**Minutes for Warkworth Area Liaison Group**

**Date:** 7th October 2020

**Meeting Opened:** 7:30 pm

**Chairperson:** Hueline Massey

**Attendees:**  23 People

**Apologies:** Marja Lubeck, Rohan Meuli, Richard Papworth, Sue Robertson, Maurie Hooper, Beth Houlbrooke, Angela Buckton, Ian Lewis, Brian Oakes

**Guest speakers; Alison Roe and Martin Dancy spoke on the Matakana Coast Trails Trust**

* Allison explained the vision of Matakana Coast Trails Trust; it is to create a series of trails that connect us with our coast and forests and the presence of the ocean Te-Moana-Nui-o-Toi (the Hauraki Gulf)
* The Trust has a three step ‘collaborate’ strategy to grow:

1. A vibrant, world-class coastal trail connecting Puhoi

To Mangawhai, so all people can walk, run, cycle

and horse ride in the presence of the coast.

1. With the support of the local trail building groups,

the development of a network of local trails

that connect our communities to each other

and onto local beaches and reserves.

1. Create a network of simple, low impact trails that journey back into our forests

and to the west.

* The Trust has identified priority routes they’d like to develop from Puhoi to Mangawhai and will refine these as more information comes to light, such as landowners willing to let the trail pass through their property, or deviating the trail into a park or along an unformed legal road. Sometimes it might be preferable to follow existing roads for a stretch of the trail.
* In a wider context these will complement the New Zealand-wide network of tracks that currently has a gaping hole on the eastern side of Northland.
* Practically speaking, the Trust creates awareness about the current and future trails, fundraises for building and maintenance, supports the trail community groups with land access, funding, contracting and construction of trails. It also makes sure that trail planning and project management meets standards, and it works with public and private landowners to secure enduring public access.
* The Matakana Coast Trail Trust brings together many local community user-groups in collaboration with key stakeholders. These include;

Auckland Council

Auckland Transport

Rodney Local Board

Auckland Regional Parks

New Zealand Walking Access Commission

Ngati Manuhiri

Te Uri o Hau

Department of Conservation

New Zealand Transport Agency

Te Araroa Trail

Local Land Owners

* The Trust’s team includes; Anne Williamson- Administration Manager; Chris Charles- Walking Access Commission Liaison Officer with Auckland Council; Gary Browne- MCTT Professional Fundraiser.
* To date the Trust has made the following progress; Developed the MCTT Vision Document and the MCTT Strategic Action Plan; Facilitated construction of the Matakana Cycling / Walking Bridge; Developed Stage 1 Point Wells to Omaha; WSP OPUS has been engaged to formalise trails.
* Other activities underway include: - Regional Parks CAPEX commitment of $1.4 million to trail building and development including a 30 Km Pakiri section; Planning underway on significant section north of Puhoi through API land; Big Omaha trail section being cleared and marked out for next stage of construction; Stage 1 Point Wells to Matakana Country Park through final engineering approval; Warkworth to Matakana route feasibility in progress; Te Muri stream bridge crossing planning and design underway; Omaha Drive Pathway – RLB / AT approved, shovel ready awaiting RLB Finance allocation; MOU with Springboard community.
* When considering the prospective growth of Auckland’s tourism requirements and the growing awareness of the benefits of healthy living, the scene is set for massive demand for facilities encouraging walking and cycling. Demand for tracks is expected to grow hugely and a well-formed and very attractive network of tracks that is so close to Auckland will be very popular.
* Martin finished the presentation by outlining how people can become involved in the Trust. He stressed the need to promote community involvement in the Trust as this gives the Trust a lot more clout when fundraising and dealing with authorities. He urged people to sign up as ‘Friends of the Trust’. A form to fill in to register as a friend is attached to these minutes, as is a Gift Confirmation Form outlining ways people can pledge support by way of a gift.

**Local Board report- Tim Holdgate**

* Tim advised that there was not much to report at this stage. He noted that there will be a new pop-up Covid 19 testing site set up for some periods of time at Kowhai Park and to keep an eye out for it if you display any symptoms and want to get tested. If the pop-up site isn’t in place ask your doctor where you can go for testing if need be.
* Tim also commented that there is not much more to report on the Rodney Healthy Water initiative and the Snells Beach waste water works. He sympathised with all those affected by these works being done.
* Terry asked Tim where things were with the kauri die-back track mitigation works. He noted that signs still up in the park give an expected finish date of mid-2020 which is already past. Tim told the meeting that he would follow up and get information on what is happening and give it to me for distribution to everyone. I will send it out when I get it.
* Terry also suggested that the proposed suspension footbridge behind the Heritage Lane are is a bit grandiose and asked that there be more community consultation on ideas like this before they are presented to council.

