Whangarei District Council District Living Committee meeting - 13th June 2012.

LINK to appropriate Agenda

Chair Cr Shelley Deeming welcomes all with a good morning, to all those present at 1030hrs.

Apologies were received for Mayor Morris Cut forth and Cr Phil Halse.

It was 1031hrs and Item No.1. Minutes of a Meeting of the District Living Committee held 9 May 2012 (Page 1)

Moved by Cr Jeroen Jongejans, seconded by Cr Sharon Morgan.

These were duly passed and no discussion was necessary.

With the time still at 1031hrs it was on to Item No.2. Minutes of a Meeting of the Community Funding Subcommittee held 9 May 2012 (Page 3) Moved by Cr Warwick Syers, seconded by Cr Greg Martin.

No discussion was required for this item.

With the time still at 1032hrs and Item No.3. District Living Group Monthly Report May 2012 (Page 5)

Moved by Cr Sue Glen, seconded by Cr Sharon Morgan.

Shelley asked Paul Dell to lead them through the report.

Group Manager District Living Paul Dell advised that there had been an increase in the number of building consents (Page 5)

He also advised that 'the Alcohol Reform Bill was being tweaked with the final reading around September'. (As mentioned on page5)

Cr Deeming advised councillors to 'feel free to ask questions'.

Paul Dell informed that it was 'business as usual last month'.

Jeroen Jongejans had a question regarding Plan Change 65 - Longview Estuary Estate on page 12.

Paul Dell advised that there were 3 Plan changes they had issues with the time being taken on; it had been 6 months with no decisions and they were following up with their solicitor.

Cr Aaron Edwards had a query to an item on page 15.

Cr Merv Williams joins the meeting at 1034hrs.

It was most interesting to note in the report also on page 15, Item No.h Hikurangi Motorsport and Outdoor Recreation Park. Work on the draft Plan Change has now ceased. The focus will now move to looking at a range of options throughout the district. This is certainly great news for the residents of Gomez Road whose lives had been in disarray since this project had entered the public arena mid 2011.

Cr John Williamson had a query on Landscape (Page 15 d)

Policy and Monitoring Manager Paul Waanders gave an explanation to the query.

Cr Shelley Deeming advised that she had received a number of calls from people in regards to Landscape but were advised by these people that the NRC (Northland Regional Council) had advised then to contact the District Council.

Cr Merv Williams informed that he also had received some calls in regards to this issue.

Cr John Williamson queried the Regional Policy Statement on page 15 Item g).

Paul Dell explained that it was basically 'here is the line, what are the rules?'

Cr Sue Glen queried Item e) Urban Design also on page 15.

Paul Dell confirmed it was about the CBD design, which they were working on and would then bring it back to council. It was about laning and mall proposals which the inner City Committee was re working it, to bring it back to council.

Cr Sharon Morgan queried the last paragraph on page 26 regarding liquor incidents.

She also had a question in relation to the Sir Peter Blake Leadership as to who gave the nominations.

Owen Thomas, Senior Community Services Advisor answered these questions, giving details on both.

With the time now at 1046hrs it was on to Item No.4. Community Funding – 2011-2012 Annual Report (Page 30)

Moved by Cr Warwick Syers, seconded by Cr Sharon Morgan.

Cr Brian McLachlan had a query on policy.

Cr Warwick Syers gave details about how the subcommittee looks at parameters for funding. 'There was no suggestion of major changes, just some tweaking here and there'. Interesting, 'tweaking' on item 3 and 'tweaking' here on this item; sounds like 'tweaking' is the new 'in' word.

Cr Aaron Edwards queried the timing for the Onerahi Soccer Club loan (Page32) and this was explained by Paul Dell.

It was now 1049hrs and Item No.5. New Road Names- (Page 34) Moved by Cr Greg Martin, seconded by Cr.Jeroen Jongejans.

Cr Crichton Christie had a query re the names and the selection of them.

Resource Consents Manager, Alistair Hartstone explained that council doesn't normally ask for names but they can be submitted with name applications for streets.

Cr Crichton Christie had concerns and was not keen on having 2 lots in a subdivision given street names. (See plan on page 42 and you will understand Crichton's concerns) What he is basically saying is that if you sub divided your section into 3 lots, a road could be formed and a name requested for the access for the back two lots. Paul Dell claimed they were following policy.

Cr Crichton Christie believed it was getting beyond what we have intentions on. Paul Dell advised 'we feel we are following the policy and are comfortable with the policy we have'.

Cr Warwick Syers, agreeing with Cr Christie, felt it will get to a silly stage. He asked if council will get back with the amount of incidents of this happening. If it is a one-off that's ok, but let's wait and see.

Alistair Hartstone confirmed that this was just a one-off.

Cr Crichton Christie insisted that it come back to council to discuss.

Cr Merv Williams asked if this was going to create a problem with indexing systems like smart phones, as people will be using maps on their phones and phone memories will have to expand extensively.

Alistair Hartstone advised that Emergency Services Postal services are advised of these new names.

Cr Aaron Edwards had concerns in regards Mahoe Lane and Mapoe Lane (Page38) being similar and bringing confusion to Emergency Services.

Cr Greg Martin advised that these names were put in by the people in the community and they will use them anyway. This is quite a common thing with 'nick names' of the roads given by many in little communities and that's what the locals know areas as. They use nick names for roads, beaches, hills, properties etc and always will.

So, that's it, all over till the next episode, with Cr Shelley Deeming calling the meeting to a close at 1056hours and thanking all for attending.

Cr Crichton Christie asked if they were to take a stand on the gambling policy. He was advised that was not being discussed as it was not on the agenda. I take it from that they don't want to discuss this in the open forum so WATCH THIS SPACE for future developments.

We were invited by Jude Thompson, WDC Chief Operating Officer to stay for a presentation by Brian Roberts, General Manager and Nineke Metz, International marketing from Destination Northland which we accepted. An interesting presentation supplying some even more interesting tourism figures.

All information in regards to this meeting's agenda and others are available on the Whangarei District Council website by clicking on this link.