

# Western Bay of Plenty District Council

## Minutes of Meeting No. CC10 of the Community Committee held on 26 April 2018 in the Oropi Hall, 1295 Oropi Road, Oropi commencing at 10.00am

### Present

Councillor P Mackay (Chairperson), Councillors G Dally, M Dean, M Lally, K Marsh, D Marshall, M Murray-Benge, J Palmer, J Scrimgeour, D Thwaites and M Williams

### In Attendance

E Holtsbaum (Group Manager Technology, Customer and Community Services), C Lim (Community Team Leader), B Wilson (Community Relationships Advisor), G Ayo (Community Relationships Advisor), E Rogers (Policy and Planning Manager), J Rickard (Senior Policy Analyst), C McKerras (Executive Assistant Technology Community and Customer Services) and M Parnell (Democracy Advisor)

### Other

As listed in the minutes.

### Apology

An apology for absence was received from Mayor Webber.

**Resolved:** Marsh / Thwaites

*THAT the apology for absence from Mayor Webber be accepted.*

### Public Forum

**Resolved:** Scrimgeour / Williams

*THAT the meeting adjourn for the purpose of holding a public forum.*

Richard Somerfield addressed the Committee and welcomed everyone to the Oropi Hall on behalf of the Oropi Hall Committee. He advised that the hall was well used by the community and that the Hall Committee was seeking further funding to seal the carpark outside and purchase a dishwasher, a sound system and an alarm system for the building.

Mr Somerfield spoke to a tabled documents regarding the Oropi Cemetery asking that the Council consider installing a kerbed and sealed driveway up to the cemetery to replace the metalled driveway to make it easier for elderly visitors to make their way to the cemetery. He also explained that a gravesite at the Oropi Cemetery was less expensive than other cemeteries in the area and wanted to ensure that the cemetery would remain for the use of those affiliated with the Oropi community. He asked that the Council consider sealing the hall carpark, providing 45 carparks for use by the hall and also those visiting the cemetery.

The Committee advised staff would be in contact with Mr Somerfield.

**Resolved:** Lally / Murray-Benge

*THAT the meeting be reconvened in formal session at 10.10am.*

### CC10.1 **Community Team Update**

The Community Committee considered a report from the Community Team Leader dated 26 April 2018 as circulated with the agenda.

The Community Relationships Advisor advised when the Community Matching Fund was open (12 June - 12 July 2018), that advertising for the fund would commence on 12 May and encouraged the Councillors to let their communities know.

The Community Team Leader advised of the P Awareness Seminar in Te Puke at The Orchard Church and encouraged committee members to attend. She advised further information about the seminar could be obtained from the Community Relationships Advisor, Ben Wilson.

The Community Team Leader also gave an update of the Welcoming Communities programme and advised what the Welcoming Communities Coordinator had been raising her profile in both Tauranga City and Western Bay District Councils.

In response to questions, staff advised

- The total amount for the Community Matching Fund available was \$100,000, which included \$60,000 for the environmental fund.
- Part of the Welcoming Communities Coordinator's role was making contacts in the community with different cultural groups. The Community Development team had had some success in connecting with local communities through their churches.

**Resolved:** Marshall / Williams

*THAT the report from the Community Team Leader dated 26 April 2018 be received.*

10.21am Meeting adjourned and Committee members invited to view the cemetery across the road.

10.42am Meeting reconvened.

## CC10.2 **Bay Conservation Alliance**

The Community Committee considered a presentation from Michelle Elborn, Chief Executive of Bay Conservation Alliance, who was in attendance to speak to the Committee regarding Bay Conservation Alliance and its work programme. Julian Fitter, Chairperson of Bay Conservation Alliance, was in attendance to support Ms Elborn.

Ms Elborn spoke to a tabled PowerPoint presentation. She explained that their members were working well in their communities, some of which had been working for 20+ years and so had a lot of accumulative knowledge about their communities.

She also spoke about their support services for their members and the funding opportunities for the Bay Conservation Alliance.

In response to questions, Ms Elborn advised the following:

- Members of Bay Conservation Alliance paid a fee of \$100. The Board would reviewing this cost in the coming months.
- The Department of Conservation had indicated that they were excited about work that Bay Conservation Alliance did in the area and Bay Conservation Alliance worked alongside the Department of Conservation.
- The Community Biodiversity fund referenced did not currently exist but the proposed fund would be based on a similar fund managed by the Wild for Taranaki Biodiversity Trust.
- The Bay Conservation Alliance's goal was to have up to 15 groups working under them in the area. They currently had four members and were seeking to build their services in the meantime.
- The Department of Conservation had moved to more of a partnership model to empower groups like Bay Conservation Alliance already working within communities.

**Resolved:** Marsh / Marshall

*THAT the presentation from Bay Conservation Alliance be received.*

10.58am Meeting adjourned for morning tea.

11.17am Meeting reconvened.

