty can deposit food into the pantries so that locals who are struggling can receive free food. From each according to their ability and to each according to their need. Micky Savage would have been proud.

Even the large businesses have been involved with Fresh Choice Glen Eden making a significant donation.

I am not sure where the proposal came from although Heather Tanguay was the first person I heard raise the idea. She then floated it on facebook and the idea took off. Clearly a number of generously minded local people also thought it was a really good idea. If only social media worked more often like this!

This is a local example of the Pataka Kai movement, the translation of which is Food Pantry. The movement is a resident led, grassroots, crowd sourced solution to helping locals that are in need. At the same time it builds and strengthens community.

Donation is totally discretionary. Those in need can take what they need with the only expectation that they leave enough for others.

This is not a new idea. Historically it has always been a feature of our community that we look after each other. It is only in these more recent dog eat dog days that this generous community spirit has been reduced.

Congratulations again. If you do drive past one of these Pataka Kai and you have more than enough think about leaving something for those in our community who struggle more than we do.
Ecomatters love your place awards

This was another local board sponsored event held recently. The event is to celebrate and recognise the many contributions that individuals and groups make to environmental protection out west.

There were a number of categories and many nominees in each category and some outstanding descriptions of the really important work that people do.

For the board, there was an especially poignant award, the Denise Yates Award for those under the age of 16 who show emerging leadership around local environmental issues.

Leon Schipper received a Judge’s commendation. He has shown outstanding leadership at Laingholm Primary School by bringing back school composting, litterless lunches, and food gardens.

The winner was Thomas Forrest-Dawson who has supported the rāhui by talking to people on the tracks about kauri dieback and eagerly cleaning their footwear, tyres and paws as they entered and exited the tracks. He has also helped with data collection, educating community about kauri dieback and assisting with infected trees. He clearly is a future environmental warrior in the making.

The Rata Award for the outstanding volunteer group was awarded to the South Titirangi Neighbourhood Network for their work in monitoring, weeding, planting, and have 300 households involved in a large predator control programme.

The Judges also awarded commendations to Kauri Dieback for its work in raising awareness of and treatment of kauri dieback, friends of Whatipu for the outstanding work it performs in caring for Whatipu and the Reconnect Family Services Supported Bail Programme which works with troubled youth, teaches them about the environment and carries out work on Project Twin Streams and Waikumete stream restoration.

There were a number of other groups who were finalist but did not quite make the final cut. The competition was strong.

The competition for the KahiKitea Award, given to the outstanding individual volunteer, was also strong. Commendations were given to Derek March for his work on Project Twin Streams, Annually
van den Broeke for her tireless work for Forest and Bird as well as other causes and Mels Barton for her work on kauri dieback, tree protection and on improving water quality.

The winner was John Sumich.

For many years he has put huge amounts of time working tirelessly for conservation, in projects such as Ark in the Park and Habitat Te Henga.

There were special acknowledgments for Te Kawerau a Maki for their leadership, and staunch and unwavering commitment to protecting Te Wao Nui a Tiriwa in the face of kauri dieback and to the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society for their long-standing care and protection of the Waitakere Ranges.

The West Auckland Heritage conference – 7 October 2018

This is a conference sponsored by the local board which involves all that is good about the west. The current year’s conference was exceptional. The title was “the Creative West”. Areas covered include the arts, culture and the environment.

The day was jam packed with interesting speakers who spoke on a number of topics. I could not get around to them all; there were four streams of meetings occurring at the same time. But I managed to see Mandy Patmore talk about the Kakano Art collective and its work with young artists and Judy Miller who spoke about her home at Anawhata, her exposure to nature and its effect on her art.

The theme of Miller’s speech, that the rugged dramatic nature of Waitakere’s environment attracted rugged, dramatic people to live there and worked as something of a filtering system really struck a chord with me. Wesiles are the way we are because we are attracted to the area. Her speech really made me reflect on what it means to be a westie.

There was a core of people involved in the organisation of the event including Sandra Coney, Annaliy van den Broeke and the Board’s PA Sharon Davies. They all deserve our thanks.
West Auckland Train Safety

I attended a recent Ministerial press stand up at Glen Eden railway station where Phil Twyford announced new funding to improve safety for pedestrians around the rail system.

