

Western Bay of Plenty District Council

Minutes of Meeting No. CC17 of the Community Committee held on 9 May 2019 in the Council Chamber, Barks Corner, Tauranga commencing at 9.30am

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, M Williams and His Worship the Mayor G J Webber

In Attendance

M Taris (Chief Executive Officer), J Pedersen (Group Manager People and Customer Services), D Pearce (Community Manager), C Lim (Engagement Specialist), R Chambers (Events Specialist), B Wilson (Community Relationships Advisor), G Ayo (Community Relationships Advisor), H Kalirai (Welcoming Communities Coordinator), H Wi Repa (Community Events and Relationships Coordinator), A McFadden (Team Leader Libraries Community) and M Parnell (Governance Advisor)

Others

B Button, J Dugmore and R Spratt (Members, Te Puke Community Board), as listed in the minutes and one member of the media.

Public Forum

Resolved: Dean / Williams

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

Waitsu Wu, Operations Manager from Multicultural Tauranga spoke to the Committee regarding a new initiative in Te Puke called the Newcomers Morning Tea and advised the following:

- She introduced herself and talked about her volunteer position in Multicultural Tauranga.
- Multicultural Tauranga was trialling a weekly morning tea at the Te Puke Library and Service Centre, and if this was successful, they will look at hosting other events.
- They were working with the Tauranga Chinese Friendship Society to help produce a Chinese New Year festival at Te Puke's Jubilee Park, and other events. Ms Wu introduced Ms Tina Zhang, President of the Tauranga Chinese Friendship Society, who she was working with on the Chinese New Year festival.

Resolved: Murray-Benge / Marshall

THAT the meeting be reconvened in formal session at 10.07am.

CC17.1 **Community Team Update**

The team introduced their new members and advised of their roles in Council to the Committee.

The Committee considered an updated from the Community Development Team. The report was taken as read and the Community Relationships Advisor noted that in reviewing the Community Strategy, a gap had been identified for the elderly and ageing population, so the Active Ageing Week had been proposed.

The Welcoming Communities Coordinator spoke to the Katikati Festival of Cultures that was to take place on Saturday, 29 June 2019 and reported that the organisation for the event so far had been very successful.

In response to questions, staff advised as follows:

- Council was looking for a funding partner to employ three people in the community for the Active Ageing Week Have A Go days.
- The funding for the Active Ageing Week included the provision for transport for residents in rural areas to come to programmes run in the urban centres.

Resolved: Marshall / Williams

THAT the report titled Community Team Update and dated 26 April 2019 be received.

Presentations

CC17.2 **Council's Ethnic Engagement Approach**

The Committee received a presentation from the Engagement Specialist, regarding the Council's Ethnic Engagement Approach and their future actions. The Engagement Specialist spoke to a tabled powerpoint presentation and noted the following:

- The definition, barriers to and benefits of community engagement.
- What other Councils were doing in the ethnic engagement space specifically in Hamilton.
- Western Bay of Plenty District Council's approach to its ethnic community. She noted the posters that had been hung around the meeting room with the word "hello" in different languages that had been distributed to Council libraries and service centres, and to other groups that the Community Development staff interact with.
- Relationships were key to Western Bay of Plenty District Council's approach to engagement with different ethnic communities.

- Future actions and next steps were discussed.

In response to questions, staff advised the following:

- Becoming a host city for refugees who wanted to become residents needed to be instigated by the community but staff could assist in facilitating this.
- There was a seminar on Monday, 13 May 2019 in Council Chambers being run by Immigration New Zealand about human trafficking.
- The Welcoming Communities Programme focused on preparing the receiving community for new migrants, enabling and inspiring genuine relationship and combatting negativity associated with migrant communities.

At the invitation of the Chairperson, Ms Wu advised that Multicultural New Zealand were also looking to prepare receiving communities for new migrants. Their proposed events were focussed on encouraging the general public to connect with new migrant communities.