## CC10.3 **Envirohub**

The Community Committee considered a presentation from Laura Wragg, Manager of Envirohub, who was in attendance to update the Committee about Envirohub and its work programme. Mary Dillon, Chairperson of Envirohub, was in attendance to support Ms Wragg. She congratulated the

Oropi Hall Committee for their refurbishment of the hall and commended them on their community mindedness. Ms Dillon also introduced Envirohub staff member Emma Wood who was also in attendance.

Ms Wragg spoke to a tabled glide presentation and explained the work that Envirohub did and their current projects. She specifically spoke to projects around permaculture design and information, plant identification, home grown food and sustainable backyard tours.

Ms Wragg advised that the Bird ID Calling training had been popular and that Envirohub also provided training around first aid. She explained that that where possible Envirohub aligned their local and regional projects with worldwide campaigns to promote awareness of environmental issues. Envirohub worked closely with community groups who were passionate to educate their communities on sustainable practices.

In response to questions, Ms Wragg advised the following:

- Envirohub was an umbrella organisation that worked with 60 different groups. These groups worked alongside each other and Envirohub had noticed natural sub-groups within the umbrella forming where interests were shared e.g. Bay Conservation Alliance and their members.
- Envirohub used emailed monthly newsletters, Facebook events and volunteers to advertise their work in the community.

**Resolved:** Scrimgeour / Dean

*THAT the presentation from Envirohub be received.*

#### CC10.4

#### **Maketu Ongatoro Wetland Society Education Programme**

The Community Committee considered a presentation from Tania Bramley, Maketu Ongatoro Wetland Society Secretary and Education Coordinator, who was in attendance to update the Committee on the Maketu Ongatoro Wetlands education programme. Julian Fitter, Maketu Ongatoro Wetlands Society Chair, was in attendance to support Ms Bramley and spoke about the importance of the Maketu Ongatoro Wetlands Education Programme and introduced Ms Bramley to the Committee.

Ms Bramley spoke to a tabled PowerPoint presentation and explained the current projects they had undertaken. She advised that environmental projects did not finish once the task was done but required continual care and upkeep to sustain them, and that the Maketu Ongatoro Wetland Society had been the Child and Youth Development winners of the TrustPower Community Awards. She also explained that they had been able to create a collection of taxidermied animals to help in their education programmes. Their recent programmes had included studies on water quality, environmental impacts on local streams, lack of wetlands and a shellfish study at the Maketu Estuary. Ms Bramley advised that the Maketu Ongatoro Wetland Society was looking forward to working with those who had already presented and would present at this meeting to help provide education in the environmental sector.

In response to questions, Ms Bramley advised that:

- The education programmes provided would not have been available to this generations parents and so the hope was that the children who participated in these projects would educate their families about environmental impact and issues.
- The intention was to provide programming for school aged children through to the end of high school.
- The Maketu Ongatoro Wetland Society worked with other educational providers including House of Science in Tauranga collaboratively.

**Resolved:** Murray-Benge / Thwaites

*THAT the presentation from the Maketu Ongatoro Wetland Education Programme be received.*

CC10.5

### **Vital Signs 2018 Survey**

The Community Committee considered a presentation from Margot McCool, the Operations Manager for Acorn Foundation, who was in attendance to speak to the Committee regarding the Vital Signs 2018 Survey.

Ms McCool spoke to a tabled PowerPoint presentation and explained that the Vital Signs survey had originated in Canada and could only be used by research foundations. The survey had been completed by this Council in 2015, and was a collaborative project with local Councils, TECT and Bay Trust and included the Eastern Bay of Plenty and the Rotorua/Taupo area.

Ms McCool explained that the survey was completed by participants either online or by paper, and by nearly 2,000 people making the margin of error relatively low. The analysis of the results had been completed locally by Key Research.

Ms McCool advised that, in comparison to the results of the survey in 2015, that the reasons why people lived in the area had not changed but that their priorities of improvements that could be made in the area had. In terms of the Western Bay of Plenty, the results for the 2018 survey had been either stable or had been improved upon in comparison to the 2015 survey.

Areas of concern that were noted in the survey included:

- People wanting more connectiveness with improved public transport systems and broadband
- Protecting new migrants from harassment (although communities scored well on largely being welcoming to new migrants)
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Affordability for parents to be able to bring up families in the area
- Pathways for study/training through to vocation for young adults
- More multipurpose and multi-access sporting and outdoor areas.

The arts and culture section of the survey was highly scored particularly in the Katikati Ward. Ms McCool advised that her presentation was a summary of the results and that the Community Relationships Manager had access to the data tables that were used to create the summary.

In response to questions, Ms McCool explained that:

- The scores calculated were for the whole region but there was not a lot of difference between areas. The data tables would give the breakdowns.
- She had presented to the triennial mayors meeting and as a result the Committee had resolved to make a submission to parliament regarding drugs and alcohol abuse and antisocial behaviour associated with this. Ms McCool confirmed that this was a concern across the whole region and affected people from all walks of life.
- The statistics presented were based on how the survey was filled out and the perceptions of those people who submitted.
- The information collected was broad and not designed to contain all the answers but to simulate conversations within communities to seek solutions for the issues raised.
- Regarding more detailed information around arts and culture, Creative Bay of Plenty may have more information about what kind of events people wanted more of.

