

Snells Beach Ratepayers and Residents Association – SBRRA

Minutes of public meeting – Monday 1st May 2023

Betty Paxton Room Mahurangi East Community Centre 7.30pm

Present: Peter Beekman (chair), Greg Sayers AC Rodney Councillor, Michelle Carmichael RLB, Tim Holdgate RLB, Dave Parker JP, SBRRA committee (Eileen O'Loan, Diane Taylor, Anouska Brown, John Norman,) Troje Botica+ 27 people

Apologies: Marja Lubeck, Mark & Judy Dinniss, Simon & Marilyn Owens, Peter Caccia-Birch, Alan & Jan France, Mark Dobson, Maurie Hooper, Lorraine Martin, Gill Stratton, Annette Cook

Previous minutes – 6th March 2023 Confirmed /seconded Anouska Brown, Stan Armiger

Matters arising:

Shorebird information panels: Diane Taylor

- Diane has completed a feasibility study
- The SBRRA committee has discussed and decided to wait until the AC/ Megan Young AC Biodiversity officer is able to process with the suggested high tide roosting area
- The suggestion is to initially trial one information panel at the northern end of the walkway.
- Undertaking any new projects is not easy in this current financial climate.

SB shopping centre/supermarkets: Peter Beekman

- Still lots of rumours, but no verified information available at this time.
- Once again – community disappointment was voiced at the state of the shopping centre and the lack of viable shops.

Disc Golf:

- SBRRA – no contact with the initial supporters.
- RLB has had nothing placed before them yet.

Beachfront repair:

- There has been a temporary repair of the seawall and the footpath has been re-instated.
- A post repair meeting was held – SBRRA was invited. Peter and Diane attended.
- This is a temporary reinstatement of the path and wall. A new resource consent is due this year for the structures and as such the AC will finalise the plans for a permanent fix.
- It seems there will be a new way to manage coastal erosion on Auckland's beachfronts, - no rock walls or gabions it seems.
- **Q from the floor** – what happened to all the timber **A:** It was planned to be removed by the contractors and stored for a future repair. No-one sure if this actually happened.

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Te Whau Walkway

- Gary Heaven (Mahurangi Trail Society) has been working with Watercare and their contractor Downers to fix the leak and get this walkway open once more for community use. It has been a very long time.
- Eileen walked this recently and although it was very muddy past the repairs – access was possible. More straw or metal needs to be added to the path though.

AC report: Cr Greg Sayers

- He thanked SBRRA for the letter asking for more visibility of logged jobs. He passed this onto Council. No further update at this stage
- Pointed out that AC does have a valuable key relationship with SBRRA, and realises it is an important voice from the local community.
- The mayoral visit to the WW area was successful and the mayor appreciated meeting the community representatives.
- The local suggestions and feedback on the budget will be important in finalising the final budget. Major cuts to services were not welcomed from most of the feedback. Shares may have to be sold. Council is still in discussions. Rate increases between 4.5 - 6% probable
- **Hill Street:** It is encouraging to see AT now talking with the local community roading engineers/experts on the Warkworth Transport Forum. A joint solution/plan is being worked on. It is hoped that work can start immediately the NX2 motorway opens.
- **Q:** Will this project be impacted by the proposed budget cuts? Greg is hopeful that as this is the only major project left on the budget books it will proceed. A \$18 million project.
- **Warkworth Service Centre closure:** The refurbishment of new premises for the RLB in WW was undertaken before the storm events in Jan etc. Before the need for budget cuts. Service centres throughout Auckland region are being absorbed by the Libraries. Library staff will pick up the workload eg: AT Hop passes, General enquiries, but we will no longer have access to a panner for local planning information etc.
- However in the new RLB offices (opp the police station) – the community will be able to arrange to meet with our elected members. The RLB is in agreement that Rodney has been short-changed over the years
- **Q:** Level of debt ratio? 11B is total revenue. So revenue to debt basis is 2.9%. So still room to expand this

RLB report: Michelle Carmichael (addressing matters that were emailed prior to the meeting as a “head’s up”)

Mahurangi East Road:

- Michelle Carmichael – RLB gave an update on this. She had talked with Beth Houlbrooke – who is now the liaison person for local boards within AT.
- This is the response from AT that Michelle presented re the Mahurangi East Rd slip:
- *We recognize the High Priority of this Site. We have been faced with some challenges in locating the main Chorus cable feeding the Mahurangi Peninsula. Several attempts have been unsuccessful.*
- *Geotechnical Investigation is planned as soon as the Chorus cable has been located, as we need to ensure that the cable is not damaged during Investigation. We have*

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employed a specialist ground penetrating radar to locate the main chorus cable this Friday.

