
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 Wednesday 17 February 2016 at 9:30AM.

PRESENT

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

In Attendance	Her Worship the Mayor Hardaker Cr G Chesterman
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Lance Vervoort – General Manager Community
Sean Hickey – General Manager Strategy & Communications
Deanne McManus-Emery – Community Development & Leisure Manager
Andy Mannering – Social Development Manager
Nick Chester – Social Development Policy Advisor
Judy Small – Disability Advisor
Jeff Neems – Communications Advisor

Mr Beat Huser – Principal Strategic Advisor, Waikato Regional Council

Committee Advisor	Mr B Stringer
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1. Apologies

Resolved: (Crs Gallagher/Green)

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

2. Confirmation of Agenda

The Chairperson noted that the Subcommittee would enter a workshop during Item 10 (*Social Wellbeing Indicator Report*) to discuss a staff update on the Quality of Life Survey.

Resolved: (Crs Gallagher/Yeung)

The Committee to confirm the agenda, subject to Item 11 (*Community Forum Subcommittee Action List*) being taken after Item 6 (*Community Forum Subcommittee Minutes 24 November 2015*).

3. Declarations of Interest

No members of the Committee declared a Conflict of Interest.

4. Public Forum

There was no Public Forum.

5. Chairperson's Report

An updated version of the *Subcommittee's Work Programme – 2016* was tabled, to which staff gave an overview. It was agreed that staff would provide a progress report on significant community developments at the 4 May 2016 Subcommittee Meeting. This would include a high-level summary of the Enderley Project that was reported to the Subcommittee at its Meeting on 3 June 2015.

Resolved: (Crs Gallagher/Yeung)

That the *Community Forum Subcommittee Work Programme - 2016* be received, subject to the noted addition in relation to a Community Developments Update.

6. Community Forum Subcommittee Minutes 24 November 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 24 November 2015, subject to changing the reference to 'Leaupepe Karalus' under Item 9 in the Minutes to read 'Leaupepe Elisapeta Karalus'.

Item 11 was taken after Item 6 as resolved by the Subcommittee.

11. Community Forum Subcommittee Action List

The Community Development & Leisure Manager ('the Community Manager') provided updates, and responded to questions, on the following matters:

- **Fairfield Feasibility Study**
Community groups were working through the information provided by Council in relation to the Fairfield Hall, following the review undertaken on community facilities.
- **Richmond Park**
A head tenant had been contracted for the site, and community access would still be available. While the action could be closed, staff would continue to monitor the use and access of the hall and greenspace, and report to the Subcommittee as and when required.
- **K’aute Pasifica Trust**
The action was completed – staff met with representatives of the Trust and provided further information in relation to their development proposals.
- **Partner Schools – Swimming Pools**
The General Manager Community (‘GM Community’) confirmed Hamilton Boys’ High School (‘HBHS’) was a partner school during the summer period. HBHS had requested Council funding towards development of a community sports facility, though there were significant infrastructure and traffic issues involved. Staff highlighted the proposal was not a high priority for Council at present; further information would be provided to Elected Members in due course.

A swimming pool for the north-east suburbs was contemplated in Council’s 30-year Infrastructure Plan, which would be advanced through Annual Plan or 10-Year Plan meetings.

Resolved: (Crs Yeung/Tooman)

That the Report be received, with the noted changes.

7. Disability Action Plan

The Community Manager, supported by the Disability Advisor, stated that staff had reviewed the recent updates to the National Disability Action Plan and how they aligned with Council’s Disability Action Plan (‘the Action Plan’) and Disability Policy. Staff noted, and responded to questions, on the following points:

- **National Disability Strategy**
Professor Peggy Koopman-Boyden and Robbie Francis were Hamilton-based representatives appointed to the review of the national strategy. Staff were asked to confirm whether Professor Koopman-Boyden and Mr Francis would be available to attend the Subcommittee’s August meeting to provide an update on the National Disability Strategy project.
- **Plan Review**
Staff would present their draft findings on the Action Plan to the Subcommittee at its next meeting, prior to the final recommendations being reported to the Strategy and Policy Committee in June 2016. It was intended to align the Action Plan more closely with the national approach and Council’s Disability Policy.
- **Companion Card**
Further investigation was required on the feasibility of a discounted rate for support persons who accompanied disabled individuals to Council facilities.

- **Be.Accessible**
Staff were exploring the possibility of comprehensive assessments on disability access to Council properties through the organisation Be.Accessible. Staff had investigated whether local organisations could undertake such audits, and concluded it would be best to utilise the expertise of a national organisation. It was observed such assessments would have budgetary implications and involve a significant amount of work.
- **Employment Opportunities**
The Mainstream Programme, established by central government, continued to facilitate employment opportunities for disabled individuals. Staff would explore avenues to promote and increase awareness in the business community of the Programme in Hamilton.

The Chairperson noted that he, together with the Deputy Chair and Disability Advisor, would meet with members of the disabled community and update the Subcommittee in due course.

Resolved: (Crs Gallagher/Green)

That the report be received.

