**Minutes for Warkworth Area Liaison Group**

**Date:** 4th Dec 2019

**Meeting Opened:** 7:30 pm

**Chairperson:** Hueline Massey

**Attendees:**  21 People

**Apologies:** Richard Papworth, Tim Holdgate, Terry Nuthall, Dave Parker, Burnette O’Connor, Dave Stott, Russell Cullen, Brendan Chaff

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

**Guest speakers; Brent Evans, Watercare’s Local Board and Stakeholder Liaison Manager, and Andre Stuart, Watercare’s Wastewater Planning Manager**

* Brent commented that it was 12 months ago that he first came to address our group about Watercare’s proposal for dealing with the proposed growth around the Warkworth area. This is still a work in progress but a wastewater system and a drinking water supply system are both underway. Brent introduced Andre to present on what’s been happening.
* Andre advised that the new water treatment plant at Sanderson Rd is now fully operational. This takes water from the bore, treats it and then pumps it to the reservoirs in View Rd and Thompson Rd for use in Warkworth township. A new reservoir is planned for the north of Warkworth, as well as a new one servicing the south and another again, the West. The current bore is consented to supply 16,000 people, which is estimated to be enough for the next twenty years or so.
* Snells Beach does not currently have the same access to a big drinking water supply and this is constraining development in the area.
* The wastewater in Warkworth is treated to a very high level, but is not quite potable (drinkable). The last stage to get the wastewater to a potable level would be a very expensive exercise. At the moment the population is not at a level that offers an economy of scale that would make treatment of wastewater to a potable state economic. We have enough naturally occurring water which is still way cheaper to treat to a potable level than treating wastewater. However in many areas around the world economies of scale, plus scarcity of water mean this approach has been successfully adopted there. There is a negative public perception of the process that would need to be addressed if this option was ever considered for use here.
* Wastewater in this area is in the process of being up-graded under the North East Wastewater Scheme. This involves channeling all the wastewater from the Warkworth urban area to a new pump station next to the current pump station adjacent to Lucy Moore Park. It will then be pumped along a pipeline that crosses the Mahurangi River to Mahurangi East Rd near the limeworks road, and follows Mahurangi East Rd out to a new Snells Beach wastewater treatment plant. Wastewater from Snells Beach and Algies Bay will be piped to this plant too. From here the treated water will be piped through a new pipeline to a point just south of Martins Bay where it will pass out into the bay 250 metres off-shore. The Snells Beach plant is state-of-the-art and the quality of the discharged water is very high, almost potable.
* The pipeline from Snells Beach to the Martins Bay outfall is currently under construction. The first section of this pipeline will be laid by trenching, and the last 2 kms or so will be drilled using a tunnel boring machine that drags the pipe behind it. The design of the Snells Beach plant has been finalized and the tender will be let soon. The pipeline from Snells Beach to Warkworth is still undergoing some design work, notably trying to find a geologically stable path under the Mahurangi River to the pump station at Lucy Moore Park. Another pipeline will be run into the Lucy Moore Park pump station from along SH1 north of Warkworth which will bring wastewater in from a developer connection point near the proposed motorway junction. This will catch wastewater from future developments to the north, east and south. The latter two areas via a gravity main through a pump station in Falls Rd. Some existing pipework along Queen St can be used, but other pipework in Elizabeth St and Baxter St will need upgrading.
* Brent finished by saying that there will inevitably be disruption while the pipework is laid but there is no way of doing the work without this disruption. Every effort will be made to mitigate this.
* The North East Wastewater Scheme is due for completion in April 2022 at which stage the current Warkworth plant will be decommissioned.
* Brent and Andre both praised the arrangement they have with Fletchers and Fulton Hogan where these two contractors are embedded into Watercare’s operations and are thus giving invaluable input during the whole process.
* Note that I have attached the slides that Brent and Andre presented showing maps,etc.
* Glyn Williams queried Brent about the quality of the water supplied by the new Sanderson Rd treatment plant. He pointed out that unlike the old treated river water, the new water has a high silicon content and the water very quickly stains glass, pots and everything else it comes into contact with. He expressed concerns about what was happening inside dishwashers, washing machines and other appliances that may cause major problems in the future as residue builds up over time? Brent said he could offer no reassurance on this matter as there is no easy way to remove silicon from the water without enormous cost. He pointed out that many areas have even harder water than we do. Watercare had no other option but to change to the higher silicon bore supply as Warkworth was in imminent danger of completely running out of water during dry spells.

