

Whangarei District Council District Living Committee meeting
– 12th December 2012.

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)

[LINK to District Living Committee Supplementary Agenda No1.](#) New road name and road name spelling correction.

Chair Cr Shelley Deeming welcomes all with a good morning, to all those present at 1000hrs.

There were no apologies.

Shelley wished to advise that today's meeting was to be recorded with both audio and video.

Shelley invited the CEO Mark Simpson to explain the amendments to the Local Government Act. Mark gave a brief on this. [Link to the CEO's quotation](#) on LGA.

It was a "Thank you Mr Chief Executive" and on with the meeting from Shelley. *Did I miss the curtsey, as I was busy writing?*

It was now 1002hrs and Item No.1. Minutes of a Meeting of the District Living Committee held 14 November 2012. (Page 1)

Moved by Cr Aaron Edwards, seconded by Cr Greg Martin.

These were duly passed and no discussion was necessary.

With the time still at 1002hrs it was on to Item No.2. Minutes of a Meeting of the Community Funding Subcommittee held 14 November 2012. (Page 4)

Moved by Cr Greg Martin, seconded by Cr Warwick Syers.

These were duly passed and no discussion was necessary.

With the time still hovering at 1002hrs and Item No.3. District Living Group Monthly Report November 2012. (Page 6)

Cr Deeming advised councillors that they would go through this item, page by page and pertinent questions would be accepted. "Thank you Mr Dell"

This item was moved by Cr Sue Glen, seconded by Cr Sharon Morgan.

Group Manager District Living Paul Dell made brief comments advising that the consent for 'Totara Parklands' (Page 6) had recently been granted for 433 residential allotments.

Cr Phil Halse had a query on the Cameron Street laneway (Page 6 – in Policy and Monitoring) claiming that nothing should be being adopted with projects on hold.

That is right Phil, it's only the important ones that some are attempting to rush through. Yeah right.

Paul Dell claimed it was only about a broader design perspective.

Cr Phil Halse still had concerns about the word 'adopted' being there. *Just like the 'Car Park to Park' project Dell is launching. Will that be a broader design perspective too?*

Paul Dell advised of new liquor legislation (*That was a quick change of subject*) that they would have a new paper in the New Year, advising changes that would be happening in a 6 month period to do work in a 12month lead in.

Cr Sharon Morgan asked if our policy will be enforced from 1st January re the 'one way door policy'.

Paul Dell advised that he had sent the policy to Wellington and it would be a test of the policy which will be moved forward in the timeline. *Let's hope he keeps the liquor licence operators up to date and well informed; and not like the 'bus stop saga' where the punters were the last to know their bus stop was being moved to the hub!*

Cr Sharon Morgan had a query (Page 14) on Plan Change 124 about 'heritage'.

Cr Merv Williams wanted to query the concerns he had received from builders about time frames for consent work. (Page 20 – Performance Indicators)

Paul Dell gave some explanation and that they had also had staff leave. *Wonder why?*

Cr Kahu Sutherland, in reference to Page 28, Para 5, had a query about staff helping a young lady who was intimidated by youths in town, was this type of incident on the increase and were police involved.

Paul Dell advised he would check it out.

Cr Kahu Sutherland claimed "police should be involved with any cases of intimidation. My point is it should go to the police". *Does this mean the well publicised case of intimidation by councils CEO, Mark 'Teflon' Simpson that occurred at the Whangarei Airport café should be investigated by the police? Then why is Council through OIA (Official Information Act) requests doing it's damndest to shut this issue of bullying/intimidation up when replying to such requests made for an open and transparent investigation with the results being publicised? Wait till a crack appears in the 'Teflon', as happens, then will all be revealed?*

Cr Merv Williams advised there is excellent dialogue between our staff and police. *Is it a pity the same can't be said about excellent dialogue between councilors and those who elected them, the public, by the way things are hidden?* Merv also informed that incidents were reported to the police often and that Area Commander, Whangarei – Kaipara, Inspector Tracy Phillips was not holding back.

