**Minutes for Warkworth Area Liaison Group**

**Date:** 5th December 2018

**Meeting Opened:** 7:30 pm

**Chairperson:** Hueline Massey

**Attendees:**  26 People

**Apologies:** Richard Papworth (surprise, surprise), Greg Sayers, Brendan Chaffe, Beth Houlbrooke, Alison Roe

**Minutes of last meeting:** Peter Buckton/Warwick Massey

**Matters arising:** In talking about Trish Allen and her report on waste policy I noted that ‘Auckland Council targeted setting up 12 community recycling centres across the region. Auckland now has five set up, and Trish wants Warkworth to be the sixth’ (not the thirteenth as I had recorded in the minutes)

**Guest speakers; Brent Evans, Manager Local Board and Stakeholder Liaison at Watercare Services and Leanne McKenzie, Stakeholder Liaison Advisor at Watercare Services**

**Leanne McKenzie spoke on drinking water supply**

* The new water reticulation system for Warkworth was due to go live on 6th Dec 2018. The water will cease to be drawn from the river at the Browns Rd site and will start to be distributed from the new facility at Sanderson Rd opposite Masons yard. The water comes from an aquifer from two bores sited there. This essentially doubles the capacity to supply water, and is designed to cope with the growth proposed in the Unitary Plan over the next 30 -50 years.
* The water from the new facility is pumped up to the two storage tanks in View Rd and Thompson Rd from where it gravity feeds to the community.
* The water supply network will be extended in targeted areas to allow growth to occur as and when needed
* In the distant future this aquifer will inevitably not be able to provide an indefinite supply. It is expected that by then that suitably treated wastewater will be more efficiently used to supplement the water supply.
* The water from the new aquifer will taste different as it has more minerals in it and the amount of chlorine that will need to be added will have to be experimented with until the correct balance is reached. No fluoride will be added, but there is a small amount that occurs in this water anyway. The design of the new pumping facility is such that the water is not seen from the time it leaves the aquifer until it emerges from the tap in someone’s house. This markedly reduces the possibility of contamination in the process.
* Conditions in the resource consent for the aquifer require that the water levels in the aquifer be considered, and allowances made to the draw-off if other local bores are affected.
* The old plant in Browns Rd will probably be decommissioned once the reliability of the new system has been proved. No definite use for the land has been decided on yet.
* The water supply to Snells Beach comes from a different aquifer which has different water quality.

**Brent Evans spoke on wastewater**

* Currently the treated outflow from the Warkworth wastewater plant is released into the Mahurangi harbour. The standard of treatment is extremely high for this reason. The Snells Beach plant releases its treated outflow offshore. Under very heavy weather conditions there can be untreated sewage released from both plants on occasion. This is manageable however.
* In April 2017 resource consent was granted to discharge the treated wastewater from Warkworth and Snells Beach off Martins Bay. Resource consent has just been granted for the pipeline from Warkworth, through Snells Beach to Martins Bay. They must have the old discharge pipe out of the Mahurangi harbour by April 2021.
* New state-of-the-art technology is being used involving portable containers to cope with the increasing wastewater demand from growth in our area while a new pump facility is built in a corner of Lucy Moore Park adjacent the current one. The pipeline will run from there, under the Mahurangi River somewhere about where the Hunting and Fishing shop is, and will connect to another pumphouse on the corner of Sandspit Rd and the road to the lime works. From there the pipeline will follow beside Sandspit Rd and Mahurangi East Rd to Snells Beach where it will connect with another new treatment facility in Hamatana Rd and be pumped out to Martins Bay.
* The path of the pipeline from Lucy Moore Park has been carefully decided to avoid disrupting trees and has been kept very deep below the river so as to eliminate the possibility of being caught by an anchor or in any dredging work. This section will be double-piped to future proof it in case of maintenance demands. The old Warkworth pump station will eventually be decommissioned once the new bigger plant is reliably in use.
* Brent said the final design for the system has yet to be completed and he will come back to present to us when it has been done.
* Work is also being planned for the Wellsford area as it is recognized that this is badly in need of upgrading too. Watercare propose to use a new technology involving ionization to treat the drinking water supply, and they also are looking at using a more natural wastewater treatment system. Planning is still at an early stage with these systems and we will get more information later.

Brent and Leanne were thanked for a very interesting presentation and will be welcomed back when more information becomes available.

