



## **Te Kārearea Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** Wednesday, 21 February, 2018  
**Time:** 9:00 a.m.  
**Location:** Council Chamber  
Forum North, Rust Avenue  
Whangarei

### **In Attendance**

**Her Worship the Mayor Sheryl Mai (Co-Chairperson)**  
**Hona Edwards (Acting Co-Chairperson)**  
**Cr Vince Cocurullo**  
**Cr Tricia Cutforth**  
**Cr Sue Glen**  
**Cr Greg Innes**  
**Cr Sharon Morgan**  
**Cr Anna Murphy**  
**Deborah Harding**  
**Violet Sade**  
**Takiri Puriri**  
**Delaraine Armstrong**  
**Jared Pitman (Co-Chairperson)**  
**Cr Crichton Christie**  
**Allan Halliday**  
**Merepeka Henley**  
**Taipari Munro**  
**Kaile Nahi-Taihia**

### **Not in Attendance**

### **Scribe**

**Jennie Thomas (Democracy Adviser)**

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Also in attendance: Janelle Beazley, Michael Kake, Asaeli Pene (Tuia participant), Cr Cherry Hermon, Bart van der Meer (Manager of Volunteering Northland), Paul Waanders, Jill McPherson (General Manager – Strategy and Democracy, Simon Weston (Infrastructure – General Manager), Sandra Boardman (General Manager – Community), Alison Geddes (General Manager – Planning and Development), Jonny Gritt (Manager – Community Development), Melissa McGrath (Manager-District Plan), Evan Cook (Senior Planner – District Plan), Sarah Brownie (Planner – District Plan), Andre Hemara (Māori Engagement Officer), Debbie Taylor (EA to General Manager Community and Strategy and Democracy), Jason Marris (Manager -

Democracy and Assurance), Rachel Pascoe (Team Leader – Communications),  
Merryn Stratham (Consultation Adviser)

## **1. Open Meeting**

- 2. Karakia/Mihi** – Hona Edwards offered a Karakia. Acknowledgement was made of the sad loss to the community of Te Raumoa Kawiti.
- 3. Apologies** – Cr Christie, Huhana Lyndon, Jared Pitman and Allan Halliday, Cr Cocurullo and Cr Cutforth for early departure, Michael Kake and Deborah Harding for late arrival.

The apologies were accepted by consensus.

- 4. Introductions (Whakawhanaungatanga)** – Asaeli Pene, Tuia participant mentored by Her Worship the Mayor, was introduced to the meeting. Asaeli gave a pepeha and noted his involvement as a volunteer for Whangarei Youth Space and as a member of WDC Youth Advisory Group (YAG). Her Worship the Mayor acknowledged the mihi and advised she was looking forward to working further with Asaeli through YAG and Youth Services.

## **5. Previous Minutes**

### **5.1 Minutes Te Karearea meeting 15 November 2017**

**Moved by** Cr Murphy

**Seconded by** Cr Morgan

That the minutes of the Te Kārearea Strategic Partnership meeting held on 15 November 2017, having been circulated, be taken as read and now confirmed and adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings of that meeting.

**Carried**

## **6. Reports:**

### **6.1 Volunteering Northland**

Cr Hermon introduced Bart van der Meer - Manager of Volunteering Northland. Mr van der Meer explained the very wide range of options available for volunteers and opportunities for skills to be learnt.

Volunteering provides inclusion and connection, it is a forum for making friends and having fun and good for self-esteem.

At the Ngapuhi Festival there were 40 volunteer members assisting. The organisation was also involved with the Waitangi celebrations.

Volunteering Northland feels it is missing opportunities with Māori led organisations and would like to work with Marae in a more efficient manner to provide opportunities for volunteers.

It was suggested that meetings be arranged with members of Te Kārearea or Hapū to provide an opportunity to kaupapa.

Janelle Beazley advised she would raise at the next trustees meeting.

Mr van der Meer was thanked for his presentation and suggestions.

## **6.2 Hapū Mandating Update February**

Violet Sade requested clarification regarding hapū mandates and representation. This will be taken back to Te Huinga and debated in that forum.

