

Whangarei District Council Infrastructure and Services meeting - 9th March 2011

It was 0900hrs when Cr (Sgt) Syers and Cr Glen arrived for the Infrastructure & Services meeting when Chair Cr Greg Martin was welcoming all to the meeting. *Maybe the synchronising of watches may be in order. Perhaps Mr Singh could even calibrate them like as in the 'stopwatch fiasco.*

Apologies were accepted for Mayor Morris (180°) Cutforth.

At 0901hrs. it was Item No.1. Minutes from the previous meeting and these were passed with no discussion necessary.

Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) Performance Report, Item No. 2. and it was Group Manager Infrastructure & Services, Simon Weston who outlined the plan stating the report was for July to December.

It's now 0902hrs and in strolls 180° (Morris the Mayor) closely followed by Cr Crichton Christie at 0903hrs. *Their watches must all be slow or perhaps even, over-wound.*

Cr Merv Williams believed a 53% achievement rate was not satisfactory. Was it because it's what the Auditors want? Was the approved draft Annual Plan practicalities what we want and not being achieved, or are the staff setting targets wrong?

Hold it, it's now 0904hrs. time for CEO Mark Simpson closely followed by Democracy and Legal Services Manager, Jazz Singh to join the meeting. *I can put you all in contact with a good watchmaker if you so care.*

Cr Williams continues, as a bad result of only 53% was attained, was a change needed in methodology and KPI's (Key Performance Indicators) in the future?

Cr Shelley Deeming claimed it is nonsense and it tells us and the public nothing.

Cr Warwick Syers thought they had discussed it vigorously outside this forum and had set themselves up to fail. *He would possibly like that type of 'Cone of Silence', he appears to like and promote.*

Cr John Williamson didn't know the answer and asked how these performance measures were surveyed.

Quick to answer, Simon Weston claimed it was across a whole host of questions when the survey was done in June/July.

Cr Aaron Edwards believed that some of the numbers were sliding and was that due to neglect to fund in transport options creating a challenge to council.

With the clock ticking over to 0909hrs it was Item No.3. Hatea Sewer Pump Station Emergency Storage Tank and Treatment. It was Simon Weston to give the details that this tank was part of the waste water strategy. There would be a tank and pump station

at Hatea. Treatment was to be part of the system and the tanks were designed to meet its volume and treat when full completely any overflow. The tank would hold the water then pump to the Waste Water Treatment Plant. He believed it was a good outcome for a reasonable price.

Cr Brian McLachlan enquired how many properties were linked to this pump station and told by Mr Weston, 2300.

Cr Crichton Christie welcomed this item; it was the 2nd leg to a long job. He congratulated the staff who had looked at everything, the Hatea was the 2nd major problem with overflows and they had taken the message from the public 2-3 years ago. Chair Cr Greg Martin stated that Crichton Christie did a lot of work on this in the past. *That's an interesting comment, in the last term as Chair of this the Infrastructure and Services committee, Crichton's meetings only lasted about 6 to 9 minutes, so he really didn't appear to do very much. It could take some convincing and not just a means to gain 'brownie points' by Greg.*

Cr Merv Williams queried what was the next step? Was it capacities and another stage for inflows? Simon Weston claimed there were the 5 year events to tackle, a reserve level of containment and the next will be the Waste Water Treatment Plant and treatment. They would then look at smaller spills.

Cr Williams said it was good to see a local contractor being awarded the contract. (United Civil Construction Ltd were successful with a price of \$4,070,018.00 excl GST) He added that Waste Manager, Andrew Carvell had had some meetings with interested parties and these had gone well.

Cr Sue Glen was thankful that some in the community had spoken out or they wouldn't be doing it. Sue believed they had asked, council had listened and acted (*but that was only because of pressure*) and those people needed to be recognised.

In reality basic infrastructure eg. Healthy sewerage systems and clean healthy water, the community should not HAVE to ask or battle for. These are services council should willingly provide and to a high standard. Polluting waterways is totally unacceptable.

Cr Sharon Morgan queried on the time frame for the project to be told by Simon Weston it should be completed in approx 9 months.

Item No. 4. Appointment of Trustees to Otonga Cemetery Board. It was now 0917hrs and Chair Greg Martin (tongue in cheek) wondered if anyone wanted to be on the trust, to a background of a few giggles. *Thought there could have been some takers with an abundance of dead heads around, to choose from.*

Sierra Avenue- No Stopping, Item No. 5. at 0918hrs. Cr John Williamson claimed it was initiated by the police as a safety issue so there was no discussion to it.

Item No. 6. (0919hrs) Proposed No-Stopping Lines: Intersection of Farmers and Grant Street. Cr Crichton Christie states that he opposes this item.

Cr Warwick (Sgt) Syers wants to hear why.

Crichton Christie claimed there was limited number of traffic.

Cr Williamson acknowledged what Cr Christie had said and 'for the life of me couldn't figure out why it was needed'.

Cr Sue Glen questioned whether the applicant had valid reasons with Simon Weston stating 'Staff don't make these decisions lightly'.

Cr Merv Williams felt Mr Weston's comments were a contradiction and different to what they were told.

Cr Syers believed the discussion hadn't resolved the problem.

Cr Shelley Deeming claimed it was discussed at a 'focus group' and a stage of the process had been missing.

Cr Williamson stated he had been given this list of 4 a month ago and his response was he had some difficulty with this and not comfortable with the process.

Chair Cr Greg Martin, to the rescue (*it was going nowhere*) and wished to withdraw the motion. It was seconded by (he's still awake-180°) Morris Cutforth. (*and all without a prepared written speech. Didn't he do well!*)

It's now 0926hrs, Item No. 7. Proposed No-Stopping Lines: Intersection of Wrack and Davies Street, Regent. Cr Crichton Christie felt the 'Road Code' clearly says you can't park there and do we have to paint lines everywhere.

Cr Edwards questioned how many other parts of town require every corner needing lines painted. Mr Weston claimed it was at the request of police, as a safety issue.

Cr Morgan queried if we don't see these has nothing happened? Mr Weston replied that either the issue was resolved or nothing happens.

Cr Kahu Sutherland queried 'whether there was an abundance of paint', but continued to say, 'if it's about safety then it's ok'. He believed it was a policing issue, not councils and shouldn't be at the expense of the ratepayer.

Item No. 8. Proposed No-Stopping Lines: End of North Street. Its 0930hrs and Cr Merv Williams kicks it off questioning whether it was another item by accident. The biggest user of this area is the bridge club and they need to slow these things down. (*We believe he was saying they need to slow down these requests?*)

Item No.9. New Road Name. The last item at 0932hrs and it was naming a new road at Springs Flat. The Chair, Cr Greg Martin made comment that it was probably good that a new road in Springs Flat was called Springs Flat Road. (*and that's by the chair*)

Group Manager Infrastructure and Services, Simon Weston was asked by the chair to give an update on the Porowhini Bridge. Simon stated the project was behind and contractors Smith & Davies were behind on schedule. It should be finished in the next 5 weeks with the landscaping to be continued later.

There was some concern by Councillors in regard to flooding recently in the Kaka Street/ Porowhini Road area and the storm water system in the area needed some attention. (Surprise surprise, we believe the storm water system needs lots of work)

Chair Cr Greg Martin thanked all for attending. That was it, the meeting concluded at 0936hours and the public left as there was an item in the 'Confidential' section of the agenda. (*strange one of us got a copy*)

Off to the library for a coffee before the next meeting at 1030hrs

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)