**Minutes for Warkworth Area Liaison Group**

**Date:** 7th November 2018

**Meeting Opened:** 7:30 pm

**Chairperson:** Hueline Massey

**Attendees:**  26 People

**Apologies:** Richard Papworth (did he back Cross Counter?), Greg Sayers, Brendan Chaffe, Mark Dinniss, Dave Parker, Bruce Scoggins,

**Minutes of last meeting:**

Peter Buckton/Ox Wightman

**Guest speaker; Trish Allen from the Mahurangi Wastebusters Trust along with Matthew Luxon director of Envision NZ.**

* Trish said she is unashamedly a Greenie. We are trashing the planet and NZ is among the highest producers of urban waste in the world. This has to change.
* Mahurangi Wastebusters Trust was set up as charitable trust last year with the aims of diverting waste from landfills, setting up community services to deal with waste and recycling.
* There are some really good examples of how this approach waste can be made to work around Auckland already. One of these is on the other side of Rodney in Helensville. Most people want to do the right thing with their waste, they just need to be shown how they can do this.
* Waste from construction makes up a huge proportion of the waste collected (up to 85%). Mahurangi Wastebusters want to make it easy for builders to reduce this. As an example of what could be done a house due for demolition was transported to a yard in Helensville and systematically dismantled, rather than just smashed up which is what usually happens. By carefully taking the house apart the group was able to salvage 95% of the materials for reuse and sale.
* The Waste Minimisation Act was passed in 2008 and requires all councils to have a waste policy. 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 thirteenth. Trish called a meeting to see what response she would get to the idea of establishing a community recycling system from the Warkworth community and was thrilled to have 50 people turn up. Lots of great ideas on what could be done were voiced and it was from this that the Mahurangi Wastebusters Trust was set up.
* When the contract for Warkworth area’s rubbish management was coming up for renewal Mahurangi Wastebusters put in an expression of interest to the council to run the Snells Beach transfer station. They were chosen as one of 4 groups to put in a proposal. Unfortunately it was then discovered that there are contamination issues at the old Snells Beach landfill where the transfer station is located (many of the 200 old landfill sites across the Auckland region are problematic). This prompted the Council to halt the process of choosing a contractor, and precipitated the situation where we nearly found ourselves without a local rubbish dumping site before the Council extended the current arrangement to allow time to sort out a better way of dealing with the problem.
* Mahurangi Wastebusters are intending to put forward a proposal to run a rubbish processing site once Council decides what it is doing. Mahurangi Wastebusters are nothing to do with the Dome Valley site recently in the news. Even if the rubbish dump in the Dome does go ahead Warkworth will still need a local transfer station. Whether or not this is at the current Snells Beach site is not yet known. Mahurangi Wastebusters have had discussions with Northland Waste about how they may be able to work together, and have more talks scheduled. But it is hard to sort out how such an arrangement could work until it is known what form rubbish management will be taking in our area.
* Matthew commented that waste minimisation is not new to NZ and has been going on in some areas, like Raglan and Wanaka, for decades. Most of these are run as charities and as such are not required by shareholders or owners to make a profit. This means that more money can be put back into dealing with the waste. No sophisticated equipment is needed and a much more hands-on approach works best. The Raglan charity employs 23 paid employees, nearly all on at least a ‘living wage’. It gets part of its money from their council rubbish collection contract, and augments this by selling items for recycling , repair and sale or reuse. There are some rubbish management schemes that have arrangements with councils whereby their contract cost is reduced over a period as the profitability of the processing improves. This can be a win-win situation for all concerned.
* The recent decision by China to stop accepting some recycling products has led to a lot of uncertainty about what the future will be for some plastics, but local options are starting to appear.
* Matthew stressed that education is the key. People have to be retrained to see rubbish management in a different way. Murray Chapman commented that from his experience the younger generation coming through now are a lot more savvy with regards to what should be happening, but the older generation is stuck with its bad habits. He cited the recent Kowhai Festival as an example of this where appropriate separate rubbish bins were provided to assist sorting of recycled items but unless there was someone manning the bins and telling people which bins people should put their rubbish into most who went to use the bins hardly tried at all to use the correct one.
* The presentation from Trish and Matthew was well received by the group and they were thanked for their initiative.

On the same theme of rubbish management Hueline then commented on a meeting with 2 members (Jenny Chilcott and Parul Sood) of the AC’s Waste Minimisation Group (WMG) on Friday 2nd November 2018 and below is a record some of the information shared at that meeting.

