
Community Forum Subcommittee

OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Forum Subcommittee held in the Council Chamber, Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton on Tuesday 2 August 2016 at 9:30am.

PRESENT

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

In Attendance	Cr R Pascoe
	Cr A O'Leary

Andy Mannering – Manager Social Development
Sally Sheedy – Parks and Open Spaces Manager
Nick Chester – Social Development Policy Advisor
Judy Small – Disability Advisor
Matthew Bayliss – Manager Swimming and Recreation
Mareta Ford – Senior Community Advisor
Fungai Mhlanga – Senior Community Advisor
Jovi Abellanosa – Ethnic Development Advisor

Professor Peggy Koopman-Boyden – New Zealand Disability Strategy Reference Group
Dr Anna Casey Cox – Poverty Action Waikato
Dr Rose Black – Poverty Action Waikato

Committee Advisor	Emily Acraman – Committee Advisor
	Brendan Stringer – Committee Advisor

1. Apologies

Resolved: (Crs Yeung/Green)

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

2. Confirmation of Agenda

Resolved: (Crs Yeung/Tooman)

That the Subcommittee confirm the Agenda.

3. Declarations of Interest

No members of the Committee declared a Conflict of Interest.

4. Public Forum

There was no Public Forum.

5. Community Forum Subcommittee Minutes 4 May 2016

Resolved: (Crs Gallagher/Tooman)

That the Subcommittee confirm and adopt as a true and correct record the Minutes of the Community Forum Subcommittee Meeting of 4 May 2016, subject to further clarification being provided as to the Workshop session at that Meeting due to a lack of quorum.

6. New Zealand Disability Strategy Review

The Disability Advisor Judy Small and Professor Koopman-Boyden, representing the New Zealand Disability Strategy Reference Group, highlighted, and responded to questions in relation to, the following points:

- **Council's Disability Policy and Action Plan**

The Council was well placed in relation to its Policy and Action Plan, which would need to be reviewed once the Government's Disability Strategy is circulated for consultation later in 2016.

- **New Zealand Disability Strategy**

Three key issues in the national strategy for Council to take account of were:

- i. Disabled people were to have equal rights and opportunities.
- ii. Universal Accessibility Design was advocated, rather than minimum requirements under current legislation; this would have a positive impact on the wider community.
- iii. Recognition of the diversity of people with disabilities. The example was noted of

people experiencing multiple disabilities in older age and the impact this had on various sectors.

- **Disability and Age Friendly City**

There were synergies between actions required for the older and disabled persons' communities; 50% of older people in New Zealand had a disability. A Universal Accessibility approach ensured collaboration between the two sectors.

- **Council's Role as an Employer**

The Council could be an advocate for disabled peoples' employment rights by changing attitudes, recognising and acting appropriately in relation to peoples' disabilities, and contributing to leadership in the sector.

The Chairperson thanked the presenters.

Cr Pascoe joined the meeting (10:00am) during discussion on the above Item.

Item 8 was taken at this time to account for the availability of the external presenters for Item 7.

8. Community Assistance Funding Policy 2016

The Social Development Manager explained the background and purpose of the report, and then noted, and responded to questions on, the Council's requirements for community grants:

- i. It was acknowledged that some small community groups did not meet the requirements to apply to the Single-Year Community Grant Allocation Committee as they were not registered with Charities Services. Any change to those requirements would need to be approved by Council.
- ii. Other councils and philanthropic funders did not require registration with Charities Services; however staff expected that such a pre-requisite for community grants would become more prevalent given increased scrutiny.
- iii. Staff worked closely with community groups to assist them with various funding requirements and processes. An umbrella structure for smaller organisations that were not registered with Charities Services to partner with larger, registered groups was noted as a possible solution.

The next round of Single-Year Community Grant applications would open at the beginning of March 2017; to close at the end of that month.

Resolved: (Crs Gallagher/Yeung)

That:

- a) the report be received; and
- b) staff present an appropriate report on the Community Assistance Funding Policy to the Strategy and Policy Committee (or equivalent Committee), prior to the opening of the 2017 Single-Year Community Grant process, such report to outline appropriate assistance to small, non-registered community groups on that process.