## **6.3 Treaty of Waitangi Settlements - Progress from Hapū February**

Hona Edwards advised of the meetings which have taken place with the Treaty Minister, Andrew Little and his team. The Minister has advised there will only be one Ngāpuhi settlement. The position has been reached where Tūhoronuku and Te Kotahitanga are navigating a successful pathway for Treaty of Waitangi settlements for Ngapuhi. There has been a realisation of a requirement to compromise to move this kaupapa forward. It is thought that the meeting to be held February 27 will be pivotal to the progression of the claims redress process for Hapū and Northland. This document has been formulated over nine months and there are only a couple of issues left to resolve. An update will be able to be provided after this meeting.

Mike Kake queried what Council's position was in in relationship to Hapū and the Treaty Settlement.

In response, Cr Innes advised that Māori representation has been debated in Council with different views expressed. Council are now looking more to Treaty Settlement and outcomes. There are relationships with Hapū and Iwi in decision making through the statutes we work under for example the Resource Management Act (RMA). This underlines a strong strategic relationship.

As Council representatives, it is important for Councillors to have good relationships with hapū within our own wards. Council representatives must be able to engage with the whole community. Representation has been given a lot of thought and we are striving for a relationship.

Her Worship the Mayor, thanked Mike for his challenge and acknowledged the importance, at some point, to state Council's position. Obviously, Council are not part of the treaty negotiation process, but acknowledges as owner of land that could be included in settlement, that in future there could be co-governance arrangements. In future, we can agree to set down our position from not only a legal perspective but also from a relationship standpoint.

#### **6.4 Te Karearea Marae Booking for 2018**

The Marae bookings were noted for 2018. It was advised that since publication of this report the Terenga Paraoa Marae had confirmed their willingness to hold Te Karearea meetings on 19 September and at Maungarongo Marae for 21 November 2018 (yet to be confirmed).

Violet Sade advised that she would discuss and confirm a booking for the Ngunguru Marae for May 16 with Takahiwai as a backup. It was suggested it would be advantageous to have a backup Marae for the listed dates.

Her Worship the Mayor noted an extra Te Karearea meeting has been scheduled to be held at Council on Wednesday 19 December 2018.

#### **6.5 Action Log February 2018**

Jill McPherson advised that there have been further updates to the action log. The Papakainga Plan Change has been adopted by Council. The Winstone Quarry application is still on hold. The Raumanga Heights Block subdivision has not had a survey plan submitted nor an application for an extension so it can be assumed the consent has lapsed.

There was a query on behalf of Cr Cutforth on the status of the Poroti Springs consent. Jill advised that the consent has been withdrawn for the bottling plant.

Hona Edwards advised that there is an intent to truck water out and bottle elsewhere. The national water debate would be closely followed.

#### **6.6 Community Development Framework February 2018**

Jonny Gritt (Manager – Community Development). Jonny Gritt gave a pepeha and advised we would be taking the meeting through a Community Development Approach presentation.

The expectation around Council's role is changing and is more often seen now as a decision-facilitator more than a decision maker. Community Development is perceived as different things to different people.

Community Development is not:

- A community service delivery
- Social work or welfare
- A “feel good” exercise

Community Development is a self-determining function. It has to result in tangible outcomes. Often councils can be quite Council centric. Community Development is more about getting alongside the community and working with them. This is often a more complicated process.

Council’s definition - “Whangarei District Council’s Community Development Framework seeks to support communities to collectively impact positively upon the issues, needs and aspirations identified as important by those communities”.

The Community Development Department Functions include:

- Community Funding
- Community Led Projects (Village Plan)
- Community Development
- Community Safety
- Community Liaison
- Community Property and Pensioner Housing

It is about needs and aspirations being identified. Understanding the needs of our different communities. It involves conversing and consulting - mindful not overly. Assessing the readiness of individuals and groups. Some communities are at different stages. Ensuring clarity of expectations and adopting intentional outcome measurements.

