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## Community and Natural Environment Committee

### *Te Komiti Haapori me te oranga o te Taiao*

## OPEN MINUTES

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Minutes of a meeting of the Community and Natural Environment Committee held in Council Chamber, Municipal Building, Garden Place, Hamilton on Thursday 5 June 2025 at 11:30am.

#### PRESENT

**Chairperson** Cr Kesh Naidoo-Rauf  
*Heamana*

**Deputy Chairperson** Cr Anna Casey-Cox  
*Heamana Tuarua*

**Members** Mayor Paula Southgate (Via Audio-Visual)  
Deputy Mayor Angela O’Leary  
Cr Maxine van Oosten  
Cr Ewan Wilson  
Cr Louise Hutt  
Cr Andrew Bydder (Via Audio-Visual)  
Cr Geoff Taylor  
Cr Sarah Thomson  
Cr Emma Pike  
Cr Maria Huata (Via Audio-Visual)  
Cr Tim Macindoe  
Maangai Olly Te Ua

**In Attendance** Dr Jeremy Mayall, Creative Waikato

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*The meeting was opened with a prayer by Carrie Barber of the Society of Friends*

#### 1. **Apologies – Tono aroha**

**Resolved:** (Cr Naidoo-Rauf/Cr Casey-Cox)

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee accepts the apologies for full absence from Cr Tauariki, for partial attendance from Mayor Southgate, Cr Bydder, Cr Taylor and Cr Thomson.

#### 2. **Confirmation of Agenda – Whakatau raarangi take**

**Resolved:** (Cr Naidoo-Rauf/Cr Casey-Cox)

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee confirms the agenda, noting that:

- a) Item 12 (*Support for the Street Community in Kirikiriroa*) is accepted and circulated as a late item, to allow for a complete report on the matter; and
- b) Item 12 (*Support for the Street Community of Kirikiriroa*) will be taken after Item 5 (*Confirmation of the Community and Natural Environment Committee Unconfirmed Open Minutes 3 April 2025*).

**3. Declarations of Interest – *Tauaakii whaipanga***

Cr Macindoe noted an interest in Item 12 (*Support for the Street Community of Kirikiriroa*) but noted that he was not conflicted and would participate in the discussion and vote on the matter.

**4. Public Forum – *Aatea koorero***

**Julie Hamon** spoke to Item 12 (*Support for the Street Community Kirikiriroa*) asking the Council to consider the protection and safety of residents of Garden Place.

**Liam Carter** spoke to Item 8 (*Rangatahi Action Plan*) and Item 9 (*Age Friendly Plan*) thanking staff for allowing his participation in the process as a member of disability advisory group.

**Katie Thornley, Jaimee McCarthy, Tia Hood and Sara Macdonald** (Hamilton Girls High School) spoke to Item 8 (*Rangatahi Action Plan*) in support of the action plan and noted other ideas for the Council to consider.

**5. Confirmation of the Community and Natural Environment Committee Unconfirmed Open Minutes 3 April 2025**

**Resolved:** (Cr Casey-Cox/Cr Pike)

That the Community and Natural Environment committee confirms the Open Minutes of that the Community and Natural Environment Meeting held on 18 February 2025 as a true and correct record.

**6. Support for the Street Community of Kirikiriroa**

The General Manager Partnerships, Communication & Maaori and Head Of Community Partnerships, Funding & Events spoke to the report thanking social agencies for support compiling the report, use of Ministry of Housing and Urban Development statistics for definition of homeless and issues facing homeless people. Staff responded to questions from Members concerning scope of funding and alignment with existing bylaws, criteria development, advocacy to central government, social investment fund, proposed services and facilities for Garden Place, expectations of Council, activation of Garden Place, Hamilton CBD Interagency Group, connection between homelessness and antisocial behaviour and replication of agencies' work.

**Staff Action:** *Staff undertook to provide the information presented to the Central City Activation Group on the playground activation in Garden Place to all members.*

**Resolved:** (Cr Naidoo-Rauf/Cr Casey-Cox)

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee:

- a) receives the report;
- b) thanks the Hamilton CBD Interagency Group for contributing to this report and improving outcomes for Kirikiriroa's street community;
- c) notes that a further report on issues relating to management of antisocial behaviours in public places via the use of bylaws will be provided to the 28 August 2025 Council meeting;

**Provide social support and reduce anti-social behaviour in the CBD via funding**

- d) requests that staff report back to the 28 August 2025 Council meeting with a list of projects that will reduce antisocial behaviour in the CBD, developed in consultation with the Interagency Working Group;

**Supports targeted collective bid to Social Investment Agency**

- e) requests staff work with central government agencies and key partners to identify targeted collective bids to the Social Investment Fund;

**Strategies for addressing homelessness and street community issues**

- f) requests that staff consider the addressing of gaps and opportunities identified within this report through Council's current strategies and specifically via the Community and Social Development review 2025/26;
- g) notes the committee's support for the Community Development Team continuing to facilitate the CBD Interagency Group and emerging workstreams;
- h) requests staff provide annual data and insights on homelessness including emergency, transitional and supported living housing in Hamilton to the Community and Natural Environment Committee (or equivalent); and

**Council advocacy to Central Government**

- i) requests Council and Elected Members advocate to Central Government on the following matters:
  - i. the shortfall in adequate addiction services;
  - ii. the need for strengthened mental health services that provide support post discharge;
  - iii. Social Investment Agency investment in homelessness support services;
  - iv. having the right housing stock in the right location with wrap around services as required; and provision of women's accommodation in Kirikiriroa.

