

# Warkworth Area Liaison Group 6<sup>th</sup> November 2024

## Minutes of our meeting held 7.30 pm at the basement of RSA Warkworth.

**Meeting opened 7.30pm**

**Chairperson Peter Sinton**

Notes prepared by Roger Williams. Attendees approx. 19 people

**Apologies** Brendan Chaffe, David Parker, Murray Chapman, Hueline Massey.

Peter Sinton welcomed everybody to the meeting

1. No RLB members or our Councillor were in attendance to give reports.
2. Dave Stott gave a summary of recent meetings with Watercare re the Wastewater Pipeline in Queen Street. **1.** Watercare open trench in Queen Street. **2.** Same as 1. But pipeline profile lowered several metres to allow micro tunnelling and to go under services. The wastewater will then lifted by a modified pumpstation in Lucy Moore Park and **3.** Option E is close to waterfront. Option 1 causes too much conflict with both services and shopkeepers. Option E was marginally cheaper but discarded because it was deemed too difficult to consent in the remaining time available. Geotech considerations are still being investigated but it is likely that Option 2 will go to the Board at their December meeting. Construction will still be 12 months away. Discussions with Watercare are ongoing and are more constructive than previously.
3. Elizabeth Street is a problem in that the pipeline will be too shallow for tunnelling as it has to cross the river at bridge level. No useful alternatives seem possible.
4. Hill Street Intersection seems to have hit a roadblock with Simone Brown due to reduced traffic numbers. Roger has provided new traffic numbers which show a reduction of 26% presumably because of the motorway, higher petrol prices, and the weak economy. Dave is responding to this by pointing out that Plan Changes already consented will increase cars and traffic to congestion greater than before within 5 years.
5. Roger addressed the Watercare proposal to close the Road from the A&P to Hill St for 9 months. This would be a disaster for Warkworth as it would cut off visitors from the north and from the motorway. Traffic would be diverted to Hudson/Hill St roads or Matakana Road. Traffic volumes diverted would be similar to that already on Sandspit and Matakana roads. Hill St goes past the school. We consider that Matakana Road is the only viable option. Watercare may consider the main road southbound only for 12 months. Visitors would have to find their own way north via Matakana Road. This does help a bit. Discussions are continuing.
6. Lara Clarke, planner for Auckland Council spoke to the Shoreline Adaption Plan consultation closing now 19th November. The Plan is limited to Council Owned property. While it does not cover Tsunami, Volcanic or Earthquake effects and does not cover DOC land it is still a big step forward to managing risk. All stretches of the 3400km coastline of AC are addressed and classified as Adaption Priority Area (natural regression), No Active Intervention, Limited Intervention or Hold the Line. Nearby landowners should take note as it sets Council expectations for private land. Site specific remedial recommendations are still ongoing work.

Roger has reviewed the Plan and finds it generally reasonable but does not have enough local knowledge to address all local issues.

7. Hugh Briggs and Peter Sinton have spend 3 days at the Warkworth South PPC hearing and will be speaking on Friday 8<sup>th</sup>. They were shocked to find that land housing densities have been increased from Suburban Housing to Urban Housing in a different shade of yellow on the plans. They were also surprised that some Auckland Planners were trying to accelerate this PPC by decades despite the major lag in infrastructure and that the Fast Track Legislation also being inacted. The local community is being steam rolled by politics.
8. Murray Chapman sent a reminder that the Santa Parade will be 7<sup>th</sup> December 2pm and Carols in Park 6pm same day so make a day if it.
9. Roger Williams mentioned the need for a local interest group to flesh out Warkworth Centre Plan as soon as Watercare decision made. Group needs to be up and running in 3-6 months. It should include business owners, property owners and residents to get private and public funding and action.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm approx.

Next meeting Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 7.30pm at RSA assuming it is still available. A notice will be issued.

Roger Williams, acting minutes secretary