

Whangarei District Council Infrastructure and Services meeting – 14th August 2013

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)

Chair Cr Greg Martin called the meeting to order at 0900hrs and welcomed all to this month's Infrastructure and Services meeting.

There were apologies for Mayor Morris Cutforth and Cr Jeroen Jongejans.

Moved by Cr Merv Williams, seconded by Cr Aaron Edwards.

Time was still at 0900hrs and it was Item No.1. . Minutes of a Meeting of the Infrastructure and Services Committee held 10 July 2013. (Page 1)

Moved by Cr Shelley Deeming, seconded by Cr Aaron Edwards.

There was no discussion and the item was duly passed.

With the time still at 0900hrs it was on to Item No.2. Whangarei Wastewater Improvements. (Page 3)

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

Group Manager Infrastructure and Services Simon Weston outlined the work that had been done this financial year and other work previously done. He gave details of the UV system (Ultra Violet) advising they did switch it on 1st August with the rain. He claimed the storage tank had 'just about' taken care of all the storm events and this has 1,000cubic metres of capacity. *NOTE 'just about' says a lot! So have there been overflows into the streams and harbour? You be the judge.*

Cr Sharon Morgan had a query on the Sewer Network modeling (page 4)

Simon Weston responded to this.

Cr Brian McLachlan informed it was good to see a lot of work happening; they were working with a wetlands project which is a Northland based idea (Page 5). He wished to congratulate the staff for what had been done.

Cr Sue Glen suggested they could just take this all for granted; she would like to see a clean harbor and also congratulated the staff.

Cr Shelley Deeming asked if the water leaving the treatment plant was of 'bathing standard'. Simon Weston claimed it was higher, but added, shell fish standard was higher than bathing. CEO Mark Simpson advised the Hatea River is below shell fish standard.

Cr Shelley Deeming claimed there had been a number of comments on the facebook site [Mayoral Talk Whangarei](#) about harbour quality and that is going international.

Cr Merv Williams supported this saying there were some dangerous comments on facebook. *Yes Merv and are there some 'lies' going out on billboards ??????!!!!!!.*

Cr John Williamson had a query on desludging.

Cr Crichton Christie, to his feet, advised this came out of public concern 5-6 years ago. He added, with strategy it is workable and affordable. The modeling of the pipe work is the last part of it. He said he was pleased they hadn't rushed it. *What over 30 years? You are right Mr Christie, proudly I was one of the organisers of the 'Save Our Harbour' march that*

occurred on Friday 12th December 2008 through the Whangarei CBD. Crichton you have been chair of Works and Infrastructure and could have made some changes, but had failed to do so until we marched on the town. There should never have to have been a call from the public for maintenance of core infrastructure such as sewerage works. I have to ask; If a restaurant had a leaking and overflowing toilet and council approached them to fix it, would an answer such as 'I am waiting for customers to complain', be acceptable? It's alright to take the GLORY now but many of our councilors failed to react when the harbour was being polluted by raw sewage, more than it is now. Shame on many of you, people don't forget and poor handling of a situation often causes the sh.. to stick and no amount of PR takes away the bitter taste, TRUST gets lost!.

Simon Weston advised that most of 'the spend' had gone to local organisations. *Great to see this Simon as that money is needed in our local economy.*

Cr Greg Martin advised how the Mayor, Simon Weston and he went to Australia to look at sewerage treatment plants to get the issue moving ahead. *Yes we remember speaking to you on your return Greg from that trip and you told us "after hearing the first two sentences about sewage treatment while in Australia, it all went over your head". Well, we can believe that.*

This item was duly received.

With the time now at 0915hrs and Item No.3. Temporary Road Closures – Northland Car Club. (Page 7)

Moved by Cr Brian McLachlan, seconded by Cr Kahu Sutherland.

This was duly passed and no discussion was necessary.

With the time at 0916hrs and Item No.4. Old Town hall Car Park – Parking Charges. (Page 13)

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

Cr Aaron Edwards advised that they had adopted a strategy to give staff a 'tool kit' to manage parking to allow an 80% occupancy rate with parking. This is about allowing staff to use these tools, putting the policy into action.

Cr Kahu Sutherland asked if this contravened our policy on fees and charges.

Simon Weston advised as long as it goes through council it is ok.

CEO Mark Simpson confirmed that was a very valid query. He added some things are set in legislation; this is not an issue.

Cr Greg Martin advised that parking will always be a moving target.

The recommendation was duly passed with no extra discussion necessary.

Chair Cr Greg Martin thanked all for attending and concluded the meeting with the time at 0919hours

Those present left the chamber, off to the library (or to the NRC) to have a coffee before the next meeting at 1000hrs.

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