Phil Goff and Carmel Sepuloni MP were also present.

Stars of the event were Presley and Karamea Matthes whose son Keenan was killed on a rail crossing just over a year ago. Since then they have been passionate advocates for improved safety. They spoke passionately and put us politicians to shame! It was one of the most touching press conferences I have ever been to.

And the changes are overdue. Glen Eden already has a safety gate installed and this has improved safety. A further eleven rail crossings across the city will be upgraded with automatic gates and hazard lights.

In the next five years, the plan is to make safety improvements at all 51 rail crossings across Auckland. And, in the next 20 years, the plan is to grade separate or close every road crossing and rail in Auckland.

It will not be cheap. But, as shown in New Lynn, if done properly it can have a transformative effect on an area.

Going West Writers’ Festival – 1-16 September 2018

This has been a time of festivals with the annual Going West Writers Festival also being held recently. The festival is another regular event with the first festival occurring 22 years ago.

It was the brainchild of Murray Grey and Naomi McLeary and received support from Bob Harvey when he first was elected Mayor.

I seem to know most of the trustees. Like all good community people they perform multiple things for multiple community groups.

Naomi McLeary deserved special comment. I am confident that there is not an artistic activity out west that Naomi has not had major involvement with. She is and has been a wearer of multiple hats. She was instrumental in driving Waitakere City’s support for the arts.

She has had a significant role in entities such as the Lopdell House Trust, McCahon House Trust, Waitakere City Orchestra, as well as the Going West Trust. The west is blessed with the quality and number of artistic organisations and Naomi deserves a big part of the credit for this.

The festival itself performs an important function.
I can recall reading in the 1990s a book by Robert Putnam "Making democracy work". He studied Italy and tried to figure out why parts were highly civilised first world areas and other parts verged on having third world status. His conclusion?

The presence of choral societies and other artistic collectives are a major indicator of civic health.

In northern Italy, where citizens participate actively in sports clubs, literary guilds, service groups and choral societies, regional governments were "efficient in their internal operation, creative in their policy initiatives and effective in implementing those initiatives." But in the south where civic engagement was far weaker, regional governments tended to be corrupt and inefficient.

Putnam explained the phenomenon in terms of "social capital".

Organisations such as artistic collectives foster reciprocity and trust and cooperation as well as pride in their local areas. And this improved interaction with Government improves the quality of Government.

The festival itself and the work that Naomi and others are indicators that we have a well-functioning democracy. I look forward to the next Festival and hope and trust that the trustees will continue with their work.

**Glen Eden two towers**

The towers are reaching skyward and are due for completion next August. There is a lot that need to happen before then.

Sixty percent of the apartments will be set aside for social housing. There is a lot of community interest in making sure that the new residents will be looked after and integrated properly into the community.

I expect over the next few months a great deal of work will be put into this effort. It is important that the development is an exemplar for this sort of development.

**Christian Road Subdivision**

There has been some interest in an application for resource consent to subdivide a block of land near the Swanson Railway Station and within the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area. This was one of three Heritage Area properties that through the Unitary Plan process had its zoning changed.

The application raises some interesting issues. It is important for Auckland to build around its public transport nodes as this is the only feasible way to slow down the increasing reliance on cars.

But at the same time the Heritage Area needs to be protected against this sort of incursion. The intent was to address the gradual case by case attack on the environment that development would cause, the “death by a thousand cuts” scenario.

The application is heading through the notification process. The local board will be monitoring progression of the application with interest.
Glen Eden playhouse

The local board has been keen to ensure that the Glen Eden playhouse is used to its maximum potential. It is a facility that has had a great deal of public money poured into it and there is an expectation that it will serve the public interest.

Recently, contact has been made with members of the trust and a helpful dialogue has occurred. Ken Turner has been instrumental in this.

This dialogue should continue and we will hopefully find a way to assist the Playhouse Trust with their aims and aspirations while making sure that the facility has the best use possible.

Regards
Greg Presland
Waitakere Ranges Local Board Chairperson
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