

Council Briefing Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, 1 July, 2020
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Council Chamber
Forum North, Rust Avenue
Whangarei

In Attendance	Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai (Chairperson) Cr Gavin Benney Cr Vince Cocurullo Cr Nicholas Connop Cr Tricia Cutforth Cr Phil Halse Cr Greg Innes Cr Greg Martin Cr Anna Murphy Cr Simon Reid
Not in Attendance	Cr Ken Couper Cr Shelley Deeming Cr Jayne Golightly Cr Carol Peters
Scribe	C Brindle (Senior Democracy Adviser)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Ken Couper, Shelley Deeming, Jayne Golightly and Carol Peters.

2. Reports

Cr Martin convened the meeting and handed over to David Lindsay, Solid Waste Engineer, to conduct the presentation on Solid Waste, Recycling and Public toilets. This was followed by a presentation on Parks and Recreation conducted by Sue Hodge, Manager, Parks, Recreation and Solid Waste.

2.1 LTP Activity Briefing: Solid Waste Recycling and Public Toilets

Mr Lindsay covered the content of the briefing as outlined in the agenda report and the presentation (attached).

Elected members feedback and discussion included:

- Recyclable plastic – currently council recycle all plastics marked ‘1’ or ‘2’ why don’t we collect other plastics for re-use?

Not all plastics are recycled some plastic types (3,4,5, 6 and 7) are often not worth recycling either due to the low value of the recovered plastics or because they are harder to recycle. Plastic type 3 for example is difficult to recycle as it contains chlorine which if mistakenly mixed in with other plastics taints the mix.

The government has indicated a desire to standardise collections across the country in due course. They are also contemplating asking manufacturers to stop using plastic type 3 in packaging applications.

- Proposed new recycling plant in Auckland, is there any incentive to locate this in Northland?
Council and Whangarei Waste Ltd have been involved in putting forward applications to both the Provincial Growth Fund and the Waste Minimisation Fund for funds that could be used towards a recycling facility in Northland.
- Recycling waste tyres – are Golden Bay using waste tyres as fuel?
Government provided a grant of \$3.8 million for Waste Management NZ to set up a nationwide tyre collection network and tyre shredding facilities in Auckland. Golden Bay Cement were also granted \$13.6 million towards the cost of new equipment to dispose of 3.1 million shredded tyres a year. The cement works is upgrading its existing coal and/or wood kilns in order to use shredded rubber from used tyres as fuel. Golden Bay Cement have been working on this for the past 5 years, it is near completion. Various parties are interested in setting up a tyre shredding facility in Northland and hopefully that will happen when a mandatory product stewardship system is implemented.
- CBD cleaning – will the reduction in the level of service have any health and safety implications?
Regular weekly cleaning will continue, the annual deep clean will not continue. Weekly cleans have reduced the need for the annual deep cleaning, it is not anticipated there will be any health and safety issues as a result of the annual clean being removed.
- Will the reduction in rural transfer station hours result in increased fly tipping?
It is proposed to change the hours and open Sunday afternoons not reduce the hours. Analysis of the data suggests more people are likely to want to use the transfer stations on Sunday afternoons as opposed to during the week. There are generally three motivations for fly tipping these are - lack of somewhere to take the rubbish (partly associated with opening hours), affordability and poor or bad behaviour. The number of reported illegal dumping has been steadily declined over the last two years. Possibly due to attitudes, community behaviour changing, also people are more active in cleaning up rubbish when they see it.

- Rural transfer stations vs kerbside collection?
Removing the rural kerbside collection would be controversial and likely there would be an adverse reaction from the rural community. Mr Lindsay would like to see collections on rural roads not designed for rubbish trucks to drive on stop.
- Paper collection kerbside – would it make more sense to increase the volume of paper collected at kerbside and how could we do that?
Paper and cardboard volume of collection is low compared to other districts. It is trending down overall. People are using/getting less newspaper so consequently we are collecting less newspaper. We are collecting more cardboard. Cardboard is problematic because it is bulky, there are fairly strict limits on collecting cardboard kerbside.
If council are considering increasing the collection of cardboard Mr Lindsay recommends introducing a third bin, and noted this would be expensive and overall it is still difficult to manage. Mr Lindsay suggests encouraging more people to use transfer stations for cardboard and that changing the transfer station hours might help.
- Contractors – do they take a pro-active approach?
Contractors respond to CRM's (complaints), they don't actively drive around looking for rubbish to pick up. Pro-active road side cleans take place once or twice a year.
- Other matters for consideration:
 - Landfill –
 - profit \$600k – council should consider this money being used for waste minimisation activity
 - future use – only landfill close to a railway line – potential.
 - Timber – is it possible to divert more?
 - Kerbside recycling for glass – introduction of separate bin for glass has been successful – only 4% contamination.
 - Putrescible – trend toward food collection and processing – continue to give consideration to this.
- Public toilets – not planning to include toilets to be built in 2020 -2032 LTP
Acknowledged likely to be an adverse reaction from the community.
- Opportunity to divert salvageable material destined for landfill at point of entry?
Possible to pay only for actual material dumped after separating recyclables?
Last Resort shop at Re-sort has some constraints due to space etc. Currently staff actively working to search out recyclables, separate metal etc. Difficult to manage payment after point of entry, it can be complicated often there are opposing views on the value of recyclables.

A short break was taken from 10.20am to 10.30am.

2.2 LTP Activity Briefing: Parks and Recreation

Sue Hodge covered the content of the briefing as outlined in the agenda report and the presentation (attached).

Elected members feedback and discussion included:

- Neighbourhood reserves – did council get Puriri Park wrong?
No – a neighbourhood reserve only needs to be a certain size. Neighbourhood reserves should be within a walkable distance from housing developments. More reserves within a walkable distance of developments are needed in Maunu.
- Should the District Plan require developers to provide for more neighbourhood reserves?
Likely this was discussed when council considered the Open Space provisions as part of the review of the District Plan.
- New Sports Parks – it's also important to build on the facilities we currently have e.g. extend McKay stadium. This will keep the central sports bodies strong.
The park can't sustain potential expansion of all organisations. Planning for future growth is important.
- Sports fields:
 - Usage - there is an assumption that the codes have some form of control and others can't use or access the parks, could we include some narrative around that or make it more widely known?
Codes don't own the fields they book them for use. Council treat the sports fields as a network and try to be fair to all codes and give access to the facilities. Things are changing progressing towards more festival type tournaments – trying to keep a wider participation base. This will change how sports fields are used.
 - Future development Otaika – potential to develop more, increase parking where Blue Goose motel was
Currently home of league. Will include in LTP.
 - Jubilee Park – status?
Currently no legal entity owns the land, which means that until a legal entity is set up there can be no decision made on the future use of the land. Northland Sports Coalition are actively working to resolve this issue.
 - Youth – comments from YAG around lack of sense of place for youth and some young women are saying they don't feel safe in some of the parks. Some parks / sites don't get much attention.
More facilities for youth needed – especially in coastal communities.
Sites in contract get regularly monitored and audited – this is reported to council. We are gradually increasing the number of areas we actively

maintain, however there is still a large area of land space that is not actively maintained and we only respond when issues are raised. Areas that have been added to the program include a reserve at the top of Fairway Drive and the area near the Tikipunga library. Once these areas are added to the program we are obliged to keep on maintaining.

- Use of glyphosate sprays on parks – can we keep working on strategy to reduce spray use.

Internally actively trying to reduce the amount of spray used. Will include in LTP the cost to use alternative spray. If we don't use glyphosate it will cost more to use an alternative.

The meeting concluded at 11.16am