
Hearings and Engagement Committee

Komiti Whiriwhiri Kaupapa

OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of the Hearings and Engagement Committee held via Audio Visual Link on Wednesday 13 October 2021 at 9.32am.

PRESENT

Chairperson Cr E Wilson

Heamana

Deputy Chairperson Cr M Gallagher

Heamana Tuarua

Members

Mayor P Southgate

Deputy Mayor G Taylor

Cr M Bunting

Cr R Hamilton

Cr K Naidoo-Rauf

Cr R Pascoe

Cr S Thomson

Cr M van Oosten

Cr A O'Leary

Cr M Donovan

In Attendance

Becca Brooke – Governance Manager

Julie Clausen – Unit Manager Strategy and Corporate Planning

Chelsey Stewart – Contractor

Dale Ofoske – Election Services

Governance Staff

Narelle Waite and Tyler Gaukrodger – Governance Advisors

1. Apologies – *Tono aroha*

Resolved: (Cr Wilson/Cr Hamilton)

That the apologies for partial attendance from Crs Naidoo-Rauf, Bunting, and Macpherson are accepted.

2. Confirmation of Agenda – *Whakatau raarangi take*

Resolved: (Cr Wilson/Cr Hamilton)

That the agenda is confirmed.

3. Declarations of Interest – *Tauaakii whaipanga*

No members of the Council declared a Conflict of Interest.

4. Confirmation of the Hearings and Engagement Committee Open Minutes of 28 July 2021

Resolved: (Cr Wilson/Cr Gallagher)

That the Hearings and Engagement Committee confirm the Open Minutes of the Hearings and Engagement Committee Meeting held on 28 July 2021 as a true and correct record.

5. Confirmation of the Hearings and Engagement Committee Minutes (Traffic Matters) - 23 September 2021

Resolved: (Cr Wilson/Cr Thomson)

That the Hearings and Engagement Committee confirm the Open Minutes of the Hearings and Engagement Committee (Traffic Matters) Meeting held on 23 September 2021 as a true and correct record.

6. 2021 Wider Representation Review - Submissions Report

The Governance Manager and the Unit Manager Strategy and Corporate Planning introduced the report noting the requirement to hold the representation review. They outlined the details of the proposal that when to public consultation, feedback received and the process going forward.

[Nancy Caiger](#) spoke to her submission noting her preference for twelve Members including Maaori Ward councillors, and an at large system. She responded to questions from Members concerning candidate numbers, campaigning costs, and the Single Transferable Vote (STV) system.

[David Masters](#) spoke to his submission noting agreement with the proposal aside from the number of Wards and preference for an increase to 12 Wards to improve community representation. He responded to questions from Members concerning Wards and Community Boards.

The meeting was adjourned from 9.55am to 10.06am.

[Jason Howarth](#) spoke to his submission noting his preference for an increase in Maaori representation and ensuring equality of representation. He responded to questions from Members concerning public perception concerning Maaori Wards and Local Government reforms, the Maaori electoral roll, and implied hierarchy of Ward and City Wide seats.

[Brian Main](#) spoke to his submission noting his objection to an increase in Councillor numbers considering costs, and the city-wide representation of Councillors once elected. Considering technical difficulties Mr Main provided a further written submission provided as **Appendix 1**.

[Raymond Mudford](#) spoke to his submission and provided a presentation (**Appendix 2**). He noted his preference for a one Ward system and Community Boards to enable local representation of Councillors, the public engagement process, and the possibility for earlier engagement with the community. He responded to questions from Members concerning a city-wide Ward, and Community Boards including public education, meeting locations, delegated authority, costs and a pilot programme.

[Holly Snape \(Community Waikato\)](#) spoke to the Community Waikato submission and provided a presentation (**Appendix 3**). She noted their support of Community Boards noting improved contact with communities, localised advocacy, increased diversity, and a pilot programme. She responded to questions from Members concerning population, public education on Community Boards and a pilot programme, national examples to build a model, election versus appointment of board members, delegated authority, and alternative of community committees.

The meeting was adjourned from 11.15am to 11.35am

Cr Bunting left the meeting during the above adjournment.

