

Report Name: Anne-Marie Coury's report

Report covering the period 6th November to 4th December 2017

Auckland Council workshops, meetings and briefings

9 th November	attended Board workshop
16 th November	attended Board Business meeting
22 nd November	attended workshop on Resource Management Act and Local Boards role in consenting processes.
22 nd November	attended Green Cluster covering planning on Freeland Reserve
23 rd November	attended Board workshop meeting
27 th November	attended Regional Cluster meeting of Local Board Members
29 th November	participated in a speaking role and leading the singing of the National Anthem

Other meetings

13 th November	attended the Women Urbanism evening with Swedish guest speaker on Vision Zero to gain more awareness on the concept and the process of implementation
17 th November	collaborated with Member Holm to assist in writing the Board's feedback to Auckland Council on the proposed Waste Management Minimisation Plan.
20 th November	attended the Fire Service stakeholder meeting with St Johns and Council staff together with other Local Board members/councillors.
20 th November	attended the first monthly community workshop on the Western Isthmus Water Quality with Councillors and Local Board Members.
24 th November	dropped by the Wesley Market to catch up with community Advocates
24 th November	attended Celebratory Morning tea at the Blind Foundation where the presenter was Julie Wood, "that blind woman" an inspiration to the sighted. (photo →)
26 th November	participated in a local beach clean up on the Waikowhai Coast at Faulkner's Bay on the edge of Waikowhai Park run by community action groups.
28 th November	attended Auckland Regional Migrants Annual Public Meeting
2 nd December	Three Kings Christmas Festival at our local park
3 rd December	attended Gribblehirst Commons meeting to observe how the concept is working and the challenges faced so far in establishing a community hub.



Other issues/challenges

Environmental decline is one of the three most important challenges facing Auckland Council in the next ten years. This is being matched by the fact that our fastest growing area of volunteering is the environmental sector. There is no doubt that many people care about ensuring our flora and fauna are protected, our endangered species are supported to make sure their numbers do not drop dramatically, and most of all water quality is high enough to permit beaches to remain open over summer. The urgent need to decouple sewer and storm water pipes in areas of old Auckland

city is only one aspect of the issues within water quality needing to be tackled within the 10 year long term plan.

Looking ahead we face a challenge of adequately informing our residents on the facts and facilitating robust discussion on solutions to these issues, while evaluating any proposed solutions within a wholistic framework. Taking time to attend briefings by staff, community forums, and read through evidence have seen my workload increase again.

Our Local Board Plan, is ready to be unveiled at our Community Forum this coming month,

Our Low Carbon Plan will invite our residents and businesses to consider how they can play an active role to reduce their carbon footprint. This coupled with our healthy eating plan will rely heavily on community leaders, groups, and individuals becoming engaged in collaborative action I am committed to increasing low carbon days, where I bus and walk or bike rather than take the car, I have had to make eight or nine bus trips per day on some days just to attend meetings across town. Obviously taking the bus on Thursdays is more efficient because I sit in one long meeting for five hours plus with a ten or if I am lucky fifteen minute break for lunch. Overall, the savings in fuel are going to pay off next year when the fuel petrol tax comes in.

Illegal dumping continues to mar the appearance of our neighbourhoods. Certain places seem to attract these dumpings, and they seem to become known hot spots, being revisited time and time again, yet possibly by different folk. We need to encourage more people to report these dumpings and to become more willing to be more active in capturing information, especially vehicle plates of those who dump as well as considering counter actions. In some areas a barbecue on the weekends held in the spot where dumpings occurred on weekly basis for several weeks seemed to send a message, but may have ended up in moving the problem on.

An Airport Noise survey has been conducted with little publicity. There is real public interest in whether changing flight paths when weather patterns dictate a necessary change in direction, means more people are losing sleep, being woken as often as hourly. The survey was aimed to focus on daytime, when most residents are at work so it is doubtful whether the feedback will provide useful data. More information is needed on when trials are being conducted and how people can participate in giving feedback.

Disclosures

My on-going focus when I am advocating on behalf of seniors in community forums representing Auckland Grey Power members, is reflecting the evidence that has been used to develop current Grey Power policies. I make sure to clarify I am not representing the Board.

It is worth noting that advocacy at Local Board level by both Age Concern and Grey Power Associations across the region, has been partially heard. The generalised feedback to Auckland Council by Boards on the Auckland Plan Refresh, has incorporated some of the feedback concerning the importance of recognising the rapidly growing ageing population. However the real significance and wider context of comments made to the those staff working on the Plan Refresh has been lost through an overall lack of understanding of the issues for seniors negotiating their daily lives in a non senior friendly city; that is all age unfriendly in effect.

This means a rethink and greater intensity of advocacy initiatives from within the senior community over the next three months.

Recommendation/s

a) That the report be received.

Signatories

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