Maungakiekie-Tāmaki 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.
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Ward Councillor Report
August 2020

This is the Ward Councillor report covering the period from 28 July 2020 to 25 August 2020. It has been prepared for the August meeting of the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board business meeting.

The purpose of my report is to detail my main activities and to share information with the local boards in my ward regarding governing body decisions, my attendance at events and meetings, constituent issues, media updates and key issues.

Positions

- Deputy Chair, Planning Committee
- Deputy Chair, Regulatory Committee
- Liaison Councillor, Disability Advisory Panel
- Member, Tapuna Maunga o Tāmaki Makaurau Authority

General update

- The Parks, Arb, Community and Events Committee approved the Māori Outcomes Performance Measurement Framework.
- The Planning Committee agreed on a delegated group to approve the notification of an Enabling Rainwater Tans Plan Change to the Auckland Unitary Plan.
- Responding to the COVID-19 Alert Level 3 lockdown for Auckland, with a particular focus on responding to the needs of our Pasifika communities.

Committee meetings – Key Decisions

The minutes for all meetings are available on the Auckland Council website. The following is intended as a summary only.

30/07/2020  The Governing Body:
- Adopted the Emergency Budget 2020/2021, including 21 Local Board Agreements; and set rates for the 2020/2021 financial year.
- Agreed the Tapuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2020/21; adopted the amended Elected Members’ Expenses Policy; and confirmed appointments to the Demographic Advisory Panels.
- agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Crown, Kaipara Uri entities and the Northland Regional Council to progress the proposed Kaipara Moana Remediation Programme, and establish a joint committee to provide stewardship and governance for the programme.

11/08/2020  The Finance and Performance Committee:
- received an update on progress for the financial year 2020/21 and agreed it prudent to reduce debt for the first half of the financial year in the event of material improvement in budget capacity.
- The Committee also endorsed the Te Whau Pathway and Resource Recovery Network funding agreements and approved $5.2 million of additional capital expenditure, and associated shovel-ready funding, in 2020/21 for the Resource Recovery Network Project.

13/08/2020  The Planning Committee:
- Agreed on a delegated group to approve the notification of an Enabling Rainwater Tans Plan Change to the Auckland Unitary Plan and requested

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staff report back on the options for mandating the installation of rainwater tanks in certain situations.

- Established delegations to carry out powers, functions and duties relating to resource consents and notices of requirement under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020.

20/08/2020 The Parks, Arts, Community and Events Committee:

- Approved funding allocations for: Regional Events Fund; Regional Arts and Culture Grant; Regional Sport and Recreation Grants; Community Access Scheme; Cultural Initiatives Fund.

- Endorsed the Kia Whai Kāinga Tītīou Strategic Framework (cross-sectoral approach to homelessness) and noted that council will take an adaptive management approach to manage the current uncertainty, while maintaining a focus on the goal that homelessness is rare, brief and non-recurring.

- Revived the I Am Auckland annual update on issues impacting young people. The committee agreed that staff will monitor and report regularly on the COVID-19 impacts and council responses for young people.

- Approved the Maori Outcomes Performance Measurement Framework.

Other Key Meetings and Events

28/07/2020 Attended a briefing for the Liaison Councillors to the Advisory Panels, including an overview of the role, debrief on the recruitment process, and discussion on the year ahead.

31/07/2020 Visited the New Zealand Management Academies (NZMA) Trades Centre in Mount Wellington and invited to a sitting of the Silver Service Lunch from hospitality students.

- Met with Tāmaki Regeneration Company at their offices in Panmure for an update of work in the area.

01/08/2020 Joined the Ladies Pink Bike Rave, a community lead free bike ride.

03/08/2020 Celebrated the start of Cook Island Language Week events at the Glen Innes Library.

05/08/2020 Joined Humanity NZs first outreach night at Ellen Melville Centre to assist Owen Pomana and his team in providing food for the homeless.

06/08/2020 Attended Tāmaki Regeneration's Trades Night, where trade students, current apprentices, and their whanau are invited to meet with employers and training organisations.

07/08/2020 Attended the announcement of the Auckland Metro Upgrade programme. This event marked the start of early enabling works at Southdown, linked to the Third Main rail line between Wiri and Quay Park.

- Attended the opening of 'Kāi & Coffee' a local cafe in Glen Innes providing Pasifika fusion food.

14/08/2020 Attended meeting with Pasifika Chairs and Councillors, Phil Wilson, Head of Citizens Engagement and Insights, Auckland Emergency Management Staff and Ministry of Pacific Peoples staff to discuss and coordinate a response to the COVID-19 lockdown that meets the needs of our Pasifika communities.

