

## **Council Briefing Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Tuesday, 25 August, 2020  
**Time:** 1:00 p.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 Ken Couper  
Cr Tricia Cutforth  
Cr Shelley Deeming  
Cr Jayne Golightly  
Cr Phil Halse  
Cr Greg Innes  
Cr Greg Martin  
Cr Anna Murphy  
Cr Simon Reid

**Not in Attendance** Cr Carol Peters

**Scribe** Sue Reid (Democracy Adviser)

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### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cr Peters.

### **2. Reports**

Her Worship the Mayor convened the briefing at 1.00 p.m.

#### **2.1 Placemaking Programme Update**

Ms Alicia Lawrie (Strategic Urban Designer) ran through the presentation which included:

- Background;
- Programme process;
- Online Survey – limitations;

- Questions asked and responses received;
- Community feedback – key themes and issues; and
- Next steps.

Ms Lawrie said Placemaking Plans were needed because there is a gap between the District Wide Strategy and the Whangarei District Growth Strategy and she highlighted what these plans can and cannot achieve.

The plans for both Hikurangi and Tikipunga are following the three-step process at the same time and Ms Lawrie gave a high level summary of feedback for both plans. She said they are now in stage two and will take the information received from the community through the online survey to develop options and ideas.

*Elected Member feedback and discussion included:*

- Are the external government stakeholders as engaged as you would like? *Possibly not, but they are in certain aspects and we will continue working to build relationships.*
- In terms of implementation of actions, do you feel stakeholders would come to the party from earlier discussions you have had and to what extent will they be committed to implementation? *Mr Horton (Manager – Strategy) responded that the stakeholders are the same as in the Growth Strategy, however none of the government agencies have given us any commitment of funding and will need to keep working on that. Their involvement relates to connections with state highways but they do have restrained resources. The process is highlighting to central government agencies we do want them to be talking to each other and it's helpful to get a number of agencies together. Feedback is that this type of spatial level planning is how central government wants to see local government operating.*
- Implementation is going to be the big factor. Transport and sports facilities for instance and it's crucial to talk with government agencies.
- When you go to agencies you need to have a plan and focus on what you are going to do. The main thing is getting the sports hub and walking tracks around the parks and to keep communicating going forward.
- Where you live is a big part of your identity and Hikurangi residents feel a strong sense of connection to their village.
- How do we get interaction with schoolchildren? *The Hikurangi community has been very proactive and put a steering group together to help support their plans and have representatives to work with Council. At the last meeting of the steering group the Deputy Principal from the school was in attendance and there were representatives from many groups.*
- In Tikipunga it is about how you engage with the community who have lived there all their lives and have a commitment to that area. It's

important to align with things that are already happening and keep connected, with ways to get information out to the community and capture people from the community to engage with. An example is the people who are coming into the Council forum to speak about pedestrian crossings.

- How are past ideas being incorporated? *The public transport route for Thomas Street is an example of something that wasn't captured in the survey but will be taken into account as we go into discussions. We are taking into account past project ideas and submissions and discussing with key council experts and staff, including NRC.*
- What is the role of Elected Members in this? *Elected Members can feed back into this process. Any connections Elected Members have with the communities are vital and Mr Horton asked for staff to be advised of any that are missing. Staff really value feedback from Elected Members on how they acknowledge community groups and engage with them.*
- Can we do a pilot scheme for slow streetscapes as everyone wants slow streets and safety in that area?.
- Hikurangi and Tikipunga seem to want similar things. *They are very similar at a high level, but what that will look like is where the differences lie. We are going through the process of testing and developing actions and solutions and will have another round of engagement.*
- Based on phone calls received by Elected Members, a major traffic study needs to be done in Tikipunga because of traffic backing up and people 'rat-running' and racing through the streets in the morning, especially around Totara Parklands area so they can duck to the next roundabout without having to wait. There needs to be a good plan to make people stick to the main route.

## **2.2 Waterfront Precinct Plan**

Ms Injoo Riehl ran through the presentation which included:

- What is a Precinct Plan;
- Why do we need the Waterfront Precinct Plan;
- Building on our previous work;
- Where does the Waterfront Precinct Plan fit;
- Plan scope;
- What the Plan will do;
- What the Plan will not do;
- Timeframes;
- Consultation approach; and
- Next steps.

Ms Riehl asked for feedback on:

- Vision for Waterfront;
- What are the challenges/issues and opportunities faced in the Waterfront Precinct; and
- Are there any key areas of focus/priorities?

Elected Member feedback and discussion included:

- There is an opportunity for the Whangarei Marina Trust to get involved here. Would council consider more buildings along the waterfront, for example a good seafood restaurant.
- What is the scope and what are the physical limitations? *The scope has not yet been specifically defined but land that has a close relationship with the water is considered and they would like to include this. The scope line is indicative and it is important to have flexibility when focusing attention on this area.*
- There are opportunities in the area to the north of the site – the Maori stone garden sites and the heritage historic mangroves site. Could these be included in the scope of the site by linking up through the history of the site?
- It's good to see the project building on previous work and this area contains a lot of strategic properties with opportunities for Council's commercial properties in that area. Maybe we can purchase some commercial property in that area as an option.
- There is a lot of council owned property in that area, have you looked to see if they are strategically important to those plans? *Strategic sites have been identified for future development and we will work with Tony Collins's team to identify strategic properties. Mr Kula said the City Centre Plan identified a number of strategic properties across the whole area and the City Centre Plan overrides this Plan.*
- It's important to have free facilities, such as playgrounds for children, available and to activate people. Drainage, shelter and shade are also issues as there is not a lot of shade at the waterfront and it would be good to see trees or other structures for shelter.
- There should be access to the water as that indicates what the waterfront is and has a strong cultural and historical aspect.
- Sufficient carparking is needed.
- There are about 100 businesses in that area who should be included in the thinking around planning.
- A particular, popular premium place for people playing, parks and parties.
- Is the waterfront timeframe the same as that for Hikurangi/Tikipunga? *Ms Lawrie and Ms Riehl are working together on both projects and the plan developments are similar.*

- Have the Art Trust been given the opportunity to get involved? *Staff wanted to come to Elected Members first to get the ball rolling but in October they will start talking to key stakeholders with the option of forming a reference group with them.*

Ms Riehl said Council has a lot of land in that area and asked Elected members to think about discussions around aligning with Council's commercial portfolio.

### **3. Closure of Meeting**

The briefing concluded at 14:15.