

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

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)

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

Apologies were received for Cr Sue Glen and Cr Phil Halse.

Moved by Morris Cutforth, seconded by Cr Aaron Edwards.

It was still 1000hrs and Item No.1. Minutes of a Meeting of the District Living Committee held 8 August 2012. (Page 1)

Moved by Cr Greg Martin, seconded by Cr Jeroen Jongejans.

These were duly passed and no discussion was necessary.

With the time still at 1000hrs it was on to Item No.2. District Living Group Monthly Report August 2012. (Page 3)

Cr Deeming advised councillors that there was a lot of information and details in the report. Councillors were welcome to comment briefly and ask questions, but this was not an opportunity for debate. *What's this, no debate? I thought these meetings were open and transparent? Oh that was last year and probably next year when elections are looming closer.* She advised they would go through the item, page by page'.

Group Manager District Living Paul Dell made brief comments on the J and L Henderson application (Page 3) and how it had complex matters. In regards to Building Consents (Page 4) there were 37 jobs on the go at Langs Beach so there was a bit of movement going on. He made some comment on Regulatory services and as far as Community Services (Page 4) the CCTV network had resulted in youths being apprehended for tagging. *Great work.*

Cr Sharon Morgan asked about the funding coming from Ministry of Justice and was it going to City Safe.

Paul Dell advised, no, their money comes from other areas.

Cr Kahu Sutherland asked who people contact with information about things happening crime wise in the CBD.

Paul Dell advised City Safe can be contacted on 0800258258.

Paul Dell advised that the Longview Estate original decision (Page 10) was upheld by the commissioners in the Environment Court.

Cr John Williamson commented that there were a couple of other issues and that they had cleared the decks on Environment Court hearings. *Until the next ones!*

Cr Merv Williams informed that in relation to the Longview case he would like to see some discussion about it. We need to know what the boundaries are and that he was one of the original commissioners who turned down the application. It's in the fringe area and are we going to allow some fringe boundary developments?

Paul Dell advised he will organize a time to discuss this asking Cr Williams to post a question to him.

Cr Jeroen Jongejans claimed he agreed with a lot of the points Cr Williams had made but he also would like more discussion on this.

Paul Dell suggested that they go back and look at the Sustainable Futures 30/50 plan.

Cr Greg Martin claimed it was originally coastal and changes had been made; these people had spent \$1million, now the NRC (Northland Regional Council) is changing boundaries. I want this discussed so public know what the rulings are; we need to have it out there. *Gee Greg, you now want open and transparent what? Elections must be looming; you tried to sneak Gomez Road Sports Park through quietly till you got caught out.*

Cr John Williamson interjected claiming Cr Martin should read the Environment Court ruling.

Cr Sharon Morgan had a query over access to Te Hape Village (Page 12)

Paul Dell advised that council had taken a leadership role and purchased a property to allow access and now they were waiting for NZTA' s (New Zealand Transport Agency) decision.

Cr Shelley Deeming advised that there could be some confusion between Rural Development Strategy (Page 15, a) and Northland Regional Policy Statement (RPS) (Page 15, f)

Cr John Williamson advised that Genetic Modification (GM) (Page 16) is now back in the public arena and it will be interesting what Section 32 effect will be on it.

Paul Dell claimed that they will see if it stacks up in relation to Section 32 in regards to controls.

Cr Crichton Christie asked how does it stack up with their liability.

Paul Dell advised that central government has processes around GE; but do you want to take it further?

Cr Shelley Deeming interjects with "excuse me gentlemen, we are not going to debate this here". *Does this mean they want to talk about it behind closed doors?*

Cr Crichton Christie continued with his comments; the opinion of this council is not a personal opinion and we are saying we want a Plan Change. This is the direction this council has given to the staff. *Mr Dell, sounds like he is saying do what council wants, not what you want.*

Paul Dell, *not to be out done*, insists it must have a Section 32.

Cr Crichton Christie informs that there is a time line here that we must get through and we don't want to miss it with the NRC

Cr Merv Williams claimed it was a waste of time having meetings (Harbour Management Plans, Page 16) when you can't hear with the bad sound system. *You are so correct Cr Williams, it is important for everyone to be able to hear what's*

being said; that is why I organised a good sound system for last Wednesdays meeting and even had a video produced to enable people to view who could not attend. The sound in this chamber could be enhanced if they WANTED to.

Cr Aaron Edwards advised that it was good to be involved with the Positive Aging Advisory Group (PAAG) (Page 30)

Cr Shelley Deeming reminded that the recommendation contained three points; one was receiving the report, the others appointing Commissioners.

It was agreed upon in its entirety.

Moved by Cr Aaron Edwards, seconded by Cr Sharon Morgan.

