

Council Briefing Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, 16 December, 2020
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: Council Chamber
Forum North, Rust Avenue
Whangarei

In Attendance

Cr Shelley Deeming (Chairperson)
Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai
Cr Gavin Benney
Cr Vince Cocurullo
Cr Nicholas Connop
Cr Ken Couper
Cr Tricia Cutforth
Cr Greg Innes
Cr Greg Martin
Cr Anna Murphy
Cr Carol Peters
Cr Simon Reid

Not in Attendance

Cr Jayne Golightly
Cr Phil Halse

Scribe

Sue Reid (Democracy Adviser)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Crs Golightly and Halse.

Cr Deeming convened the briefing at 13:00 and handed over to Ms Alicia Lawrie (Strategic Urban Designer) to go through the presentation.

2. Reports

2.1 Hikurangi and Tikipunga Placemaking Plans Update

Ms Lawrie said the purpose of the meeting was to provide an update on the Hikurangi and Tikipunga Placemaking Plans, to give feedback from the second round of engagement and the next steps.

She gave a recap and said the placemaking plans were to bring together key areas of council, planning and infrastructure to present a comprehensive approach to the work programme.

Ms Lawrie said we are moving into the final plan development of the 3-stage approach to the process and said collaboration both internally and externally is key to these plans. The first round of community engagement was held in July and from that feedback key themes and issues were identified to inform internal discussion and analysis.

The second engagement round ran from 28 October to 25 November and Ms Lawrie referred to the presentation and explained the purpose. She covered the engagement tools and said they made themselves as available as possible to the community and the best communication was through the community's own tools.

Ms Lawrie continued the presentation which looked at the responses from Hikurangi. She highlighted the feedback from the three key themes, which were:

- Connectivity
- Heritage & Character
- Destination

Elected members feedback and discussion included:

- It was felt that Hikurangi was a good pilot to learn from for placemaking and good engagement with the community could help in terms of the community's engagement with central government as well as local council. It was seen as one of the key roles that could facilitate discussion with central government around housing and other organisations such as NZTA and the Ministry of Education.

Ms Lawrie responded that is definitely something they are meaning to do and had talked to central government agencies, but at that stage they did not know what extent of alignment they could create. They intend to go back to central government when they have specific actions and are at a stage where central government can buy in.

- There was discussion around Lake Waro and the rock formation and Ms Lawrie said the community want to see some investment in that area and improving it so that it becomes a real attraction.
- It was felt there was a danger that the community would expect all their issues to be addressed and 'easy wins' should be looked for, where the community can help and it is shown that someone cares .

Ms Lawrie continued the presentation which covered the responses from the Tikipunga community, under the same three themes:

- Connectivity
- Heritage & Character
- Destination

She said the sessions had not been as well attended as for Hikurangi but there was still positive and robust discussion and she took Elected Members through the feedback on the three areas of focus.

Elected members feedback and discussion included:

- Ms Lawrie was asked what kind of development the community wanted in Tikipunga and she responded they were looking for smaller, medium-density housing. She said there were a lot of comments around more housing choice and smaller houses on smaller lots to make them more diverse and affordable.
- The impact of development on the population was discussed and what impact this was having on schools and pre-schools.
- Public transport was discussed and the strong interest in a community house or centre on the land by the library.
- The effect of the café at Quarry Gardens was discussed and that there could be something similar at Whangarei Falls in the future.
- Ms Lawrie said that, in both Hikurangi and Tikipunga, community networks have been established by the community development team which has helped as these groups are already strong and established.

Ms Lawrie summarised the feedback and said it was necessary to manage expectations from the community as these are long term plans and they are conscious of what happens after the plans have been adopted and the steps the community can take. She continued with the presentation which covered the next steps in the process and further engagement with the community.

Elected members feedback and discussion included:

- It was asked if this process meant things were moved up the priority list to facilitate progress and expectations in the community. Mr Dominic Kula (General Manager – Strategy & Democracy) said it definitely sets expectations in the community and questions where we can deliver those expectations. He discussed the existing programmes lines and LTP delivering on projects and said the prioritisation criteria could include things like the outcomes from this project. Slow streets and footpaths will align well to plans as well can we deliver those expectations. He said the prioritisation criteria in the existing prioritisation programmes will remain.

Ms Lawrie said they are aiming for the next tranche of placemaking to take place in May/June next year.

3. Closure of Meeting

The briefing concluded at 13:54.