Date: Tuesday 21 April 2020
Time: 4.00pm
Meeting: via Skype for Business. Either a recording or written summary will be uploaded on the Auckland Council website.

Henderson-Massey 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.
Chris Carter - Chair’s Report for April 2020

Nga mihi nui ki a koutou

The Prime Minister informed the nation yesterday that we will remain in Alert Level 4 for another week and then the Government’s intention is move the country to Alert Level 3 for at least two more weeks. This will mean that our local board business and staff activities and our community engagements will continue to operate remotely. I want to thank local board staff for the great job you have done to ensure business as usual continues with a focus on electronic rather than personal interaction.

Over the last month, I have been in regular skype and telephone conversation with Board members, staff, our two local Councillors, Linda Cooper and Shane Henderson, as well the chairs of the Waitākere Ranges Local Board and Whau Local Board. Two significant joint initiatives occurred as a result of this West Auckland collaboration. The first involved a joint advocacy letter to support the Waitātora District Health Board’s application to the Government’s Infrastructure Fund, for new funding to construct additional patient services at Waitākere Hospital. The letter was signed by the three West Auckland board chairs on behalf of our board members. This support letter for an upgrade of Waitākere Hospital was completed in conjunction with a similar letter of support for the DHB application from Councillors Cooper and Henderson.

The second collaborative West Auckland action was a joint support for Auckland City to request additional funding for the Te Whau Cycle/Walkway linking Te Atatu with New Lynn. The Henderson-Massey Local Board and the Whau Local Board strongly advocated for this project to be listed on Auckland City’s priority list of 30 ‘shovel ready’ projects submitted to the Government’s Infrastructure Industry Reference Group. That body will determine which infrastructure projects could proceed as part of the Government’s post COVID 19 economic stimulus package. The request for $32 million to support the Te Whau project was listed at number 15 on the final list of 30 proposed Auckland wide projects.

I have, like many others, been doing a lot of walking in our local area over the last 4 weeks. Its been really evident that most residents in West Auckland have responded to the rules around COVID 19 in a very positive way. There is a strong sense of community good will in most places. Complete strangers say hi in the street and queueing at those shops and supermarkets still open are respectful and friendly. Perhaps one of the positive things that will come out of this pandemic will be a greater appreciation by people of being part of a wider community that has shared interests and responsibilities.

I would like to compliment Council staff who were very active in the period before Alert Level 4 in signposting health and safety notices relating to COVID 19 in our local parks, playgrounds and reserves. I have spent a lot of time visiting these facilities over the last 4 weeks and seen numerous examples of helpful notices posted from Council advising appropriate health messages.
I have been very impressed with many of the parks and reserves in our local board area. I am sure that many local residents, out exercising during the Level 4 lockdown, will be forming an appreciation of the foresight shown by previous Councils and Boards in establishing quality green space, cycleways and reserves and making these places accessible to the public in the Henderson-Massey area. It may be timely for the Board to consider asking Council staff to complete a survey audit of all Council reserve land in our local board area to see what opportunities we could still have to open up more publicly owned land for public recreational access.

Level 3 COVID response will continue to challenge us in getting our Local Board community engagement and business processes completed. We could explore how we might use social media more effectively in reaching out to our residents and in finding pathways where residents can continue, despite the lockdown, to advocate and engage with the Local Board. A good topic to consider for next week’s workshop.

Naku noa na

Chris Carter
Chairman
Henderson-Massey Local Board