A key part of the Community Development Operational model will see Community Development Advisors spend time in different community’s district wide. They will learn about these communities and provide a pivotal point of contact with the rest of Council. These advisors will advise on community funding and provide support for Community Led Projects, capacity development and facilitate community engagement and action. Community Development will provide a link across wider Council departments to develop information flows.

Cr Morgan noted that Community Advisors will also have on board the Local Ward Councillor to work together within the communities.

Delaraine Armstrong queried the recruitment process regarding Community Advisors. Jonny advised that one position had already been filled and the advertisement process had just begun for the second. There was discussion on relationship development and connecting with Māori and whether there could be a Māori perspective to the recruitment process and for community funding.

## **6.7 Sites of Significance to Māori - Plan Change 100**

Jill McPherson, General Manager – Strategy and Democracy asked for any comment on the report outlining the history of the contract with Repo Consultancy Ltd to work with hapū to collect and provide to Council areas of significance to Māori.

Cr Morgan enquired on consultation undertaken with Nga Hapu O Mangakahia. Jill advised the limited documentation available indicated Nga Hapu O Mangakahia ceased being recorded as being consulted with.

There was discussion on the five plus year process of consultation and the seemingly low level of monitoring of payments made.

There were some expressions of interest in further investigation and whether it should be taken higher judicially. Jill advised that the issue has been explored with Council's legal counsel but there is not sufficient documented evidence to take further. The focus should now be on the future process.

There was intention stated to take this information back to hapū for discussion.

There was general agreement that there were two main contributors to this issue. The failure of the contractor providing the service and from the funding provider (WDC) for not monitoring the process adequately. Jill advised that Council has since changed and improved its procurement and invoicing processes. A better use of resource now is to move forward. There are grants available from Council to develop Hapū Environmental Management Plans (HEMPs). Please refer to Andre Hemara regarding these.

**The meeting adjourned at 10.40 and reconvened at 11.00am.**

## **6.8 Sites of Significance to Māori Plan Change**

Evan Cook, Senior Planner District Plan ran through the presentation on the Sites of Significance to Māori – Plan Change 100.

The overview of the presentation was to provide background to the plan change, look at where we are now, and to suggest a proposed way forward.

The outlined approach is to capitalise on work already completed and to recognise that the District Plan is only one mechanism to protect sites. The District Plan is not necessarily the best way to protect all sites.

Work on the plan change began in 2009. It involved identifying new sites for inclusion in the District Plan. Developing Plan provisions to protect sites (within the Historic Heritage chapter) and development of internal Council processes for protection and engagement with iwi and hapū.

There are 86 sites identified in the operative District Plan. There is also a database of archaeological sites identified by the New Zealand Archaeological Association. There is value in having sites noted in the plan as a reference for developers to avoid damage and for consultation purposes.

The Plan Change has identified 708 new sites including:

- Marae
- Pa Sites
- Wāhi tapu
- Awa (rivers/streams)
- Puna (springs)
- Repo (swamps)
- Mahinga mataitai (food gathering areas)
- Ngahere (forests)
- Moutere (islands)
- Mara Kai (Gardens)

The alert layers and who has access and how it will be displayed:

- Level 1 - public sites information on GIS, public can view
- Level 2 - some information around location – rest of information with hapū
- Level 3 - all information held by Hapū

The Historic Heritage chapter has been made operative. The overarching objectives and policies relate to all historic heritage including sites of significance. The Auckland Unitary Plan Independent hearings panel would not include sites unless information was quite specific.

The suggested approach to progress the plan change is to focus on sites hapū are comfortable with including.

Staff wish to work with iwi and hapū to fill in gaps on the existing information and identify values for each site.

Sites would be digitised in GIS format while having discussions about plan provisions and how they will be developed. Staff have recognised a need to engage a GIS expert to assist.

Following on there would be pre-consultation with effected stakeholders e.g. DOC, landowners, hapū, iwi, Federated Farmers etc.

