

## Whangarei District Council District Living Committee meeting - 14th December 2011

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)

Chair Cr Shelley Deeming welcomes all with a good morning, to all those present at 1030hrs adding that it's good to see the interested people in the meeting.

No apologies were received as it was a 'full muster'.

It was still 1030hrs and Item No. 1 Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment Committee meeting held 9 November 2011- (Page1) these were accepted with no discussion taking place.

With the time still at 1031hrs it was on to Item No. 2 Minutes of a Meeting of the Community Funding Subcommittee held 8 November 2001 (Page 3)

Cr Kahu Sutherland had a query re the funding for Tau Henare Marae as they had a hall. *Does having a hall make a group or youth centre comply for funding?*

Cr Jeroen Jongejans commented that Hikurangi had done well with funding; \$6,000-00 and \$3,000-00 going to them.

Mayor Morris Cutforth claimed "he was sorry to see Sweetpea Productions had missed out as they should be supporting the arts". *Who is writing all your notes Morrie? I understand the ones at the Christmas Festival were .....or was it the person that read them?*

Cr Merv Williams, quick to comment, explained that Sweetpea was not eligible.

Cr Greg Martin informed that they must stick to the criteria and rules and not deviating from them.

Cr Sue Glen commented 'we can't have our own pet projects'. *Love that Sue, but if that was the case nothing would happen. Why do you think we have a bridge being built to Onerahi, a Victoria bridge upgrade, a Hundertwasser project, a rugby stadium, a bus stop (with no buses?) If certain people didn't have their pet projects and pushed to the extreme? Oh by the way, we are still having raw untreated sewage spilling into the harbour as no one has wanted that for their 'pet project' although Morris campaigned that he would fix it.*

It was still 1034hrs and Item No. 3 District Living Group Monthly Report – November 2011 (Page5)

Group Manager District Living Paul Dell gave some details of the 'Quick Consent processes' on page 9. He advised liquor ban signs were going up around the community in the appropriate areas.

Paul introduced Dave from Northern Districts Security who now operate 'City Safe' and also introduced two of their members, Hoki and Gail Lewis. (see page 6)

Cr Jeroen Jongejans said it was interesting that there was more commercial work being undertaken with consents in progress. (page 5)

Cr Kahu Sutherland asked on the 'Quick Consent processes' who makes the decisions. Paul Dell explained that they all still have to go through the process; some are low level activities and may go through the system quicker but this does not change any requirement of the RMA, (Resource Management Act)

Cr Kahu Sutherland had concerns this may put the onus on someone and what is low risk?

Paul Dell confirmed they have created templates that can streamline the applications.

Cr Sharon Morgan commented that she was pleased they were signposting liquor ban areas.

Cr John Williamson made comment about a honey process plant at Pataua that had received an award.

Cr Aaron Edwards had a query regarding Transportation and Parking on page 15.

*They failed to mention the error on page 20; new food premises grading 'Kamo Road, Kamo, Whangarei'. I believe it should read 'A'; but then they did have 5 a's in their title.*

With the time now at 1049hrs it was on to Item No. 4 Submission on the Draft New Regional Policy Statement (Page30)

Cr Phil Halse wished to have an addition to the recommendation. The aim was to include some political input to the NRC. The key issues are outlined in our submission. Technical questions the staff can answer, but political questions should be answered by the politicians. We need to tie it together as we get one chance to get it right.

Cr John Williamson had concerns about the GM organisms; what is the science, what are the issues for Northland? The science behind it was such that it couldn't withstand scrutiny. A Section 32 analysis must be done on the evidence. Item 5.2 (page 37) makes some interesting reading. GE didn't make the cut and that was his 'long winded explanation'.

Cr Brian McLachlan said "you can talk about science and significance but what do we take notice of". "People have hammered the point home; even a lot of Maori/Hapu doesn't agree with each other".

Cr Crichton Christie was in support of Part 3 of Phil Halse's recommendation. The biggest submission ever received by council was on GE which was 7000. We should be forcing the issue. He was also very nervous about the Landscape section; both of these have firm direction and he "hoped Paul Dell was listening". *Can't we do the jokes Crichton? Does Paul listen?*

Cr Aaron Edwards advise there were requirements of Section 32. This council is incredibly sensible on this situation; what is wrong with a 'strict liability regime'?

Cr Jeroen Jongejans had a question on Economic Wellbeing (page57) *Surprise, surprise? No not really!*

Cr Merv Williams hoped there was concern on Economic development but not on spending on Economic Development. He maintained there should be due diligence on GMO's; there was strong representation on that subject. We must stick to our guns on other items and he felt there were some 'dangerous words' that have to be removed. Paul Dell advised it was a 43 page submission and they have been careful with wording as they needed clarity.

There was no question or comment from Cr Warwick Syers *and we thought he would have wanted Organic eggs on a Battery Hen Budget. He is so keen on eggs and speaks about 'eggs' regularly, was that not so?*

Cr Greg Martin had a query.