- **Geotechnical Investigation is planned to commence immediately from next week.**

- Detailed Design of the Retaining Structure will follow from mid-May 2023.

- Please read update from Roger below:

"...this site has been problematic because we have been unable to locate the substantial and essential fibre cable that passes through the slip area somewhere. We recognise the priority for the work and had the site as a high priority for attention however our efforts have been thwarted.

We now have a specialist ground penetrating radar contractor at the site this Friday for an investigation, noting that this is the 4th attempt we have made to locate the cable, including Chorus as the asset owner being unable to locate it.

We will not do the required geotechnical drilling until we have positively located the cable as the consequence of cutting through the cable is very significant for all.

Q: Concern was raised about the heavy trucks using this road – Watercare project and other users. Is there any way to limit this until a permanent fix is achieved? A: AT has said the road is safe to use for the present level of traffic.

- No contingency plan at this stage eg: Hamatana Road
- Consensus at meeting is that this is a maintenance issue not a new project, so fix it sooner rather than awaiting the budget.

Mahurangi East Pedestrian Crossing update:

- Michelle has talked once again with Beth Houlbrooke. This project is still in the forward works plan July 23-June 24. It is acknowledged that this is a safety issue. It is not off the list but we will know more in June/July
- Michelle will take our concerns back to AT/Beth and emphasis our concerns re safety for school traffic and general community accessing the medical centre and local shops opposite.
- Comment from Greg – Lobby AT hard. The AT board meets once a month – and to ask the board secretary at least 5 days in advance for a slot before the meeting to put our case. It will only be for 3-5 mins but an opportunity to raise the issue personally. SBRRA will investigate this option.

Nikau School:

- Michelle has not had any response so far from AC planners re this. Discussion followed. Michelle will continue to follow up on this.

RLB – Rodney Local board plan

- The RLB is working on this at present. Thank you to all the community for the feedback received.
- Have your say will be open in June/July. Encourage all to review and give feedback on the suggested RLB plan, with the recommended budget cuts

Any other business

Canada Geese:

- The numbers of these birds have dramatically increased this year. They are regarded as a pest in NZ
- SBRRA has talked with Megan Young and Rose Crooks – AC Community Parks Ranger. but no resolution in sight. No formal response as yet

AT – Have your say.

- Consultation on the integrated transport plan for Auckland closes 14th May
- Eileen to send out notification to membership

Lett Road subdivision: update from Melody Nightingale

- The initial submission by the developers for a non-complying resource consent to turn the zoning of this large lot residential lot, zoned for 4 dwellings into a 24 small urban residential sections, was unsuccessful.

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- However the developers have now appealed this decision. Mediation will take place tomorrow 2nd May
- Michelle Carmichael RLB is interested in following this.
- Why this plan change, when the Unitary plan was decided not many years ago? If successful – this will be the precedent for more changes in the future. The non-notifiable status is of concern.

Correspondence: AC & RLB(budgets, Nikau School, Erosion repairs, Letterhead to AC re visibility of logged jobs), WALG minutes, mayoral meeting feedback, dog rule changes, emails from members re Erosion, Nikau School

Financial report: 28 April 2023

Opening General funds	\$4,783.70
Opening Camera funds	\$ 664.11
Opening Balance	\$5,447.81 balance as of 3/3//2023
<i>Income</i>	<i>\$30.00 subscriptions</i>
<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>\$nil</i>
Closing balance	\$5,477.81 [General = \$4,813.70 + Camera = \$664.11]

Financial statement approved: Diane Taylor, **seconded** John Norman

Community Roundup: : Updates received from: Snells Shoreline Conservation Society, Mahurangi East Library . See attached

Guest Speaker: Troje Botica. Chair of the Mahurangi East Community Response Group. CRG

- The local community was thanked for its community response to the recent emergency events.
- The response and support from AEM (Auckland Emergency Management) was disappointing. Communication lines were very slow to be established. In the end, with all the issues with roading and communication, our local CRG assumed responsibility and made decisions.
- The Mahurangi East Community Centre was opened along with the WW Town Hall as evacuation centres. There was no publishing of Auckland wide emergency locations.
- Although Snells Beach was without power and cell coverage for a while – other communities on our peninsula were greatly affected. Eg: Ridge Road – down to Scott's Landing was without power for a fortnight.
- A review of the AC response to the flooding emergency has been undertaken. Is AEM fit for purpose? There did not seem to be an Auckland wide response plan in place.
- AC has been asked to evaluate their relationships with the local CRGs.
- CRG were originally under Civil Defence before amalgamation. But since amalgamation – there has been no training of volunteers and limited communication.
- The local CRG was down to 3 members (now 6 since the storms). The police station and the ME Community Centre are our local emergency response locations. However there were gaps in preparedness with communications and generators, with both these buildings.
- For a full response – we will need probably at least 100 people to run 8hr shifts in the centres, if there is another emergency. Community support and volunteers are sought. Suggestion from the floor that there would be many volunteers willing to help at the time – but perhaps they don't wish to be part of the CRG formally. Also to utilize the local neighbourhood support network.

