

Warkworth Area Liaison Group 5th June 2024

Minutes of our meeting held 7pm at the basement of RSA Warkworth.

Meeting opened 7.05pm

Chairperson Peter Sinton

Notes prepared by Roger Williams

Attendees approx. 30 people

Apologies Alan Spicer and Michelle Carmichael.

Peter Sinton introduced himself as the new chairperson with a bit of background information saying that we wanted to make WALG an incorporated society so that it can present planning issues with a little more authority. He would be addressing this later with more detail at the next meeting.

Greg Sayers, our Rodney Councillor for Auckland City talked about the Mayors Budget and how the rural areas in Rodney were not getting a fair share for their rates however the situation was improving with \$12m per year promised over the next 10 years for unsealed roads. We really need it front loaded for early action.

Submissions for the Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP) should be submitted by 17th June and should mention the importance of Hill Street Intersection construction and Unsealed Roads to ensure that they do not lose ground. Road maintenance is improving with 4 dedicated grading teams and a fifth team in support and picking up water tables and culverts improvements.

Rodney Local Board is getting increased funding for community projects and assets.

This Friday is a busy day with the Transport and Infrastructure Forum. The Watercare Strategy manager will be present to address us and answer questions. The Mayor will be coming up separately with Greg and will be meeting developers to hear their concerns.

Tim Holgate spoke for the RLB talking about chip sealing funding from the targeted rate to upgrade unsealed roads to sealed roads. He also spoke about the Route 999 local service bus starting on 21st July for a 2 year trial. This is an important step in making Warkworth more sustainable particularly for the young and old.

Dave Stott spoke for One Mahurangi. The main issue at present is the proposed wastewater main down Queen St. He discussed difficulty with discussing the matter with Watercare and how they were now proposing to come down Queen St with an open trench. **Murray Chapman** related the uproar from local business and the petition which was currently circulating. Murray said it was much more than loss of business but the loss of liquidity and security and associated mental stress. What would be the methodology, the programme and would it involve 24/7 working?

Dave also asked for submissions to the RLTP re Hill St and for front end loading road sealing.

Murray reminded us of the Winter Festival stating 6th July.

Bill Foster spoke of the importance of WALG being a strong community group to address future development. It needs to propose a strategy for both residential and business development with a voice over density and timing.

He reminded us that the Auckland Unitary Plan was coming up for review in 2025.

Discussion emphasised the need for working closely with One Mahurangi so that we are stronger together and to avoid any moves to divide and rule. Fortress Warkworth was suggested. It was important to address the wider Warkworth Area Matakana, Snells Beach and Algies Bay.

Bill then spoke of NAG. He said that Watercare was better than 3 Waters particularly because it had a fully metered reticulation permitting more efficient management.

Bill spoke of the alignment of the RLB councillor representation with NAG paper as a good first move although it did not preclude later changes with the Representation Commission heeding the latest census data.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Next Meeting

Wednesday 3rd July 2024 at 7.00pm RSA meeting room downstairs.

Agenda - Discussion around the future structure of the WALG including:-
Composition of working group

1. Need for incorporation
2. Function of group
3. Community Advice by professionals
4. Relationship with elected Rodney Local Board Member
5. Relationship with One Mahurangi, the local press & other ratepayer groups
6. Funding
7. Other issues

Regards

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