

Warkworth Area Liaison Group 7th August 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. 28 people

Apologies Murray Chapman, Greg Sayers, Colin Smith and Maurie Hooper

Peter Sinton welcomed everybody to the meeting and thanked them for supporting the revived Warkworth Area Liaison Group.

1. Tim Holgate Rodney Local Board spoke of the RLB meeting held today. He mentioned the Kawau Pest Eradication Programme which is soon to be confirmed. He spoke of the Regional Protection Fund which is currently open for 10Ha properties for planting and stream protection. He advised that he was busy marketing the new 999 bus service within Warkworth. It is funded by the Targeted Rate and expects to bring benefits to both young and old. It should also reduce demand for parking. It is 2 year trial whence AT should take it over. We all need to understand that the take up may be slow but please use it so that we do not lose it. Tim also talked of better funding for metal roads. The meeting talked of the need for improved monitoring and the need for Clerk of Works (a better description may be Quality Auditor). Better monitoring within AC for other operations of Council is also needed.
2. Bill Foster lead a discussion on current proposal for Local Representation for Councils (mainly RLB) that closes on 8th August. The meeting discussed options either of the Status Quo or the new proposal. The new proposal sees a drop in representatives in Warkworth but over a lesser area and much more recognition for rural areas with 2 in Rodney North. People could see the merit of this but some questioned the rapid growth around Warkworth and that the proposal was based mainly on the 2018 census. The next review would be 6 years away when more changes will definitely occur. It must be remembered that this is only for the election of RLB members to make sure all parts of the community are represented. Once elected the RLB members are required to cover issues fairly throughout the RLB area. **The meeting resolved its 'support for the Rodney Local Board area subdivision boundary changes proposed by Auckland Council and approve the Chairman submitting a message of that support in the current public consultation'. (Actioned RLW by due date).**
3. Dave Stott spoke of the Watercare Warkworth Wastewater pipeline proposed along Queen Street. Dave and Bevan Morrison presented the petition of 3800 residents to the Watercare Board saying that the people of Warkworth were opposed to the disruption to shopping and to the businesses. Watercare agreed to meaningful discussion with their engineers. Our 6 engineers will follow this up with a meeting with Watercare engineers in Warkworth on Wednesday 14th August.
Our engineers will present 2 alternative options.
One option is still along the main street but at depth by micro tunnelling instead of trenches. It uses limited pits to minimize disruption. This requires and new sump at LM Park with and

Archimedes screw to lift the wastewater into the Pump Station Pit. The pit Watercare has now constructed was designed with its inlets too high. By co locating the pits we believe issues such as control and backup power and overflow can be resolved.

The other option is along the riverbank starting at the bridge with a raised structure that can also be used by pedestrians and cyclists. This disappears below ground behind the Hospice Shop and then under the Wharf Carpark and behind the Library. From there it is micro tunneled direct to LM pumps station as per option one. This has the advantage of completely avoiding Queen Street and while disruptive around the wharf carpark restoration can bring positives for the town as it becomes a step towards the Warkworth Centre Plan accepted by the RLB on 29th December 2023.

4. Dave Stott spoke of the Hill St intersection project which has been accepted by Auckland Transport but is awaiting the NZTA (50% share). The RLTP is expected to be approved this September. It is proposed that Watercare construct their pipeline in Elizabeth Street when a short road closure is required for the Hill St construction.
5. One Mahurangi is supporting 'Art in August' 9th to 11th August in the Southgate Room above the Warkworth Hotel. All Welcome
6. The One Mahurangi AGM will be on 25th September.
7. One Mahurangi ran a very successful AI course recently with 50+ people attending.
8. Xmas celebrations this year will be a parade at 2pm on 7th December followed by Carols in the Park later in the evening
9. Roger Williams reported on the Notice of Requirements. WALG and One Mahurangi submitted on all 8 NOR's. He was very disappointed with the hearing findings and recommendations. The commissioners did not seem to do anything constructive. It was a total waste of time. We did not appeal the findings because WALG was not directly affected. WALG submissions were aimed at supporting the community and getting a better outcome for Warkworth. As a submitter we get to see all the NOR appeals. My summary of these appeals is as follows.
 - 1) John Wynyard (property on Woodcocks and Old Wyllie Road) re NOR2 and NOR8. Failure to use Motorway designation and Old NX2 site. Opposed to 20 year lapse date on NOR8 and 15 year on NOR2. Prefer 10 year lapse. WALG submitted on these points and agree with him. We also submitted an NOR2 alternative near Falls Road which effects Wynyard property and I do not know how he feels about this issue.
 - 2) Northwood (Mellwood drive subdivision) NOR4. Effect on current subdivision and failure to carry out land swap. Opposed 15 year lapse preferred 10 year. Valid points.
 - 3) Arvida (Matakana Road, a proposed PPC) NOR 4 and NOR 7. (also supported by John and Shirley Bryham, Sandspit Road). Areas of land to be designated is unreasonable. Opposed to lapse dates 15/25yr. Valid points.
 - 4) P2W (NX2 Motorway) NOR 1 Concerned over uncertainty regarding probable traffic lights on WLR leading to Transport Centre and Pac'nSave. Valid points. We submitted an alternative transport centre site.
 - 5) Grange Ridge (Land around Rocket Lab) NOR 6. They are concerned over drainage issues from NOR 6 down to Woodcocks road. These are ongoing problems.

10. The date for appeals to the Environment Court have closed but we have the right to be able to join the above appeals via a 274 submission within 15 working days. I was not personally proposing to action this as cost and liability may be involved. Liability is only really applied if the claims are frivolous. The advantage of joining would be it would keep us in the loop and AT will always use mediation before any court hearings.
11. Our grounds for WALG supporting appeal would be mainly that the commissioners ignored our recommendation that Lapse dates be reduced. At the hearing we asked for the minimum of a quick review at 5 years to see what had changed and whether new designations should then be considered. I was also concerned that NOR 1 intersection on the WLR has potential a lot of traffic movements that could back up (point 4 above). (Pedestrian movements were also problematical). NOR 2 (and 7) did not address our alternative or the southern interchange. I await advice on whether to submit 274's
12. Peter Sinton said that submissions and appeals should be backed by an Incorporated Society to make them stronger and reduce risk of liability hence his proposals for WALG Inc.
13. Hugh Briggs reported on the WALG Initial Steering Committee meeting of 31st July with 12 invitees. Good meeting and cleared most misunderstandings. It was resolved to move WALG forward with a public meeting on 16th September to explain its plans. To explain growth, threats to residents and how we were moving forward. Growth, Vision for town need discussion from the residents point of view rather than just accepting developers proposals through PPC's. Technical support through volunteers exists mainly within the community. Funding may be required.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Roger Williams, acting minutes secretary