Item 7 was taken at this time with the arrival of external presenters.

7. Poverty Action Waikato, Windows on Poverty Follow-up

Councillor Macpherson joined the meeting (10:27am) during the introduction of Item 7.

The Social Development Manager introduced the item, and the external presenters of the report – *Neglect and Nurture – Window on Waikato Poverty (Report 6)* - Dr Anna Casey-Cox and Dr Rose Black, representing Poverty Action Waikato ('PAW'). Drs Cox and Black discussed, and responded to questions on, the following points:

- **Actions for the Council**

- i. Affordable Housing

Council was encouraged to:

- include affordable housing options in future residential development across the city. This could be by way of providing infrastructure and administrative support to organisations that support such initiatives;
- be an advocate for those in the city who were endeavouring to find affordable housing;
- extend existing resources promoting living in healthy homes. The work of Ian Mayes, Council's Eco Design Advisor, was complimented.
- promote initiatives such as the Living Wage, to enable residents to afford better housing and address high levels of youth unemployment.

- ii. Mobile Retail Trucks

- The PAW representatives believed mobile retail trucks were causing significant social harm to the community by way of targeting lower socio-economic areas; selling high-priced goods through easy credit at high interest rates.
- A 2014 study indicated that 31 of 32 mobile retail trucks surveyed breached requirements of the Fair Trading Act.
- Staff advised that any restrictions on such vehicles would need to be considered as part of a review of the Public Places Bylaw and Policy.

- iii. Alcohol and Gambling

- The social harm caused by gambling and alcohol was noted by the PAW representatives.

- iv. Community Group Support

- There was an urgent need for a Pasifika hub or centre to reflect the different experiences and needs of Pasifika people to other ethnic groups.
- The promotion of safe 'community houses' and funding models to support community organisations were advocated. Contestable funding acted as a barrier to ongoing development and delivery of services in the community.
- Opening of funding to community groups enabled more groups to apply. The application process needed to take account of the time and resources community organisations had to complete required applications.

Action: Staff were requested to circulate the report from PAW to all Elected Members.

The Chairperson thanked the PAW representatives for their presentation.

Resolved: (Crs Green/Yeung)

That:

- a) the report be received;
- b) staff provide relevant historical information to Elected Members in relation to community centre and infrastructure grants as compared to current information under the multi-year grant process; and
- c) staff further review the current activities of mobile retail traders operating in the city, and that staff report further with reference to options available to Council as to the regulation of such activities.

In relation to the resolution, the Chairperson noted that these matters would be best presented to the Strategy and Policy Committee (or the equivalent Committee) under the new Council; he would discuss this with the Chair of the Strategy and Policy Committee.

The Meeting adjourned from 11:15am to 11:25am.

9. Sports Facilities Fees and Charges

The Parks and Open Spaces Manager and Manager Swimming and Recreation provided the background to, and purpose of, the report and responded to questions on the following points:

- **Statistics**

Staff acknowledged that there were inaccuracies of some of the data set out in the attachment to the staff report, given the analysis undertaken by third parties. It was more important to focus on the wider story as to the value each sport provides to the community. Staff suggested this could be done through connections with Sports Waikato and the Sports New Zealand's Active New Zealand survey, as well as further analysis and discussion with codes and user groups. Any Hamilton-specific questions in the national survey would need to be agreed with Sports New Zealand upfront. Staff noted additional budget and resource would be required.

- **Active Hamilton Strategy**

- i. Staff recommended that, as part of the review of the Active Hamilton Strategy in the next triennium, work be undertaken to provide clarity as to:
 - what Hamilton residents wanted in terms of sports and recreation; and
 - the barriers to participation for Hamilton residents.Data analysis should be targeted at the local or regional level, and assess both social and competitive elements of sports and recreation.
- ii. Sports Waikato would present its new Sports and Recreation Strategy later in 2016, which would provide an opportunity to discuss community access issues.
- iii. Staff were working with the Ministry of Education on enabling shared services through schools; reference was made to Deanwell School and Rototuna Junior High.