[Jacquelyn Elkington](#) spoke to her submission noting her preference for Community Boards and Maaori Ward boundary, continuation of Iwi partnerships and potential for a co-mayorality. She responded to questions from Members concerning opportunities to improve Maaori representation.

[Rex Petersen](#) spoke to his submission noting the limitations he saw with the existing proposal and opportunities to connect better with the community, increase to four Wards, and a cap on Mayor/Councillor costs.

[Samuel Tan](#) spoke to his submission noting his support of the Maangai Maaori system and preference to maintain Maangai along with Maaori Wards, and increasing Maaori representation. He responded to questions from Members concerning the Local Government Act and the Maaori Roll effect on representation.

Cr Bunting re-joined the meeting (11.58am) during submissions on the above item. He was present when the matter was voted on.

The meeting was adjourned from 12.02pm to 12.45pm.

Mayor Southgate retired from the meeting during the above adjournment.

[Alvina Jean Edwards \(taongaUku\)](#) spoke to their submission noting concerns regarding the level of public consultation and communication particularly with Maaori, the increase in general Councillor seats, tikanga and maatauranga Maaori in Council processes. She responded to questions from Members concerning the retention of Maangai Maaori.

[Nicola Paul](#) spoke to her submission noting her support of an increase to four Maaori Wards, and greater opportunities for Women and gender-diverse candidates. She responded to questions from Members concerning opportunities to increase youth representation.

[Tracy Tipene](#) spoke to his submission noting his support for the dissolution of the Mayoral role.

The Governance Manager, the Unit Manager Strategy and Corporate Planning and Dale Ofoske (Election Services) clarified points raised by submitter regarding Community Boards including membership, role and delegations, and Community Committees as an alternative. They responded to questions from Member concerning the consultation process concerning a proposal change.

Members requested the following points be included in the deliberations report:

- Community Committees establishment process, possible pilot and costs;
- Community Boards costs;
- comparisons between Community Committees and Boards;
- examples of Community Boards nationally;
- Councillor remuneration and related costs, including Maangai Maaori;
- electoral rolls;
- inclusion of feedback summaries in graphs;
- local government reforms including risk;
- unconscious bias and objectivity;
- Wards and the STV system;
- post-submission communication to public; and
- opportunities for Maangai Maaori role development.

Resolved: (Cr O’Leary/Cr Wilson)

That the Hearings and Engagement Committee:

- a) receives the report and notes the feedback received;
- b) notes that an Elected Member workshop is scheduled for 20 October 2021 to provide further consideration and feedback to staff to support development of the final proposal;
- c) notes that Council will need to determine a final proposal for its representation arrangements at the Council Meeting on 11 November 2021; and
- d) notes that procedurally, for any amendment or alteration of Council’s initial proposal, the Council must demonstrate a connection to the submissions received.

The meeting was declared closed at 1.43pm.

Appendix 1

Whether or not Council decides to keep the current number of Councillors, or to add two, to accommodate two Maori Wards, please first consider **Parkinson's law** that concludes: "**work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion.**"^[1]

It is frequently applied to explain the growth of bureaucracy in an organization.

I argue that, if you add two additional Councillors, it will have a significant burden on Council bureaucracy.

Your Chairman stated that the amount of money devoted to Councillors will not change, so if Councillors are increased to 14, then each Councillor will have their pay-cut to accommodate them all.

I argue that, this is grossly unfair and that most Councillors are already overburdened and underpaid.

If only citizens registered on the Maori roll are eligible to vote for Maori Ward positions, then the same people must not be eligible to vote for the East or the West Wards or the Mayoral position.

I argue to do otherwise will be Undemocratic.

The vote for the Mayor must be open to every citizen no matter what, ethnicity or greed, and in order to avoid being accused of Racism, the Mayor must lose any right of Veto.

I argue to do otherwise will be Undemocratic, and Racist.

Officially Māori (are the tangata whenua), the indigenous people, of New Zealand. Today, **one in seven New Zealanders** identify as Māori. If we in New Zealand are to maintain Maori/Pakeha division, how does one prove that they are Maori?

