

MINUTES OF WALG MEETING 7TH MAY

Held at Totara Park Village Hall at 7pm

Attendance: Peter Sinton (Chair), Hugh Briggs (Secretary), Bill Foster (NAG/WALG), Dave Stott (One Mahurangi), Peter Buckton, Lance Taylor, Noeline Walsh, Ann Langdon, Brian Tuck, Dave Burt (SBRRA), Maurie Hooper (SBBRA), Triston Ogden (Mahurangi Matters), (one other?)

Apologies: Greg Sayers (AC), Murray Chapman (One Mahurangi), Maury Purdy (NAG), Roger Williams (WALG)

Guest Speaker: Stef Fink (Less Waste) Stef was contracted by The Waste Trust to be Community Liaison Officer to explain the new Bin Waste collection system. She gave detailed information on the new bin :sizes, options to have smaller or larger than the standard size or have bags instead. She fielded a lot of criticism about the system but as she was not part of Council she advised us all to write to Council with our complaints.

New Secretary: Roger Williams had undertaken this role as “acting” Secretary, and had undertaken it admirably. He was thanked for all his work. **Hugh** will take over as secretary for these meetings as well as for the Hill Technical Group and the newly formed Incorporated Society.

One Mahurangi: Dave Stott presented on Murray’s behalf. (Murray is currently unwell and we wish him a speedy recovery)

On 13 May Watercare (WC) and OM to meet retailers to discuss implementation of open cut along Elizabeth St. To be done 100m at time but still some worried. Great progress.

OM met with Chris Penk (MP) re Hill St funding to get some work done – as agreed before S Brown fund cuts! Pushing to use local contractors as more cost effective (eg with Matakana link road!!).

Pushing for lower speed limit to stay (60kph) as opposed to NZTA wanting 100kph from motorway exit to Sheep World. Dangerous Kaipara Flats junction.

Met Andrew Allen (AT Manager) re illegal parking in Industrial zone on Woodcocks Road. New footpath going in to make it safer. New activated lights to goon crossing by school.

Events: 20 May meeting retailers at Bridgehouse to encourage them to open at weekends. June having 4 marketing workshops to improve marketing of centre. Many enrolments.

Puhoi Kayaks working towards having trips on river – trial over school holidays - to boost interest and use of river.

Dave was thanked for all his (and Murray's) hard work

Dave Burt (SBRRA) gave a summary of key points from their AGM this week. Tim (RLB) spoke about various projects RLB involved in. A critical issue raised was the lack on an emergency link out of this peninsula. It was almost cut off after the slip from Gabriel. Big discussion on this – agreement that both SBRRA and WALG would submit to Council that critical that an alternative link be created (using paper roads and new road – to go in Unitary Plan) asap! OM has good contacts with AT, although the planning role will be taken over by Council.

Bill Foster (NAG/WALG) summarised the excellent AGM last week where the Mayor spoke. He and Greg supported local led decision making – locals know local. His mantra is “growth to pay for growth”. New developments have to pay for the extra infrastructure, roads, community and recreational facilities required to service all the new residents. Despite such support it will be a struggle to get changes made. That is why WALG has to push hard for the composite Development Plan, not just for Warkworth urban area, but the Future Urban zones and the outlying settlements. As the Mayor said “if you want authority, take it”, The Local Board has to take more command and demand funding and decision making power. This means getting good candidates or election in October. We also need a Community Engagement Officer like Stef Fink is to get the community on side and coordinated.

Peter Sinton (WALG chair) An issue was that the Commissioners appointed by Council made decisions for the AC planners which has led to the Plan Changes being support The management of growth is reactive and thus is in crisis, as such development will be ahead of all the infrastructure and facilities required. Such developments (eg Arvida) are driven by costs/profit and are not concerned about what else is required in the township. There is a real need for an integrated Development Plan (more detailed than the Structure Plan and Town Centre Study), as there is a lack of planning for the whole district.

WALG is currently focussing on the town centre as it is under pressure to survive with no vision for its growth and built environment. Discussion came about having a Theme (such as other centres have) to attract locals and visitors into the centre as a destination.

WALG Technical will look at options to present to the community and groups to ensure it will be community led. Such options could be presented at an exhibition with subsequent public meeting(s) to finalise the Plan.

Hugh Briggs (WALG Sec) highlighted the Growth articles he is now writing in Mahurangi Matters monthly as an independent professional. It is

good publicity for WALG which will get the message across to the community what WALG is promoting for the community's benefit.

Meeting Closed at 8.35pm. All those who attended were thanked.

Hugh Briggs – Secretary