**Minutes for Warkworth Area Liaison Group**

**Date:** 4th Sept 2019

**Meeting Opened:** 7:00 pm

**Chairperson:** Hueline Massey

**Attendees:**  23 People

**Apologies:** Richard Papworth, Angela Buckton, Dave Parker, Murray Chapman, Liz Sharek, Dave Stott, Greg Sayers, Jamie Peters

**Minutes of last meeting:** Peter Buckton/Roger Williams

**Turnstone Development update (Burnette O’Connor)**

* Burnette gave Jamie’s apologies as he had been struck down at the last minute and was too unwell to attend
* Burnette advised that the results of the first submission process had been released, and that people can now make further submissions until the 12th of September 19. She noted that if you are referring to one of the submissions already made, you need to also send a copy of your submission to the person who made the submission you are referring to. The Council’s report on the submissions is due out on the 14th of October 19 and the hearing starts on the 6th of November 19 at the Warkworth Town Hall.
* Burnette commented that the submissions to date have largely been in support of the development.
* In response to a query from the floor Burnette clarified that Augusta Capital is not Turnstone Developments, but is a separate entity that is releasing a fund in which people are invited to invest in the Stubbs Farm development. Burnette stressed that the important thing to note is that the Stubbs Farm development is a well-resourced and well-funded development.
* Burnette also advised that the Turnstone project proposed for the other side of Falls Rd, on land which had previously been the Ryburn property will open for submissions on the 12th of October for one month.

**Rodney Local Board Chair Beth Houlbrooke**

* The group welcomed Beth back from her recent bout of illness.
* Beth advised that the Local Board-funded footpath from Blue Gum Drive through to The Grange has been opened and is already being well used. The next Local Body footpath project to be done will be completing the stretch of footpath up Falls Rd to Hudson Rd. A start time for this has not been given yet.
* Beth reminded the group of the funding that the Local Board has allotted to local Warkworth events; $5,000-00 to the Warkworth Festival of Lights; $10,000-00 to the Kowhai Festival; $2,000-00 to the Warkworth A&P show and $2,000-00 to the Warkworth Santa Parade.
* Beth reported that the numbers using the new Warkworth bus service have exceeded expectations. There have been many comments for locals about seeing lots of empty, or near empty buses but overall their use has actually been good. Beth pointed out that there always should be infrastructure provided before development creates the need for it. Also, the full value of the service is not often obvious; for example improving the lives of people who have no chance of moving around the district unless it’s by bus. Hence the Local Board stepping in to provide a bus service when Auckland Transport should have. Beth intends using the positive bus use figures to lobby Auckland Transport to include funding for the new service in their next budget round.
* The final iteration of the Warkworth Park’n’Ride will be released soon, and the facility will be constructed during this summer. All buildings currently on the site (the so-called Atlas site) just north of Warkworth will be bowled and approximately 150 carparks will be formed. Apart from helping to ease the chronic parking shortage in Warkworth the use of this site will help in efforts to ensure that the site won’t be lost from the community in the future. The final decision on whether the buses will circulate through the site or stop on the highway immediately adjacent it has not been made yet. A further benefit this project brings will be the extra parking spaces that will be available on occasions for the A&P grounds as overflow parking when events are staged there. If this Park’n’Ride service is well used it will encourage Auckland Transport to form a permanent facility at a more suitable site to complement the new motorway system. The congestion caused by the current bus interchanges in the middle of town accentuates the need for a proper transport interchange outside the town centre where there’s more room and a well-positioned Park’n’Ride would provide this for Warkworth.
* Beth voiced her frustration with the council’s road maintenance arrangement. The state of our roads is getting diabolical, but Beth went to the road maintenance department in an effort to see what was happening and discovered that it is not their fault. They are so underfunded that they use virtually all their budgets on reactionary road patch-up repairs that inevitably end up breaking up again. There simply is not enough money available to do the scheduled road maintenance that would either fix the problem for good or ensure that it never happens in the first place. Beth will be lobbying for more funding for road maintenance.
* The Healthy Harbours scheme is available for people to apply for funding. The Local Boards will go 50/50 with the landowner on projects that are accepted.
* Beth introduced Paul Manton and Isla Walker who will be standing for the Rodney Local Board with Beth.

**Transport Forum report (Roger Williams)**

* The next Transport Forum is scheduled for Friday 20th September.
* The Matakana Link project is in increasing danger of stalling and missing the next earthworks season. If this happens it will certainly delay the completion date of the Matakana Link road until after the motorway is opened and we will have to face the reality that there will be total chaos at the Hill St intersection when the holiday periods bring heavy traffic volumes to Matakana and Omaha. Auckland Transport seem to have completely lost interest in pushing for the project to start this earthworks season.
* Roger and Dave Stott will be attending a road modeling meeting with council planners next Friday to establish the correct population data to be used by those planning Warkworth’s infrastructure. A lot of the planning done recently was based on a figure of 2.14 people per household, when the figure should have instead been 2.74 people per household. This seemingly small error means huge underestimations when planning for the future needs of the community.
* Disappointingly there has still been absolutely no progress at all on any of the proposed temporary solutions to assist with mitigating congestion at the Hill St intersection. They haven’t even managed to paint the proposed hatched no stopping area on the road, let alone do the pedestrian crossing or any of the other things. There is still no sign yet of anything happening in the near future either.

**One Warkworth (Isla Walker)**

* Isla told the group that there is a Men’s Health event planned for on or around the 23rd of October. Guest speakers and the exact date for this event will be announced closer to the day.
* One Warkworth has organised a mayoral debate at 5-30pm on Monday 16th September at the Warkworth Town Hall. Phil Goff, John Tamihere and Craig Lord will feature in the debate moderated by Murray Chapman.
* On Wednesday the 18th September there will be a ‘Meet the Candidates’ evening at the Back Bar of the Bridgehouse in Warkworth starting at 5pm.

**General Business**

* Brian Oakes voiced his frustration with council over a recent pruning of some of the trees down by the wharf. After years of trying to get the trees by the wharf tended to with no success, suddenly, out-of-the-blue, workers appeared and started to prune one of the trees in which lights had been placed during the recent Warkworth Festival of Lights. Needless to say they cut through the light cables, and then appeared unrepentant about doing so. Very disappointing
* Russell Cullen told the meeting of his vision to get more native birds back into the Warkworth area. He and Sally Richardson from Forest and Bird have set up Pest Free Warkworth and are encouraging local Warkworth residents to all get in behind an intensive effort to rid the township of rats, possums, feral cats, stoats, etc. Their aim is to get traps set in every fifth property throughout the town. Anyone interested in being a part of this initiative please contact Russell on russell@nzwoodproducts.co.nz
* Roger Williams advised that the next weeding and planting project that Forest and Bird will be doing in the Warkworth area will be along the route from Hauiti Drive to The Grange. The dates for this will be notified when known.
* Associate Professor Margaret Stanley, an ecologist from the University of Auckland will be giving a talk at the Oaks on Neville at 3pm on Monday the 9th September. The topic will be biodiversity and pest control as these relate to Warkworth. Margaret is a very interesting speaker so this will be well worth attending

**Meeting Closed:** 8-30 pm.

Next meeting is on October 2nd at 7-30pm. **Note the time has changed because of Daylight Saving**