**Auckland Councilor Greg Sayers**

* Firstly, Greg acknowledged the effort Allison and Martin are putting with the Matakana Coast Trails Trust.
* Greg said that the Council is preparing for a big budget refresh with the 10 year Budget in the process of being formulated. This is going to be a very important task as Covid 19 has reduced the Council’s income streams, and to further compound issues the Council already had high debt levels before the outbreak. It is really important that big issues such as work on the Hill St intersection get allotted money in Council’s long term budgets otherwise they will continue to be delayed. Greg urged communities to make their views heard by Council on issues like this. He also suggested that there needs to be community feedback on what should happen to regional parks so the right sort of work can be continued there too.
* Martin asked Greg where things are at with the recent report on the CCOs in which there had been 36 recommendations made for changes. Greg advised that these recommendations had been endorsed and would be implemented in due course. The general feeling is that while the CCOs are not functioning well at present, the basic structure is a workable model to achieve what the Council needs once it is fixed and the CCOs are running as they should.

**One Warkworth Business Association (Dave Stott and Murray Chapman)**

* Dave reported that a community group met with Phil Twyford to discuss transport issues around the Warkworth area, including; Sandspit Link Rd; the Southern on-ramp to the motorway; the western collector route; and the Hill St intersection. They asked that NZTA front-load (get all the preparatory work done) these projects so they can be picked up quickly when the time comes. Twyford was open to this suggestion and Dave’s group has formally written to Twyford requesting that frontloading happens. Twyford commented that nothing would occur before the election. The next Warkworth Area Transport Committee meeting is scheduled for the 16th October from 9 – 10-30am. Dave is hopeful that there will be a good turnout from NZTA, AT and MPs.
* The next One Warkworth AGM is scheduled for the 23rd October at the Back Bar of the Bridgehouse at 5-30pm. It is planned that a sub-committee from One Warkworth be set up to promote the formulation of a good infrastructure plan for Warkworth. It is seen as essential for our community to be proactive in this to ensure we get the best outcome for future infrastructure work.
* Glyn Williams asked why the promised yellow cross-hatching road markings hadn’t been done by AT as part of the recent upgrading work at the Hill St intersection. This seems to have just drifted off the radar and Greg will see what he can find out.
* Brendan Chaffe asked that the rate-payer groups out at Sandspit, Snells Beach, Algies Bay and Scotts Landing be kept in the loop more with developments around the Sandspit Link Rd as this will greatly affect them. Roger and Dave will ensure that they are kept informed.
* Dave told the meeting that the renovation of the Establishment Hotel has at last been completed and they are only waiting (and waiting…) on Council’s sign-off before it can be opened for business. Hopefully this will occur before Labour Weekend.
* Murray re-emphasised Dave’s comments about transport, stressing that the Transport Forum is about issues around the whole of the local region, not just Warkworth itself.
* Murray commented on the potential funding methods being looked at for the current motorway extension, particularly the option of double tolling, and how difficult this would be for those who would have to use the motorway regularly. He suggested encouraging a community lead approach to Council and government decision-makers to give our feelings on the matter more heft.
* Murray told the meeting that the decision to cancel the Kowhai Festival was a difficult, though correct one. It would have been catastrophic for Warkworth if the festival had of gone ahead and then been the cause of another outbreak of Covid 19. This was also the case with the decision to cancel the Santa Parade. Plans are underway to take Santa and his sleigh around local kindergartens and playcentres instead. The intention is also to get a group of musicians and Santa to visit resthomes and Summerset.
* Murray told us that it was hoped that the Norfolk Pine could be decked out with lights again this year, but it’s unlikely this can happen as the cost estimate is around $50,000-00.
* Murray told of possible plans for a light sculpture on the north side of the river opposite the wharf. If done, this would be displayed among the trees ranging for some distance along the hillside.
* One Warkworth is looking at other initiatives to promote our town such as a Sunday Market, re-energising the wharf area and the Jane Gifford. There will be a push to lift Warkworth’s profile post Covid.
* Murray re-emphasised the need to support local businesses. Times are really tough for them. There was a good response to shopping local after the first lockdown ended and this support needs to continue. This could be especially true with the opening of the new motorway as cars will be coming off it beyond Warkworth, and the natural tendency is for motorists not to backtrack, so Warkworth businesses may experience a reduction in trade.