Cr Phil Halse, in his right of reply, claimed they were to get the best for the ratepayers in regard to land based consents.

With the time now at 1114hrs it was on to Item No. 5 Hikurangi Motorsport and Outdoor Recreation Part (Page80)

With a large crowd gathered in the public gallery bearing placards written with messages of serious concern, this is obviously the item they had been waiting for.

Cr Kahu Sutherland queries 'what's the story with the photographer?' *What, haven't you done your hair, Kahu?*

Cr Shelley Deeming advised the news media had been approved permission to take photos.

Cr Greg Martin wanted to move that the report be received and had an alternative to the 2nd recommendation being "That the Committee approve further investigation of the project. This will involve further stakeholder and community engagement and further technical investigations required to support preparation of a draft plan change proposal." *Look around Greg are these the people you don't talk too about making their road noisy?*

Paul Dell was asked to and gave a report on the progress of this project.

Cr Brian McLachlan, rising to his feet, *this must be serious*, explains that recommendation '1' should stay as it is with a new No 2 being "That the Committee approve further investigation of the project. This will involve further stakeholder and

community engagement and further technical investigations required to support inclusion in the draft LTP.” Brian continued that there is an issue with the city expanding. He was not happy with this process and there are concerns with the noisy park that it will upset their living environment. Council hasn’t explained all the options and some clubs might not move to the site.

Cr Merv Williams asked if the Greg Martin motion really differed from the one in the recommendation.

Cr Greg Martin claimed they ‘need to have more consultation and not everyone was against it.’ *Sadly Greg as the locals representative you should have discussed it with the residents of Gomez Road and other locals likely to be affected, before you ‘hatched’ the plan to council in 2010.*

Cr Sue Glen asked ‘when do the people get a chance to be heard; only in the LTP?’

Paul Dell gave an explanation. *I think he’s got a lot of explaining to do; wasting heaps of ratepayer’s money on investigating projects that may not go ahead.*

Cr Sue Glen concerned stated “we can see the signs” (the residents were holding) “but we need to hear the people”. “I don’t want to see a plan change slipped through”. *Good on you Sue; you know how they work bringing it on at a busy time of the year.*

Cr Aaron Edwards had concerns with them pushing for a plan change as there is nothing in the LTP. (Long Term Plan)

Paul Dell explained it was a strategic move by council to have the option available in 3-4 years.

Cr Sue Glen replied to Mr Dell, “your answers are always so long winded and don’t get to the point.” *Keep it up Sue, they are long winded all right just hoping to confuse you all and make him look clever.*

Cr Crichton Christie rises to his feet. I’m not confused, we need to ask some fundamental questions; is it a good site, do they (the Clubs) want to move there or can afford to move there because of the costs, as you charge like wounded bulls. He understood 3 of the main users, stockcars, go-karts and shooting don’t want to relocate. Council could be paying for something that might not get used. *Wrong Crichton; it’s the ratepayers that pay; you are only elected to manage the assets of the ratepayers.* He continued, will they shift there, can they afford to shift there and are they keen enough. Before anything about a plan change, which will cost about another \$100,000-00 these things should be assured.

Paul Dell advised that the pressure was started when the sporting bodies approached council about a site.

Mark (one resident from the public gallery) screamed “You approached them”.

Paul Dell continued with his story about ‘how it happened’

Mark again called out “Tell the truth, you met with all the sporting groups but no residents”.

Paul Dell continued ‘that it was smart to plan for the future. Go karts would like to move to the Blue Goose.’ *You have to ask, whenever anyone asks about the ‘Blue Goose’ all*

*goes silent. Why is the Blue Goose not available for use or sale? Has someone else already got their name on it for a cheap 'fire sale?'*

Paul Dell continued amongst more interjections and even named Cr Crichton Christie as Cr Crichton. *Now he (Paul) must be getting his feathers ruffled as he is losing it. Christmas nearly here you will be able to go away and roost up a bit.*

Cr John Williamson advised he would be voting against it; both the amendments and the recommendation.

Cr Warwick Syers, rising to his feet, *are those seats really that uncomfortable?* Claims the \$100,000 spent in the next 6 months, mentioned by Cr Christie was completely unfounded. *(How much has been spent on the Hundertwasser project to date?)* He believed that the Motor Sport Park will be in the LTP. The decision made in 2010 was unanimous so why are you arguing now. He would be voting for the amended motion.

Cr Aaron Edwards advised that they need to get their feet on the ground to solve this issue. WE have to help the clubs but we have to respect these people's homes. What are the other options? He suggested that it lie on the table.

That option was not available and the procedural motion was lost; 4 for and 5 against with Cr Brian McLachlan abstaining.

Now back to the original recommendations before them.

