
Community Forum Subcommittee

OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Forum Subcommittee held in Committee Room 1, Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton on Tuesday 24 November 2015 at 10:00am.

PRESENT

Chairperson Cr M Gallagher
Deputy Chair Cr P Yeung
Members Cr K Green
 Cr D Macpherson
 Cr L Tooman

In Attendance Her Worship the Mayor Hardaker

Lance Vervoort – General Manager Community
Deanne McManus-Emery – Community Development & Leisure Manager
Andy Mannering – Social Development Manager
Judy Small – Disability Advisor
Nick Chester – Social Development Policy Advisor
Jovi Abellanosa – Ethnic Development Advisor

Also In Attendance Anjum Rahman – Strategic Manager, Shama
 Silvana Erenchun-Perez – Manager, Shama
 Leaupepe Karalus – Chief Executive, K’aute Pasifika Trust
 Kim Holt – General Manager, K’aute Pasifika Trust
 Christine Potts – Director, Ministry of Social Development
 Vaughan Mikkelson – Programme Advisor, Ministry of Social Development
 Tayo Agunlejika – Executive Director, Multicultural New Zealand

Committee Advisor Mr B Stringer

1. Apologies

Resolved: (Crs Yeung/Tooman)

That the apologies from Councillor Macpherson (lateness) be received and accepted.

It was noted that Councillor Chesterman was attending another event in a civic capacity.

2. Confirmation of Agenda

It was noted that Item 7 – *Multicultural New Zealand Report*, would be taken after Item 10 – *Ministry of Social Development – Enabling Good Lives* to accommodate the availability of the guest presenter for that Item.

Resolved: (Crs Gallagher/Green)

The Committee to confirm the agenda subject to the noted change in order.

3. Declarations of Interest

No members of the Committee declared a Conflict of Interest.

4. Public Forum

No Public Forum was required.

5. Chairperson's Report

The Chairperson presented an update on the Subcommittee's proposed Workplan for 2016.

Resolved: (Crs Gallagher/Tooman)

That the report be received.

6. Community Forum Subcommittee Minutes 19 August 2015

Resolved: (Crs Gallagher/Yeung)

That the Subcommittee confirm and adopt as a true and correct record the Minutes of the Community Forum Subcommittee Meeting of 19 August 2015.

8. SHAMA - Hamilton Ethnic Women's Centre

Anjum Rahman, Strategic Manager and Silvana Erenchun-Perez, Manager from Shama spoke to their presentation, a copy of which was tabled. They highlighted, and responded to questions on, the following matters:

- **Refugee Clients**

Shama had encountered an increase in referrals of refugees, who required more assistance over a longer period than Shama's other migrant clients.

- **Interpreters & Translation**

Language interpretation was a critical resource for Shama's clients; however it did not have the funding to access mainstream NGO services or language lines. The quality and experience of interpreters varied.

- **Transport**

Shama's clients confronted a number of difficulties with accessing public transport, which restricted their movement and wellbeing. Subcommittee members suggested the following:

- i. Contact the Waikato Regional Council to discuss such concerns. Councillor Tooman would also highlight the issue at the Hamilton Public Transport Joint Committee;
- ii. Approach motor vehicle dealerships and bus companies to explore the possible sponsorship of a mini-bus for Shama's use.

The Shama representatives also noted there was a long waiting list to access the driving licence courses through the HMS Trust, with only a limited number of no-fee positions.

- **Housing**

A combination of factors, including clients not meeting Housing New Zealand criteria or lack of language skills, had resulted in an increased demand on Shama to assist with accommodation difficulties.

- **Working with Men**

There was a lack of support services for the male migrant community, which had an adverse impact on socialisation opportunities.

- **Funding and Support**

Shama had received good support from Council and the Department of Internal Affairs. There continued to be concerns with other central government funding opportunities.

The following suggestions were made by Subcommittee members to assist with the issues they had presented:

- Highlight the migrant and refugee communities' issues through the media; and
- Invite local Members of Parliament to attend joint NGO meetings.

Resolved: (Crs Gallagher/Yeung)

That the report be received.

9. **K'aute Pasifika Trust**

Leaupepe Elisapeta Karalus, Chief Executive and Kim Holt, General Manager, both of the K'aute Pasifika Trust ('the Trust') spoke to their presentation on the establishment of a community facility, a copy of which was tabled. They highlighted, and responded to questions on, the following points in relation to that project:

- **Cost**

The indicative cost to complete the project was \$3 to 4 million, excluding land acquisition.

- **Community Services**

The proposed facility would offer a GP practice, Allied Health Support services, a pan-Pacific early childhood centre and a Pacific Regional hub.