To provide for other methods of protection there would be:

- A separate project to identify sensitive sites (Level 2 and 3)
- Set up a GIS layer within in Council - silent files that identify area that triggers applicant to go and speak to hapū
- Develop internal process to protect sites and facilitate consultation with hapū

Council would like to receive feedback on these proposals and to reengage with hapū and iwi groups, to identify public sites to include in the District Plan and to fill in information gaps in data around sites already identified.

Delaraine Armstrong made the observation that it will always be difficult to enforce protection of sites. Wāhi tapu is not a guarantee of protection, there are some things we can put in place to help with protection. While recording these sites, there is a need to articulate what the protection process is.

The “story boards” situated around Whangarei referencing and providing information on sites are seen as a great asset which help to gather respect and understanding around these sites.

It was asked how Council is proposing to build a sense of trust to ensure connection with hapū. It will be for hapū to identify which sites are to be included in the District Plan with Council staff now engaging directly with hapū rather than through a consultant. It is hoping that this will build that sense of trust.

Hona Edwards acknowledged the necessity of identifying particular sites of significance because of the types of activity being undertaken in the vicinity of these sites. He suggested a beneficial path would be for hapū to have meetings to discuss the significance of specific sites and to identify sites that we feel may be impacted from development in the future.

Both retrospective consents and landlocked significant sites were discussed. Both were seen as difficult issues. There is value in identifying these sites to trigger consultation.

In relation to protection of sites, Cr Innes stated that the highest protection available would be when the site is notified within the District Plan. He raised the possibility of the next level of protection being the need for HEMPs to be considered. HEMP's could signal broad areas which contained more sensitive sites. If a consent application for that area was lodged the applicant would need to go through a formal process of hapū consultation.

Delaraine Armstrong was in agreement of HEMP's being used in this process. She saw a need for Council to include hapū in the conversation.

Deborah Harding expressed the need for Te Huinga to be consulted with as the next step. There are different interests and different levels of engagement that have occurred. It would be beneficial for Te Huinga to get a clear understanding on how the process will evolve. She advised of the rahi of work that goes into HEMPs.

It was explained that HEMPs were undertaken by hapū who were aware of tribal estate. Identification of all the resources and wāhi tapu known by hapū on their estate. Building on this Hapū knowledge as a platform. This is why there is some hesitation to provide all this information. There has been a hesitancy to provide



these as tribal areas shrink. It is a tool that can be added to – a Marae library for future generations.

It was noted that there is a reference available through the Waitangi Tribunal which has all public significant sites identified and mapped.

## **6.9 District Plan Rolling Review Update**

Melissa McGrath – Manager District Plan advised that the report provided a simple update on the District Plan Rolling Review since last year and the upcoming programme for 2018. Melissa advised that any plan changes will be reported back to Te Kārearea. The Rural Plan change is still open for appeal until the end of March. A report will be provided to Te Kārearea after that point.

## **6.10 Infrastructure Operations Update - February 2018**

Simon Weston, General Manager, Infrastructure ran through the presentation on the Infrastructure Operations update.

- Environmental Engineering Standards will be released within the next few months.
- The Car Park to Park is an exciting project which has been in the planning stage for the last few years. Three options were put out for public comment a few years ago, from which a plan was put together with elements from all three options. The project won't start until the Hundertwasser project is finished as this area will be used during its construction. The park will provide a further amenity area in the district.
- Horahora sports field renewal has been completed and the sand fields are ready to be used.
- Otaika Sports park project is underway. There is already a number of league fields and the concept plan is for ongoing construction of two additional soccer fields. The drainage and irrigation should be completed and ready for the 2019 winter season. The fields will be of the same standard as Pohe Island and Springs Flat. It was noted that parking in winter can be hazardous on a busy State Highway. Simon advised that the concept plan allowed for a lot more parking for this site.
- The Hikurangi multi use hardcourt turf has been completed with the lighting to be finished. Council is working with a group on the best utilisation of the hardcourt for the various codes etc.
- The Pohe Island park concept spatial plan was presented. At present work is being undertaken on the carpark service area in conjunction with Bike Northland. The draft LTP provides substantial funding for the Pohe Island park development.
- The Botanica Fernery Conservatory underwent a refresh last year with great results. Botanica received over 20k visitors in 2017. Visitor numbers have grown year on year.