**Resolved:** Dean / Thwaites

*THAT the presentation from the Acorn Foundation be received.*

12.22pm Meeting adjourned for lunch.

1.02pm Meeting reconvened.

### **Change to the Order of Business**

The Chairperson requested that the next item of business be Long Term Plan Natural Environment Strategy, as the presenters from Katikati Taiao had not yet arrived.

**Resolved:** Thwaites / Marsh

*THAT in accordance with Standing Orders the order of business be changed and that the item Long Term Plan Natural Environment Strategy be dealt with as the next item of business.*

### **CC10.6 Long Term Plan Natural Environment Strategy**

The Community Committee considered a report from the Senior Policy Analyst dated 26 April 2018 as circulated with the agenda.

The Senior Policy Analyst spoke to a tabled PowerPoint presentation. She advised that the Council would be reviewing the Natural Environment

Strategy and this presentation was an introduction for this. She explained the connection of this policy to recent Council activities, the District Plan and existing policies around parks and reserves.

In response to questions, the Senior Policy Analyst advised that:

- The referenced Fruit and Nut Policy had been in place for about three years and was created to enable the street planting of fruit and nut trees.
- The next step after the resolution in this meeting was for the strategy to be workshopped.
- Staff would assess the national direction around natural environment and make sure the proposed strategy for workshop aligns with that.

**Resolved:** Murray-Benge / Thwaites

1. *THAT the Senior Policy Analyst's report dated 26 April 2018 and titled Environment Strategic Work in 2018 be received.*
2. *THAT the report relates to an issue that is considered to be of low significance in terms of Council's Significance and Engagement Policy.*
3. *THAT the Community Committee recommends to the Policy Committee that the presentations received at the Community Committee Meeting on 26 April from environmental organisations, be considered through the review of the Natural Environment Strategy and the development of the Climate Change Action Plan in 2018.*

CC10.7

### **Katikati Taiao**

The Community Committee considered a presentation from Professor Peter Maddison and Tiki Bluegum, co-chairs of Katikati Taiao, who were in attendance to update the Committee on the group and its work programme.

Mr Bluegum introduced himself to the committee and his connection to Katikati Taiao from an iwi perspective.

Professor Madison spoke to a tabled PowerPoint regarding the focuses of Katikati Taiao and the work they had been doing. He explained that Katikati Taiao did not just consider environmental issues but community issues such as drug and alcohol use and abuse, poverty and cultural and community development. Mr Bluegum advised they were currently seeking the best way they could serve their community and to have some significant conversations with members of the community.

In response to questions, Professor Maddison and Mr Bluegum advised:

- Katikati Taiao planned on engaging in research alongside other social groups in Katikati.
- Katikati Taiao were in touch with groups like the Acorn Foundation to regarding current research being done in the Katikati area.

**Resolved:** Murray-Benge / Marshall

*THAT the presentation from Katikati Taiao be received.*

CC10.8

### **Kokako Garden and Native Plantings Projects**

The Community Committee considered a presentation from Andrew King, Principal of Oropi Primary School, who was in attendance to speak to the Committee about Oropi Primary school and their education programmes around their local environment and sustainability.

Mr King introduced himself to the Committee and gave some background around how projects were prioritised within the school curriculum. He explained that the school was located in an ideal space to connect with the outdoor environment. There was a bilingual unit in the school that had taken eight years to establish and the school were also seeking to connect with the local iwi. The curriculum included the study of Māori and Pakeha worldview in relation to the natural environment. The Kokako Garden was not a token project but an opportunity for students to learn about the sowing, growing and harvesting processes.

He also referenced some of the projects in a school's play based curriculum, which included sustainable tree hut makings and involved the children in tree plantings and the design of native gardens. The growth of the school had facilitated the need for the carpark to grow, which had impacted one of the existing native gardens. This had become an excellent learning opportunity to model how to deal with the responsibilities of growth and the garden had been redesigned so that the "green space" removed to make room for the carpark was reinstated.

Mr King also explained that Oropi Primary had sister school in China so students also learned about Chinese culture and to speak in Mandarin. They had Mandarin language speech competitions and incorporated Chinese culture experiences and learning opportunities into their curriculum including cooking.

In response to questions, Mr King advised:

- The school had eight international students for 12 months. They also regularly had groups of international students come for short stays in February and July/August.
- Oropi Primary had 34 out of zone students. Part of this was due to a change in zones. A ballot system was used to select out of zone students and there was a bus available for these students to get into school.
- An enrolment zone policy had needed to be implemented as government funding was based on enrolled students who were within the school zone.



**Resolved:** Marsh / Dean

*THAT the presentation regarding the Kokako Garden and Native Planting Projects be received.*

CC10.9           **Oropi Primary School Visit**

Andrew King, Principal of Oropi School hosted the Councillors on a site visit of Oropi Primary School.

The meeting concluded at 2.05pm.

CC10