Resolved: Thwaites / Dean

THAT the presentation regarding Council's Ethnic Engagement Approach be received.

CC17.3

Shakti Ethnic Women

The Committee received a presentation from Margie Dinwoodie, Acting Coordinator of the Shakti Ethnic Women's Support Group, who was in attendance to update the Committee on the group's work with Western Bay community. Ms Dinwoodie outlined the following:

- The Shakti Ethnic Women's Support Group model started in Auckland with eight Shakti women who regularly met to discuss living in a different culture.
- They mainly aided in family harm and with domestic violence situations.
- A number of their clients struggled with isolation.
- The group ran events and workshops that facilitated personal growth.
- The group focused on gender equality for women in the Shakti community and raising the next generation in a more equitable environment.
- They had 30 families in their service at the moment and had supported the Christchurch group after the mosque attack.
- There were seven groups in Auckland, and one each is Tauranga, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin.
- They also provided services for refugees as required.
- They received funding from the Ministry of Social Development for their case work and support from the Ministry of Justice for families with safety issues.
- They had just organised to co-share a space in the Te Puke War Memorial Hall for part of the week.
- They were holding a community fair event in Mt Maunganui on 18 May 2019 called Shakti in the Park.

In response to questions, Ms Dinwoodie advised the following:

- The group provided a direct service to their clients for safety and security, and crisis intervention by working closely with the Police and advocating through the legal system. They also had a safe house.
- Barriers for Shakti women to connect with their communities could be cultural or gender related.
- In her experience, abuse started once families moved to New Zealand as people experienced the stress of trying to re-establish themselves in a foreign culture.
- Their main source of advertising was through referrals from police and local clinics, and by word of mouth.
- The group had been targeted previously and had been successful in getting protection orders against those who threatened them. In the meantime they employed safety measures like meeting clients in public places like a café or at the library.
- They had the most success through using the legal system. When a protection order was in place, the court could mandate attendance to an anti-violence course, and had access to funding for an interpreter, if required.
- Depending on the circumstances, some women at times felt they had no control in their situation. A significant portion of their clients were in mixed culture relationships.
- The group was supported by their community but not openly spoken about.

Resolved: Murray-Benge / Williams

THAT the presentation from the Shakti Ethnic Women's Support Group be received.

11.16am The meeting adjourned for morning tea.

11.52am The meeting reconvened.

CC17.4 **Pacific Island Community and Pacific Power UP Programme**

The Chairperson advised that Esther Martin, Chief Executive Officer of the Pacific Island Community Trust Tauranga was no longer available to present in today's meeting.

Change to the Order of Business

The Chairperson requested that the next item of business be CC17.8 on the agenda - the presentation from the Sikh Community, in order to release Mr Lehmbur Singh from the meeting.

Resolved: Mayor Webber / Murray-Benge

THAT in accordance with Standing Orders the order of business be changed and that the item CC17.8 (the presentation from the Sikh Community) be dealt with as the next item of business.

CC17.5 **Sikh Community**

The Committee received a presentation from Mr Lehmbert Singh, Te Puke Sikh Community Leader, who was in attendance to update the Committee on the Sikh Community in Te Puke, including the upcoming Sikh Street Parade. Mr Singh shared the following:

- He was a board member of the Bay of Plenty Sikh Society.
- The Sikh community started in the 1980s when seven Sikh's came to Te Puke to work in the Kiwifruit industry. By 1997, there were 100 Sikh families in the Bay of Plenty. Their Board was established in 1998 and the Sikh temple was opened in 2001. There were now around 1,000 Sikh families from Katikati to Opotiki, mostly located in Papamoa and Te Puke.
- The Sikh Temple hosted religious services on Saturday nights and festivals over weekends. Their community kitchen was open to all.
- The Sikh Community wanted to make an effort to follow the rules but found Council processes complex. For example, Mr Singh had obtained a resource consent for a shed on his property but had no idea he also needed to get a building consent as well.
- Projects at the Sikh temple included bringing the community kitchen up to compliance and establishing a playground.

