FEATHERSTON COMMUNITY BOARD

31 JANUARY 2017

AGENDA ITEM 6.6

COMMUNITY BOARDS CONFERENCE 2017

Purpose of Report

To inform community board members of the May 2017 Community Boards Conference and to seek nominee/s to the event.

Recommendations

Officers recommend that the community board:

1. *Receive the information.*

2. *Resolve to send a community board member to the Community Boards Conference 2017 at Council's expense.*

3. *Consider resolving to send a second community board member to the Community Boards Conference 2017 with an associated commitment of up to $2,000 for costs.*

1.   Community Boards Conference 2017

The 2017 Community Boards Conference will take place from 12-13 May 2017 in Methven.

The New Zealand Community Boards Conference takes place every two years. The biennial conference was introduced in 1997 to bring together the community boards of New Zealand to share practice and to help improve the understanding and work of community boards.

The theme of the 2017 conference is "Making 1 + 1 = 3" or, how can we as boards achieve more for our communities with the resources we are given. The programme hasn't been released yet, but will be available on the Local Government website soon (http://www.lgnz.co.nz/home/nzs-local-government/community-boards/).

The community board awards are hosted at this event.

1.1   Community Board Awards
Since they were established in 1989, community boards across the country have implemented an enormous number and range of projects.

From re-establishing community services to creating new and innovative facilities and programmes, community boards have demonstrated that their valuable role in local government goes beyond advocating for their communities.

Since 2003, the Community Board Executive Committee has sponsored the Community Board Best Practice Awards to celebrate excellence in the implementation of projects in local government.

The awards aim to:

- Recognise significant contributions made by community boards to the process of achieving excellence in local government;
- Build a toolbox as a base for improving the effectiveness and function of community boards; and
- Foster the exchange of best practice and innovative ideas.

The 2017 categories are:

- Leadership
- Enhancing Communities
- Engaging Communities

In addition, from each of these categories CBEC will select an overall winner, which will reflect the project or initiative that is the most innovative and resulted in the greatest community value. Closing date for entries is Friday 17 March 2017.

The entry form can be obtained from the Local Government website should the community board wish to submit an entry.

2. Attendee Expectations

As per paragraph 11.1 of the Elected Member Code of Conduct, elected members "must present a report to the Council, or appropriate Standing Committee or Community Board which summarises the event including its potential significance to the business of the South Wairarapa District Council. Where the Council is represented by a delegation, one member of the party will report back on their behalf."

3. Financial Considerations

Council has budgeted for one person from each community board to attend the event. Past community boards sometimes opt to pay the expenses of a second member to attend the conference. The cost to send an additional person will be between $1,500 - $2,000. Savings can be made by confirming your conference booking and travel arrangements early.

4.   Attendance Booking Process

- A resolution is required from the community board naming the person/s nominated to attend the conference. If two persons have been nominated then the resolution should also contain the monetary commitment of the board.
- Conference bookings will be made for the nominees by Barbara Gavan.
- Barbara Gavan will make all flight bookings for members; nominees are to advise the day and time of those flights.
- Other expenses can be claimed by nominees on their return, as per Council's Remuneration Policy.

5.   Conclusion

Members who have attended the Community Boards Conferences have found them inspirational and well worthwhile. It is recommended that community boards take advantage of this opportunity and nominate 1-2 members to attend the 2017 event. A report from Peter Jackson and Lee Carter, previous conference attendees, has been included in Appendix 1 for information.

6.   Appendix

Appendix 1 – Report on 2015 Community Boards Conference

Contact Officer: Suzanne Clark, Committee Secretary
Reviewed By: Paul Crimp, Chief Executive

Appendix 1 – Report on 2015 Community Boards Conference

REPORT ON 2015 NEW ZEALAND COMMUNITY BOARDS CONFERENCE

Purpose of Report

This report provides feedback to Featherston Community Board (FCB) on the 2015 New Zealand Community Boards Conference.

Recommended Action:

It is recommended that FCB:

1. Receive the information

1.   Executive Summary

The 2015 Community Boards Conference was held in Waitangi over the period 14 – 16 May 2015, and was attended by Lee Carter and Peter Jackson (FCB Chair and Deputy Chair respectively). Opened by the Mayor of the Far North District Council (FNDC), His Worship John Carter, the conference had as its theme *Influencing Change* which – among other things – looked at the potential for communities to identify and, working with local government and non-government organisations, maximise opportunities for creating and/or improving community outcomes. Community engagement was a key sub-theme throughout.

2.   Keynote Sessions

FNDC Deputy Mayor, Tania McInnes, spoke about community boards and the fact they could be either *Change Agents or Change Inhibitors*. Her presentation examined ways in which community boards could promote positive change through greater community engagement. Tania highlighted the great success that Focus Paihia (a community organisation) had – working with local government – in converting a former car park on the Paihia water front into a recreational park providing even greater community benefits. To learn more about Focus Paihia visit http://focuspaihia.org.nz/.

