

Whangarei District Council Infrastructure and Services meeting - 10th November 2010

Off to a great start at 1100hrs with a new Infrastructure & Services Chair Cr Greg Martin. Nice suit Greg, hope it doesn't get dirty while out sorting the towns infrastructure. Maybe some of your old tried and true clobber from out on the farm may be more suitable on some of the many site visits.

During Item 1, 2010/11 Roothing program, there was a little bit of debate fuelled by the attempt to can the Footpath construction budget of \$207,000-00. Cr Crichton Christie was certainly on form today, having his say on the importance of safety in regards to maintaining the footpath budget. Deputy Mayor Halse tried to continue to have it canned. He should know better, as I have been told, many in the Bream Bay ward have roading/footpath safety issues that need to be addressed. I do attend some of the resident meetings and people do make comments. Then again he may have other plans for the money, who would know? Crichton's persistence paid off and the \$207k was reinstated in this item. Maybe Crichton you should have pushed harder last term, as chairman, to have foot paths fixed and there would not be the battles of now. The support of Kahu emphasising the importance of safety perhaps made the others finally see some common sense over Halse's anti-stance. Good on you both for promoting this issue.

There was of course some confusion about where all the money was going and not allowing the foot path repairs to be undertaken. Silly me, please tell me how do you spell BRIDGE? Or have you forgotten, don't think so as you all unanimously approved the 2010/11 Roothing program which included the \$30million spend on the Lower Hatea Bridge. You know, the bridge that Morris Cutforth was going to stop and that many others also campaigned about to stop, a couple of months ago. At least I don't tell "porkies". Not one hand was raised to oppose the recommendation, not one, so let us see if they can look people in the eye in the future.

I for one have some concerns as to the figures provided in the Roothing Program as I read them;

Item 3.2 Rehabilitation as \$4.572 billion (pg2), Sealed roads \$3.032billion (pg2);

Item 3.3 Road safety database as \$51.062billion (pg3), Projects \$1,209,900billion (pg5)

See [copy of Agenda](#) from W.D.C website, or [copy of printed agenda](#) for page references to above references.

There was also a concern about the poor quality of print in the reports, with dark background making some of the reading difficult. It was good to know some had actually attempted to read the agenda. So fair comment Kahu, but do you think they really want you to be able to understand what's really there? It might be smokescreens and mirror stuff but the **BRIDGE** that Morris was going to stop, was easy to read.

My concerns are..... not one elected councillor or staff member realised there were printing errors, showing (\$000's) above the columns turning our spending into **billions** instead of millions and they didn't originally want to find \$207,000-00 for footpaths, to make our footpaths safer for children, our elderly, our disabled or to help our citizens from injury while using these pathways.

Item 2 Contracts Authorised under Delegated Authority went through with a little concern about some tenders going outside Whangarei. This was explained as COST was a major factor in awarding contracts, but on reflection this was obviously overlooked when another contract was awarded to a local who was more expensive. Oh silly me they just picked up the wrong rule book. One contract was tendered by a Tauranga Company. Wonder if someone has contacts in Tauranga?

Items 3, 4, &5 were about temporary road closures for special events. Good stuff can't stop Christmas Parades and Kids Triathlon. Hope Morris gets his voice back, must be a real bad throat as he only appeared to say two words today. The meeting closed at 1139hrs being a touch longer than many during the last term of council.

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)