
REPORT 5
(1215/12/IM)

**RATIFICATION OF TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD
SUBMISSION:**

- **WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL 2008/09 DRAFT
ANNUAL PLAN**
-

It is recommended that the Tawa Community Board:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Ratify the Board submission to the Wellington City Council 2008/09 Draft Annual Plan.*

Attached is the Board submission to the:

- Wellington City Council 2008/09 Draft Annual Plan (Appendix 1)

Tawa Community Board – Draft Annual Plan Submission - 19 May 2008

The Tawa Community Board (TCB) has pleasure in making the following submissions, to the 2008-2009 Draft Annual Plan.

The Board compliments the Wellington City Council on its Draft Annual Plan 2008/2009. The layout is much easier to read and understand than has been the case with some previous years.

URBAN PLANING AND POLICY

Population Growth

The TCB is concerned about the proposal for higher density housing, particularly in the Tawa CBD.

Tawa has only one main thoroughfare which carries the majority of traffic through Tawa. When there are difficulties on SH 1 it also carries traffic from and to areas North of Tawa.

Evening peak hour traffic can see traffic stationary on the Main Road from the Tawa CBD back to Arohata prison.

If Wellington City Council (WCC) is serious about increasing population density in the Tawa CBD it needs to urgently investigate the following issues:

Parking

Traffic management

Infrastructure

Parks and Play Areas

Northern Growth Framework

The Board believes that the continuation of this project is vital to the wellbeing of Northern Suburban Communities. We are concerned that the delays and deferral of many of the projects places at risk future infrastructure (including the provision of adequate water services and roads) that would remedy stress on existing services and would alleviate traffic congestion to and from the city and within northern suburbs. We hope that there will be no further deferrals as the implementation is very important for the Northern Ward and the Tawa community in particular.

APPENDIX 1

Graffiti

Despite what some politicians say, graffiti is really just another name for vandalism. Tawa is not exempt from graffiti.

It is known that when graffiti is left for all to see, it encourages more graffiti. It is therefore essential that it is painted over as soon as possible. The TCB applauds WCC attempts to stem graffiti by the ongoing funding of the flying squad.

The TCB would like to see improvements to the lighting around buildings so those who carry out graffiti are visible and therefore less inclined to put their liberty at risk.

Consideration should be given to security cameras so that perpetrators can be identified.

Transport

Tawa residents are high users of public transport but are also high users of roads as vehicle drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

The only route for cyclists and pedestrians to areas south of Tawa is Middleton/Glenside Road.

This route is narrow and was never designed for non motorized use. It is thus dangerous for cyclists and pedestrians as there is insufficient room on either side of the road to safely accommodate both them and vehicles.

The TCB requests urgent work to make this route safer for cyclists and pedestrians.

Commuter Traffic

The TCB supports the proposed research to better understand Wellington commuters' transport choices. The TCB supports the ongoing Ngauranga Gorge to Wellington Airport study but suggests that it extend its study to include Tawa, its northernmost suburb. One of the most notable choke points occurs between Tawa and Churton Park during morning peak hours.

APPENDIX 1

Parking

The TCB agrees that central city parking is important for shoppers, tourists, people working in Wellington and people coming into the city for recreational activities.

The TCB supports the continuation of free on-street parking during the weekends. Any move away from this would affect the vibrancy of the city centre by discouraging people from the city centre.

The TCB supports the enforcement of parking times and the imposition of realistic parking fees. We are concerned however that we have some of the highest levels of parking fees in Australasia.

ENVIRONMENT

Pests

The TCB supports the plan's intention to increase funding for pest removal to protect natural ecosystems. The continued support of local voluntary groups such as 'The Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves' to ensure removal of pests, eg goats, and weeding of areas will greatly enhance the natural beauty of the region. Further expansion of the areas protected will add value to what is already being achieved and help create a northern pest control boundary.

Playgrounds

We wish to reiterate our submission under the draft reserves that priority should be made in the plan to create a children's play area in Pikitanga Park. Tawa has had significant development in its eastern hills over the past 5 years, with more to be developed in the future. Failure to build this playground will leave a generation of children in that community without play equipment in their local area. There are no current facilities within 10 to 15 minutes as per the council's policy. We would like Wellington City Council to bring forward this project funding as a matter of urgency in this year's annual plan.

Walkway Development

The Tawa Community Board fully supports the development of a walk way along the Porirua Stream from Takapu Rd to Kenepuru. We believe that such an amenity would be widely used for both access and recreation of residents and visitors who make regular use of walking routes on both sides of the valley. This proposed walkway has huge public support and ongoing work should be planned, as a priority, for the start and continued construction of this walkway over the next few years.

APPENDIX 1

We would like to encourage Council to continue to plan and implement the sections which are able to be completed easily.

We continue to support the improvement of access to the proposals for Outer Green Belt routes and new circuits on both sides of the valley.

Carbon Neutrality

We endorse the small but potentially significant steps being taken towards carbon neutrality.