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- More information will be coming out into our communities. Pamphlets on how to pack a grab bag, how to manage a power outage..... A new publication is now available on Managing an emergency on a lifestyle block. Available from the SB police station and ME Library.
- **In summary:**
 - Ensure your household is ready for an emergency – with a grab bag – esp. with valuables and personal medications
 - Ensure the household is secure.
 - Make arrangements for your pets – eg:do you have cages to secure them in?
 - Know how/where to ask for or offer help – neighbours, neighbourhood support liaison, local emergency centres. The “Connect 4 principle” - the ripple effect thru the community.
 - Volunteer to help – what skills can you offer to the community? Regular meetings with the volunteers are helpful as it gives confidence and an opportunity to gain a variety of skills that may be necessary in an event.
 - To volunteer - Give Troje Botica a call or talk with your neighbourhood support person
 - **Troje Botica Chair,Mahurangi East CRG**
Email: j.sandos142@gmail.com or call on 021 084 33991
https://www.facebook.com/groups/2402792369903203/?ref=share_group_link

Community Roundup – 01 May 2023

SSCC – Snells Shoreline Conservation Community

- Approximate volunteer hours March and April 200hrs
- SSCC bird monitoring and protection – Kuaka (bar-tailed godwits) have migrated to Alaska, but some will winter over at Snells Beach. Recently, tūturiwhatu (New Zealand dotterels) were seen copulating near northern end of Snells Beach. The weather may have confused them, but there are several reasons for out of season mating.
- Auckland Council was contacted about invasive pest Canada geese. They have no solution. Controls can be undertaken on private land at any time by any humane means.
- Guardians of dogs – please check Snells Beach on-leash rules for winter months at Auckland Council website and keep your much-loved pets controlled, that includes, not chasing protected wildlife.
- Predator control – Total catches recorded 688 since programme started in December 2021. Numbers consistently increase with more traps in the community and thanks to backyard trappers and trapline volunteers who look after traps along the beachfront, streams and bush areas. People who want traps for their neighbourhood can email snellsshorelinepestfree@gmail.com or go to our website. www.snellsconservation.org
- Water quality testing of Snells Beach northern stream – Our volunteers monitor freshwater quality of our local stream every three months. The stream lacks biodiversity with high levels of suspended

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sediment, low levels of dissolved oxygen, and surfaces exposed to sunlight result in high water

temperatures. Shade from native trees is vital.

- Planting and weeding programmes – Everyone invited to partake in shoreline conservation work at 9am on second Sunday of each month. Meet by the old Bayside Café and see our website for more information. This includes eco-sourcing seeds, weeding and planting activities.
- We are working with Auckland Council and Mahurangi Land Restoration Project Ecological Restoration to launch our first community planting project. 9-11am Sunday July 9 community planting. All welcome and spread the word.

Mahurangi East Library

- The library continues to provide a space for social connection and provision of items from within the total collections of Auckland Libraries. Please note that all residents & ratepayers can order items in from any of the 56 libraries.
- Friends Project Rangatahi - Books and basketball in association with Chase Kings continues to provide maximum fun & an incentive for children to read. 36 children in attendance last Friday night.
- Kezia's book clubs are running well, and she continues to pick material for individual housebound readers who are unable to leave home. Contact us if you know of someone who would benefit from this service.
- We had a fabulous School Holiday Programme. A highlight was the visit that Children's specialist Mark arranged to the Warkworth RSA to commemorate ANZAC Day. Term time programmes have resumed for the children - Wriggle & Rhyme, Storytime, W-Art (Wednesday art with artist librarian Jenny), and the aforementioned Books and Basketball project.
- Knitting dog blankets for Country Retreat Animal Sanctuary comes off the back of our Dog Day Out and School Holiday knitting guru Sharon Dooney. We are planning a heritage 'all things wool & Knitting' type show for a future date (Aug? Sep?)
- Winter Words creative writing group resumes at the end of this month with Justine Orme the May feature
- Author. Justine will also be holding a writer's workshop mid-month. Maureen Roke, Suzanne Morning & Fiona Kidman will also be appearing.
- Our Community Matariki celebration will be held July 14th please contact us if you would like to volunteer, or may be interested in being a lead, or a minor sponsor.
- Please stop by and have a chat or follow our Mahurangi East Library Page on Facebook for more information.

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