Cr Greg Martin believed that community safety should be over the whole district.

Coastal areas are experiencing problems and with 4,500 anticipated for Whananaki over the holiday period, there is no police stationed there. "It would take a minimum of 40 minutes for police to respond to Whananaki; by that time offenders could be in Kaikohe" *Well not really Greg, Google Maps advises that trip would take 1hr 9min to do the 89.7km via Ngapipito Rd and State highway 1 route. Your estimation would*

be in excess of 120km per hour average; unless of course the offender was Mr Schumacher. But we get your point; they could be by your place or mine in that time. Mayor Morris Cutforth advised (oh he is till awake; didn't he do well?) that the Youth Advisory Group (YAG) was being recognized.

Cr Kahu Sutherland informed that the funding for this is running out for YAG. He wanted to know who was funding it. *Probably not the same organisation as your group's funders.*

Paul Dell gave details of the process to date for that.

Cr Merv Williams advised that they may require some internal funding.

With the time at 1022hrs and Item No.4. Whangarei Harbour Water Quality Action Plan. (Page 33)

Moved by Cr Brian McLachlan, seconded by Cr Aaron Edwards.

Cr Brian McLachlan advised that staff need to be thanked for a very thorough report. They had come a long way with sewage problems and council had worked hard on this. *Yes but only because of the pressure placed on them by people, some of who get ostracized because of their concerns to make their environment better and hopefully sustainable. Is that such a crime?* Brian informed that the new U/V plant (Ultraviolet) had been installed. There were still issues (Page 131) about silting which needed to be addressed. The next step is 'we must act' on these things. Forestry is a big problem with sediment run off. Thanks again to the staff and the NRC for the work that has been done.

Cr Aaron Edwards claimed this was a great document but we need to concentrate on research to find out where our levels need to be for the objectives. "If you can't measure it, you can't manage it".

Cr Crichton Christie claimed this had grown from 4-5 years ago about the sewage issues. *Dead right Crichton if numbers of people hadn't got the bit between their teeth and told through media, meetings, submissions and a protest march through Whangarei, nothing would have happened. Good on those that made the effort; 'Recognise, don't ostracize'.*

Crichton advised that the water in the lower harbour was good, the middle harbor is pretty good, but the upper harbor is not so good. We could put a lot of money into it and get nowhere. *If you also do nothing, nothing will change, so find alternatives to make things (upper harbour) better.* Crichton claimed he favored the report coming back every six months; we all want good clean water. NRC staff and our staff had worked well together.

Cr Sharon Morgan commented that this initiative has the two councils working well together but was interested in how the staffing costs were to be shared; was it 50/50?

Paul Dell advised that both councils have programs that run together; this brings our stake holders together. *Correct Paul, both councils have their responsibilities that should be acted upon, together if necessary, to achieve better solutions for everyone.*

Cr Brian McLachlan, in his right of reply, touched on a couple of issues, claimed he liked Cr Aaron Edwards quote “if you can’t measure it, you can’t manage it”. He advised however that Onerahi had some sediment issues that needed attention. The recommendation went to the vote with a new clause inserted. No 3.”That staff report back to the District Living Committee on a six monthly basis in regard to progress on actions contained in the plan and review as necessary.” With the addition it was duly passed.

With the time at 1032hrs it was Supplementary Agenda No1. New road name and road name spelling correction.

Moved by Cr Greg Martin, seconded by Cr Aaron Edwards.

The reasons for this item were explained.

Cr Crichton Christie made comment that he had reservations about naming of private right of ways. *What even a ‘SIMPSON BULLY-VARD’?*

This was duly passed and no further discussion necessary.

So, that’s it, all over till the next episode, with Cr Shelley Deeming calling the meeting to a close at 1034hours and thanking all for attending.

All information in regards to this meeting’s agenda and others are available on the Whangarei District Council website by clicking on this [link](#).