**Auckland Councilor Greg Sayers**

* Greg first wanted to point out that Warkworth is in for a period of very strong growth. This inevitably means we are going to have to get used to big changes around our community.
* The Mayor’s new budget will come out soon for comment between 21st Feb to 21st Mar. Indications are that Mayor Goff will be seeking a rate increase of about 3.5%. The Mayor has also indicated that he wants independent reviews done of all seven CCO’s. Special attention will be given to Panuku and Auckland Transport. An emphasis will be made on whether Auckland Council still has adequate control over CCO’s activities. Greg is very supportive of this initiative by the Mayor, but believes it would also be prudent to review all the Council activities to see if there is adequate control over them too.
* Greg said that he has been given indications that more information on the Hill St intersection project is imminent. Hopefully the final design will be revealed.
* Greg told us that after he exhorted us last month to email Council asking that Hill St be included in the 2021 budget there was a flood of emails on this issue in to Council. Well done all those who emailed them. Greg said that this seems to have had an effect, and that Hill St has suddenly appeared on the agenda when there had been no mention of it before.
* Greg advised that he had broached the issue of the dredging of the Mahurangi River with the mayor as the project has run out of money, with no obvious funding paths available. The Mayor is very sympathetic but cannot justify giving funding without doing so on a dollar given for a dollar raised basis. We now need to find other funding streams to tap into to take advantage of the Mayor’s offer.

**Rodney Local Board Chair Beth Houlbrooke**

* Beth also mentioned the upcoming budget. She urged people to give feedback on it between 21st February and 21st March as this is a good way for the Local Board to get a handle on things people see as important. This information can then be used in formulating the Local Board Plan.
* The damaged pontoon at Warkworth wharf has been detached and taken ashore downstream for repairs. The boards on the ramp that leads down to the pontoon are being replaced and the riverbed under the pontoon will be dredged before the pontoon is returned. The planking on the wharf itself is rotting and will be replaced. Peter Thompson is looking to try and get hardwood planks as replacements. This is paid for under the Councils maintenance budget
* Shoesmith Domain’s playground will be upgraded as part of general maintenance work. The current equipment will all be replaced on a like-for-like basis with maybe a few tweaks if consultation shows it’s warranted.
* The Matakana Rd footpath upgrade is nearly completed. The word is that they will then go on and do the new pedestrian crossing over Matakana Rd, but no one’s holding their breath.
* Beth told us about the Friends of the Cement Works, which is a relatively new and small group, is looking for support to form a trust to help protect, preserve and promote the old Warkworth Cement ruins. She thinks this is a very exciting project. Please contact Beth if you are interested as they need support to achieve their first aim of forming an incorporated society.
* Beth managed to make up a list of all Auckland Council Regional Grants opportunities (see attached), as there is a lot of guesswork using the council website if you don’t know what you are looking for. This list shows the opening and closing dates of each grant and has links to the eligibility criteria. Whoever does your grant applications will appreciate having this and being able to put any relevant ones into the diary. These are of course subject to change.
* Auckland Transport has finished the prep work for the Park and Ride ready to put the project out for tender. NZTA have declared themselves happy with what is planned which is a major bonus as they can sometimes hold up proceedings. The site will first be cleaned up by Auckland Council as the ground was contaminated while it was being used as a Council depot. The extent of this clean-up is not yet known. Tenderers will then be sought for the work.

**General Business**

* Hueline read out an email we received from Mark Forrest from Glasshape. He commented that it would be good to get more younger people involved in the community through WALG to provide a more youthful perspective. While this would be very welcome, Beth pointed out that it will always be difficult to get young patents out for evening meetings as this is a busy time for young families. She also commented that those in this age range are often heavily involved in the community in different ways, eg through sports events, school affairs, etc. However younger attendees would of course be welcomed, and any ways to achieve this would be great Any suggestions?
* Brian Oakes told the meeting that vandals had damaged the lighting on some of the trees at the Warkworth wharf. There was damage done one night to the lights on one tree, then another night more damage was done to lights on another tree and the cable connecting it to its neighbour. All up this cost $600 to repair. To add insult to injury the security camera that is sited to view the trees was not working as its power supply had been turned off. Very frustrating. Signage stating that area is covered by security cameras will be put up in the hope that it will discourage further vandalism.
* Roger Williams raised a matter for further discussion next year; what will be happening to the old SH1 once the new motorway opens? This is an opportunity to get ideas from the local community and formulate something to present to AT to give us more chance of getting a result that will benefit the community. Have a think over the Christmas break and we’ll discuss this next year.
* Hueline thanked everyone for their kindness after the passing of Warwick.

**Meeting Closed:** 9.10 pm.

**Note that there is no meeting in January**. The next meeting will be on February 5th 2020 at 7-30pm

Merry Christmas