



Minutes of a meeting of the Community Development and Wellbeing Committee held in the Council Chamber, 26 Gordon Street, Dannevirke on Wednesday 3 July 2024 commencing at 1:00pm.

1. Present

Councillor A K Franklin (Chairperson), Her Worship the Mayor - Mrs T H Collis, Crs E L Peeti-Webber (Deputy Mayor), S M Gilmore, P A Johns, M F Long, K A Sutherland, S A Wallace and S M Wards

In Attendance

Mr B Nicholson - Chief Executive
Mr R Suppiah - Group Manager – Corporate and Regulatory
Mrs K Tani - Group Manager – Strategy and Community Wellbeing
Ms G Nock - Strategy and Corporate Planning Manager
Mr K van der Oord - Communications Team Manager
Mr M Dunn - Manager – Programmes and Projects
Ms F Chase - Facilities Manager
Mrs A Dunn - Manager – Democracy Services
Ms S Ellis - Democracy Support Officer

2. Welcome and Meeting Opening

The Chairperson opened the meeting with karakia from Her Worship the Mayor.

3. Apologies

That the apology from Councillor N L Chase be received and leave of absence granted for the meeting.

Sutherland/Gilmore

Carried

4. Public Forum

4.1 Public Forum - Ann Sergeant

Ann Sergeant was in attendance, and spoke to the Committee regarding her concerns about Dannevirke water supply fluoridation. She stressed fluoride as a

toxic by-product of fertiliser industry operations, and highlighted the responsibility of the Committee surrounding the wellbeing of Dannevirke residents, which extended to any chemicals added into the water supply.

She spoke of how several qualified health professionals had spoken out against the use of fluoride in New Zealand water supplies, and likened this to the historical endorsement and later repudiation of substances such as lead, asbestos, and thalidomide. She stated that studies utilised by the government to justify the use of fluoridation included flawed methodology, and thus could not reliably be considered an accurate representation of the effectivity of fluoride – in particular, a comparative study between Napier and Hastings was cited.

She reported on an international critique undertaken in 2014 surrounding fluoridation in New Zealand, which claimed that the requisite health and safety standards reported as met were in actuality unfulfilled. She also spoke regarding correspondence between professors, who classified fluoridation as complex and a potentially emerging issue.

She noted that protective clothing was required to handle fluoride byproduct from phosphate fertiliser, and that the fluoride to be added was not pharmaceutical grade - such as toothpaste, which was advised not to be swallowed anyway. She also questioned why fluoride would be classified as a pollutant if it were released into the environment, but not so if added to the water supply.

She queried why Councils could not unite and put together a delegation of representatives to approach central government. She spoke to her understanding of the pressure placed on Council regarding the financial burden on ratepayers, but added that it had been stated by a government health department lawyer that there was no intention to fine Councils. She asked Council to read an informational email regarding fluoride she intended to send.

5. Notification of Items Not on the Agenda

Nil

6. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest in Relation to this Meeting's Items of Business

Nil

7. Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 8 May 2024 (as circulated) be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Peeti-Webber/Long

Carried

8. Presentations

8.1 Presentation - Tū Mai Rā Trust Rāngitane Housing Developments

Representatives from Tū Mai Rā Trust Rāngitane Housing Developments – Mavis Mullins, Darrin Apanui, Michael Jamieson, Shaun Lines and Aaron Karena were in attendance and gave a presentation about:

- Progress and plans for housing delivery in the Tararua District;
- Papakainga and Māori Purposes Zoning; and
- A proposal to explore a community services hub in Pahiatua.

They spoke about the housing development proposed by Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-a-Rua through Tū Mai Rā Investments, on properties received as part of the settlement process with the Crown, noting the potential for this to be the biggest investment in new housing within Tararua district since the 1960s. The Tararua sites included:

- Matamau school (cultural redress site);
- Hillcrest Dannevirke (treaty settlement);
- Hillcrest Pahiatua (treaty settlement).

