

# Western Bay of Plenty District Council

## Minutes of Meeting No. CC8 of the Community Committee held on 1 February 2018 in the Lifezone Church, 7 Oak Lane, Judea, Tauranga commencing at 10.00am

### Present

Councillor P Mackay (Chairperson), Councillors G Dally, M Dean, M Lally, 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), E Holtsbaum (Group Manager Technology, Customer and Community Services), F Begley (Community Relationships Manager), C Lim (Community Team Leader), B Wilson (Community Relationships Advisor), G Ayo (Community Relationships Advisor), C McKerras (Executive Assistant Technology, Community and Customer Services), and M Parnell (Democracy Advisor)

### Others

24 members of the public, including presenters, and one member of the media.

### Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Marsh.

**Resolved:** Murray-Benge / Mayor Webber

*THAT the apology for absence from Councillor Marsh be accepted.*

The Chairperson greeted the committee and visitors to the meeting using several different Pacific Island greetings and explained the purpose of the meeting; connecting with the Pasifika Community. He invited Pastor Sinafoni Tafuna to open the meeting with a prayer.

The Chairperson invited all those present to introduce themselves, what they did in their community and what they hoped to get out of the meeting today.

## Information

### CC8.1 **Pacific Island Community Leaders**

The Community Committee considered a report from the Community Relationships Advisor dated 16 January 2018 as circulated with the agenda.

**Resolved:** Marshall / Williams

*THAT the report from the Community Relationships Advisor dated 16 January 2018 and titled Pacific Island Community Leaders be received.*

The Mayor addressed the meeting and advised those present about the Western Bay of Plenty District Council area, which he indicated on a map. He spoke about the growth the Western Bay, from 38,000 people in 2001 to 48,000 in 2017 and advised that this growth has created diversity in the area. He also spoke to the Welcoming Communities Programme; a joint pilot programme alongside Tauranga City Council aimed at helping migrant in the area by preparing the existing community to receive them.

## Presentations

### CC8.2 **Pasifika in the Bay Overview**

The Community Committee considered a presentation from Beryl Razak, member of the Pacific Island Community Development Team and ex-Chairperson of the Pacific Island Community (Tauranga) Trust who was in attendance to speak to the Committee about the issues that Pasifika people face and where Council could help.

Ms Razak greeted the committee and thanked the Council for the opportunity to meet with the community. She advised she was originally from the Solomon Islands and spoke of her time in New Zealand, and what she did in her position in the Pacific Island Community Development. She advised that they believed that life does not get better by chance but by change.

She explained topics that were currently very important to the Pasifika Community were housing, employment and health and the issues created by the lack of these and that the core values of the community were honesty, integrity, openness and respect of values.

She advised that the Pacific Island Community Development Team were in the process of developing a strategic plan and looked forward to a good working relationship with other organisations including Tauranga City Council and the Western Bay of Plenty District Council. They intended to secure funding to help put on Pasifika events in the area, develop a Pasifika hub and to help improve education, employment and housing within the Pasifika Community.

Beryl introduced Kabby Tangiraoui of the Kiribati Community who shared her testimony regarding her migration journey to New Zealand. She explained some of the hardships she and her family had gone through to live in New Zealand.

In response to questions, Ms Razak advised:

- There was a Memorandum of Understanding with Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology (formerly known as the Bay of Plenty Polytechnic) for trade work. Immigrants from the Pacific Islands worked very hard to make sure their qualifications were to New Zealand standards.
- Identity was a very important within the Pasifika Community. She explained that even within some islands there were many, many ethnic groups and languages represented.
- There had been some negotiations around social housing services with existing groups but without much success. Pacific Island immigrants through the Pacific Access Category, a system that did not include support for housing of and employment for these immigrants. As such, many immigrants granted access to New Zealand started out living in family homes, which could lead to overcrowding.

**Resolved:** Dean / Dally

*THAT the presentation from Beryl Razak be received.*

### CC8.3

#### **Employment in the Bay**

The Community Committee considered a presentation from Ati Aafou Olive, Consultant / Business Owner of Keyskills Consultancy who was in attendance to speak to the Committee about employment of Pacific Island people in the Western Bay of Plenty.

Mr Aafou Olive explained that 60% of Pacific Island people were second generation and therefore born and raised in New Zealand and that the majority of the Pasifika Community represented in New Zealand was made up of Samoan, Cook Island Māori and Tongan people. He shared that he had been born in Wellington and grew up in Wainuiomata around other Pacific Island families. From a young age he had been involved in rugby, which had become a passion.

He advised he had worked in labour hire recruitment for six year and that his company had 300 workers on their payroll, 20% of which were of Pasifika descent. Most of these people were considered low skill workers who worked in factories and warehouses in repetitive work for minimum wage. He explained that any difficulty in getting higher qualifications within the community were generally financial. While some students could secure scholarships, their families may not have the money to transport them to and from their place of learning.