David Hammond, CEO of Thames Coromandel District Council (TCDC), detailed TCDC's unique community board model whereby these are delegated greater responsibility (and funding) for the delivery of local services and the operation/maintenance of local infrastructure.

Jacqui Dean, MP for Waitaki and Private Secretary for Local Government, gave a useful and supportive insight into the Government's view of local government (including community boards).

Gerard Linstrom from Chorus provided an update on the roll out of Ultra-Fast Broadband (UFB) and the Rural Broadband Initiative (RBI) programmes, and highlighted the importance

of engagement with local government (including community boards) and the communities they represent to help guide the prioritisation of effort. To learn more about RFB and RBI visit https://www.chorus.co.nz/.

Local identity and entrepreneur, Hone Mihaka, provided a wonderful, and at times hilarious, insight into his journey from a wayward youth to becoming an entrepreneur and establishing the successful Maori tourism business, Taiamai Tours. Hone, who is also a motivational speaker and youth mentor, highlighted the importance of having a vision, engaging with the right stakeholders (including local government) and ignoring the naysayers, for a successful outcome. To learn more about Taiamai Tours visit http://www.taiamaitours.co.nz/.

CEO of the Akina Foundation, Alex Hannant, spoke about *Social Enterprises* and how these can benefit communities[1]. The session looked at how social enterprise models work, global trends and options to empower communities and further develop New Zealand's social enterprise sector. To learn more about the Akina Foundation and Social Enterprises visit http://akina.org.nz/.

Lawrence Yule (LGNZ President) and Malcolm Alexander (CEO LGNZ) and Mick Lester (Chair New Zealand Community Boards Executive Committee) also provided separate and informative updates on their respective organisations.

3. The Workshops

A number of useful workshops were attended by the Featherston Community Board representatives. A brief synopsis of each follows:

❖ **Creating a Place Where Talent Want to Live.** This interesting workshop was delivered by Wendy McGuiness from the McGuiness Institute, and looked at the importance of having a strategy to *grow, attract, retain and connect* talent within local communities to support economic and other local development. Talent in this context refers to individuals with knowledge, skills and experience to make positive change within and to the benefit of a community. For further information visit http://talentnz.org/.

❖ **Time to Step Up for Our Kids**. Delivered by Deputy Children's Commissioner, Dr Justine Cornwall, this workshop looked at the vital role local government can play in providing the leadership required to drive changes in how services are delivered to disadvantaged children, and how to design communities where all children can thrive. For further information visit http://www.occ.org.nz/assets/Publications/Choose-Kids-Why-investing-in-children-benefits-all-New-Zealanders-OCC-2.pdf.

❖ **Influencing Change through Fair and Equitable Public Participation**. Representing the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2), CEO Michelle Blicavs delivered a thought-provoking workshop on the spectrum of public participation in community outcomes; from *informing* (least public participation) to *empowering* (placing final decision making in the hands of the community). The bottom line was that local

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[1] A Social Enterprise is an organization that applies commercial strategies to maximize improvements in human and environmental well-being - this may include maximising **social** impact rather than profits for external shareholders.

government should strive for greater public participation in decisions effecting their communities. For further information visit https://www.iap2.org.au/resources/iap2s-public-participation-spectrum.

❖ **Growing Great Neighbourhoods.** Led by Denise Bijoux from the Inspiring Communities team[2], this workshop focused on practical ways that community and community boards can support and strengthen locally-led action and engagement. Much of Denise's presentation was about her work at a *neighbourhood* level, and emphasised a strengths-based approach to local change and development, partnership, resilience and place making. Two notable examples provided were:

- **Neighbourly**. *Neighbourly* is a free and private neighbourhood website that allows users to easily meet and interact with neighbours and community, helping build stronger, safer and friendlier places to live. Neighbourly is currently being used by 45 Featherston residents and is growing. Featherston Neighbourhood Support Coordinator Robyn Ramsden and Featherston resident Amy Mayes are presently the local Neighbourly Leads. Further information about Neighbourly can be obtained at www.neighbourly.co.nz.

- **The Wall on the Bright Side Project**. *The Wall on Bright Side* was a neighbourhood-led project to turn an old, poorly-maintained and graffiti-prone underpass wall into a wall of inspiration. The resulting artwork and effect is spectacular. Further information about this project can be obtained at https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Wall-on-the-Bright-side/212064165604743?fref=ts.

5.   Conclusion

The conference was highly useful in emphasising the role community boards have in influencing change. It also reinforced the benefits to be had through encouraging and embracing greater public participation. The conference explored a number of other relevant topics which contributed to a very successful event. Equally important was the opportunity to network with other community board members from throughout New Zealand, and hearing about their successes and challenges. Both Featherston Community Board participants gained considerable value from attending the 2015 New Zealand Community Boards Conference as a result.

Points of Contact:

Lee Carter - Chair, Featherston Community Board

Peter Jackson - Deputy Chair, Featherston Community Board

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[2] http://inspiringcommunities.org.nz/.