

SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL

22 FEBRUARY 2012

AGENDA ITEM E1

REPORT FROM HER WORSHIP THE MAYOR

Purpose of Report

To update Council on activities and issues which have arisen since my last report to Council.

Recommendations

Her Worship the Mayor recommends that Council.

1. *Receive the information.*

1. Southern Wairarapa Safer Community Council

Board and Management meetings are yet to be held. The SWSCC holds the contract for Truancy Services for the Wairarapa. Our Truancy Officer was Lance Hopping the balloon pilot recently killed in Carterton. Lance was a very well liked and respected employee and his colleagues will miss him dearly. His position is currently being advertised.

2. Wellington Regional Strategy Committee – 8 February 2012

As part of the agreed process when the WRS was first instigated, the strategy must undergo a five yearly review which is underway at present. As part of their LTP process, Greater Wellington Regional Council must formerly agree to keep and fund the WRS Committee and also agree the make-up of that committee. This was discussed at a workshop which was attended by Deputy Mayor Napier on my behalf. The decision was made to drop the independent members and for the membership to consist of all the region's mayors and chair of GW. This did not greatly please GW and the matter was revisited at the Mayoral forum. The recommendation passed at the WRS meeting is that the membership consist of the 9 mayors plus 5 independent representatives, the Chair to be elected by the Committee (previously-must be independent and was appointed by GW). It seems to me that the biggest problem with the Wellington Regional Strategy is the lack of ownership of the document by the councils. It has simply become a Regional Council document and they say what goes. The mayors all agree that if this document is to be of any value and make a difference, we must

reclaim ownership through the 'refresh process' and use it to guide our decision making. I do not support the other Wairarapa councils' view that there is no value in being part of this process. South Wairarapa has a strong connection south through our ratepayers, our commuting public and tourism.

3. Regional Transport Committee and Transport Matters

The RTC had a workshop to discuss the proposed draft Regional Land Transport Programme prioritisation. There are no proposed changes to SWDC programme so we are unaffected.

4. Waihenga Bridge

I was visited by NZTA in January and given an update on the Waihenga Bridge. Further evaluation work has been done on this bridge and it is considered to have approximately forty years of life left. This means that there is no way that it is going to be replaced in the near future, especially given the state of the government's funds and the need to cut budgets. NZTA have agreed however that work could be carried out to strengthen the piles meaning that it wouldn't need to be closed every time the river has a 'fresh'. It is important that we keep this topic to the fore and press for its inclusion in the next budget round. The ideal would be a new bridge to address the narrowness issue but this will not be forthcoming under the current economic climate. At least if we can get the bridge repaired, Martinborough will not be cut off on such a regular basis.

5. Shared Services

The committee met to interview the short list of consultants invited to put forward expressions of interest for the proposed Wairarapa Governance options study. I would like to assure Councillors that once the consultant is chosen and the study is underway, we have made it quite clear that all Councillors need to be involved. It is proposed to hold a workshop early in the piece and I ask that we all give this our priority.

6. LGNZ

A new CE has been appointed to LGNZ. Malcolm Alexander from Genesis Energy commences on 2 April and replaces Eugene Bowen. Malcolm brings knowledge, a powerful network and is expected to make a real difference to the way LGZ operates.

7. Focus Groups

Council management have voiced their concerns to me over the amount of officer time the Focus Groups consume and their relevance to our operation. Unfortunately it seems that these groups have become somewhat operations focused which was never their purpose and is not our role as Councillors. All operational matters that are of interest to us should be covered in the officers' reports for the Council meeting. The Focus Groups were formed as a result of a suggestion from a Councillor for portfolios to be allocated as happens in large Councils like Wellington City. The FG's were supposed to act as reference groups for the officers for particular projects just as the Audit and Risk Working Party does. It was not envisaged that they needed to meet 6 weekly requiring valuable officer secretarial support but rather as needed, either to discuss a topic identified by the FG itself or to assist officers in a preliminary decision prior to it going to full Council. Council's advice is sought as to whether the Focus Groups should be disbanded.

8. Other Representation and Meetings Attended

Date	Meeting or Event
07/02	Featherston Swimming Sports
08/02	Martinborough Lions
13/02	Grow Wellington
13/02	Norm Hewitt
14/02	SWSCC
14/02	Mana/Tawa Grey Power
14/02	Combined Plan
16&17/02	Rural Sector

9. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Rubbish Bins at Featherston Station

Prepared By: Her Worship the Mayor, Adrienne Staples

Appendix 1 – Rubbish Bins at Featherston Station

From: Adrienne Staples - Her Worship the Mayor
Sent: Tuesday, 20 December 2011 9:04 a.m.
To: Wayne Hastie
Subject: RE: rubbish bins at Featherston Station

Sounds sensible to me. I'll pass that on.

Thanks

A.

Adrienne Staples
Mayor
SWDC

Wayne Hastie <Wayne.Hastie@gw.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi Adrienne and Fran

This is an old issue for us - the only station in the Wairarapa with rubbish bins is Masterton because this station is staffed.

The problems we have are that people put their domestic rubbish in the bins (already becoming an issue for us at Waikanae, a station that is staffed) and do stupid things like setting the bins on fire. Therefore no bins are provided at unstaffed stations and in the past they were not allowed by TranzMetro, a position we support.

There should be very little rubbish generated at the stations, and our preference is for this to be removed by the persons concerned.

Kind regards

Wayne
Wayne Hastie | General Manager, Public Transport Group
GREATER WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Pane Matua Taiao
142 Wakefield St | PO Box 11646, Manners St, Wellington 6142
T: 04 830 4206 | M: 027 278 4548
www.gw.govt.nz | www.metlink.org.nz

From: Fran Wilde - Chair
Sent: Monday, 19 December 2011 12:28 p.m.
To: Wayne Hastie
Subject: FW: rubbish bins at Featherston Station

Hi Wayne - it's good that the Wairarapa commuters are being tidy Kiwis...can we help them with another bin?

Fran Wilde | Chair
GREATER WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL | Te Pane Matua Taiao
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From: Adrienne Staples - Her Worship the Mayor
[mailto:Adrienne.Staples@swdc.govt.nz]
Sent: Monday, 19 December 2011 11:34 a.m.
To: Fran Wilde - Chair
Subject: rubbish bins at Featherston Station

Hello Fran

A member of the public complained to Councillor Mike Gray about the lack of rubbish bins at Featherston Station. I have been asked to bring this to your attention. I am unsure as to whether the problem relates to the distance between the existing ones or the fact that those that are there are so well used by our conscientious public, that they are full to the brim? Anyway, I am sure you w