- **Location Options**

The Trust was reviewing four options for the location of the proposed community facility; it was working closely with WINTEC which had signalled its commitment to provide specific sections of land.

- **Timeframes**

The following key milestones were referenced:

- i. Completion of a feasibility study within the next six months; then
- ii. Fundraising for one year; then

iii. Construction of the facility over a further one-year period.

- **Council Support**

The Trust representatives outlined examples of support from Council that would assist with the project.

The Subcommittee noted that the General Manager Community would meet with the representatives of the project working group to discuss the proposal as presented to the Subcommittee.

Resolved: (Crs Gallagher/Yeung)

That the report be received

Councillor Macpherson arrived during Item 9 (10:12am) and took part in voting on that matter.

10. Ministry of Social Development - Enabling Good Lives

Christine Potts, Director and Vaughan Mikkelson, Programme Advisor, from the Ministry of Social Development ('MSD') spoke to the report on the MSD's *Enabling Good Lives* project, which was being trialled in Waikato. They noted, and responded to questions on, the following points:

- **Government and Social Services**

The project aligned with the government's approach to funding and delivery of social services, whereby the individuals affected decided on their own spending priorities.

- **Waikato Trial**

The project was working across three government agencies and with 400-500 disabled individuals in the Waikato demonstration. Education had yet to be included within the project scope for Waikato. An extension of the trial beyond its initial two years was being sought; Miss Potts suggested Council's support in that regard could facilitate a bigger change for the local disability community.

- **Community Perceptions**

Feedback suggested individuals with disabilities wanted to fully participate in the community and not be identified and treated as a single group.

- **Employment Opportunities**

Miss Potts referred to a report completed in Christchurch on a public sector approach to providing employment opportunities for those with disabilities. The Chairperson requested that a copy of the report be sent to the Subcommittee and Council's Chief Executive.

Resolved: (Crs Gallagher/Yeung)

That the report be received.

7. Multicultural New Zealand Report

Tayo Agunlejika, Executive Director of Multicultural New Zealand, spoke to his presentation, a copy of which was tabled. Supported by the Ethnic Development Advisor, Mr Agunlejika highlighted, and responded to questions on, the following points:

- **Workshops**

An outline was provided of the national workshop programme undertaken by Multicultural

New Zealand, which culminated in the report *Our Multicultural Future* (Attachment 1 of the staff report).

The following themes were drawn out from the workshops:

- i. *The Treaty and Multiculturalism*
The Treaty of Waitangi was central to multiculturalism; a strong relationship with tangata whenua was required.
- ii. *The Individual*
It was important to understand different cultures and empathise with other ethnicities.
- iii. *Communities*
Migrant communities sought a sense of belonging where their voice could be heard; Council's positive work in that regard was acknowledged.
- iv. *Institutions*
Increased focus on diversity and equality was required.
- v. *Newcomers*
Providing an accessible settlement journey and employment opportunities that reflected migrants' skills were emphasised as key elements.

- **Action Plan**

An action plan was to be drafted by mid-2016 to address how to remove the barriers to having a successful multicultural society, as identified at the workshops. Such plan was to encompass communities and local and central government.

- **Overseas Experience**

Examples of where multiculturalism was embedded in legislation were noted. The importance of identity and a sense of belonging was also underlined; local government was a key stakeholder in that regard. Collaboration across different groups and communities, both locally and nationally, was also significant.

It was suggested that Multicultural New Zealand presented their findings to Local Government New Zealand to facilitate a wider discussion.

Resolved: (Crs Yeung/Green)

That the report be received.

The Meeting adjourned from 11:05am to 11:15am

11. Social Wellbeing Strategy

The Community Development & Leisure Manager ('the Community Manager'), supported by the Social Development Manager, spoke to the report, and highlighted and responded to questions on, the following points:

- **Social Wellbeing Strategy ('the Strategy') - Replacement**

- i. The Strategy was originally drafted following input from central government departments and key community groups, based on the needs of the community at that time.
- ii. Some of the actions in the Strategy were now embedded as 'business as usual' matters in other Council plans to ensure work with key agencies was ongoing; reference was made to the Central City Safety Plan and the People's Project by way of an example.

- iii. Staff also noted the positive change in how Government departments worked with community agencies since the Strategy was implemented, which was expected to continue.
 - iv. The General Manager noted the work undertaken by staff, through engagement with community groups, to escalate social wellbeing issues through Council's decision-making process. The Subcommittee was part of that mechanism.
- **Social Indicator Report**
 - i. Staff considered that a Social Indicator Report would provide useful, real-time information to:
 - benchmark Hamilton against other cities in New Zealand;
 - focus on issues that affect wellbeing in the community; and
 - be used by key stakeholders and partners.