*Mayor Southgate joined the meeting (11.53am) during the discussion of the above item.*

**The meeting was adjourned during discussion of the above item from 12.33pm to 12.55pm.**

*Mayor Southgate retired from the meeting (1.16pm) during the discussion of the above item. She did not vote on the matter.*

*At the request of Councillors Item 8 (Rangatahi Action Plan) was taken prior to Item 6 (Chair's Report)*

**7. Rangatahi Action Plan**

The Community Advisor & Grants Manager and the Community Youth Advisor spoke to the report noting the process of consultation and the partners that will help implement the action plan. Staff responded to questions from Members concerning goals relating to employment and affordable housing, civic education, internships, careers expos in schools and future actions.

**Resolved:** (Cr Naidoo-Rauf/Cr Hutt)

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee:

- a) receives the report;
- b) approves the draft Rangatahi Action Plan 2025-2028; and
- c) notes that:
  - i. progress on Rangatahi Action Plan 2025-2028 will be reported annually to the Community and Natural Environment Committee; and
  - ii. any requests for associated funding will be brought to the next Annual Plan or Long-Term Plan.

*Cr Bydder retired from the meeting (1.46pm) during the discussion of the above item. He did not vote on the matter.*

*Cr Taylor retired from the meeting (1.51pm) during the discussion of the above item. He did not vote on the matter.*

**The meeting was adjourned from 2.04pm to 2.53pm.**

**8. Chair's Report**

The Chair took report as read.

**Resolved:** (Cr Wilson/Deputy Mayor O'Leary)

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee receives the report.

**9. Draft Events Policy**

The Head Of Community Partnerships, Funding & Events spoke to the report noting the process for permitting events and the proposed new approach to make the process easier. Staff responded to questions from Members concerning the targeted consultation and opportunities for wider engagement.

**Resolved:** (Deputy Mayor O'Leary/Cr Hutt)

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee:

- a) receives the report;
- b) approves the Draft Events Policy for targeted consultation including those event organisers who have submitted applications for events within the last two years and those with Kirikiriroa wide event organisers; and
- c) notes that a Final Draft Events Policy, incorporating event organiser feedback, will be included on the 28 August 2025 Council meeting agenda for approval.

**10. Hamilton Age Friendly Plan 2025-2030**

The Community Advisor & Grants Manager and the Disability & Older Persons Advisor spoke to the report describing the process to develop the draft plan and summarised the consultation.

**Resolved:** (Cr Hutt/Cr van Oosten)

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee:

- a) receives the report;
- b) adopts of the Hamilton Age Friendly Plan 2025-2030; and
- c) notes that progress on the Plan will be reported annually through the Community and Natural Environment Committee (or similar as determined by the 2025-28 Governance Structure).

**11. Update of Arts Action Plan and Request to Consult on Draft Arts in Infrastructure Policy**

The Programme and Planning Manager spoke to the report outlining the process to develop the action plan, purpose of the draft Arts in Infrastructure Policy noting the policy will not come into full effect until the 2027-37 Long-Term Plan and noted an update to the consultation dates, being from 12 June to 10 July 2025.

**Resolved:** (Deputy Mayor O'Leary/Cr Hutt)

That the Community and Natural Environment Committee:

- a) receives the report;
- b) endorses the Arts Action Plan (**Attachment 1**) from Creative Waikato noting that the Plan will be monitored and presented annually to Community and Natural Environment Committee (or similar as outlined in the 2025-28 Governance Structure); and
- c) approves the Draft Arts in Infrastructure Policy (**Attachment 2**) and Draft Statement of Proposal (Attachment 3) for the purpose of public consultation.

*Cr Thomson retired from the meeting (3.37pm) during the discussion of the above item. She did not vote on the matter.*

**11. Resolution to Exclude the Public**

**Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987**

**Resolved:** (Cr Naidoo-Rauf/Cr Hutt)

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely consideration of the public excluded agenda.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution follows.

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reasons for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
C1. Confirmation of the Community and Natural Environment Committee Unconfirmed Public Excluded Minutes - 3 April 2025	) Good reason to withhold ) information exists under ) Section 7 Local Government ) Official Information and ) Meetings Act 1987	Section 48(1)(a)

This resolution is made in reliance on section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by Section 6 or Section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public, as follows:

Item C1.	to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage	Section 7 (2) (j)
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**The meeting moved into Public Excluded at 3.40pm.**

**The meeting was declared closed at 3.42pm.**