

Moutere Hills Residents Association

Public Meeting
Tuesday 05/04/2016 - 7 pm
Moutere Inn

Minutes

1. Welcome

a. Welcome by Chairperson

- TDC Representatives: Mayor Richard Kempthorne, CEO Lindsay McKenzie, Environment and Planning Manager Dennis Bush-King, Strategic Policy Manager Sharon Flood, Cr Brian Ensor, Cr Tim King

b. Members Present

- T Finn (Chair), M Bender (Secretary), J & W Heine, R & P Hellyer, P Hyatt, J Manning, J Ruebsam, D Tonge, M Weller, L Briars, P Leith

c. Visitors

- R Hyatt, A Eggers, J Clifton, A Peckham

2. TDC Annual Plan 2016/17

a. Presentation by TDC representatives

- R Kempthorne describes this year's approach to the Annual Plan which is based on community engagement rather than formal consultation; main issues for council at the moment are reductions in rates increases and debt, as well as various planned facilities upgrades throughout the district.
- L McKenzie presents on financial management and ongoing changes in TDC structure as laid out in the Long Term Plans 2015-25
- D Bush-King highlights larger projects such as the Waimea Dam, the new joint solid waste facilities arrangement and increased housing demand in the district

b. Questions and Discussion

- *M Bender: what is the main motivation behind the **new engagement process**?*
 - TDC: to achieve a more streamlined/efficient and cost-saving process, rather than the 'demand-and-negation' cycle that often forms part of formal consultation.
- *W Heine: what happens to **'deferred' items from the Annual Plan**?*
 - TDC: generally, deferred items should move into next Annual Plan. If they get deferred too often, they should be taken out of future plans.
- *General Discussion: unhappiness and concerns raised about the **traffic calming installation at entrance to Sunrise Valley Road***
 - There appears to have been no consultation prior to this work (TDC agrees).
 - The new layout raises safety issues, e.g. for kids getting off school bus at the corner.
- *R Hellyer: general concerns about **road maintenance**, especially on gravel roads, and **road-side mowing** (roads becoming unsafe once down to sand or clay)*
 - R Kempthorne: general road-side mowing should happen twice a year, there were delays this year due to fire risk.
 - T King: it is true total levels of road maintenance have been reduced to save costs.
 - TDC refers to 'Feedback and Request of Service Form' which should be used.
- *J Clifton: would like to complement TDC on **cost-saving and debt-reduction** matters and supports TDC operating 'more as a business' but would like to reiterate concerns about the **Waimea Dam** project - the concern being that the project is posing a huge **financial risk**, with a lot of the financial burden potentially left on the general rate payer and a very small group of businesses being the main beneficiaries*
 - R Kempthorne: agrees with some points but also points out the risks to the district if the dam project does not proceed. Establishing the funding model for the dam is critical, and the financial gap between council funding and business funding does yet have to be filled.
 - T King: highlights the importance of the horticultural industry to the district.
 - J Clifton raises questions about the general water taxation principle (permit vs metered charges) and concludes that not enough investigation has been made into overall sustainable water use.

- *A Peckham: initiates discussion on **council fees & charges***
 - TDC: generally fees & charges are set on a cost-recovery basis.
 - R Kempthorne: council always aims to deliver services as efficiently and fairly as possible.
 - D Bush-King: cites examples for council charges being the lower ones when compared to services that have been outsourced to commercial providers.
- *P Leith: Thanks to council for ongoing support of the Moutere Hills Community Centre. Has council looked at sales of shares in the Port Company to **fund the Waimea Dam**?*
 - T King: council have looked into **asset sales** but are considering that holding on to assets is more valuable in the long run.
- *T Finn: how to get **new projects** added to the Annual Plan or Long Term Plan?*
 - T King: once there is a proposal or design, try to get it into the next AP (before christmas) or in time for the next LTP review.
- *W Heine: concerns about **cars-for-sale parked in the village**, blocking parking spaces or obstructing traffic.*
 - D Bush-King: the issue is recognized, and is a problem in several places around the district (but it currently in the 'too hard' basket). Previously a bylaw against trading in public places was in place, but this was since repealed.
 - R Kempthorne: a Parking Bylaw review is currently under way for school zones. However, the Parking Bylaw could only generally limit the time of any vehicle being parked, not restrict vehicles being parked for sale.

3. Close

a. Chairperson

- Recap of the meeting.
- Thanks and close.