Without a reliable system, anyone could flick from one to the other at their convenience, making the distinction nonsense.

I argue that a Maori Roll is a manifestation of apartheid, something antithetical to Kiwi values.

Yours Sincerely

Brian Main

Appendix 2



Connected?



Disconnected?

or

Wards

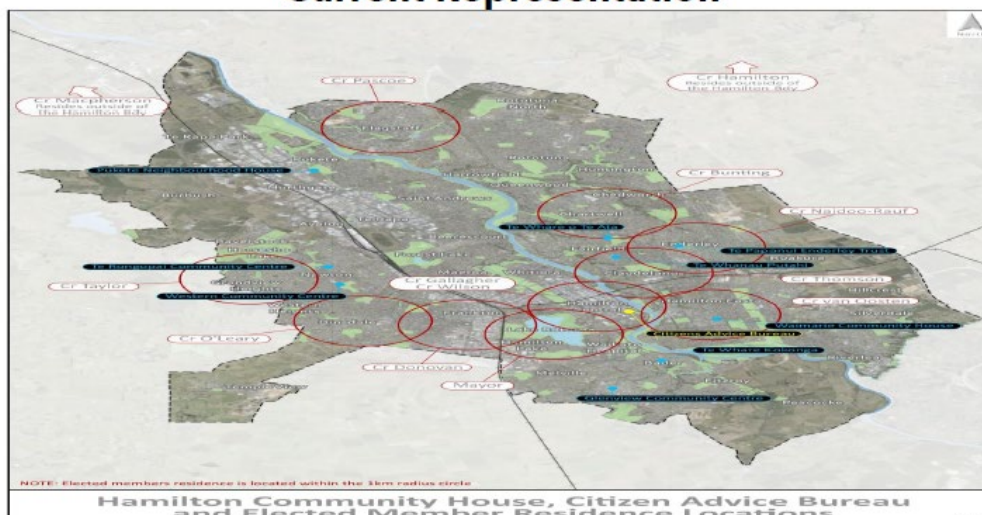
The River Unites US

The Wards Divide US



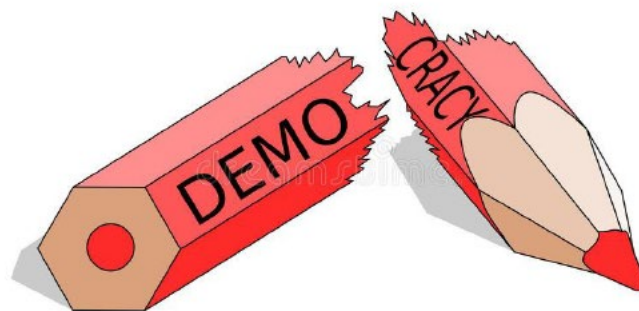
Citizens: Live on the East, Work on the West

