**Matakana Community Group meeting**

**July 7th 2016**

**Matakana Community Hall**

**Present** Simon Barclay, Eric Henry, Fiona Sowten, Liz Sharek, Scott McCallum, Richard Wintle, Mike Petre, Chelsea de Berry, Barbara Souter, Beth Houlbrooke, Neville Johnson, Amanda Stewart, Bubbles Bourke, Allison Roe, Farida Cooper, Clyde Cooper, Joe Zhao, Eddie Zhong, Robin Barclay

Guest speakers John Badham and Vaughan Mackereth from Matakana Fire Brigade.

**Apologies** Trish Allen, Tony Whincop, Mike Dixon, John Walsh, John and Wendy Schick, Geoff Craig

**Matakana Volunteer Fire Service** (John and Vaughan)

The Fire Service is starting a campaign to recruit for volunteer firefighters to join the Matakana fire brigade. These volunteers need to be encouraged to ensure that fire crews are available to answer our emergency calls.

They accept volunteers from the age of 18 onwards.

The volunteers need to live or work locally to be able to get to the call outs quickly.

The commitment involves a 7 day preparation course – held in Rotorua, and 2 hours a week training on core skills (Tuesdays 7-9pm) at the Matakana station.

The volunteers are on call and alerted to call outs via a paging system and their mobile phones.

In the 2014/15 year the call outs that were related to fire – structural or vegetation (39), hazardous emergencies (3), Rescue, emergency or medical call (26)

The total number of call outs for the 5 years prior to this were 604.

There is established employer recognition for employers who support staff who volunteer into the fire service.

**Minutes** of June meeting accepted Neville/Scott

**Financial Report** (Eric)

00 account $16,535.76

01 ARST account $2219.27

50 account $93010.25

**TOTAL $111,765.28**

**Payments** $502.85 expenses in relation to community garden

**Receipts** $4542.89 GST refund

$15 membership fee

$35.78 interest

**Weekend display of MCG projects past, present and future** (Amanda)

An impressive display of aerial photos taken of Matakana was shown that will be used on the day. Our thanks Richard from AerialPix who took these images at no charge to the group.

This display included photos of projects such as the Jubilee Park – before and expected after, the Matakana drains current and hopefully how they will look when covered, photos of the walk bridges both north and southand the proposed car park by the school.

Images will be able to be added to the display as time goes on and change is made.

The display is aimed to be interactive with markers that the user can point to change to the image or information they are after.

It is hoped the feedback gathered from this day can be used to guide us from what is perceived to not be working or currently problematic in our village towards possible ideas for future improvements.

The Matakana Variety Performance Group (MVP) are interested in perhaps using this day to advertise or showcase future projects they may be running.

The suggestion was also made that the Fire Service may be interested in setting up some sort of display also on the day to showcase the need for volunteer fire fighters in this area

**Jubilee Park**

A meeting is to be held next Monday between Jeff Lyford (ACC), the Rodney Local Board (Beth) and Simon looking at the progress for the park.

On the agenda will be the council funding of $350,000 expected to be approved for the park and once this is approved the work will go out to tender. Tiger Turf has already been involved looking at cheaper options for the work.

The resource consent for the removal of the Macrocarpa trees has been approved. There are still a few issues to be sorted out before work can be done.

A local contractor has offered to cut down the Macrocarpa and offer the firewood for sale.

Once the trees are removed remedial planting can be started

**Matakana planting project**

Simon and Eddie (new owner of Wharehine site) had a look at the overgrown plants and weeds on the berm in front of Wharehines with a view to removing them and replanting with mixed natives to provide a more attractive entry into the village at this point.

Simon estimated that the entire work would cost around $5,000 and proposed that $2,000 be set aside from community funds to buy the plants to be planted here.

Mike asked that the plants here be the same or similar to the plantings to be done at Jubilee Park thereby matching both of these entranceway into Matakana.

**Walkway bridge project**

Work continues and is expected to be completed and in place late August.

An opening day will need to be organised.

**Car park by the school**

The lease has been drown up between the school and the landowner.

Once approved by the school board work will commence.

The design plans are completed.

Decisions still need to be made regarding the seal option to be used.

Money will be required for signs and for various other work involved with setting up and maintenance. There is some uncertainty about who will be responsible for these costs.

**Tamahunga bridge project**

Auckland Transport has set up a draft agreement with MCG showing AT being responsible for the work on the bridge and the eastern side of the bridge onto Matakana Road and MCG being responsible for the work on the Western side leading from the bridge onto Tamahunga Road.

Unexpectedly, AT has stipulated that MCG provide a concreted footpath meeting up with the one on Tamahunga Road. This will raise costs considerably for MCG. Scott has suggested an alternative option of raising the path to the height of the retaining wall which would reduce costs again by taking out the need for steps to be built and reducing the length of the footpath required.

**Financial concerns**

Concerns were raised at the meeting regarding whether we will have enough funds for all these projects we are committed to.

Simon offered reassurance that there is a plan in place for the funding of all these projects.

The hard part is getting the projects to a certain point where they become viable for funds from AT/ACC/RLB but they need to get to this point before they can progress further. Once that point is reached we can allocate or raise funds as required.

**Fundraising**

Barbara is continuing to work towards the organisation of a repeat of a previous very successful Kingdom for a Day fundraiser that raised $26,000 towards the building of the Matakana toilet block.

**Upgrade work Matakana Valley Road**

It is understood funds have been set aside in the AT 17/18 budget for work on Matakana Valley Road. We need to make sure we have input into this work to ensure that the work completed meets the requirements of the village – covering the drains, providing parking, possible roundabouts and improving traffic flow into, around and out of Matakana.

**School Pedestrian Crossing**

The subject came up about the need for a pedestrian crossing from the school across the road.

This has been looked into in the past and surveys carried out by AT which showed there was not enough foot traffic across this road to require a pedestrian crossing and that a temporarily manned crossing was the only option here in the past.

The school is thought to be reluctant to take on the responsibility for a manned crossing.

Chelsea offered to follow-up with the school particularly in regards to the changing situation with the new bridge providing pedestrian access onto Tamahunga Road and there potentially being more unaccompanied children wanting to cross here in the future.

**Community Garden**

Quiet times in the garden over winter but all going well.

A vegetable stand and donation box has been set up for produce taken.

**Greenways meeting** (Allison)

A meeting was held recently to bring all walking/cycling groups in the area together with the aim to work together to get better efficiencies and reduce costs – get more bang for our buck.

The Auckland City Councillors working on cycle/walkway projects have seen the high level of community energy and enthusiasm that has already seen great results in walk/cycleways in the Mahurangi area and have decided to start their project here to start connecting all the walkways in greater Auckland. This is great news and a real boost towards getting all these pathways completed and linked quickly and hopefully at the best price.

**Community Funds** (Beth)

Beth has sent out theguidelines and time line for the Rodney Local Board Community Grants 2016/2017. These grants may provide a contribution to the final cost, may match funds provided elsewhere or cover costs 100%.

The RLB end of three year report is out and available on line. This is valuable to look at regarding what has been achieved here and in other local areas and perhaps to get ideas for future projects

**Community signage**

There has been many complaints about the electronic sign set up outside the Ascension Vineyard.

It is believed this is being looked at by council regarding its suitability in this area

Richard will re contact the person he spoke with in council regarding the work being done to reduce the number of signs in Matakana.

**Thank you**

A signed card, wine and chocolates were received as thanks for the contribution MCG made to the setting up of the Matakana Netball Hawks team.