In response to questions, Mr Singh advised the following:

- His children were currently studying in New Zealand and his family had found no barriers to education in New Zealand.
- Compliance for the Sikh temple involved a bigger extraction fan for the community kitchen and a more robust fire plan for the temple.
- The Sikh temple was open to Hindu and Muslim families but was mostly comprised of Sikh families.

The Chief Executive Officer invited Mr Singh to meet with her regarding some of the Council issues he was experiencing.

Resolved: Scrimgeour / Thwaites

THAT the presentation from the Te Puke Sikh Community be received.

12.06pm Councillor Thwaites left the meeting

CC17.6 **Chinese Community**

The Committee received a presentation from Lauren Qiu, Member and Candy Yan, President of the Bay of Plenty Chinese Culture Society and Bay

of Plenty Chinese Business and Commerce Association, who were in attendance to update the Committee on the Chinese community across the sub-region. Ms Qiu and Ms Yan spoke to a tabled powerpoint presentation and the following was noted:

- An overview of both organisations was given.
- The activities of the Chinese Cultural Society for the Chinese Community and their desire to share their culture with others were discussed.
- The Chinese Community wanted to be able to learn and adapt.
- There had been a large influx of Chinese people in the area in the last few years. They had largely come for the lifestyle and had found employment in horticultural and hospitality, or had established their own businesses. They were usually well educated and had good skills.
- The Chinese Church in Tauranga had been a great source of support for many in the Chinese community.
- Many Chinese used the social media tool WeChat, where groups could be created that held up to 500 people. The Bay of Plenty Chinese Culture Society managed four groups on WeChat and had found it a powerful tool to communicate with their community.
- There was a common perception amongst the Community that Tauranga City and Western Bay of Plenty District Council's were the same thing.
- Many from the Chinese community commuted to Tauranga for work along State Highway 2, so the safety of the road was important to the community.
- The Chinese Community wanted to understand and have input into the Long Term Plans for both the Tauranga City and Western Bay of Plenty District Council's and intended to have good relationships with governing bodies.

In response to questions, Ms Qiu and Ms Yan advised the following:

- A Council WeChat page would be very useful. They would be happy to run one but would need a point of contact at Council to answer complicated questions.
- They regularly did presentations to the Chinese community about topics like immigration and business, and could invite Council to present.
- The main purpose for starting the Bay of Plenty Chinese Culture Society was to provide language studies. It had been established for Chinese families but they found people from all cultures came to learn.
- There were some members of the Chinese community who exported local product to China.
- More established Chinese families took the opportunity to interact with more recent migrants from China to help preserve their culture and language.

Resolved: Dean / Marshall

THAT the presentation regarding the Chinese Community across the sub-region be received.

12.36pm

The meeting adjourned for lunch.

1.05pm The meeting reconvened. Councillor Lally was not present.

CC17.7 **Auckland Council's Engagement with Chinese Community**

The Committee received a presentation from Yongjie Li, Specialist Advisor, Auckland Council's Community Empowerment Unit regarding Auckland Council's engagement with the Chinese community on its Long Term and Annual Plans. Kylie Hill, Business Advisor within the Community Empowerment Unit (CEU) was also in attendance to support Mr Li who spoke to a tabled powerpoint presentation and outlined the following:

- The drivers for change in Auckland including diversity.
- The platforms for ethnic community engagement.
- Community Empowerment Unit projects in the ethnic community including Māori culture sessions and cultural tours to ethnic temples and culture centre. They also ran open days for low visible ethnic communities, diversity forums and ethnic leaders roundtable meetings as well as special workshops for ethnic communities about governance structure and services, particularly regarding the differences between local and central government.
- There had been a significant increase in the participation of the Chinese Community in Auckland's Annual Plan consultation.
- Auckland Council also used WeChat and found it a useful tool.
- Shared tips for engaging with ethnic communities.
- Auckland Council had adopted the Empower Community Approach (ECA) in 2015.
- Barriers to communication with ethnic communities included unawareness of cultural appropriateness and translation services not being about to accurately explain Council processes.

