

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

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)

CEO Mark Simpson informed those present that it was not yet 10 o'clock and he would like to introduce a new member of staff. When advised by his keepers that it was not nearly 9 o'clock, he covered by saying, that he was just testing. *Testing himself, I suspect?*

He continued and introduced Kathryn Candy, for the Democracy and Legal Services department, as in-house legal counsel. *Certainly hope Kathryn lasts longer than the last ones who left after short times giving OIA's to requestants.*

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

Apologies were received for Mayor Morris Cutforth and Cr Merv Williams
Cr Warwick Syers only just made the start time, wandering in as Greg was calling for apologies. *Would an apology for him being present have more substance?*

Time at 0901hrs and it was Item No.1. Minutes of a Meeting of the Infrastructure and Services Committee held 12 October 2011(page 1) and these were passed with no discussion necessary.

Time still at 0901hrs. Item No. 2. Walking and Cycling Strategy Review 2011 (page 5)
Cr Aaron Edwards advised this was an update of the strategy since 2007. It would allow us to deliver more in areas of cycling and walkways.

Cr Kahu Sutherland queried if anyone had given any thought to the financial commitment and how much?

Cr John Williamson was going to support this strategy. This was about recreation and health needs of the community.

Cr Brian McLachlan believed that this highlighted the fact that many were interested in Cycling and walking.

Cr Jeroen Jongejans supported the strategy explaining there were leisure cyclists, serious cyclists and commuter cyclists. He added that if rail was mothballed cyclists could use that route to Auckland.

Cr Warwick Syers felt they had to be careful they didn't create too much expectation. *Gee here we go, is this BIG SPENDER on a quilt trip?* He continued with we have to get 'bangs for our bucks'. *Well Warwick you could have gone to the fireworks display and got plenty of bangs for \$10-00. No free passes eh?* He added that there were concerns where some of the off road cycle ways go. There was riff-raff using the tracks and had heard that these opened up the backs of houses to people. He felt the tracks over Riverside were not being used to their potential. He supported the strategy but had words of warning.

Cr Sharon Morgan supported the strategy but had concerns in regards to the safety issue as Cr Syers had expressed and schools also needed to be involved.

Cr Sue Glen wondered if Cr Syers and she were driving over different roads as she had seen the BMX facility used most frequently. *Maybe Warwick was going past late after footy drinks and not noticing the use of the facilities?* Sue did feel however that they needed to learn from some previous mistakes that had been made regarding location of these walking and cycling tracks.

Cr Aaron Edwards, in his right of reply, said we must work out what we want to commit to this. He was sure council had learnt from mistakes on the Raumanga track regarding security. *Are you being generous Aaron, do they learn from anything?*

Item No.3. (0916hrs.) Coastal Protection Works Long Term Plan (page 59)

Cr Phil Halse wanted an amendment to No. 3 in the recommendation.

Cr Crichton Christie made a comment regarding the plan. *This was hard to understand as the sound system was turned down, as per usual.*

Item No. 4. (0917hrs.) Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (page 99)

Cr Brian McLachlan believed there were some areas of focus; mainly that on the charges on tonnage of waste.

Cr Shelley Deeming hoped that the consultation process was taken at an appropriate time and not over the Christmas period. *They have done this sort of prank in the past, when they try to slip things through under the radar.*

It's now 0919hrs and Item No. 5. Temporary Road Closure – Kamo Christmas Parade 2011 (page 101)

Cr Crichton Christie was supported of this item, quipping “Next year you should see my new float”. *Grow a beard Crichton and you may even look old enough to be the jolly fellow.*

Cr Kahu Sutherland, jokingly asked, “Is there a conflict of interest here?” Some laughter filled the chamber, *but did Warwick smile? I may have just missed it?*

The meeting is all but over but CEO Mark Simpson wanted to make some comments re the lights at Kamo. They WDC haven't been having problems with the lights as it was NZTA (New Zealand Transport Authority) whose project it was. They, WDC were working with them and had fielded many complaints and had been writing to NZTA in regards them. The lights need to be synchronised and they would work with NZTA on that. We are also having issues with State Highway One and State Highway 14 intersection. The improvements are two years away but Cr Greg Martin, Deputy Mayor Cr Phil Halse and himself (Mark Simpson) will have to work with NZTA on this issue. *Interesting, there is no mention of 'Mr Green', (Mayor Morris Cutforth) to be involved with this discussion or would that be just a waste of time?*

Chair Cr Greg Martin thanked all for attending and concluded the meeting at 0923hours before moving into a confidential session.

C.1 Confidential Minutes of a Meeting of the Infrastructure and Services Committee held 12 October 2011. (page 1)

To the library for a relaxing coffee and back before the next meeting at 1030hrs.