**The Warkworth Weir (Peter Thompson)**

* Peter had just come back from a meeting with a colleague from the Franklin region who told him that there are plans afoot in council to remove the weir from the Mahurangi River. The environmental branch of Auckland Council is trying to free up access for whitebait to migrate further up the river. Peter was led to believe that resource consent may already have been granted, or be very close to being granted, for the weir to go.
* There are actually two weirs across the river. Apart from the obvious one there is another lower one, buried underwater behind it, just upriver of the one we all see. This lower weir was thought to be built in the 1840’s to provide water for the sawmill sited nearby. The current weir was constructed in the 1930’s to allow water to be channeled by a sluice down to the cement works. They are both big parts of Warkworth’s history.
* Peter called Beth Houlbrooke to see what the Local Board new about the weir removal. Beth and the Local Board had been told of the Council’s intentions and had been asked to keep the issue confidential. The Local Board reluctantly agreed to this on the condition that the community was consulted. However, no one present at our meeting had either seen or heard anything at all relating to the possible removal of the weir. Apparently there had been a stall at the Kowhai Festival in which the proposal to remove the weir had been given some space, but no other real efforts have been made to canvas local opinion.
* It seems like the Council is aware that removing the weir would be a very controversial action and they are in no hurry to make any real effort to broach the subject with the community.
* The meeting decided that Hueline calls Beth to find out more information, and we’ll assess the situation from there.

**Hill St (Roger Williams)**

* Roger reported that the three options for the Hill St intersection presented by Auckland Transport all left something to be desired in their practicality, with two of them, options 2 and 3, downright hopeless. Roger has formulated the basis of a design solution based on the Option 1 put forward by Auckland Transport. I will attach a picture of his suggestion. He suggests we push AT to take note of the main features he proposes and refine them for their final intersection design.
* Roger proposed a motion (seconded by Glyn Williams) that WALG submits the following;

The Warkworth Area Liaison Group submits that

1.       We support the development of Option A: Roundabout at SH1.

2.       We support a partial roundabout at the Matakana – Sandspit Intersection in conjunction with Option A based on the plan prepared by Roger Williams.

3.       We express urgency for construction and completion of Hill Street Intersection before the RoNS motorway is opened. This is to overcome the additional congestion that will generated by the change in turning movements at this intersection.

- The motion was passed. Any private support for this option is also encouraged to put as much pressure on AT to design a workable intersection. Go to this link to make your submission; [www.NZTA/Projects/Hill-Street-Improvements/Have-your-say](http://www.NZTA/Projects/Hill-Street-Improvements/Haveyoursay) this closes Friday 14th December

**Matakana Link Rd (Roger Williams and Dave Stott)**

* There is great concern that Auckland Transport will build the Matakana Link as a two lane road that will very quickly become too small to cope with growth in the area. The initial four lane design proposed by Auckland Transport has proved to be too expensive for the $66 million budget (this includes land purchase costs). This has caused them to suggest reducing it to a two lane version initially with the idea of upgrading it at a later stage.
* Dave Stott, Mark McKay and Chris Murphy met earlier this week with Shane Ellison the CEO of Auckland Transport and Cynthia Gillespie to explain the necessity of having a four lane road right from the start. Dave, Mark and Chris pointed out the obvious; that the design is extremely expensive and there are a lot of places where big savings could be achieved. Shane and Cynthia agreed in principle that they would look at any suggestions that they were given that will get a four lane road built cheaper. But, the impression was given that it is a political decision to keep many of the expensive features such as the cyclepath and the planting design, even if this means only a two lane road is achievable with the available budget.
* Wharehine Contractors has been shown the route to be taken and the four lane option proposed by AT and asked for their opinion. They say that they could build a four lane road on the route required for the budgeted amount. But not of the design that AT proposes.
* The best way to build the road would be if a preferred contractor was chosen and they worked with the design team to price the work as the design progresses. This would ensure the budget was met and would give maximum value for the budgeted amount. It would also hasten the tendering process enabling the project to start quickly, which is vital if the road is to be finished in time for the RONS opening. Construction would need to start on 1st Oct 2019 for this to happen.
* Dave Mark and Chris were adamant that any road that is built must have provision built in for future intersections to be added later. This would make later work easier and cheaper. They also suggest that the cycleway be taken out of the equation and rerouted away from the road through more desirable countryside for riding.
* Roger proposed a motion (seconded by Dave Stott) that WALG submits the following;

The Warkworth Area Liaison Group submits that

1. We support the 4 lane designation as proposed in the NOR

2.       We are disappointed that Stage 1 is being funded for 2 lanes only. We ask that the tender be called with options for partial 4 laning from SH1. This so that the maximum length of 4 lane highway is constructed within the funding available.