Promotion of sustainable building

We support this effort but feel that the \$30,000 per year for three years is a token gesture and that a larger amount would be more appropriate if the council is to be seen as serious about carbon neutrality.

Reduction of the carbon footprint through more use of public transport, walking and cycling.

For the people of Tawa, public transport in many cases is a trip to Wellington City by train. The Community Board acknowledges the efforts of the Council to facilitate kerbside parking in the areas near the railway stations, which does not impact on the residents of the streets and the business community who work in the area, and consider that more spaces will be needed for people who drive a car to the railway station and leave it there all day. We point out that there are some walkways as well as street footpaths which need to be continually maintained and upgraded so that walking to trains, bus stops and shopping areas is a practical alternative to a car.

CULTURAL WELLBEING

The Tawa community has an ongoing history of supporting and encouraging the arts not only within Tawa but also the greater region. Tawa celebrates the arts through the Tawa Schools and Community Music Festival, Tawa Schools June Tunes and the Mana Tiaki Cultural Festival. Through the Council grants programme these groups have been supported by the Wellington City Council to deliver the arts to the community. We support the continuation of Council supporting these activities.

The TCB is working with the Council on the completion of the Kereru Sculpture. It is noted that there is a proposed shortfall in the funding for the completion of the

APPENDIX 1

Kereru Sculpture and we will be actively working with the Council to find the additional funds to have the sculpture completed.

The Board is also working with the community to develop an appropriate war memorial.

We are supportive of the strategic areas adopted by the Council in the 2008 Draft Annual Plan.

SOCIAL AND RECREATION

We have considerable concern regarding planned cutbacks within the library spending. This appears to be an area of easy cutbacks but the purchase of new materials being cutback by ten percent is not considered to be fair. These new materials are the life blood of the libraries and we would request a re-look at this proposal. The removal of this cutback would not significantly alter the rates take but may have an impact upon the libraries ability to continue to adequately serve the 85% of the residents who use this service.

We wish to support the continued management of the Passport to Leisure scheme allowing discounted access to recreation centres, swimming pools and recreation programmes.

WCC Community Centres are public facilities widely used and we strongly support the work being done to develop the new Tawa Community Centre, the many programmes that have been started recently, and to continue developing more day and night use.

The ongoing administration with the Tawa Recreation Centre at Tawa College is a great success and thought should be given to developing this idea elsewhere in the city.

The sports fields and facilities are well patronized within the city. Planning should be done to allow further introduction of lighting to more of these areas to increase their use for longer hours. Similarly the addition of toilet facilities to some locations not currently serviced is needed.

Continued support of key facilities such as the Tawa swimming pool, a very important asset of Council, is needed. This pool is used as a training pool alongside its recreational use, and meets Council's objective of Sport and Health.

GOVERNANCE

It is disappointing that Community Boards are not mentioned as either elected representatives or part of the democratic process in the DAP. If there are amalgamations of the various councils around Wellington, Community Boards

APPENDIX 1

would provide the structure whereby communities can maintain a local identity, without being lost into the morass of a 'mega' council. A larger Council area will move the major focus away from the CBD and require a more expansive view, which could be better suited to Community Boards, rather than City Centre focussed Councillors.

Uniform Annual Charges (UAC)

The TCB for many years has been of the opinion that the use of a Uniform Annual Charge provides equity across all users of a service and believes that UAC's should more directly relate to the full cost of use of the service, rather than the value of the ratepayer's property. The Board was therefore disappointed that this was abandoned during last year's Annual Plan deliberations, and looks forward to its re-instatement.

OTHER

Cleaning Service Levels

The Board is concerned with the perceived level of service that is occurring with street cleaning and general road side weed control. We note that over the past few years our public areas are becoming scruffy and grimy and in places now look dirty. We would like the Council to examine the level of service which is being offered, in particular to the Tawa suburban central area and alongside our roads, with the view to cleaning the pavements of gum, grime and rubbish, and ensure that long grasses are kept under control. Further we note that some of our community playgrounds are in desperate need of a clean - what were nice new playgrounds just a few years ago, now look filthy and unkempt. We would request that this equipment be appropriately cleaned and ensure that any graffiti is removed quickly from these public spaces

Central Government vs. Local Government Responsibilities

The Board is concerned that an increasing number of Central Government responsibilities are being delegated to Local Government. This has the effect of creating a further burden on Council and ratepayers. This has caused, in effect, a greater indirect tax to householders and dilution of Councils efforts to manage effectively the Wellington environs. This is particularly apparent in housing and health and administration.

APPENDIX 1

Grants

Over recent years there has been a greater demand for grants from sporting and education establishments, which have previously been met through central government funding and lottery grants by way of organisations such as the Hillary Commission. There is a need to support sports clubs, which in turn will improve self esteem, fitness and address many health issues within our communities. However, we believe that this need is more appropriately met from Central Government Funds.

The Board would appreciate an opportunity to make oral submission and respond to any questions councillors may have.

Tawa Community Board

Robert Tredger (Chair)

Graeme Hansen (Deputy Chair)

David Darroch

Chris Reading

Graeme Sutton

Dennis Sharman