**Minutes for Warkworth Area Liaison Group**

**Date:** 3rd April 2019

**Meeting Opened:** 7:30 pm

**Chairperson:** Bruce Scoggins

**Attendees:**  31 People

**Apologies:** Glyn Williams, Les Greenwood, Maurie Hooper, Richard Papworth (hang on, no, he was there)

**Minutes of last meeting:** Ox Wightman/Peter Buckton

**Guest speaker; Richard Blundell, Patron of St John**

* St John is sometimes thought of as ‘The Unknown Charity’ as it feels part the landscape and almost taken for granted by people. Its roots go back centuries and it operates in 25 countries around the world. It was granted a royal order in England in 1888 and has its own honours system recognizing people’s achievements. It has been in NZ for decades but only been a registered charity in the last 7 years or so and is now a $300million organization. NZ is one of only three countries where St John operates an ambulance service.
* St John has three sections; -
1. Charity work, such as health shuttles, op shops, rest-home helpers/carers, etc. This work costs $14million per year. Charity work is an area where St John want to focus on in the future.
2. Income fundraising. Medical alarms and first aid training courses are main income streams and bring in about $12.5million. The annual St John Appeal week is on now and that generally brings in about $24million.
3. Ambulance Service, this costs about $222million per year to run plus $13million of voluntary labour. St John have a fleet of 600 ambulances plus many ambulance stations and buildings around the country. They have 70% of the operational costs funded by central government. While bigger centres mainly have double-crewing on the ambulances, there are still large areas around NZ where ambulances are only single-crewed. It is hoped to move entirely to double-crewing throughout NZ in about two years. A double-crewed ambulance costs $1million per year to run.
* Ambulances cost about $225,000 each. Until now Mercedes vans would be brought in empty and fitted out in NZ but St John are trialing 12 new VW ambulances that will be brought in fully fitted.
* It costs an average of $465 per ambulance callout. If a callout is on an ACC matter then the government pays 100% of the cost but if it is a Ministry of Health callout the government only pays 88%. $19million was charged to people for ambulance callouts but $4.5million have had to be written off as bad debts. There will be a $10million shortfall in ambulance income this year.
* The recent industrial action by ambulance workers has not yet resolved and the difference between what is asked for by the workers and the amount St John can offer is still large.
* St John has had very good support from immigrant communities. The local Chinese community has donated 15 ambulances in the last 5 years and recently the Indian community has donated one.
* Richard mentioned what is thought of as the hidden costs of St John. This is the funding of the 111 calls. Last year there were 507,000 111 calls resulting in 430,000 incidents of which 390,000 were attended. There is a new emphasis being put on phone triage, finding out what the issue is over the phone, and if possible giving the required advice. This is proving very successful and 48,000 were treated this way. Many hospital admissions were avoided by this initiative.
* St John is increasing its data collecting ability. Areas around the country can have data specific to them identified. For example, ambulance costs for Warkworth were $1.43million last year and $179,000 was raised in our area. (No area raises all the money it needs.) There were 2,033 incidents and the air ambulance was called 63 times. There are 206 medical alarms and 53 defibrillators in Warkworth.
* Richard was thanked for a very informative presentation.

**Local Board member Allison Roe spoke on our area’s trails**

* Greenways, or shared paths are of great benefit to our communities, and provision for them should be made in Structure Plans. They allow people to get out and experience our lovely outdoor areas which promotes well-being. E-bikes have made this a lot easier for people of all ages to use trails.
* The Rodney Greenways Plan is expected to soon be endorsed by Council. This will enable work to begin on these trails which are designed to interconnect across the region. It is hoped that the community will see the benefits of this initiative and get behind it.
* The next step will be to sort out access issues so trail routes can be finalised and fundraising can start. It will cost a lot of money to get all the trails established but $250,000 has been granted by the Local Board for a feasibility study already. A fundraiser will be employed.
* A path from the Omaha Community Centre to the roundabout will be one of the first paths to be worked on. The trail from Snells Beach to Warkworth (the Puhinui Trail) is another exciting project and work should start on this in a year or so. The Local Board has granted $50,000 towards this.
* The Matakana Link Rd proposed a cycle path beside it but it is thought that a trail not connected with the road, but rather going through the Showgrounds is a much better option.
* E-bikes can be hired by Paul at Matakana Country Park.