8. Ethnic Forum Report

The Community Manager and Social Development Policy Manager updated the Subcommittee on various actions undertaken by staff in response to the issues raised at the Subcommittee's meeting in November 2015. The following was noted in response to questions:

- **Interpretation Services**
Staff would further explore, with the District Health Board, the difficulties encountered in relation to access and availability of quality interpretation services in Hamilton; the Chairperson would also progress that matter.
- **Think Tank**
As part of a Waikato University's School of Tourism programme, it was acknowledged wider forums on social sector issues were required. It was envisaged a 'think tank' would be held in November 2016 to address issues encountered by migrant and refugee communities. Staff would attend the event.
- **Education and Employment Opportunities**
A significant barrier for refugee and migrant communities to education and employment were perception issues; it was necessary to provide connections between funders and opportunities.
- **Waikato Refugees Forum**
Staff would provide an update on the Waikato Refugees Forum to the Subcommittee; particularly in relation to its funding.
- **Faith-based Groups**
There were some interactions between Council and faith-based ethnic groups; some of which were more autonomous than others.
- **Community Isolation**
An overview of the refugee induction programme was discussed, including the difficulties encountered by the refugee community:

- i. once the support from the Red Cross ceased; and
- ii. following placement by Housing New Zealand in the community.

Resolved: (Crs Gallagher/Tooman)

That the report be received.

9. Community Development Activity Report

The Community Manager, supported by the Social Development Policy Advisor, provided an update, and responded to questions, on the following matters:

- **Older Persons Plan**

The proposal to change the reporting on the Older Persons Plan, to be presented to Strategy and Policy Committee on an annual basis, was consistent with other Council plans and enabled staff to identify trends and achievements, more accurately. The Chair of the Older Persons Advisory Panel had confirmed to staff she was comfortable with that approach.

Immediate issues in relation to youth and older persons would continue to be reported to the Subcommittee as and when required through the Community Development Activity Report.

- **Single Year Grant**

Five new community members of the Single Year Grant Allocation Committee would be appointed under the GM Community's delegation. Councillor Yeung would continue his role on that committee.

Minute note: It was noted that Councillor Gallagher would also remain Member of that Committee.

- **Accessible Properties Reporting**

The reporting required under the contract for the sale and purchase of the Council's former pensioner housing portfolio would be presented to the Finance Committee. Staff would explore the scope of such reports as to whether non-financial, socially significant information would be captured.

The Chairperson advised the Subcommittee of his planned meetings with the Chair of the Strategy and Policy Committee to progress recommendations made by the Subcommittee.

Resolved: (Crs Yeung/Tooman)

Recommendation to Strategy and Policy Committee

That:

- a) the report be received;
- b) the Community Forum Subcommittee recommend to the Strategy and Policy Committee that the Older Person Plan is reported annually to the Strategy and Policy Committee to ensure consistency with reporting requirements of other Council Plans.

Her Worship the Mayor arrived at the conclusion of Item 9 (11:07am) and did not take part in the voting.

The Meeting adjourned from 11:08am to 11:20am

10. Social Wellbeing Indicator Report

The Community Manager provided a brief overview of the report and noted that the purpose was to obtain further feedback from Elected Members on the Social Wellbeing Indicator Report.

The Subcommittee agreed to receive and discuss the staff briefing in relation to the Quality of Life Survey by way of a workshop.

The Meeting moved into a Workshop Session from 11:25am to 12:15pm

Her Worship the Mayor retired from the Meeting (11:58am) during the Workshop for Item 10.

At the conclusion of the Workshop, the Meeting reconvened and the Chairperson summarised the key actions addressed in the Workshop:

- Staff to confirm that the surveys Council led or participated in were complementary and not duplicating information obtained (for example, where Regional Council and Hamilton City Council are undertaking the same or similar surveys).
- Staff to complete benchmarking vis-à-vis Christchurch, Tauranga, Nelson, Palmerston North, New Plymouth and Rotorua on:
 - a. what their respective views were on the Quality of Life Survey ('QoL'); and
 - b. how they respectively used the information obtained from the QoL.

The Subcommittee requested that a short summary in relation to the above points was completed.

- Staff to check and confirm that the deliverables under the Hamilton Plan were covered under a survey for which data was received by Council.
- Staff to consider the best timing to undertake the Hamilton Residents Survey, and to confirm which source was used to provide the selected sample group for that survey.

It was noted that the data from the 2016 version of the QoL was expected to be reported back to Council in November 2016.

Social Wellbeing Indicator Report

It was suggested that information should be captured about individuals:

- a. living outside Hamilton boundaries who commute into Hamilton for work; or
- b. who have moved from other parts of New Zealand to Hamilton because of affordability issues,

to give Elected Members a more holistic understanding of how and why Hamilton was attractive as a destination.

Resolved: (Crs Gallagher/Tooman)

That:

- a) the report be received;
- b) the draft Social Wellbeing Indicator Report be amended to reflect Elected Members' feedback prior to being reported to the Strategy and Policy Committee on 3 May 2016 for approval; and
- c) non-members of the Subcommittee be thanked for their attendance at the Workshop.

The Meeting was declared Closed at 12:25pm