17/08/2020 Invited by Hon Jenny Salesa, Associate Minister of Health, to join zoom meeting for Ministers, Government officials and community leaders to discuss the recent outbreak of COVID-19 in Auckland and how we can work collaboratively to respond to it.
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Joining the call was the Prime Minister and Dr Ashley Bloomfield, Director-General of Health.

22/08/2020  Invited by Hon Aupito William Sio, Minister for Pacific Peoples, to zoom talanoa with Pacific Ministers and the Prime Minister to discuss ways to collaborate and meet the needs of our Pasifika communities in our recovery from COVID-19.

Interview with Seumanutafa AP McCarthy for Pacific Teens in Lockdown facebook page, providing advice and support for Pacific Youth.

Constituent Issues

This month I was contacted by constituents about the following issues:

- Covid-19 Lockdown assistance: Assistance for rough sleepers; Sourcing PPE for churches and community groups; Assistance with food banks experiencing high demand; Queries around playground rules and public toilets at Panmure Basin.
- Support Letter for Humanity NZ’s (lead by Owen Pomana) request to do outreach nights for the homeless out of the Ellen Melville Centre.
- Requests for housing assistance.
- Request for assistance with wheelchair access poorly installed in a Tamaki housing residence.
- Reports of dangerous housing in Pt England.
- Reports of a pothole on Pakuranga Rd (AMETI roadworks).
- Query about large Watercare bill.

Media Reports

Attachment A: ‘Unkindness towards elected officials at an all time high’ (RNZ: The Panel interview)
Attachment B: ‘Busway bridge launched over Tamaki River’ (OurAuckland article)
Attachment C: ‘Pasifika councillors urge people to get tested’ (OurAuckland article)
Attachment D: ‘COVID-19: Auckland mother, children potentially exposed to community cluster asked to pay for test’ (Newshub article)
Attachment E: ‘We know what to do, urges Councillor Bartley’ (OurAuckland article)

Recommendation

That this report be received.

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Attachment A


Unkindness towards elected officials at all time high

From The Panel, 4:40 pm on 4 August 2020

Listen 6'18" Add to playlist | Download

A long time Auckland councillor has written about how in her 27 career she’s never seen as much unkindness towards elected officials as she sees now. Fellow councillor, Josephine Bartley talks about the ongoing hate towards elected members.

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Busway bridge launched over Tamaki River

Published: 16 August 2020

There are four spans and each one is connected to the section behind it. Each span of the bridge is around 50 metres and takes up to ten days to inch across the river. Mayor Phil Goff says this construction method is a first for New Zealand and speeds up the assembly.

"The first of the steel bridge spans were delivered to the construction site earlier this year and are the largest single steel spans ever to be fabricated in New Zealand.

"The new busway bridge is more than 200 metres in length and contains 1,000 tonnes of steel and 2,000 tonnes of concrete," says Mayor Phil Goff.

"It’s a feat of engineering and will be an integral part of the completed busway, supporting high-frequency bus travel between Panmure and Pakuranga and eventually Botany once the full project is completed in 2025.

"Thanks to funding provided through the Regional Fuel Tax, this project will transform east Auckland and deliver the transport infrastructure needed to accommodate population growth and support the provision of new housing. Most importantly it will give locals real transport choice and go a long way to easing traffic congestion in the east of our city.”

The bridge runs alongside the existing Panmure Bridge and will include new cycling and walking paths and lookout platforms.

Councillor Josephine Bartley says, "I understand the project has caused an inconvenience for many in the area, however once completed it will enable better connections to public transport, better journey times and more options for walking and cycling. These outcomes will have wide-reaching social, wellbeing and economic benefits for our communities”.

Councillor Paul Young says the Eastern Busway bridge being launched into place will be a visible sign of the progress being made on the project and Councillor Sharon Stewart agrees.

"The Eastern Busway will be game-changing for east Aucklanders, not only connecting the area to the rapid transit network but also providing improved local travel options, enhanced public spaces and a focus on better urban design for the local area," says Councillor Stewart.

The busway bridge will be complete by the middle of next year with stage 1 of the Eastern Busway due to be finished by mid-2025.

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AMETI Eastern Busway at a glance

The Eastern Busway project is separated into four stages:

- Panmure to Pakuranga (Stage 1)
- Pakuranga Town Centre and Reeves Flyover (Stage 2)
- Pakuranga to Botany Busway (Stage 3)
- Botany Town Centre Station (Stage 4)

Key features to be implemented in Stages 1 to 4:

- New signalised intersection in Panmure
- 7km busway between Panmure and Botany
- 1km of walking and cycling connections
- 2 new stations in Pakuranga and Botany
- 2 new bridges across Tāmaki River and Pakuranga Creek
- New flyover connecting Pakuranga Road with Pakuranga Highway (aka South Eastern Highway)
- Safety improvements at key intersections and town centres

For more information on the AMETI Eastern Busway, visit the Auckland Transport website.