With the time at 1028hrs and Item No.3. Final Consideration of Plan Change 123B Referencing of EES 2010 Consequential Changes. (Page 31)

Cr Shelley Deeming reminded them that it was in fact about Plan Change 123B not 132A.

Group Manager District Living Paul Dell informed that it was a tidy up from the District Plan.

Moved by Cr Brian McLachlan, seconded by Cr Merv Williams.

With the time now at 1029hrs it was on to Item No.4. Earthquake Prone Buildings: Buildings with Non-Ductile Columns. (Page 38)

Group Manager District Living Paul Dell advised that there had been much discussion since the enquiries into the Christchurch earthquakes. Government had requested that all councils review all buildings that may fall into those categories. 1350 files had been reviewed nationally and 158 buildings identified in New Zealand. 12 buildings in the Whangarei District had indicated characteristics of the review criteria and only 8 buildings were recommended to have their owners engage appropriately qualified engineers for further assessment. It was not a legal requirement but there may be some changes to that after the enquiry in Christchurch is completed.

Cr Shelley Deeming suggested they read the last paragraph in this item (Page 39) as it outlines the confidentiality of those buildings identified.

Moved by Morris Cutforth, seconded by Cr Brian McLachlan.

Cr Brian McLachlan believed the shockwave's from Christchurch had not finished and it possibly won't be the last time for amendments.

It was now onto an item that was not advertised on the website, so it was a late item. With the time now at 1033hrs it was on to Item No.5. Notice of Motion.

Moved by Cr Merv Williams, seconded by Cr Brian McLachlan.

Cr Merv Williams advised that there were arguments about landscapes going around for several years. It was being revisited by the NRC (Northland Regional Council) for the RPS (Regional Policy Statement) adding ½ the argument by putting lines on a map showing significant landscape that needed protection. People are asking what

does it mean; the rules in our current District Plan relate to those designations and people need some clarification.

Cr Brian McLachlan claims he agrees with Cr Williams; it is a disjointed process and something we should try to learn from.

Cr Shelley Deeming wanted to move an amendment and it should wait until the RPS is adopted.

Paul Dell insisted that the NRC must give us indications of what they expect in those areas.

At the moment as I understand it, by working with a person whose property is affected by this mapping issue, is that the NRC is mapping the areas (putting lines on the maps) and the District Councils will after that process has taken place, will then implement the 'rules for their districts' for within these areas. Interesting is it not; would you like to buy a raffle ticket; but I won't tell you what the prize is until you have bought a ticket. Probably not? No wonder people are weary of the process as they don't have much trust left for councils anymore. Can't really blame them after some of the things that have been happening over recent years.

Paul continued that they (council) still had to make a formal submission to the RPS. We need to get our head around it and need to be advised what their thinking is. We have to be very careful what we are doing. There are some risks before we go down a specific path. *Sounds like you Paul and some in WDC do not want to show your cards of what you want to do. People have a right to know what is planned by showing the rules the District Council is likely in apply to these areas. Merv is asking that the intended rules be out there NOW.*

Cr John Williamson welcomed Cr Deemings amendment. This Notice of Motion is a signal that Cr Williams may want to say this to the RPS Committee; people need to be informed. He believed the RPS committee would welcome an indication of rules. Are they developing a one plan for Northland? I know there is comment out there from affected land owners.

Cr Crichton Christie finds it hard to accept a plan that fits or suits all. This is a land use matter controlled by the WDC (Whangarei District Council). We are going to carry the can if we, or they, get it wrong. We should be setting the rules and the lines.

Please correct me if I am wrong; didn't WDC have a shot at it in 2006 and then again in 2011 but couldn't 'cut the mustard'. [See Link to Public Meeting Advertisement](#) which covers this comment.

A comment was made that it will be at least 4 years before the changes are adopted. Cr Warwick Syers wanted a point of clarification of the legal process which Paul dell gave details of.

Cr Shelley Deeming decided to withdraw her amendment and it was agreed the motion was to remain with the word "draft" removed before rules and read as – "That Whangarei District Council invite the Northland Regional Council, Regional Policy Committee to recommend ~~draft~~ rules for the Coastal Environment and Landscape areas as mapped in the draft Regional Policy Statement"

Cr Warwick Syers, raised a point of order, again wanting clarification asking “has the amendment lapsed”? *You weren't napping were you Warwick?*

The Notice of Motion was agreed upon with only one exception Cr Crichton Christie who wished for it to be recorded.

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 advising councillors they had only a four minute break before the next meeting.

Watch out they will call a stop work meeting next; going from a three minute meeting, to a long one and then only a four minute break. Does this put pressure on their attention span?

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