

Whangarei District Council Infrastructure and Services meeting - 8th December 2010

Starting at 0900hrs Infrastructure & Services Chair Cr Greg Martin welcomes all and presses on with the previous minutes with no discussion necessary.

Item No 2 is the LTCCP (Long Term Council Community Plan) balanced score card and Cr Merv Williams felt the report wasn't looking good after the survey on council services. Cr John Williamson had concerns on CBD parking but Simon Western (Group Manager Infrastructure and Services) had all the answers and felt the targets previously set needed to be real. Cr Williamson was unsure whether council was asking the right questions. Good call John, you can normally get the answer you want by the way you ask a question. Cr Warwick Syers thought some of the targets were plucked out of thin air. Should he know? being an accountant.

Contracts authorised under Delegated Authority as Item No3 had concerns raised by Cr Brian McLachlan about tenders that were reduced from 7 years to 2 years. Cr Syers believed this was the way of proactively managing the business.

Item No 4 Pressure Sewer Policy also had Cr McLachlan concerned that property owners would be responsible if these policies affected them. It was clarified by Simon Western that 'if council chooses to use these systems, cost would be to council'. I understand that if this is the case, we will ALL be paying. Isn't that where council gets their funds from? Cr Crichton Christie had concerns about the running costs but Simon Western claimed the costs depended on where the system is situated. Crichton, don't know if you are any the wiser with the answer, as no figures were offered.

The Ruakaka Wastewater on Item No 5 with a correction to a spelling error on page 48 had a plant instead of a plan. Deputy Mayor Phil Halse does check Bream Bay items obviously. Cr Williams queried if there were signatories to this proposal and Simon Western said no it was in the consultation stage. Cr Halse believed Simon Westerns answer had some ambiguity to it. Simon was saved by CEO Simmo who informed all that this was pre consultation, they would then talk to the community, it would then be lodged with the NRC and then would go into the formal process with consultation and this was the best practice to do this.

The State Highway 1 Improvement programme Item No 6 had Cr McLachlan querying 'when the Lower Harbour Hatea crossing was happening'. Brian they don't want anyone to know that's why Chair Cr Greg Martin stated that was not on the agenda and it wasn't going to be discussed. Naughty boy Brian, it's obviously a little touchy and with holiday

break coming, is it a good time to slip it through while everyone is busy? Cr Aaron Edwards had concerns about the lack of information in the report. He could well know as he works professionally in those areas. Cr Halse voiced the fact it was 'work in progress, fully committed by the previous council and a Transit project that our council is involved with'. Has Phil forgotten; he has been part of many of the previous councils so there's no point in passing the buck and blaming someone else. Cr Williamson requested information on what changes the Spedding Road extension will make to traffic flows. Simon Western claimed he had the answers and will supply them to John Williamson. Cr Kahu Sutherland questioned the four laning at the top end (of SH1?). CEO Mark Simpson (Simo) claimed he had heard from many it WILL be 4 lanes.

Item No 7 and we nearly had a budget blowout of \$207m on new footpaths except for the watchful eye of Cr Syers, who picked up the same mistake from last month. Long term memory must be good Warwick, shame it was not corrected from last month even after the CEO was not happy with the mistakes on this and Items 9 & 10 on last month's Council agenda. Perhaps some feel the CEO has bigger issues facing him than simple mistakes on agendas and are taking no notice of him?

There appeared to be much discussion about Bike Northland application for funding Item no 8. Chair Greg Martin only wanted recommendation 1 & 2 as per the agenda. Cr Edwards wanted the item as read 1, 2, 3, & 4. Cr Syers 1&2. Cr Kahu Sutherland had concerns there were unknown quantities attached to recommendations 3 & 4. After some discussion with the accountant, Cr Sharon Morgan pronounced she thought recommendations 4 was a 'Budget issue'. Cr Sue Glen was not happy about tagging soft bits on the end of recommendations and could only support 1 & 2. Cr McLachlan felt Pohe Island needed some TLC and Cr Williams believed Pohe Island could be a great asset to the community and saw no need to refuse recommendations 3 & 4. Cr Martin claimed there were plans for Pohe Island and didn't want to see events stop those plans. Hope the reason Greg, is not just the Hikurangi Motorsport and Outdoor Recreation Park competing for the funds that could be going into this project. Cr Edwards request was lost and only Cr Christie had concerns a precedent was being set for National or International events and other clubs coming forward for funding by only accepting recommendation 1 & 2. He believed now, with this item of funding, they have opened themselves up a bit. Crichton you need to wise up those hockey teams to get some more funding now, or have they already had their share?

Item 9 New Road names proceeded without any hassle but then over enthusiastic Cr John Williamson keen to propose, tried to claim victory to Item No11 before another Road name (Item 10) had proceeded. The second New Road Name was actioned with no discussion so Cr Williamson could now send his bouquets to the Rotary Club and their trolley derby. Is there a tie up with Rotary John, or do you like trolleys?

The last item was a temporary road closure (Item12) for Project Promise and Cr Merv Williams was in total support for this very valuable project. It was a minor inconvenience to the public and I believe the citizens of Whangarei see it that way as well. I know we also sincerely wish the Project Promise well.

Chair Cr Greg Martin thanked all for attending, wished them well and the meeting concluded at 0940hrs.

We hope Mayor Cutforth's sore throat gets better as I don't believe he spoke during the meeting, or was the effect, that he was in ex-councillor Alan Goodhews chair?

Off to the library for a coffee before the next meeting at 1100hrs

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)