In response to questions, Mr Li confirmed the following:

- The drive for all staff to be involved in engagement had been determined by the Council.
- Auckland City had one Mayor, 20 Council members and local board with delegated authority to look after local issues.

1.26pm Councillor Murray-Benge left the meeting.

Resolved: Marsh / Dean

THAT the presentation regarding Auckland Council's engagement with the Chinese community on its Long Term and Annual Plans be received.

CC17.8 **The Daily Café**

The Committee received a presentation from Chrissi Robinson of The Search Party Charitable Trust and The Daily Café, regarding an update on the work The Daily Café does for the Te Puke Community. Ms Robinson spoke to a tabled powerpoint presentation and shared the following:

- Council staff had been very supportive of their work in Te Puke, which she thanked Council for.
- They were a local Te Puke Trust that had started in 2014 with a vision to see everyone in Te Puke connected and thriving.
- They were not interested in duplicating services already present in the Te Puke Community.
- Their business model was designed to be sustainable including partnership with local schools.
- The Daily Café facilitated connection with the community and provided healthy food. It also included a community room that was free to use.
- The regular community meal programme had been successful with over 1,000 free pizzas being provided to the community.
- The team also provided crisis meals in the form of cottage pies to those in need.
- The Daily Help Project was modelled on Good Neighbour in Tauranga and provided help around the home for those unable to complete projects themselves and who were in danger of losing their tenancy. Daily Help would come onto a property to scope the project and work with the resident to complete the project. Examples of what the team had done included removing rubbish and weed, and set up a vegetable garden. They operated in the greater Te Puke area and accepted referrals from key partners.
- The Search Party Charitable Trust fostered collaboration in the community and had supported the St John Health Shuttle. They had also worked with schools to arrange free bus trips to and from school for students, which had improved attendance rates at schools.
- The Te Puke Co-lab was encouraging social services coming together to look at social issues like housing and homelessness, and community cohesion.
- A need had been identified in the community regarding feeding families well on a budget. A pilot programme with a local chef teaching people to cook healthy food on a budget was run after funding was obtained for set up costs. The first course had been very successful in connecting people with food. Their goal was to provide the course for 60 Te Puke families.
- The Daily Lift was a programme designed to provide transport in the greater Te Puke area allowing elderly people without vehicles to run their errands or mothers and children without a vehicle during the day to visit the doctor within open hours. Private donations had allowed for the purchase of a 12 seat van for this purpose.
- Noted that they were seeking an improvement in public transport through a collaborative process.
- The Search Party Charitable Trust had been recipients of the Community Matching Fund, which Ms Robinson thanked the Committee for.

In response to questions, Ms Robinson advised the following:

- Before starting The Daily Café, the Robinson's had engaged with the community to ensure they were adding to the community with The Daily Café; not taking away business from others. It was through this process that they identified that vegan, healthy food would be their business as well as a place where mother's could bring their children

and enjoy a coffee. The Daily Café had become a destination café for Te Puke and their marketing was specifically not competitive with other eateries in the area.

- The cooking course was a model that could be used elsewhere. The course was longer than a similar one the District Health Board ran and included a local chef and provided childcare. Participants were encouraged to become mentors.
- The Search Party Charitable Trust did not currently or had not had any government contracts but were open to working in partnership with the government.
- The Search Party Charitable Trust were interested in developing volunteers. They currently had volunteers for a number of different projects and found food to be an incentive. Some volunteers worked on one project and then moved on, and others continued to help. They had probably organised around 100 volunteers to do 2,000 hours work.

Ms Robinson was thanked for the work The Search Party Charitable Trust did in Te Puke.

Resolved: Scrimgeour / Marshall

THAT the presentation from The Search Party Charitable Trust and The Daily Café be received.

The meeting concluded at 2.23pm.

CC17