
Community Forum Subcommittee

OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Forum Subcommittee held in the Anglican Conference Room, Te Ara Hou, 100 Morrinsville Road, Hillcrest, Hamilton on Wednesday 4 May 2016 at 9:30am.

PRESENT

Chairperson Cr M Gallagher
Members Cr K Green
 Cr L Tooman

In Attendance Lance Vervoort – General Manager Community
 Deanne McManus-Emery – Community Development and Leisure Manager
 Andy Mannering – Social Development Manager
 Nick Chester Social development Policy Advisor
 Judy Small – Disability Advisor

Committee Advisor Mrs W Verschaeren (Democratic Process Coordinator)

1. Apologies

Resolved: (Crs Gallagher/Green)

That the apologies from Councillors Yeung, Macpherson, Chesterman and Her Worship the Mayor be received and accepted.

2. Confirmation of Agenda

Resolved: Gallagher/Tooman

That the Subcommittee confirm the Agenda.

3. Declarations of Interest

No members of the Committee declared a Conflict of Interest.

4. Chairperson's Report

The Chair stated that the presentations that would be given today would be fed through to the Strategy and Policy Committee.

Resolved: (Crs Tooman/Green)

That the Report be received.

5. Community Forum Subcommittee Minutes 17 February 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 17 February 2016.

6. HCC Context - Social Wellbeing/Poverty

This Item was presented by Andy Mannering, Social Development Manager. The following was highlighted:

- Today's presentations would demonstrate the impact social wellbeing and poverty had on Hamilton.
- It was appropriate to emphasise that Council is not only involved with increasing the economic health of the city, but also with its social health.
- The Report contains data about the demographics of the city. This was important to gain awareness of the diversity and the potential intrinsic vulnerability of its population. It would help with formulating responses to issues that might arise from these topics.
- Council gave out 1.26 million dollars annually to community organisations. The bulk of this money was committed to 29 organisations in multi-year grants. However, \$292,000 was allocated as single-year grants to various organisations. The aim was to fund as many organisations as possible; at the Meeting of 3 May 2016, the Allocation Committee decided that 94 organisations would receive a single-year grant.

Resolved: (Crs Gallagher/Green)

That the Report be received.

7. Salvation Army Social Statistics

This Item was presented by Alan Johnson, Social Policy Analyst for the Salvation Army. The following was noted:

- One of the key purposes of the Salvation Army in New Zealand was to eradicate poverty.
- They set up a social policy to advocate about poverty to Local Government Authorities. This resulted, eight years ago, in a social progress report: “State of the Nation”, published every year in February; this Report was based on 23 indicators across five policy areas.
- In August 2015, Salvation Army, published a document: “Mixed Fortunes”. Reflecting on the changes in our society over the last 25 years; it demonstrated that some areas in the country performed better than others and that the Government lacked a growth model that was all inclusive. What was necessary was the creation of a growth model that distributed growth opportunities more equally over the entire country.
- The “Mixed Fortunes” Report, demonstrated that in Waikato some areas performed really well, but some towns were bypassed: these included Ngaruawahia, Tokoroa and Paeroa.
- When compared to other countries, in term of social progress, New Zealand appeared on the fifth place on the list; however, the same list also showed that New Zealand’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was a lot lower than that of the other western countries. This demonstrated that money was not the only indicator of social progress and that New Zealand was a good place to live in.
- The distribution of wealth in New Zealand however, was very uneven, as 1% of the population owned 16% of the wealth and 50% owned less than 5% of the wealth.
- A large proportion of the wealth in our country was based on the appreciation of the house prices. The concern was that fewer people owned houses, which in turn also meant that fewer people owned the majority of the wealth.
- To progress into the future, it would be crucial to determine which factors were actually important. The information used to establish this needed to be reliable and credible; it therefore had to come from a trusted source and present a believable picture. The information also needed to be regular, critical, relevant and comprehensible for a targeted audience.
- Though the information gathering we would gain insights and from these insights we could develop policy and the main aim of policy was to offer leadership and gain the wisdom to progress into the future.