Mr Aafou Olive talked about the passion of the people in the Pasifika Community. Some changes at the rugby union development level had meant that in the last year, at the development level, a rugby tournament

had been held which included a Pasifika team. Despite not necessarily having the fitness and the skill of some of the other teams, the Pasifika team won the tournament, which had added value to the community. Once again fees, the need for sporting equipment and the ability to transport players to and from training and games had limited the opportunity for some.

In 2015 Mr Aafou Olive had started, along with a group of volunteers, a programme at Tauranga Boys College called Pasifika Rise. The purpose of it was to inspire Pasifika students to do well in school and involved a training session, breakfast and the opportunity to listen to an inspiration speaker on a Monday morning before school. Pasifika Rise had become a very popular event and they were looking to replicate the programme in other Western Bay schools. They had also helped to start Samoan Language Week at St Mary Catholic School in Tauranga despite there being only five students of Samoan descent in a school of 450.

Mr Aafou Olive tabled a research document that looked at the number of Pacific Island rugby players compared with those Pasifika peoples who might hold management, coaching and other senior positions in the rugby union, of which there were very few. The paper indicated a desire to elevate Pacific Island people to these positions to help provide pastoral support for the Pacific Island players.

In response to questions, Mr Aafou Olive explained the following:

- The Pasifika Rise programme was currently only operating at Tauranga Boys College. It was run by volunteers and so duplicating it in other schools would require more people to help.
- Key Skills Consultancy provided work for many people, all of whom were required to have a qualification to New Zealand standards.
- The travel industry was a very tough area to get into in the Bay of Plenty. Those who would want to become involved may need to move outside of the region to get any success.
- Skilled labourers for industries such as kiwifruit were in high demand and were generally able to be kept employed.
- Key Skills Consultancy did not just employ new immigrants but could also help those who were settled in New Zealand and looking for employment.
- Key Skills Consultancy did work with businesses who were looking to fill apprenticeships but these were not common.
- There were currently no training institutions in the Islands that Mr Aafou Olive was aware of that would train students using New Zealand standards but he agreed that would be useful in upskilling immigrants before they come to New Zealand.
- Something the Council might be able to help with was helping to support wrap around services for immigrants to address the issues in the community around housing, education and employment.

Mr Aafou Olive introduced Eli Faamatau of Sync'd to the committee. Mr Faamatau explained that the purpose of Sync'd was to help Pacific Island people succeed in their communities. Their values were based on an acronym of the word RISE: respect, integrate, succeed and empower. Mr

Faamatau believed that education was a key component of helping people succeed, that housing support was required and that information in financial literacy would be incredibly helpful for the Pasifika Community. He also believed that community integration was essential; both teaching about their culture to their receiving communities and learning about the culture they were entering into. He explained that faith was a huge part of the Pasifika Community and so connections to churches and ministers were important, as were health services, English language progression and telecommunications to keep in touch with family where they had immigrated from.

In response to questions, Mr Faamatau advised:

- If there were any retired teachers in the community who would help support English language progression, that support would be much appreciated.
- Sync'd was currently working with immigrants at this time but wanted to be able to work with local people too.
- Supporting Pacific Island people to be entrepreneurs would be a much appreciated service to the community.

**Resolved:** Murray-Benge / Williams

*THAT the presentation from Ati Aafou Olive and Eli be received.*

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

The Chairperson requested that the next item of business be Welcoming Communities Programme, to continue the flow of the meeting.

**Resolved:** Thwaites / Mayor Webber

*THAT in accordance with Standing Orders the order of business be changed and that the item Welcoming Communities Programme be dealt with as the next item of business.*

### **CC8.4 Welcoming Communities Programme**

The Community Committee considered a presentation from the Community Team Leader, Haidee Kalirai, Coordinator of the Welcoming Communities Programme, and the Community Relationships Advisor who were in attendance to speak to the Committee about the programme and to discuss ways that receiving communities can be more accommodating to the Pacific Island Community.

Ms Lim introduced herself and the team to the Committee. She talked about the Welcoming Communities Programme and reminded the committee that the programme was not New Zealand based and was designed to help receiving communities welcome migrants, international students and refugees well. She also explained that Tauranga City Council and Western Bay of Plenty District Council were working together as one of five pilot sites for this programme. The government was funding the pilot

and would be doing so for two years. A group had been brought together including both councils, Tangata Whenua representatives and Internal Affairs, to create a welcoming plan.

Haidee introduced herself and explained about her background as a second-generation Indian woman. She advised that she had worked with migrants and refugees for ten years in Hamilton and looked forward to working within the Welcoming Communities Programme. She had been in her position for two days.

The Community Relationships Advisor, Glenn Ayo introduced himself and his heritage. He introduced Danielle Jurgeleit, Community Development Advisor from Tauranga City Council, and reiterated that the programme was about supporting receiving communities. He advised that after lunch the meeting would reconvene in an informal session for the committee and its guests to discuss issues around how the programme could best serve those in the Pasifika Community.

The Mayor advised that the programme was new and the Chief Executive Officer confirmed that any feedback provided would be most useful.

**Resolved:** Thwaites / Williams

*THAT the presentation regarding the Welcoming Communities Programme be received.*

- 11.58am The meeting adjourned for lunch followed by an informal conversation.
- 1.41pm The meeting reconvened in formal session. Councillor Lally was not present.

