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**REPORT 5**  
*(1215/12/IM)*

## **CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER REPORT BACK**

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### **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.*
- 2. Approve the installation of a memorial seat along the west side of the play area (parallel to the stream) in Grasslees Reserve.*

### **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 – March 2008**

#### **Grasslees Reserve – Location of Park Bench**

The Parks and Garden Business unit have been approached by the Mitchell family who would like to install a memorial seat in the play area at Grasslees Reserve. Currently, in this location, there are already 3 seats along the west side of the play area (parallel to the stream) and this seat would be added to the ones currently in place. The Board are asked for their approval for the addition of a memorial seat.

#### **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 have been asked to assist 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 February 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.

#### **Shopping centre bollards**

The lockable bollard has now been installed in the shopping centre. Council officers have requested that consideration be given to having a copy of the key held by one of the local businesses who may be willing to uplift the lockable bollard for contractors as and when required.

#### **Tawa Community Plan**

At the February meeting a decision was made to extend the development and consultation period for the Tawa Community Plan (TCP). The timing of the development of the TCP now aligns itself with the development of the Council's Long Term Council Community Plan. Officers have now been requested to provide assistance and resources to the Board to facilitate the development of

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the TCP and the consultation process with the Community. Where appropriate, Officers will make available information and resources on the consultation processes generally. While it has not been possible for Officers to meet with the Community Board members responsible for the development of the TCP since the last meeting, contact and discussions are anticipated following the March Board meeting.

### **Kereru Statue**

The following update is provided from the last meeting of the Public Art Panel.

Kingsley Baird presented his final budget, for the completion of the seedlings surrounding the Kereru sculpture in Tawa, to Council on Tuesday 19 February. The total came to \$162,000, including a 5% contingency.

Council Officers recommended to the Public Art Panel that consideration be given to this budget and a final decision made on funding. It was noted that \$110,000 has been allocated towards this project from the Public Art Fund. This amount can be accrued over financial years. The Tawa Community Board has also allocated \$8000 from their discretionary budget towards this project.

The Public Art Panel reviewed Kingsley Baird's final budget, stating that it is significantly over the amounts allocated for the project. Urban Design addressed the site preparation costs, noting that no amount has been ascribed to foundations, consents (building and resource) or site restoration. The Panel also questioned the design and project management fee, wondering what Kingsley's position is as a full time employee of Massey; that is would this fee interfere with his discretionary research budget.

The Panel is committed to supporting the completion of this sculpture and are very interested in supporting projects outside of the central city.

Officers have been asked to go back to Kingsley Baird and ascertain what further refinements could be made to the budget, indicating volatile costs items, identifying where savings could be made and working further on the site preparation costs. Other fundraising, sponsorship or grant opportunities may have to be explored.

### **Tawa Driveways Questionnaire**

Subsequent to the February Board meeting the letter to owners of driveways covered by the Tawa Driveways levy programme has been updated. As agreed the organisational overhead allocation has been removed from the budgeted expenditure. Although this is unlikely to influence the levy set on an annual basis it nonetheless reduces the overall cost of the programme.

During previous Board meetings the question has been posed as to what would happen if individual property owners chose to remove themselves from the

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arrangement following receipt of the proposed levy increase. While there is a consultation process currently underway it would be inappropriate to comment on the potential outcome of this. However, it would be appropriate to consider more generally the implications of the potential responses that the Board may receive in response to the questionnaire being circulated. This will enable the Board to appropriately respond as and when required. I will discuss this further with the Board at its March meeting.

Circulation of the Questionnaire to interested parties is currently pending a decision as to how any proposed change to the levy would be reflected in the Draft Annual Plan (in terms of an amendment to a targeted rate).

### **Poll on the Council's STV Voting system**

At its February meeting the Board were briefed on the paper that was being submitted to the Strategy & Policy Committee and Council regarding a possible poll on the Council's current STV voting system. The proposal for the conduct of a Poll was discussed and debated by Council at its meeting on 28 February 2008. The Council debated the options and has elected to hold a poll on whether to retain the current STV voting system or return to the previous First Past the Post system for electing its members. The Poll will be held on 27 September 2008 and be conducted by way of postal voting. The results of the Poll will be binding on the Council.

### **Draft 2008/09 Annual Plan**

The Strategy and Policy Committee will be deliberating on the draft Annual Plan for 2008/09 in the week commencing 10 March 2008. Papers supporting the draft Annual Plan forecast a "real" rates funding requirement of 5.16%, although this is subject to confirmation by both the Committee and subsequently by Council later in the month. I will update the Board on progress made during these deliberations and the consequences of any initiatives / funding specifically earmarked for Tawa at the meeting.

### **Tawa Interchange and Takapu Road Speed Limits**

Wellington City Council has received a number of requests from members of the public to reduce the speed limit along Takapu Road, Tawa due to safety concerns.

Takapu Road has experienced an increase of traffic volume along with recent residential developments.

This has increased the number of turning movements made by vehicles on and off Takapu road. There has been a steady increase in the number of Police reported crashes in recent years with 22 reported crashes from the five year period 2002 to 2006.

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The Council is proposing to reduce the speed limits along a section of Takapu Road Tawa as follows.

- From 100kmh to 70kmh from Tawa interchange to 60m east of Woodburn Drive.
- From 100kmh to 50kmh from State Highway 1 Tawa northbound off ramp to Main Road Tawa
- From 70kmh to 50kmh from Main Road Tawa to Johnsonville/Porirua Urban Motorway
- From 100kmh to 70kmh from Western portal of the motorway underpass to Porirua Urban Motorway
- From 100kmh to 70kmh from Johnsonville to Porirua Urban Motorway to western portal of the motorway underpass.

The proposed restrictions would apply to all vehicles at all times and covers a distance of approximately 2.2km. The speed reduction is considered safer and more appropriate and is in line with the speed many motorists already travel in this area. Research shows that for every 1km/hr that speeds are lowered there will be a two to three percent reduction in the number of crashes. Lowering the speed limit will also reduce the severity of the crashes that do happen.

The proposed speed limit reduction is part of the Council's wider SaferRoads project to reduce the number of crashes throughout the city.

All directly affected residents will receive a copy of the consultation document. During the consultation period (28 March-28 April 2008) notices will be run in the community papers and on the Our Wellington Page in the Dominion Post. Submissions relating to Takapu Road on the proposed changes will be considered by Council before being approved by bylaw, submissions on the proposed speed limit on the Motorway Interchange will be considered by Transit New Zealand's Board before they approve any changes.

A copy of the consultation brochure will be made available to the board. If there are any questions on the issue please contact the Council's Programme Manager: Travel Demand Management & Safety Paul Barker on 803 8043.