Resolved: (Crs Gallagher/Tooman)

That the report be received

The Meeting adjourned from 11.30am to 11.45am

8. Poverty Action Waikato Windows on Poverty Report

This Item was presented by Dr Anna Cox and Dr Rose Black of Poverty Action Waikato (PAW). The following was noted:

- The presenters acknowledged Te Ara Hou Village and also Trust Waikato for the initial three years of funding which allowed the work and research undertaken by PAW.
- Over the last five years, PAW produced several reports which provided an insight into poverty issues in the Waikato.
- A new report would be available at the end of May 2016.
- A New Poverty Action Working Group had been established recently to continue the work of PAW in the future.
- The PAW's research provided a window into poverty in the Waikato. The methodology existed in talking to some people and groups, recording their stories and looking for common themes and concerns shared with different organisations.
- The concerns related to:
 1. The increasing barriers and conditions that people encountered when they were faced with a need;
 2. The neglectful state which saw poverty as an individual failing; and
 3. Debt and the dominance of market structures.
- Positive aspects of the research included the experience common good culture based on relationship and solidarity with the most vulnerable and between services. It demonstrated that organisations tried to prevent conditions getting worse by:
 1. Food provision;
 2. Creating opportunities for nurturing and belonging;
 3. Looking out for children and young people in the community; and
 4. Providing consistency in the services available to the people with inclusion of advocacy.

Due to the absence of Subcommittee Members as a result of prior commitments, it was noted there would no longer be quorum should a further Member retire from the Meeting. It was agreed that the remaining reports would be discussed by way of a workshop session.

Cr Green left the Meeting at 12.20pm during the above Item.

Community Forum Subcommittee – Workshop – 4 May 2016

Present: Councillor Gallagher
Councillor Tooman

It was also highlighted that:

- The Commerce Commission had done a lot of research about the problem of retail trucks that toured parts of the city where there was more poverty. The research showed that frequently they did not comply with the Fair Trading Act; they offered credit purchases and often charged exorbitant prices. It would be necessary in the future to also monitor these trucks on a local level as they targeted the most vulnerable people in the community.
- People often isolated themselves in the community by building fences around their houses which prevented them from knowing their neighbourhood. Creating local events and opportunities for socialising would help in breaking down those barriers.
- Common green spaces in the community also helped with creating the necessary interconnectedness. Hamilton City Council (HCC) gazetted the green spaces that fell under the Reserves Act; there was an Open Space Policy which stated that, although the city was growing, there would not be less green space held by HCC.

It was noted that the following would progress to next meeting:

- a) The report; and
- b) Each of the recommendations made by the presenters after their executive summary on p.24-25 of the Agenda; staff were requested to provide actions undertaken by HCC in those areas.

Disability Policy Review

This Item was presented by Judy Small, Disability Advisor. The following was highlighted:

- The Report included a Draft Disability Policy Review for 2016 with inclusion of an Action Plan for 2016-2017.
- The Report was endorsed by the Working Group and would progress to the Strategy and Policy Committee Meeting of 7 June 2016.

Community Development Activity Report

This Item was presented by Deanne McManus-Emery, Community Development and Leisure Manager. The following was noted:

- At the last Meeting, the Subcommittee requested to receive an update regarding the Enderley Housing Project and the Waikato Refugee Forum; these points were currently included in the Report.
- Successful applicants for the community grants would receive their letter in the next 10 days.
- It was requested that all Elected Members receive a hard copy of Attachment 1 – Hamilton City Health Profile (District Health Board) – April 2015.
- The Report would progress to the next Meeting of the Subcommittee.

Community Forum Subcommittee Action List - 4 May 2016

The following was noted regarding:

- Actions 7, 8 and 9 were in progress and care was taken not to duplicate information.
- Action 10: confirmation had been received that the Hamilton Residents Survey would be held in October 2016.
- Actions 19 and 20 had been included in the Community Development Activity Report.
- Action 24: Professor Koopman-Boyden and Mrs Francis had confirmed that they would be attending the Subcommittee Meeting in August 2016.
- Action 26: The Chair stated that, before the Strategy and Policy Committee of 7 June 2016, he would liaise with the Disability Advisor, to ensure that all areas of concern were addressed.

Summary Discussion

During the Summary Discussion the following was highlighted:

- To help strengthen the connectedness of the different areas in the city, a nationwide annual initiative ‘Neighbours Day’ took place during a weekend in March and this was strongly supported by HCC. It was not only beneficial to create a feel good environment, but also from a civil defence response, as in times of crisis it was important to be able to rely on neighbours.
- There were a few funding streams available for organisations that helped support people to break out of isolation and socialise.
- Volunteers played an important part in strengthening the community.
- The Chair thanked Te Ara Hou and Anglican Action on behalf of the Elected Members for the warm welcome; he also thanked the presenters for the excellent presentations that would allow HCC to take the necessary steps in the right direction.
- Especially partnerships with agencies and organisations would allow Council to make the right decisions.