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Attachment C


Pasifika councillors urge people to get tested

Published: 14 August 2020

Auckland’s Pasifika councillors are urging their communities to seek medical advice if they are feeling unwell and to follow through with getting tested.

“The latest COVID outbreak has been centred around our communities in South and therefore each and every one of us needs to make sure we are doing our part in reducing the spread. Please contact your GP or Healthline if you are feeling unwell,” said Councillor Alf Filipeana.

Councillor Josephine Bartley said, “Please remember that the virus can easily spread so it is vital we are following social distancing rules, wearing masks where appropriate and check on those who are vulnerable.”

“It is really important to be kind to those who might test positive. Now is not the time to stigmatise or shun people. If we do that, others will be reluctant to come forward and that is the last thing we want,” said Fa’amana Efeso Collins.

All three Councillors urged their communities to remember that testing for COVID is free no matter where it is done.

A list of testing sites in Auckland is available on the Auckland DHB website.

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COVID-19: Auckland mother, children potentially exposed to community cluster asked to pay for test

A concerned mother from a young Auckland family says although they are showing COVID-19 symptoms and are possibly connected to the community cluster, they were asked to pay for a test at their local GP when they should be free.

Toaone Tauala, who is currently four months pregnant and has three children aged three, four and five years old, said added pressure to her already stressed family.

"It was really frustrating [being told to pay for a test]. I'm actually four months pregnant right now and I have three kids that are showing symptoms," she told Newshub.

"Sometimes we don't have that kind of money. $20 could go to either our food or doctors. It's kind of hard for us."

Tauala says her symptoms started off with just a sore throat last weekend, but then grew to sneezing, a runny nose and coughing throughout the rest of the week. Her three children have shown similar symptoms, but now just have strong chest coughs. They weren't tested for COVID-19 since they're all aged five or under.

"We're kind of just keeping an eye on them and just hoping it's just a normal cold and not the coronavirus."

She says family members have had contact with the Southern Cross Campus school case, and her household was at a family event in Papatoetoe last weekend. After that, her household all started showing symptoms, but she still doesn't know if a family from the known cluster was at the event.

Her family members who had possible contact with the Southern Cross case have come back negative, she says, and they're just waiting on four more results from that bubble.

"There may have been some church members from the [Congregational Christian Church of Samoa Mangere] Puselele church. We're still waiting to hear if there was anyone there at the event."

A family in this church's congregation has tested positive for COVID-19.

"We're just nervous. We're kind of just waiting, but we didn't want to wait until it comes through the media that we have to go and get tested - we wanted to get it done as soon as we could," Tauala says.

After being told at her doctor's visit she had to pay for a test, she waited until she could visit her local pop-up testing clinic in St John's eastern Auckland on Sunday. She says she lined up first thing and was relieved to have a test.

"I'm so happy that we've got it out of the way - just waiting now."

Local city councillor Josephine Bartley says people have been forced to pay for a doctor's visit in order to be tested for COVID-19.

Bartley, who represents the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki ward which includes St John's, says her community has been overlooked because it is not considered south Auckland.

"We still have a large number of Pacifica and Maori communities in our area, and they've had to go outside our area to access testing. Some have even been referred to Botany, so it's so important we have this testing station here," she told Newshub.

The Auckland Netball Centre in St Johns is being used for free testing.

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We know what to do, urges Councillor Bartley

Aucklanders need to keep playing their part by following Alert Level 3 guidelines so that together we can stop the spread of COVID-19 in our communities, says Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Ward Councillor Josephine Bartley.

The Government’s decision to move Auckland to alert level 3 until 26 August after a new outbreak of the virus means everyone in Maungakiekie-Tāmaki neighbourhoods once again has a role to play by staying home and staying local when they go out to shop or exercise.

“Our communities were really good the last time around, and so they know what to do. It is quite simple. Stay away from public amenities, wear a mask when in public, stay home when you can and together we can make sure this is over as quickly as possible,” explains Bartley.

All council facilities are closed and amenities like playgrounds, park benches and basketball courts are off-limits during lockdown.

Other non-essential services affected include libraries, pools and leisure centres, service centres, visitor centres, our network of community venues and our early childhood education centres. Bartley explains that even if you can’t see a closed sign on the equipment, the fact that COVID-19 can live on a surface for up to 72 hours means that to be safe you should keep off it.

“One of the main questions I’m getting at the moment is around playgrounds, the answer is simple, yes they are closed. Signage is going up but with over 1000 across the city it’s a process.”

A full list of affected facilities and amenities can be found on the OurAuckland website. Councillor Bartley also says that the council has a range of great activities to help you and the kids keep busy at home during lockdown.

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