#### CC8.5 **Pasifika Sports in the Bay and Policing in the Bay / Social Impact**

The Community Committee considered a presentation from Murphy Taele, New Zealand Police Officer, and Tumanu Martin, of the Samoan Rugby Association, who were in attendance to speak to the Committee about the impact of Pacific Island people in sports and policing and social impact in the Western Bay of Plenty.

Officer Taele introduced himself and explained that his parents were Samoan and he grew up in Dunedin. He became a policeman in 2012 and was currently working with the tactical unit in Greerton, where he dealt with crime like burglaries and assaults. He was one of two Pacific Island policemen in the Western Bay.

He advised that only 2 - 3% of crime in the Western Bay of Plenty involved Pacific Island offenders and those crimes tended to be minor. The New Zealand Police were recruiting and Officer Taele wanted to encourage more Pacific Island recruits. He also wanted to encourage Pacific Island Liaison Officers as there were Iwi Liaison Officers for Māori people.

In response to questions, Officer Taelle advised that high end drug use, like methamphetamine, was an issue in the area along with gang involvement, which all youth were vulnerable to. Regarding the Pasifika Community, he had found that this was not such an issue for the young people and attributed this to the messages being given to young people in their communities that would continue.

Tumanu Martin introduced himself and advised his parents were Samoan and that he was born and raised in Wellington. He was involved in sport from a very young age. When Mr Martin first came to Tauranga, he played rugby to connect with other people. The Samoan Rugby Association was established because of this. It had started as a Facebook event and grew from there.

Over the last three years sports had been used to connect people to communities who had previously not integrated with their receiving communities and to involve themselves in the community in a positive way. He knew of examples of parents who had not attended parent teacher interviews with their childrens' teachers until they had become more integrated into their communities through activities like sports. He also advised that these people became contributing members of their communities and no longer felt that they were invisible.

In 2017, the group diversified and included more Pacific Island peoples and won the tournament that Mr Aafou Olive referred to earlier. As the area was so spread out, one of the challenges has been to get people in the team together for coaching and to get to games in the region. He advised a Pasifika hub would be very beneficial for the community.

In response to questions, Mr Martin advised that the group was looking to diversify into netball and woman's rugby in the future.

**Resolved:** Palmer / Scrimgeour

*THAT the presentations from Murphy Taelle and Tumanu Martin be received.*

## CC8.6

### **Faith and Pasifika Families in the Bay**

The Community Committee considered a presentation from Siulolo Teisi who was in attendance to speak to the Committee about faith and families in the Western Bay of Plenty.

Mrs Teisi advised that she was Tongan and spoke to the importance of Christianity and faith in the Pasifika Community. Values that this instilled in the Pasifika Community included respect, humility, loyalty and passion in application of self, respect to elders and women and observing correct protocol to maintain dignity. She explained that in the Pasifika Community that the family, including extended family, was the central focus and provided an identity that was very important to Pasifika people where dependence was deemed more important than individualism.

She explained that in 2014, when there was a high rate of suicide among Tongan people in Auckland where she had been living, that she and her family had evaluated and had chosen to leave Auckland and move to Tauranga where Mrs Teisi had been able to focus more on her family and to attend Faith Bible College.

**Resolved:** Murray-Benge / Mayor Webber

*THAT the presentation from Siulolo Teisi be received.*

CC8.7

### **The Role of the Pacific Island Community (Tauranga) Trust in the Bay**

The Community Committee considered a presentation from Delwyn Walker, Chief Executive Officer of the Pacific Island Community (Tauranga) Trust was in attendance to speak to the Committee about the role of the organisation in the community.

Ms Walker advised that she and several generations before her were from this area and she did not grow up around many Pasifika people. When she moved to Auckland, she encountered many other cultures. She worked in different industries and met many people from different cultures. She was able to move from job to job in Auckland because she had been taught from a young age the importance of education, community and to believe in herself.

Ms Walker spoke to her dedication to use her connections to this area to open up opportunities for the Pasifika peoples in the community. She advised that she was passionate about seeing people from the Pasifika Community rise up and be heard in the development of the areas that they lived and also that the need for a Pasifika hub was great.

In response to questions, Ms Walker advised:

- The hub she had in mind looked very much like the LifeZone Church. A building that was purpose built for the community. It would also be a reflection of what is required to operate well in the Western Bay of Plenty. She saw it as being a place for youth and the arts.
- The area of service for the Pacific Island Community (Tauranga) Trust was large and so transporting people to programmes had not been easy.

**Resolved:** Marshall / Thwaites

*THAT the presentation from Delwyn Walker be received.*

The Group Manager Technology, Community and Customer Services summarised the meeting. She started by referring back to the Welcoming Communities Programme and referred to the Welcoming Community Standard for New Zealand and tied the issues that had been brought up during the meeting to those standards.



She issued a challenge that a relationship of mutual trust and respect be created so that work could be done together.

Pastor Sinafoni Tafuna closed the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting concluded at 3.01pm.

CC8