**Rodney Local Board Chair Beth Houlbrooke**

* Beth spoke at the recent Council hearings on the Matakana Link Rd emphasising the need for connectivity with any design. Access around the area and into Warkworth must be enhanced. Beth pushed for the proposed route for the bike path through the Showgrounds and suggested connecting it to the new park’n’ride and on to the town centre. There is also a suspension bridge mooted to link in with this.
* Consultation is now open on the dog bylaws. This is focused on sorting out the time dogs can be taken onto beaches, etc, and how long the season will be that they can do this. The Council are looking at extending summer hours when dogs will not be allowed on the beach from Mar 1st to Mar 31st, and making access after 7pm rather than 6pm. This is part of an attempt to standardise rules and signage across Auckland. Go to the Council website to have your say.
* There is also a discussion document open on the future of water in Auckland. This is about how we manage all aspects of water usage. Council want your feedback.
* Another discussion document open is one on marine pests.
* Auckland Transport has just finished consulting on road speed limit reviews. 90% of the reviews were in the Rodney district but no results are available yet. Another consultation will begin soon on speed limits in other areas not yet considered.
* Feedback given on the Local Board budget has been looked at and analysed. 199 responses were received from Rodney residents but only 149 addressed Rodney issues. Beth advised that the results were a bit frustrating as there was a lot of feedback that simply said ‘forget other stuff, just concentrate on roading issues’. However the Local Board budget is not meant for roading so this feedback was not relevant so results were not that helpful.

**Auckland Councillor Greg Sayers**

* Local body elections are going to happen this year and Greg has noticed a mood change around Council with more tension apparent. Greg is waiting for mayoral candidates to release policy information to see what the main issues will be. The latest surveys have been released and are showing 80% of those surveyed did not have confidence in Auckland Council’s decision-making abilities. Not a great look.
* Council’s CEO has been reaffirmed in his role. Greg questioned the wisdom of this bearing in mind that budget targets last year were not met.
* Greg believes one of the issues for consideration during the election period is whether Rodney is getting a fair, equitable deal within the Auckland region. Also of importance to Greg is community empowerment to have a say on decisions that affect it. Communities need to feel they are being listened to, and their opinions considered. Local contractors need to be included in Council’s local projects. Greg also believes that more money should be given to Local Boards to use at their discretion in local areas.
* Greg noted that in order for Phil Goff to keep his cap on rates increases promise he needed to get money from somewhere and this has meant fees for Council services have been steadily increasing.
* Greg advised that the Council bus service will be due for review after six months

**Hill St and Matakana Link (Roger Williams)**

* Roger presented to council at the Matakana Link Rd hearing for designation and resource consent on behalf of WALG on the 27th March. He was joined by Martin Dancy and spoke for Dave Stott as well (Dave was ill and couldn’t attend).
* Roger emphasised the need for four lanes as much as possible and also the need to allow for future intersections in the design. He also noted the need for the scope of work to allow flexibility during the construction period for the contractor to get the best value for the funding provided.
* Roger pointed out that the modelling that the council was basing its decisions on was seriously flawed. Population projections that were used were incorrect, and allowances made for traffic movements were not right. This leads to the potential for wrong decisions being made.
* Designation and resource consent needs to happen as soon as possible so work can begin on the 1st of October or the summer earthworks season will be missed. Indications are that there may be appeals that will delay things but it is hoped that these won’t be a problem.
* Frustratingly there has still been no preferred option released for the final design for the Hill St intersection. A new date of the middle of this year has been given for a business case to be available but no one is holding their breath. It is imperative that Hill St makes it on to the next transport budget. Hill St needs to be on the agenda for the next NZTA and AT board meetings and we need to lobby as hard as possible with as many influential people as we can to make this happen.
* Beth advised that the pedestrian crossing proposed across the intersection to Kowhai Park has been promised to happen before June this year. We’ll see….

**General Business**

* Dave Stott advised that One Warkworth has a new website [www.onewarkworth.co.nz](http://www.onewarkworth.co.nz) that has just been established and is now on line.
* Dave Stott told the meeting that the old hotel on the Oaks site will be lifted up three metres off the ground soon to allow for new foundations to be drilled and set. It will then be lowered back down and will eventually be about 500mm higher than where it is now.
* Brian Oakes told us that after a very successful event last year the Mahurangi Winter Festival will be held again this year starting on Friday the 19th July. The first event will be an illuminated parade through town featuring all manner of vehicles as long as they are covered with lights. Start planning your entry for this now! The parade will do two laps of town and will end on the wharf which will be all lit up and have food trucks, buskers, etc. On Saturday the 20th there will be ice skating and a load of snow for the kids to play on. There will also be a winter themed kid’s film showing at the Warkworth Town Hall. One Warkworth will be needing volunteers so contact Murray if you can help out.
* ATEED contacted One Warkworth and advised that funding is available for groups to use on light-themed activities. One Warkworth applied for, and received a sizeable grant that has enabled them to get permanent lighting for five of the trees beside the wharf. Individual tree sponsors will be sought to get lights for the rest of the trees and they will have a named plaque put on that tree. ATEED have started the Element website which promotes things in the Auckland area and Warkworth will be able to link into this to promote itself.

**Meeting Closed:** 9.30 pm. Next meeting is on May 1st at 7-00pm