Current Representation

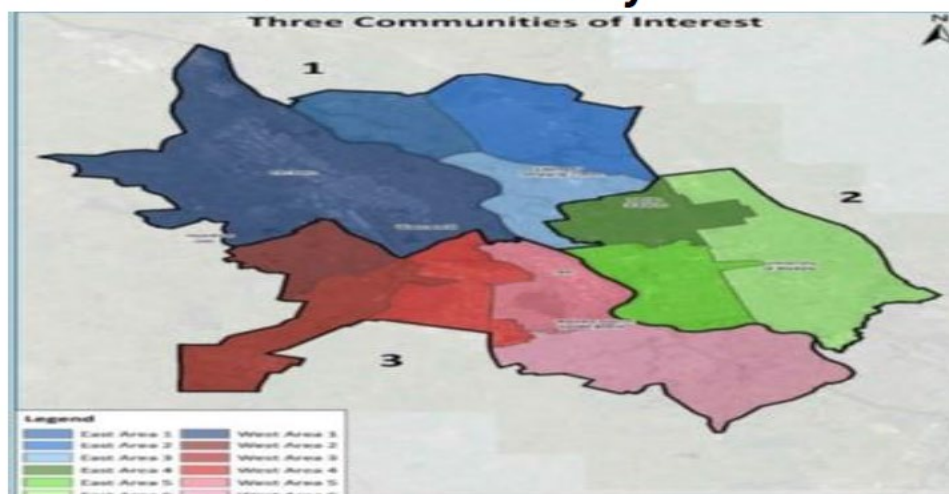


Issues with Current Representation

- One third of elected councillors (4) live outside their ward
- No regular Councillor conversation with communities or neighbourhoods
- Too many Council meetings and briefings exclude public input
- Staff have months to prepare material, and rely too much on 'tick-the-box' methods and spin.
- Councillors have weeks to discuss
- We, the people, get a few minutes to present and no conversation.
- We have become convinced that Councillors do not LISTEN to us, the people.
- We seek a return to robust democracy



Restore Democracy



Community Board Solution

- Legal Framework exists
- Board members elected by community
- Politicians provided with regular meet and greet time
- Opportunity for rigorous debate
- Ward St fiasco averted
- Local community involved in early design of services and infrastructure
- Smoother pathway for decisions
- Four well-beings planted into community thinking
- Neil Tolan, western community centre representation review (12 August 2021) advocates for community boards
- Sir Brian Elwood advocates for community Boards (1989)
- Kerry Marshall (President LGNZ) confirms that community boards make a difference (1997)
- Georgina Beyer describes community boards as a VITAL link in the democratic chain

Mike Reid: **New Zealand needs community boards more than ever** (August 2021)

The future of community boards is tied up with the future of community governance overall and the way in which citizens are able to have a meaningful say about what happens in their streets and their neighbourhoods.

This is perhaps more important today given the growth of false truth narratives and willingness of authoritarian leaders to exploit social division and feelings of powerlessness.

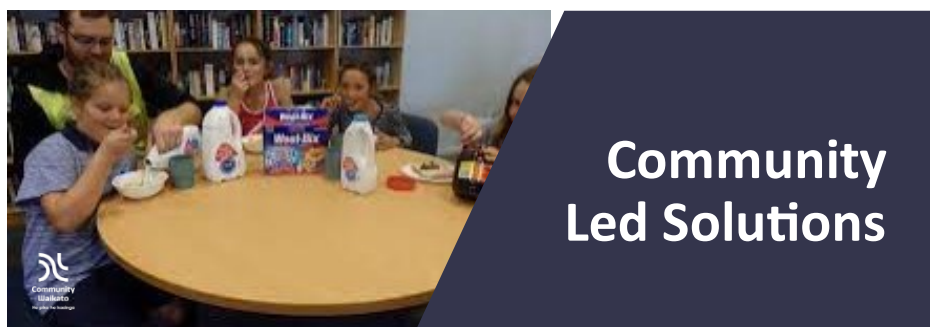
In fact, as the country's population grows and becomes more diverse, and the more that central governments find themselves unable to address the critical issues facing our communities, the greater the need for more active and effective democratic engagement at a community level.

Proposal

- 1. That Hamilton City become ONE Ward;**
- 2. That Community Boards be established as recommended by CEO Community Waikato;**
- 3. That the Boards be established in Hamilton for the 2022 Local Government Elections;**
- 4. That Public Consultation decide the final boundaries for each Board;**

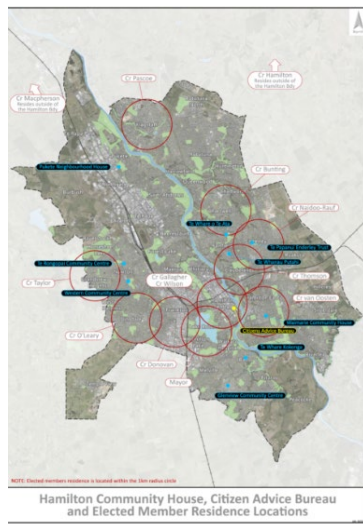
Appendix 3





Legal Considerations

- Number of Community Boards
- Names and Boundaries
- Elected and selected representatives
- Subdivided for electoral purposes



Representation of councillors residence around Hamilton City

Constitution of Boards



Communities



Blend of representatives