**Warkworth’s Water Quality (Glyn Williams)**

* Glyn raised the issue of the quality of Warkworth’s water. He explained that since the switch to the new bore-water supply his plumbing fittings have been showing bad signs of residue build-up.
* He told the meeting that he is not alone in reporting this, and Summerset is having to spend large amounts of money attempting to counter this problem, both with their plumbing fittings and their appliances. Summerset’s kitchen has especially suffered and needed filtering systems to be installed.
* The scale build-up is worse where heat is included in the mix. It may not be immediately apparent but will eventually cause enough trouble to mean appliances need to be replaced. This issue is happening throughout Warkworth and the collective cost to everyone will be huge if this is not addressed.
* There are other side-effects in this, such as extra water needed to clean things because of the water hardness. Then there’s the need to use toxic chemicals to clean scale off fittings and appliances. And also the unknown potential issues for our health.
* Brian Tuck advised the meeting that the problem with the water is caused by higher levels of Calcium, Magnesium and Silica that occur in the local water-table from which our water supply is drawn. He sent this detailed explanation after the meeting;

There are two types of deposit resulting from these ions.

1.       When the water is heated, e.g. in a kettle, carbon dioxide is driven off and calcium and magnesium carbonate is deposited. This is probably happening in the hot water cylinder as well although it cannot be seen. The silica remains in solution in some form. The carbonate deposit is easily removed by acid treatment e.g. citric acid used for coffee machine scale removal.

1. When water is allowed to evaporate at ambient temperatures, e.g. on a shower screen, calcium and magnesium silicates are deposited and probably also free silica.

This deposit is not removed by acid and requires polishing off with for example cerium oxide powder.

 Water after treatment with a cationic ion exchange resin in the sodium form.

1. The ion exchange resin removes the magnesium and calcium ions and exchanges them for sodium Na+. The silicate remains in the water
2. When water is heated there is no longer magnesium or calcium ions present so no carbonate scale is deposited. My electric kettle has remained clean after 3 months.
3. There is still silica in the water so evaporation of water still leaves a deposit. Non quantitative experiments using metal dishes indicated the amount is much reduced. Subjectively the deposits formed in the kitchen is now less troublesome. I have recently polished my shower screens free from the accumulated deposit (using cerium oxide on a felt pad driven by my Renovator) and will be monitoring the deposit build-up to judge how quickly it forms and how easy it is to remove.

* It is very, very expensive for Watercare to filter these elements out and because their remit only states that they must supply potable water they haven’t gone the extra mile when setting up their filtering system.
* Apparently anyone wanting to improve the water coming into their home can purchase a filter for a couple of thousand dollars or so, that will remove the Calcium and the Magnesium. But the silica requires much more effort to remove and this would be even more expensive.
* This situation is obviously not acceptable, and Watercare need to be made aware that Warkworth water requires much more treatment to get it up to a reasonable standard that won’t wreck our fittings and appliances.
* Glyn suggested that we gather support from around the community and make a group approach to Watercare to get our water quality up to acceptable levels.

**General Business**

* The general feeling of the meeting was that repair and maintenance of our streets are not getting the attention they should be. There was specific mention of street cleaning generally, and also the sorry state of Falls Rd west of Hudson Rd. This latter piece of road has been really badly cut-up since the motorway construction started, with a lot of extra heavy traffic using this road. The question was raised as to who should be responsible for maintaining this stretch of road. We were encouraged to all log complaints about this road to Council and send them to Greg so he can follow them up.
* Terry advised that the Rotary Christmas Carols in the Park has unfortunately also been cancelled this year for the same reason as the Santa Parade and the Kowhai Festival.
* Terry also advised that Rotary have embarked on a project to build gardens at schools for children to learn basic skills in an enjoyable way.
* We were advised that the Matakana Information Centre has reopened at the Matakana Cinema from 10am – 1pm every day.
* Hueline told the meeting of the passing of Heather Metcalfe. Heather was a longtime member of our group, before moving out of the area a few years ago. She occasionally filled in as Chairperson when needed. Heather was a business owner in town and a member of the Warkworth Business Association and also a member of our local Civil Defence group. She is still well-remembered around Warkworth. Hueline passed on condolences to her family on behalf of our group.

**Meeting Closed:** 9-15 pm. Next meeting is on November 4th at 7-30pm