Councillor O'Leary joined the Meeting (11:40am) during discussion on Item 9.

Resolved: (Crs Gallagher/Macpherson)

That:

- a) the report be received;
- b) staff are to report to the Strategy and Policy Committee (or equivalent Committee under the new Council) by February 2017 with reference to the implementation of the Active Hamilton Strategy; and
- c) the Subcommittee notes that such report is to address the neighbourhood amenities and potential barriers to participation.

10. Hamilton City Youth Report 2016

The Social Development Policy Advisor, supported by Ms Ford, the Senior Community Advisor, introduced the report. They highlighted, and responded to questions on, the following matters:

- **Youth Action Plan**
The annual progress report would be presented to the Strategy and Policy Committee on 30 August 2016.
- **Council responsibility**
Some elements of the report were not principally Council's responsibility (for example, 'identity and disengagement'); staff worked with other agencies in relation to such issues.
- **Emergency Housing**
The lack of emergency housing for youth was recognised as a current issue.
- **Disability Policy**
The Youth Council Advisory Panel had an advocate for the Disability Policy.
- **Social Space for Youth**
Work was being undertaken through Zeal and the City Safety team as to issues and perceptions of young people gathering in public places; some youth believed there was an unfair perception that a congregation of young people made an area unsafe for other members of the public.

Staff confirmed that Elected Members had been invited to attend the Htown Youth Connect meeting, which would take place on 2 September 2016.

Councillor O'Leary retired from the Meeting (12:03pm) during discussion on Item 10.

The Subcommittee thanked the Youth Council Advisory Panel and staff for their work.

Resolved: (Crs Gallagher/Tooman)

That the report be received.

11. Hamilton City Older Persons Report 2016

The Social Development Policy Advisor, supported by Mr Mhlanga, the Senior Community Advisor, responded to questions on the following points:

- **Transport and Access**
 - i. Staff reviewed anecdotal cases of complaints in relation to transport and access issues for older persons, noting improvements were required as to post-incident communications to affected people.
 - ii. Staff continued to have open dialogue internally and with external agencies in relation to concerns raised by members of the public.

The Subcommittee thanked the Older Persons Advisory Panel and staff for their work.

Resolved: (Crs Gallagher/Yeung)

That the report be received.

12. Hamilton City Ethnic Report 2016

The Manager Social Development, supported by the Ethnic Development Advisor, responded to questions on the following matters:

- **Employment**

People born outside of New Zealand were more likely than New Zealand-born residents to be in employment in Hamilton; however, it was more prevalent that they would be in lower-income occupations.
- **Translation Services**

The funding gap to provide community interpretation services had been raised with the Waikato Refugees Forum and Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. An increased effort in education and advocacy from Council could assist.

The Subcommittee thanked staff for their work in this area.

Resolved: (Crs Macpherson/Yeung)

That the report be received.

13. Community Forum Subcommittee Action List and Summary Discussion - 2 August 2016

The Manager Social Development spoke to the following Subcommittee Actions in response to questions:

- **Fairfield Feasibility Study**

Discussions with community organisations were ongoing as to the wider use of Fairfield Hall; the proposed facilities required for a Pasifika community centre had been discussed as part of this topic (and was unlikely to fit the scope of the project).

- **Enderley Social Housing Project**

The first six houses would open at the end of August 2016; staff would extend the invitation to Elected Members to attend the opening ceremony.

Minute Note; subsequent to the Meeting staff reported that only 3 houses would be opening at the end of August 2016, rather than the six previously discussed in the Meeting.

- **DHB Interpretation Services**

In relation to this issue, referred to in the Community Development Activity Report in the Subcommittee's Agenda of 4 May 2016, the Chairperson provided an update to Members present as to the ongoing conversations that were taking place with central government agencies.

Action: Staff were requested to continue to monitor progress on this matter.

Resolved: (Crs Gallagher/Green)

That the report be received.

Summary Discussion

The Chairperson provided suggestions as to the future role of the Subcommittee or as a full Council Committee under the new Council, and likely new governance structure. He thanked the Subcommittee Members and staff for their work on the issues presented during the triennium.

The Meeting was declared closed at 12:45pm.