
REPORT 6
(1215/12/IM)

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER REPORT BACK

1. Purpose of Report

This report provides the Board with information about matters of interest to the Tawa Community.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Community Board:

- 1. Receive the information.*

3. Summary

The monthly report on general matters is attached as Appendix 1.

Contact Officer: *Neil Cherry, Chief Financial Officer*

Tawa Community Board Monthly Report – May 2008

Trees Covering Tawa Community Library Signage

The foliage outside the Tawa Community Library has grown to such a size / height that it was now blocking / covering the Library signage on the Southern outside wall. The Council's Parks and Gardens team were asked to look into the issue. The trees in question are Puka's Meryta Sinclairii. The Parks and Gardens arborist has crown reduced the trees with a pruning saw. I am advised that such action should ensure that the signage is visible for the next few years.

Remuneration

On 30 April 2008 the Council's Strategy and Policy Committee, and subsequently the full Council, considered a final report on Elected Member remuneration.

The Remuneration Authority has set the Council's elected members' remuneration pool at \$1,314,700 for the 2008/2009 financial year; an increase of \$11,304 on the current pool (i.e. an increase of 0.87%).

The Mayor's salary for the 2008/2009 financial year has been fixed at \$148,167 p.a. (an increase of \$1,989 p.a.). This leaves a balance of \$1,166,533 available for distribution amongst the remaining elected members, including the elected members of the Tawa and Makara/Ohariu community boards. The increase in the Mayor's salary must be met from within the pool leaving a balance of \$9,315 "additional" money for allocation amongst the remaining elected members.

The Council agreed that the remuneration for the Tawa Community Board be set at the following levels from 1 July 2008:

- Chair, Tawa Community Board, \$20,160
- Board Member, \$8,060

The Council's recommended proposal must now be referred to the Remuneration Authority for its approval before the new salary rates can be implemented. The new rates will therefore not take effect until 1 July 2008.

In addition, the Council has agreed to recommend to the Remuneration Authority that the current rules which allow local authorities to pay a vehicle mileage allowance to elected members for the use of their own vehicle for business related travel, to be expanded to allow for the payment of a transport allowance for those elected members who choose not to use a motor vehicle to travel on Council related business (e.g. some way of recompensing those who choose to walk, cycle or catch public transport to attend meetings etc).

Discretionary Fund

The Tawa Discretionary Fund is established on an annual basis with a budget of \$10,000. As at the end of April the Fund has a remaining unspent balance of \$8,550. Financial Commitments have been identified for both the Tawa Community Awards and the Community Board newsletter, although financial estimates for these are still being sought. In addition, it is possible that the Discretionary Fund may be called on to fund part of the Community notice board previously discussed at last month's meeting.

Stocktake of Current Infrastructure / Urban Development Issues within the Tawa Community

As reported at the April Board meeting Council officers have agreed to undertake a monthly "stocktake" of infrastructure and urban development issues within the Tawa community. The purpose of this "stocktake" is to ensure that the Council is aware of, and can address as appropriate, various infrastructure and urban development issues within Tawa. Tawa residents and Board members should continue to raise issues of concern directly with the Council through the appropriate channel (eg, through the Council contact centre **499 4444**), however this "stocktake" provides a further opportunity for the Council to ensure that matters of concern to the community can be investigated, considered and addressed as appropriate.

On Friday 2 May officers visited areas of particular interest / concern within Tawa. The Chair of the Tawa Community Board was also in attendance. As a result of this exercise the following areas of interest to the community / board were identified as requiring investigation, review and consideration (note – some of these matters have been raised in previous Board meetings):

- Security cameras around the main shopping centre area
- Areas of paving in the shopping centre area require maintenance to address potential health and safety issues
- Trees / foliage outside Tawa Community Library are blocking the library signage (now actioned / addressed)
- Speed humps in Bing Lucas drive (refer separate issue in this report)
- Rubbish bin required next to bus shelter adjacent to main shopping area
- Mexted Park – to investigate why access to carpark is restricted by locked gate
- Collins Ave – Council to consider its previous position on derelict caravan given current state
- Tawa Swimming Pool – to investigate missing sign visible from Duncan Street
- Tawa Community notice board to be erected
- Tawa Historical Society is working on providing information to be included on an information board identifying areas of interest within the community (apparently this information used to be included on a sign close to the main bus stop in Tawa)

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- Ownership and management of the large sign in the Shopping Centre area to be clarified.
- Shopping Centre glass sliding doors and alleyway – to clarify ownership and maintenance responsibilities (including cleaning of area and graffiti removal)
- Graffiti – general concern
- Tawa BMX track – on the day of our “stocktake” parts of the track site were effectively under water from the heavy rain in the previous few days.