- Water levels are at 98% full for Wilsons dam and Whau Valley is sitting at 100%.
- The disruption to the Ruakaka water supply in early January was explained. It is thought the problem was caused by poor water quality introduced from the river intake. It took nearly 24 hrs to get the supply back on line. Marsden Point Refinery is a key user of this supply, taking approximately 5000 cubic meters per day. A report on the incident and contingency plans are being produced at present.
- LED street lighting conversion – Council are replacing approximately 6000 street lights across the district with LED lighting. Council is receiving a substantial subsidy from Government of 85%. The LED lights are a more efficient operational cost alternative, saving almost 50% power and lower replacement of bulbs. LED lighting also provides a brighter white light. Delaraine commented that it would be beneficial for other facilities such as community halls and marae to be able to embrace this project and have LED lights installed.
- Stage 1 of the Kamo shared path project cycleway has been completed but Council is working with KiwiRail on the crossings. Work on Stage 2 has commenced.
- Customer Request Management Services (CRMs) – data was provided on the number of requests received by Council on an annual basis. A reminder to the community to phone 430 4200 to log a customer request. A record is kept on each request which is followed up on and can be referred to. It is a system that works well but we are continuously trying to improve.

Feedback from the meeting included the suggestion to present information on the rural infrastructure. Simon affirmed he would provide slides based on rural investment for the next meeting.

There was a query and discussion on the maintenance of the paper road that continues at the end of Ngunguru Ford Road. It was explained that if further development was to take place and the developers formed the road to Council's standards, then a subsidy could be obtained from NZTA for maintenance. The concern was noted but as the road is a paper road maintenance will not be undertaken by Council.

Cr Morgan requested a narrative on the break down for solid waste for further updates.

A request was made for dead Cabbage trees, at Whangarei's Southern entranceway, to be cut off at the base to encourage new growth and to tidy the area. This will be referred to NZTA for action.

## **6.11 2018-2028 LTP Consultation Document**

Rachel Pascoe (Team Leader – Communications Operations) presented the Draft LTP consultation plan to the meeting members. Advice was given that the

consultation document was being finalised at present. Audit NZ are still to provide their audit opinion which will be included in the final document. There may be a few minor changes once the final document is presented to Council next week for adoption. This consultation document is the main piece of work that goes out to the community for consultation.

Following on from the adoption of the Consultation document, a series of public meetings will be held (meeting dates provided on inside cover of document). The Consultation Document focuses on three key issues.

- The continued focus on core assets, in particular stormwater renewals
- Growth and getting set for the future - where the Civic Centre will be situated
- Keeping the place nice and improving amenity - Community funding for community led projects

Options on the Rates Structure Review will also be consulted on.

There will be a Have Your Say Event (HYSE) on 5 April and a more formal traditional hearing to be held on 20 April.

The consultation period runs from 7 March – 8 April and members were asked to make their communities aware of the consultation and document to receive their feedback.

## **7. General Business**

Cr Morgan advised that 12 kiwi will shortly be released into Pukenui forest. The 12 kiwi will be the first of 40 kiwi tagged for translocation over the next 3 years. The pre-release ceremony is taking place on 17 March to be held at Maunu School.

Whangarei Sculpture Symposium Art Auction is to be held 22 March onsite at Hihiaua Peninsula. The event runs between 12 and 22 March in which artists are invited to create a piece that relates to 'Journey'.

The 20 completed sculptures can be viewed from 2.00pm onwards on 22 March, with the live auction at 5.30pm. Cast the message out to your hapū.

A new Rangatahi Court is to be launched at Terenga Paraoa Marae on Saturday 24 February. Rangatahi Courts operate within the existing Youth Court system. They use a marae-based environment to help young Māori and their whānau engage with the justice system in culturally appropriate ways.

The Northland Pacifica fusion festival is to be held at Hihiaua Peninsula on Saturday 24 February.

## **8. Closure of Meeting – Karakia**

The meeting concluded at 12.20pm with a Karakia from Takiri Puriri.