* AC WMG’s immediate needs are to focus on the community’s needs over the “Transition” period between the closure of the transfer stations and the completion of remedial work on the existing sites which is expected to take 2 years.
* WMG wants to be guided by the community’s future desires for waste disposal and recycling in the interim and for the future.
* There is the possibility that the existing transfer sites could remain open but on a very reduced basis and move the areas of public use around the site depending on where the remediation process is operating.
* Landfill sites can be either inert (which is when there is no likely by-product resulting from decomposition eg timber, gib board, metal, old concrete/bricks and similar) or not inert (which is when rubbish that will decompose is included eg. Household rubbish).  AC monitors masses of old tip sites for their effects on the environment.
* AC indicate that dump charges are ridiculously low currently (I think $10.00/tonne was mentioned and there is consideration to increase the tipping costs(up to $150.00/tonne to act as a deterant to dumping and an encouragement to recycle more.
* NZ Green Building Council (representing 400 industry members) says per home built it is estimated 4-5 tonne of construction waste is dumped = $30,000 cost of that waste material.  This construction waste comprises 85% of waste to landfill. AC are working with the construction industry to reduce and recycle this waste.
* Helensville, Waiuku and Devonport are all set up as major recycling depots and we can view these operations at any time.
* Hueline asked if it was possible for AC to set an example by having recycle bins adjacent to the council rubbish bins and they said that was not possible as “it was a waste of time due to the amount of rubbish that gets put into the recycle bins rendering them contaminated and therefore treated as rubbish”.  Kowhai Festival was required to do this for the Huge Day Out and found it did not work at all.
* Jenny and Parul did remind us of the Waste Minimisation Fund which community groups can apply to in March for up to $5,000.00 and in October for up to $50,000.00.  This money could then be used to pay interested groups (eg. Clean Stream) to do the waste gathering and monitoring.
* At this stage our community does not yet know what Northern Waste has in mind for its future development and infrastructure supply.

With our community being faced with the imminent changes to rubbish management it is essential

that we provide good input as to what we want to have happen in our area. Hueline has asked for feedback on two issues; What form should the temporary rubbish management system that will be set up at Snells Beach transfer station take (what we want to have there while the site is being made safe); and what we want our long-term rubbish management station to look like (what processes do we want there). Please email Hueline on masseyw930@gmail.com with all your suggestions and she will forward them on.

Maurie Hooper also advised that there will be a meeting of the Snells Beach Residents and ratepayers Association in the Betty Paxton Room at the Snells Beach Community Centre on Monday the 12th November focusing on waste. Penny Hulse will be attending.

**Guest Speaker; Bevan Woodward from the Greenways Collective**

* Bevan and the collective have been working to develop walkways and cycleways in the Warkworth area. The Local Board has been providing support for this initiative.
* The aim of the collective is to develop a network that crisscrosses the whole area from Puhoi to Pakiri, connecting all the smaller districts in between. A map of these trails can be viewed at this link <https://www.dropbox.com/s/sgun9mg4fydbk6q/Puhoi%20to%20Pakiri%20Map_WAC.pdf?dl=0>
* The long term plan is to continue to develop this network and Bevan is employed to do all he can to make this happen. Sometimes they have real ‘wins’ such as when they had a successful adjudication at the Environment Court that has allowed cycleways and walkways through the future subdivision between Puhoi and Moir Hill. On other occasions developers will be very obstructive when asked to include walkways and cycleways in the their plans.
* Any local groups wanting to develop a cycleway or walkway as a local project can seek assistance from the Local Board and the Collective. They can give engineering help and some financial help is also available.
* Bevan was thanked for his presentation.

**Beth Houlbrooke**

* Beth advised that a decision has been made to remove the big lidded bins that Council have been providing free of charge by the Sandspit boat ramp. There has been an on-going problem with people abusing this service and leaving the place in an absolute mess by dumping rubbish illegally, sometimes not even bothering to put their rubbish in the bin. Boaties will be the group most affected by the bin’s removal, but they will have to get used to taking all their rubbish back home with them. Kawau Islanders don’t have a kerbside (or wharfside) collection so there will be a special lockable area provided for their exclusive use.
* There are two bylaws currently out for public submission; the first is to do with developer’s contributions; and the other is around public safety and misuse (things like sale of fireworks). Please go on to the Auckland Council website and have your say. Submissions close on December 5th.
* The Local Board stand at the Kowhai Festival attracted a lot of visitors and Beth was pleased with the interest shown in it. Murray suggested that it was probably more because of the proximity of the Lion’s quality food stall next door. Either way Beth got lots of good suggestions for the proposed Warkworth ‘village green’ area adjacent the library by the river. The final design will be finalized soon and it is intended to be budgeted into the next financial year for construction.
* The construction of the Lions Club playground is now underway at Lucy Moore Park. This will include an in-ground trampoline and a flying fox.
* The Matakantata concert will be held at the Warkworth Town Hall on the 2nd December with tickets available at Lee and Hart Pharmacy in Warkworth, and the Gull Station in Snells Beach.