Cr Merv Williams advised that 4 years ago the clay bird shooting club approached council about a site and they could still be in the picture. He confirmed he had no indication of anyone else wanting this. He advised that he had sent an email to Paul Dell asking for documentation yesterday and had got nothing. He also thought

*It should lie on the table until they got some information as requested.*

Mayor Morris Cutforth commented 'that he wished to congratulate council staff on a very formal progressive report.' 'This is about consultation.' *He is reading notes; did someone write them for him?* He continued with his notes 'This is just moving on to the next stage'. *Morris would you like a sport park in Mackesy Road, next to your place where you want peace and quiet, to relax in your spa pool talking to the media?*

Cr Sue Glen, on form today, "Not sure what the mayor just said?" *That makes a lot of us.* "We get accused of 'jumping the gun'; why can't we wait until March or April for the LTP. What's the pressure? We are meant to represent our people; there is a lack of truthful information. The same happened with the busses. Where are the busses?" *That was another of Ding Dong Dells ambitious projects where he didn't communicate with the effected parties.* Sue continued that "the Sport Park was a good idea, but they should not wiz it through without being better informed".

CEO Mark Simpson advised that there were several processes involved here; 'Special Consultative Process, the Annual Plan (A/P) or the Long Term Plan (LTP) and it will be heard'. 'Any decisions made tomorrow' *(ah so that's their plan?)* 'Would have to go through the Resource Management Act (RMA) process and the hurdles of the RMA. There was also a Special Consultation Process.

Cr Sharon Morgan advised that 3 1/2 years ago she was approached by a gun club. All clubs lack money and resources. The best way forward was to consult and it should be through the LTP or Consultive Process.

Cr Jeroen Jongejans commented that this was an interesting one. He understood the Gomez Road residents and the sports groups and he too would like more information. He had a query, on some of the information on page 158, as he had purchased a sound meter and looking at the noise restrictions tabled, wondered if they were accurate.

Cr Kahu Sutherland advised that council had to remember that only this is before you; your responsibility as councilors is about planning for the future. There must be long term thinking. We have to plan for 'undesirable activity' and he wouldn't want it by his place either. *There is a suitable place up off Georgia Place, Kamo that might be more suitable.* He continued we need to go through the process. Through the process we will hear from the residents, through the process we will hear from the clubs. Take out the drama and take out the excitement, just make a decision.

They voted on the motion from Cr Brian McLachlan "That the Committee approves further investigation of the project. This will involve further stakeholder and community engagement and further technical investigations required to support inclusion in the draft LTP." This was lost; 8 against and 6 for it, so it was back for more discussion on Cr Greg Martin's motion.

There was now some confusion, what they were in fact about to discuss and it was explained to Cr Sutherland that it was the item that had been circulated on the A5 piece of paper being Greg Martin's motion. Kahu, now up to speed screwed up the motion of Cr Brian McLachlan and threw it into the area in front of their desks. *So did Kahu really know what he had previously voted on when he voted against it? What do you think? He had needed clarity before the item before us was about to be discussed. Would his vote have changed things? And who else was still confused when they voted?*

Cr Brian McLachlan claimed they haven't looked at all options, the site is restrictive for growth and there were reverse sensitivity issues.

Cr Greg Martin gave his reasons why he had put his changes forward to change the original recommendation. The original recommendation was to 'approve the progression of the project' and didn't state there would be 'further' stakeholder and community engagement. *Was it a little too pushy, pushy let's get it through?*

Cr John Williamson believed they needed to ponder over what the CEO had said. This made a more definite path if we approve this option. He was quite fearful of the path they were setting. *John is a Hearings Commissioner and is well aware of implications that can arise so he is possibly trying to tell you all something.*

Cr Warwick Syers advised that the previous recommendation had excluded it going in the plan, but councilors can vote tomorrow to have it in the plan.

Cr Sue Glen, with concern, "we are going to change these people's lives with the flick of a pen. I hope staff gets the message we need to receive the information".

Cr Jeroen Jongejans suggested that on further investigation they may find a better presentation is appropriate.

Cr Aaron Edwards claims “he is sick of this council going out to consultation with only one option”.

Cr Crichton Christie insists “we need good evidence”.

Cr Kahu Sutherland suggests “this is the solution; it opens the door for an informed decision”.

Cr Warwick Syers reconfirms “this is the same as 8/12/2010 essentially agreeing with what we agreed on then”.

Cr Phil Halse commented that numerous clubs have applied for moving sports through long term plans. *Doesn't this sound like Phil has his mind made up?*

Cr Greg Martin, in his right of reply, claims these issues are discussed at the many meetings he attends; we need a full draft plan. *His claims about discussion with the community are strongly opposed by many present today at the meeting.*

The chair called for a division and it was voted on; for the recommendation with Cr Greg Martin's motion,

For the recommendation; Cr Phil Halse, Mayor Morris Cutforth, Cr Greg Martin, Cr Jeroen Jongejans, Cr Kahu Sutherland, Cr Warwick Syers and Cr Shelley Deeming.

Against the recommendation; Cr Aaron Edwards, Cr Merv Williams, Cr John Williamson, Cr Brian McLachlan, Cr Sue Glen, Cr Crichton Christie and Cr Sharon Morgan.

It was carried.

That's it, all over till the next episode, with Cr Shelley Deeming calling the meeting to a close at 1234 hours and thanking all for attending.