
REPORT 8
(1215/12/IM)

DIRECTOR 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 – April 2008

2008/09 Draft Annual Plan

The Council approved its draft Annual Plan for 2008/09 to go out to consultation on 27 March 2008. In developing the draft Annual Plan the Council was mindful of the need to deliver its programme of work within an affordable rates funding programme. As the 2008/09 financial period is year 3 of the current LTCCP the draft Annual Plan focuses on business as usual while creating capacity to fund new initiatives where there is a strategic imperative to do so. The overall real rates funding requirement for 2008/09 is 4.79% which compares favourably to the 7.08% rates funding requirement set out in the LTCCP. Wellingtonians have until Monday 19 May 2008 to comment on the draft Annual Plan. Potential new or enhanced areas of interest that the Board may wish to consider commenting on include:

- City Safety
- Anti graffiti flying squad
- Promotion of sustainable building
- Introduction of artificial sports surfaces
- Pest management
- Heritage buildings
- Transport initiatives and improvements
- Playground upgrades

In addition to the increase in the real rates funding requirement the Council is proposing to increase some user charges in line with the Council's Revenue and Financing policy. Again, areas of interest for the Board include:

- An increase to the cost of water consumption for those ratepayers who pay for water through a water meter
- Cost of licensing sandwich boards
- A new trade waste charging system is proposed

The Council will present its draft Annual Plan to the Tawa Community Board / community on 8 May 2008. From here the Board will need to develop its submission to the Council. Concurrently, the Board will be looking to develop its Community Plan for the remainder of the current triennium.

Annual Property Revaluations

In addition to the matters identified above the draft Annual Plan outlines the Council's intention to move back to a three yearly revaluation cycle for all households. The Council previously revalued all properties on a three-yearly cycle and is currently the only Council in New Zealand to revalue properties on an annual basis. Although the Council is not required to consult on the change in valuation frequency the change in revaluation cycle is likely to see ratepayers wanting to better understand the impact on the way that Council distributes its total rates funding requirement. For this reason the Council proposes to outline

APPENDIX 1

the change, the reasons for the change and the impact on ratepayers in the draft Annual Plan.

“Dob in a Tagger” Scheme for Tawa

Given the nature and extent of graffiti/tagging in the Tawa community (and nearby suburbs) the Council has proposed the widening of its “dob-in a tagger” reward programme. The programme has worked successfully in the Eastern and Southern suburbs. The programme is run in conjunction with the Police and sees a reward of \$100 issued to people who help Police catch taggers in Tawa. Information provided to Police is kept confidential to protect the identity of those providing information on potential taggers.

Proposed Speed Limit Changes

Proposed speed limit changes for Takapu Road and the Tawa Interchange are currently out for public consultation. Public submissions close on Monday 28 April 2008. As discussed at the last Board meeting a public meeting for those interested in understanding the nature and extent of the changes has now been organised. The meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday 16 April at 7pm in the Tawa Community Centre. A copy of the consultation document is attached to this report. As the public meeting will be held after this month’s Board meeting the Board will need to consider appointing one or two board members to prepare and draft a submission on behalf of the Board on the proposed changes.

Council Liaison – Infrastructure and Urban Development

During recent Board meetings a number of infrastructure and urban development issues have identified as needing to be addressed throughout the Tawa community. In some cases the Board has sought follow-up on matters previously raised and where it appears no action has been taken to address these. On behalf of the Board I maintain a schedule of issues where corrective action or follow-up is required (e.g., community notice board, shopping centre bollards etc.). In discussion with both the Infrastructure and Urban Development directorates we have identified the need to maintain specific contact / liaison points within the Council to focus specifically on the needs of the tawa Community. On a monthly basis, a stock-take of current issues will be made or updated with a representative of the Board (initially the Chair). Agreed actions will be monitored and communication to affected parties undertaken. It is my intention to provide the Board with an update of each of these matters at the monthly Board meeting.

APPENDIX 1

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.

Discretionary Fund

The Tawa Discretionary Fund is established on an annual basis with a budget of \$10,000. As at the end of March the Fund has a remaining unspent balance of \$8,550. It would be prudent to give some thought at this month's meeting to how the remaining balance will be allocated before the end of the financial year. Any unspent funds at 30 June 2008 cannot be carried forward and used in subsequent financial periods. We are currently costing the production of the Tawa community newsletter and expect to be able to provide an estimate of the potential drawdown on the Fund for this purpose.