

Whangarei District Council Infrastructure and Services meeting - 11th May 2011

LINK to appropriate Agenda

Chair Cr Greg Martin called the meeting to order at 0900hrs and welcomed all.

Apologies were received for Mayor Morris Cutforth.

Still at 0900hrs and it was Item No.1. Minutes from the previous meeting and these were passed with no discussion necessary.

Item No. 2. 0902hrs Contracts Authorised Under Delegated Authority.

Cr Phil Halse commented that there were a number of contracts and a lot of new tenderers which he thought was a good sign.

Cr Merv Williams was pleased to see medium to small local businesses in the tender process.

Cr Sharon Morgan had a query regarding add-ons in a job by McKenzie Earthmoving and received some clarification on this.

Parking Management Strategy Item No.3.at 0903hrs.

Cr Brian McLachlan claimed a survey found 39% were not happy with the CBD (Central Business District) parking and he had a number of points to raise on parking. Changes to the parking at the Town Basin and the moving of parking by expanding more car parks in Railway Road. *Is this to make parking better for the people visiting or working in the CBD? I think this could be all about extra parking for events of 14th & 21st September this year and of course the new bridge in that area also helps the cause.*

Cr Merv Williams commented that 'they will have to walk further if they don't want to pay.'

I think an important point is; where can workers have secure parking all day at a reasonable rate? Is it time for a decent car park building in the CBD to offer this facility?

Item No. 4. Ruakaka Wastewater - Proposed Scheme and Final AEE for Lodgement.

AEE stands for Assessment of Effects on the Environment (*for all and councilors to understand. They love using all abbreviations to confuse, but sadly it also affects some of them. Eh, Sue?*)

Cr Shelley Deeming was happy that they were moving on as they had spent a long time consulting.

Cr Phil Halse commented that since 2000 there had been a need for waste water disposal. There had been 11 years of work with good consultants.

Cr Merv Williams wanted to congratulate the staff on this fantastic job particularly over the last 2 years.

Item No. 5. Proposed Time Restricted Parking on Port Road at 0915hrs.

Cr Brian McLachlan claimed it was self explanatory.

*But is it? On reading the petition which carries **only** 11 signatures it appears to be initiated by The Flower Shed (as it's on their business stationary) which "coincidentally" was officially opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday 26th November 2010 by Mayor Morris Cutforth. This petition is dated 30th November (only 4 days after the official opening) and received by council 15th December 2010. Coincidence? or what?*

***Link to petition** - to see for yourself. Was this an ongoing problem? Only 4 days!*

Cr Merv Williams believed this was only part of the problem; they needed to look at the bigger sites. They were only putting a band aid on this and there needed to be consideration for the disabled in these areas. Footpaths, crossings etc. *Good call Merv, the disability sector tends to be forgotten at times and we need to encourage better dialogue with their (disability sector) representatives for better outcomes.*

Cr Greg Martin thanked Merv for volunteering for the review team. *Think you missed the point Greg, Merv was talking some good common sense and council needs to take heed.*

It's now 0918hrs and Item No. 6. Proposed Time Restricted Parking - Kamo.

Cr Merv Williams felt there was a need to increase angled parking in Grant Street and the amended recommendation was circulated.

Interesting there was no petition tabled for these changes and one must ask is it the retailers or community that wants the time restrictions changed in this and other parking items?

Item No. 7. Proposed Town Basin Hub Restricted Parking (0920hrs)

Cr Merv Williams claimed it was good to free up areas to get turnover up for retailers.

Cr Brian McLachlan felt they should hold back on the 'Enhanced green area' adjacent to the old NRC building as with the proposed plans, access may well become an issue if the area is developed and the road parking, as planned, is turned to grass before the project is done.

It's now 0922hrs and Item No. 8. New Road Names is moved, seconded and carried with no discussion required.

Chair Cr Greg Martin thanked all for attending and concluded the meeting at 0922hours.

Off again to the library for a coffee & orange drink before the next meeting at 1030hrs.