These matters have now been passed on to the appropriate officers / staff within the Council to investigation / review. However, if the Board has other areas where they would like consideration given these can be identified and added to the current “stocktake”.

Citizen Involvement in Collecting Rubbish / Keeping the Streets and Community clean

At the April meeting Board members queried the Council’s position on supporting citizens who regularly clean up rubbish or aspects of the local environment. The Board sought advice as to whether this was something that the Council actively encouraged, how this affected the underlying service that the Council delivered and whether any support potentially exposed the Council to health and safety risks and / or obligations.

As part of the follow-up of this issue, advice was sought from Mike Mendonça, Manager – Citioperations.

In general, the Council supports initiatives and actions from citizens if they help to make the City cleaner and safer. Achieving the outcome of a clean safe City is something that can only be achieved if the Council works together with its communities and if citizens in the community understand that they have an important role to play. The Council is conscious of its primary role in delivering this outcome but also that it relies on us collectively doing our own “bit” to assist.

The Council is aware that in each Community there are individuals or groups who take it upon themselves to assist in keeping the local area and community clean. The Council works with Residents and Progressive Associations on community cleanups and other such initiatives. However, the Council also has an obvious interest in ensuring that such initiatives or cleanups are carried out safely and in a manner consistent with community expectations.

In recent times the Council provided a Miramar citizen with a safety vest and gloves as he regularly wandered around the curb and channel areas and picked up litter. Council staff also provided him with advice and guidance on safety in these areas. This citizen recently received a commendation from the Mayor for his role in helping to maintain the City’s clean image.

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Operationally, the Council is responsible for cleaning and maintaining the City's assets. However, litter is a collective responsibility and it is clear that many Wellingtonians care enough about the cleanliness of their community that they will often assist to pick up litter from the footpaths etc.

If the Tawa resident regularly assisted in the collection of litter, including picking up litter from the kerb and channel, then Citioperations staff would be happy to meet with the person concerned and talk to him about safety issues. Further, Citioperations staff would be happy to supply Keep NZ Beautiful Bags (or similar) for citizens to pick up or collect from the Tawa Community Centre. The Council would not however, condone or support any inappropriate or unsafe behaviour and practices and would take appropriate action as and when required.

Speed Humps in Bing Lucas Drive

During public participation at the April Board meeting residents from Bing Lucas Drive expressed concern at the process by which the Council constructed 3-4 speed humps along a section of Bing Lucas Drive. There appeared to be some confusion / uncertainty as to why the Council had constructed the speed humps, the process that was followed and the nature and extent of consultation undertaken with residents. The matter has been referred to the Council's Transport Planning / Road Safety teams who have been asked to meet with the affected residents on site to discuss and respond to their concerns.

Tawa Community Newsletter

As discussed at the previous Community Board meeting a Tawa community newsletter is scheduled to be produced. The Council's Publication and Design Business will be assisting with the production, formatting and distribution of the newsletter. A Board member(s) will however be required to gather and prepare the information for inclusion into the newsletter. Council staff will liaise with the Board to ensure the smooth production and circulation of the newsletter. The newsletter will be funded from within current project budgets.

Crime Busters Policing / Community Programme

Sergeant Martin Tunley from the Porirua Police Community Section has contacted the Council regarding the Crime Busters programme that is run through the Porirua policing district. Under the programme juvenile offenders are organised into groups to collect and pick up rubbish in the community. The programme is run every second Saturday and the police work in conjunction with the Porirua City Council. Last weekend the programme was run in Tawa with clean-up around the Tawa railway station and Lyndhurst Park areas. As the Porirua policing district also includes Tawa the police have asked whether the Council would support the programme by picking up the bags of rubbish etc. In addition, while the police can't promise that they will get to Tawa every other

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weekend they have asked whether there are any particular areas of Tawa that could benefit from a sweep through to pick up small bits of rubbish, bottles and the like.

Mike Mendonça, Manager – Citioperations has offered to collect the rubbish bags after each weekend clean up carried out in Tawa. He will also identify any areas where, in their opinion, rubbish can be collected from. However, if the Board has particular concerns about litter in certain areas of Tawa that could be cleaned up through this programme then these can be passed on directly to the police through Citioperations.