3.       We express urgency for construction and completion before the RoNS motorway is opened to overcome the additional congestion that will generated by the change in turning movements at the Hill Street intersection.

The motion was passed.

**One Warkworth Business Association (Murray Chapman)**

* Unfortunately the Warkworth Santa Parade was cancelled this year because the bad weather created too many Health and Safety concerns. A Christmas fair will be held on Saturday morning at the Warkworth Town Hall with about 20 stall-holders expected. Santa’s sleigh, with Santa on board, will be taken on a loop around the streets then.
* There will be three late shopping nights in Warkworth on each of the Thursdays before Christmas. Participating businesses will stay open until 7pm on the 6th, the 13th, and the 20th of December. Murray has worked very hard to drum up support for this initiative among Warkworth retailers and everyone is encouraged to get along and support the shops on these late nights. To encourage people to come and shop there is a $500 petrol voucher to be won by one lucky shopper.

**General Business**

* Beth forwarded the following information to me on freedom camping for distribution. Council is calling for submissions and Beth has provided the link to make them.

Public consultation has opened today on the **proposed Freedom Camping in Vehicles Bylaw**. This consultation is seeking public feedback from **now until 18 February.**

 This new bylaw under the Freedom Camping Act 2011 will replace existing legacy bylaw provisions that currently manage freedom camping.

 The Freedom Camping Act 2011 sets what the council can do to manage freedom camping through a bylaw.  Freedom camping is generally allowed on land controlled or managed by the council.  Any prohibitions or restrictions the council puts in place need to be necessary to protect the area, the health and safety of people who may visit the area, or access to the area.

 The prohibitions or restrictions must be a proportionate response to the problem for the area.  The council cannot ban freedom camping everywhere, nor prohibit freedom camping in areas without evidence that the prohibition is required.

The bylaw proposes to prohibit or restrict Freedom Camping at 422 sites across the Auckland Region. Under this bylaw, enforcement officers will have the ability to issue a $200 infringement fine to anyone who breaches a prohibition or restriction.

**The proposed bylaw and feedback forms can be found at:**

<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/have-your-say/topics-you-can-have-your-say-on/freedom-camping/Pages/default.aspx>

* Hueline sent an email to Health Board General Manager Duncan Bliss as suggested in the November meeting minutes. There was no initial response but then separately Richard Papworth, after reading the minutes of our last meeting, was frustrated by the recorded difficulty in getting procedures done up here and so contacted Duncan Bliss himself, and ended up having a long phone conversation with him. Richard gave a bit of background on what had happened and put the case for why initiatives such as a weekly clinic up here would be such a good idea. Richard was given a very positive response by Duncan Bliss who indicated he is keen to keep in contact and is open to coming to speak to our meeting early in the New Year. Hueline subsequently received a long email from Duncan Bliss explaining the Health Board’s position and reiterating his desire to come up to speak to us. Richard will act as our point of contact with Duncan and we look forward to hearing what he has to say next year.
* Glyn again spoke on the topic of setting up a Men’s Shed in Warkworth. They have the use of the old red shed behind the craft rooms at the A & P grounds in the meantime but have long-term ambitions to get a purpose built facility at the old MOW site on the main road. Glyn is compiling a database of interested men.
* Warren Budd sent the following email updating the Hill St intersection minor works but it arrived too late to read out at the meeting.

Update for Hill Street Interim Improvements:

         The installation of the signal detection and CCTV equipment for improved monitoring on Sandspit Road, Matakana Rd and SH1 would be completed by the

end of December 2018.

         Further design and investigation of the pedestrian improvements for Hill Street has been undertaken and the final design would be completed by the end of

February 2019.

         The timing for implementing changes is being confirmed with NZTA to align with intersection rehabilitation work which is currently anticipated for the new year.

There will be further updates on our website once final designs are confirmed.

* Just a reminder to report to Council any maintenance issue you see need attending to. Phone them on 093010101 and remember to get a job number so you can follow up on progress.
* **Note that there is no January meeting, and it was decided that the February meeting will not be held on the first Wednesday of the month as this is Waitangi Day. The February meeting will thus be held on Wednesday 13th February at 7-30pm.**
* **Merry Christmas everyone**

**Meeting Closed:** 9.55 pm