Feedback from agencies connected with the Strategy were supportive of the proposed approach.
 - ii. The General Manager advised that the Social Indicator Report reflected staff's preferred approach of providing better evidential-based information.
 - iii. The Quality of Life survey aligned with the proposed Social Indicator Report. The survey covered a range of measures for social wellbeing, the questions for which were compiled by an external party.
 - iv. Elected Members were invited to provide feedback directly to staff on the Social Indicator Report.

The Chairperson requested that the history of the Strategy and discussions with key stakeholders involved with the Strategy be included in the staff report to the Strategy and Policy Committee.

Resolved: (Crs Gallagher/Yeung)

Recommendation to Strategy and Policy Committee

That:

- a) the report be received;
- b) Council remain committed to promoting social wellbeing;
- c) the current Social Wellbeing Strategy be replaced with a Quality of Life survey in order to provide the evidence base for a Quality of Life Indicator Report;
- d) the Hamilton Residents survey continue to be used to provide evidence that will guide Council's actions related to specific social wellbeing issues and initiatives; and
- e) a Quality of Life Indicator Report is developed to present key features of the Quality of Life survey and presented at the Strategy and Policy Committee in April 2016.

Cr Macpherson dissenting.

Minute Note: Subsequent to the Meeting, as there was no Strategy and Policy Committee meeting scheduled for April 2016, it was decided that the staff report under (e) would be presented at the Committee's meeting on 3 May 2016.

12. Older Persons Plan 6-Monthly Report

The General Manager and Community Manager, supported by the Social Development Policy Advisor, clarified that the Older Persons Advisory Panel ('the Panel') could consider whether additional issues, such as accommodation and health, should be included in an updated Older Persons Plan ('the Plan'). The Panel could do so itself, or at the request of Council by way of a resolution that sought the Panel's advice.

It was noted that the Social Housing Strategy, to be reported back to Council in early 2016, would address social housing needs in the city, including for the elderly. The Panel's Chairperson would meet the person leading the work on that strategy to make a connection with the Plan.

Resolved: (Crs Yeung/Tooman)

Recommendation to Strategy and Policy Committee

That:

- a) the report be received; and
- b) the report be referred and reported at the 23 February 2016 Strategy and Policy Committee meeting.

Councillor Macpherson dissenting.

13. Community Activity Report

The Community Manager and Disability Advisor noted that staff recommended the Disability Action Plan be referred to the Strategy and Policy Committee in order to give that plan wider visibility. Examples of positive partnerships that had resulted in increased participation of disabled people in the community were discussed.

In response to questions, the Community Manager noted the following:

- **Refugees and Accommodation**
Contact would be made with Housing New Zealand's regional manager to highlight the difficulties identified in relation to refugees finding suitable accommodation, in order to facilitate some solutions. Staff would provide an update to the Subcommittee following that discussion.
- **Vine Community Centre**
The Centre had been sold and would no longer be a community facility.

Resolved: (Crs Gallagher/Tooman)

Recommendation to Strategy and Policy Committee

That:

- a) the Report be received; and
- b) the Disability Action Plan Update be referred to the 23 February 2016 Strategy and Policy Committee meeting.

14. Ethnic Forum Report

The Community Manager introduced the report and highlighted, and responded to questions on, the following matters:

- **Community Ethnic Profile**
Minor changes were required to the Ethnic Profile document (Attachment 3 to the staff report).
- **Interpretation Services**
A list of staff members who can assist with interpretation issues was available through Council's intranet. Staff were asked to:
 - i. give this list prominence through internal communications to encourage an updated list to be collated; and
 - ii. circulate the list to Elected Members.
- **Employment**
Staff would facilitate discussions with key stakeholders to advocate the employment issues highlighted by ethnic communities; initial conversations had taken place with the Waikato Chamber of Commerce. It was also suggested that such matters could be raised at the various economic strategic forums that staff attended.
- **Housing**
The concerns raised by ethnic communities in terms of housing were wider than social housing.

Subcommittee members suggested that:

- the Ethnic Profile is maintained and updated utilising current information available through Statistics New Zealand; and
- staff facilitate discussions with key stakeholders to address the issues and concerns highlighted by the migrant and ethnic communities, given the similarity of such matters over recent years; if required Elected Member representatives could be invited.

The Chairperson requested that indicators as to progress on the matters discussed at the Meeting be included in staff's Community Activity report at the Subcommittee's meeting in February 2016.

Resolved: (Crs Gallagher/Her Worship the Mayor Hardaker)

That the report be received.

15. Community Forum Subcommittee Action List

The Community Manager provided a brief update on outstanding actions.

Resolved: (Crs Gallagher/Tooman)

That the Report be received.

The Meeting was declared closed at 12:40pm