**Hill St/ Southern Connection/Matakana Link (Roger Williams)**

* Roger advised that the proposed long term improvements for the intersection will be outlined at the next Community Advisory Group meeting on Tuesday 13th. The final design will be revealed at this point and will be released to the public at the end of the month.
* It seems that the southern connection to the RONS is becoming increasingly likely to go ahead. It is not known if this means there will be provisional works included in the current motorway build.
* The Notice Of Requirement for the Matakana Link Rd has been issued and a Designation sorted out for a 4 laned road. However, despite a four laned road being the recommended option, so far there has only been funding confirmed for a 2 laned road. The current design for the 4 laned road is much more high-spec’ed than is really required and if funding is the issue it would be more helpful to have simpler 4 laned plan that won’t blow the budget. People are encouraged to support a 4 laned option as anything less than this will severely compromise the efficiency of the road and it will rapidly become clogged.

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

* The Kowhai Festival was hugely successful and attracted about 20,000 visitors. Those retailers who chose to participate were rewarded by having really good day’s trading.
* The Great Warkworth Debate went off really well with 300 people coming along to watch, and a good amount of money raised for Hospice.
* The final One Warkworth event of the year will be the Warkworth Businesswomen meeting at Plume. There will be two guest speakers. Contact Murray for details.
* Next Tuesday the 13th Nov there is going to be a meeting arranged by One Warkworth to discuss the importance of having four lanes on the proposed Matakana Link Rd. This highlights how important it is that we get the design of this road right. Representatives of Auckland Transport will be at the meeting so a big turn-out is essential to show the powers-that-be how seriously we are talking this issue. At the moment the meeting will be held at the Back Bar at the Bridgehouse but this will be changed to a bigger venue if necessary. Please come along, but you must notify Murray Chapman if you intend to come so he can sort out the numbers expected and get the appropriate venue.
* When Murray finished his presentation Hueline thanked him for the wonderful job he had done organising the Kowhai Festival.

**General Business**

* Marianne Davidson-Beker, CEO of the Rodney Surgical Centre advised the group that there is a surgeon who has offered to come up to Warkworth one day each week to perform cataract surgery and give Avastin injections for local public health patients instead of them having to go down to Auckland. This initially seemed to get a favourable response from the Health Board but then they suddenly decided not to support this idea. Marianne has asked that people contact Duncan Bliss, the GM Surgical Services at ADHB by emailing him at DBliss@adhb.govt.nz and asking Duncan to support the surgeon coming up here. The more people who email him the more likely we are to get this service.
* Glyn Williams is trying to establish a ‘Men’s Shed’ in Warkworth. This gives men a place to go to mix with others and get involved with projects and generally socialise. Glyn has called a meeting at the meeting room behind the café at Summerset Falls on Thursday 15th November at 10am. He wants to build up a database of interested men to strengthen their case to attract funding to make this happen. They are currently scouting for a potential clubrooms, hopefully something with a concrete floor, good power availability and lighting.
* Thursday the 8th November is World Planning Day. Burnette O’Connor has arranged for a blackboard to be mounted on the wall of the Camera Shop in Warkworth (Thanks Colin) and chalk is available for people to write ideas for Warkworth’s structure plan on the board.
* Murray advised that Warkworth’s Santa Parade will be held on Sunday 25th November.
* The last Warkworth Town Hall Talk will be on Wednesday the 14th Nov at 5-30pm. Bill McKay, an architecture and planning lecturer will be speaking.
* The Health Board and the government are in the process of deciding where a hospital might be positioned north of Auckland. Warkworth is one of the districts being considered so people are encouraged to contact Jenny Marcroft at jenny**.**marcroft@parliament.govt.nz to make your views known. Jenny is a NZ First MP based in the Rodney area and is their spokesperson for health. She is on the committee looking at this issue.
* People are reminded to contact Council on 093010101 to report any maintenance that is needed around town. Remember to get a job number so you can follow it up.

**Meeting Closed:** 9.15 pm