Currently they were at the planning / design stage, with the following assumptions as the basis:

- each site would comprise a mixed tenure, mixed community approach (rentals, owner occupier, singles, couples, families, kaumatua).
- They were looking to nurture caring communities.
- Nests rather than nest eggs – multi-generations living in these places.
- Affordable, accessible, quality homes built to last.
- Reflect a Rangitāne design signature and tikanga.

Their presentation also covered the realities they were facing, with property development and housing being an expensive business, the need to build for modern life (solar power, people versus cars), and uncertain funding pathways.

They also outlined the challenges ahead of them, with barriers such as high interest rates, unclear Government policy and funding models. They spoke about shifting the mindset from construction to production as a solution to the cost to build new homes.

They outlined the masterplans for the proposed developments at Matamau, Dannevirke Hillcrest and Pahiatua Hillcrest.

The next part of their presentation covered the support from Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-a-Rua for the inclusion of Māori Purposes Zoning within the new District Plan, which would enable activities such as papakainga housing, marae and associated activities on Māori land to assist Māori communities to provide for their unique social, cultural, environmental and economic needs. This zoning would recognise

the relationship of Māori with their ancestral land. They were looking to co-host public meetings to educate the community about the Māori Purposes Zoning with Tararua District Council officers.

The final part of the presentation covered the proposal from Rangitāne o Tamaki nui-a-Rua to lead an engagement process with current social service providers to establish a Social Services Hub in Pahiatua. They spoke about the benefits of co-locating social services in one site, and noted the Pahiatua Town Hall building as a suitable site. They noted the benefit of focusing all the services alongside the library, which they believed would assist in supporting greater use and vibrancy. They were looking to co-host public meetings to explore this proposal with support from Tararua District Council officers.

The Chairperson gave thanks on behalf of the committee for the informative presentation.

9. Reports

9.1 Management Report

The Community Development and Wellbeing Committee considered the report of the Group Manager - Strategy and Community Wellbeing dated 21 June 2024 that provided an update on key activities and items of interest over the period since the last report to the committee.

With regard to the statistics provided for Eketāhuna campground visitor numbers it was asked that the figures provided be checked with the campground managers, as it appeared to exceed capacity, and further information provided back to the committee.

Regarding the upkeep of playgrounds and adding of new structures, there was discussion about the removal of large well-liked structures citing health and safety purposes. The removal of the large slide in Woodville Fountaine square was provided as an example. It was responded that often adults were advocating for keeping the structures whilst the children were less interested and preferred other types of playground equipment. Overall, it was emphasised that all playgrounds were in need of maintenance and repair.

With regard to community fundraising support, it was asked whether locations of the groups seeking funding support could be included in future reports.

With regard to statistics provided on active members of the libraries, further clarification was sought on what constituted an “active member” for the committee’s understanding.

That the report from the Group Manager - Strategy and Community Wellbeing dated 21 June 2024 concerning the Management Report be received.

Gilmore/Johns

Carried

9.2 **Capital Programme Report**

The Community Development and Wellbeing Committee considered the report of the Manager - Programmes & Projects dated 18 June 2024 that provided an update on the capital programme and key project statuses.

In response to questions about the timeframe for the town signage to be erected, it was advised that this was being worked on in conjunction with Waka Kotahi, and that Tararua Alliance would provide an update. A suggestion from the committee was to include an anti-graffiti coating over the signs to prevent vandalism.

That the report from the Manager - Programmes & Projects dated 18 June 2024 concerning the Capital Programme Report be received.

Wallace/Collis

Carried

10. **Items not on the Agenda**

The committee discussed items to include for the next meeting, with the following suggestions made:

- Trust House regarding maintenance of public housing in Tararua District;
- Update from Tararua Health Group
- Update from Tararua Youth Services

There being no further business the Chairperson thanked those present for their attendance and contributions, and declared the meeting closed at 2:52pm.

Chairperson