


Minutes Extraordinary Council Meeting 25 May, 8, 14,16 June 2021

	Details of Meeting:	EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, COMMERCE STREET, WHAKATĀNE ON TUESDAY, 25 MAY 2021 COMMENCING AT 9.00 AM
	Present:	Her Worship the Mayor J A Turner (Chairperson), Deputy Mayor A V Iles, Councillors G L Dennis, L N Immink, W B James, J C Jukes, V Luca, J W Pullar, A R Silcock, N S Tánczos, and G F van Beek
	In Attendance:	S O'Sullivan (Chief Executive), D Bewley (General Manager Development and Environmental Services), K Scott (Acting General Manager Strategy and Transformation), G Fletcher (General Manager Community Services), R Trass (Chief Financial Officer and General Manager Business Partnering), E Hatch (General Manager People and Engagement), B Gray (General Manager Infrastructure), P Warbrick (Kaihautū Strategic Māori Partnerships), C Ball (Manager Strategy), W Vullings (Senior Strategic Policy Analyst), N Clarke (Manager Solid Waste) and H J Storey (Governance Support Advisor)
	Apologies:	Nil
	Visitors:	Submitters as noted below

1 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were recorded.

2 HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS LONG TERM PLAN 2021-31 AND WHAKATĀNE MINIMISATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

2.1 Colin Gibbs and Mike – Winthrop Design and Construction – Submission

Refer to pages 8a-j of the tabled documents

Mr Gibbs noted his extensive involvement in planning shopping areas and said that Tauranga had much better retail areas than Whakatāne. In his roles as a retailer, Chamber of Commerce Chairperson, Councillor and Chairperson of Council committees he had seen a lot of expansion and change in Upper Hutt. Mr Gibbs said that he was also a Member of the NZ Retailers Association Board and had seen communities affected by town planning in many other places. He said that the Whakatāne area worked well and commented that the main street should not be disturbed as it functioned.

Mr Gibbs tabled a set of concept plans visualising how the space available in town could be used as a valuable extension to the town. Mike advised that he has mocked up the concept plans so the Council could visualise what the area could look like as a retail space complete with a food court scenario and a memorial to Whakaari/White Island. He noted that the design met the district plan requirements and the façade was in keeping with the plans of the Council.

2.2 Betsy Stephens – Submission 42

Refer to pages 8l-n of the tabled documents

Ms Stephens thanked the Council for the opportunity to provide information on the town centre and noted that she was compassionate about it. The Wally Sutherland property, despite its lack of views, was situated for luxury apartments with its proximity to gardens, parks, New World and many other amenities and if sold to the right developer for the right amount proceeds could fund a well-designed and well managed mini market place and business incubator on the corner of Quay Street and The Strand. Ms Stephens said that this would add to the ambience of the area and a focal point for the CBD and hoped that the Council considered it for the best and greatest good as it was ideally situated across the road from the I-site. She understood that there had recently been a proposal put forward for the area to construct apartments and asked if this was really the best use of that resource. She questioned whether it sent a clear message of propriety and said it would do little to give the area vibrancy.

Ms Stephens felt that a parking tower close to the warehouse could be funded by the proceeds of the Wally Sutherland property and could be a real asset if it was designed with creativity making a shift from vertical to horizontal with a roof top development. She said that this would be a cutting edge for the town and would bring tourists in for such a forward thinking project. Ms Stephenson said that with the three month trial where a portion of the parking area was blocked off, she hoped that the Council would allow pedestrians to get to the water fall and other areas easily. She asked the Councillors to keep the pedestrian bridge in the back of their minds and said there were lots of untapped opportunities for the area. Ms Stephenson concluded by advising that she was happy to participate in brainstorming sessions and noted that any decisions made today would impact on what happened later and asked the Councillors to be good ancestors for future generations.

In response to a query as to whether there was a developer in mind and whether the proposal was within the building codes as a doable, Mike advised that he had been working on buildings and community projects in Whakatāne for 4-5 years and said that Tūhoe was an example of collaboration with the Department of Conservation. Mike noted that he had based the concept on the requirements of the district plan in terms of parking etc and if the Council liked the idea and saw it as realistic to achieve he was putting the design on the table as an option. He said that if the Council was the developer it would bring revenue back into the Council from the 12 retail shops. Mike noted that each project had its risks but he considered that the Council could be confident that the current climate both Whakatāne and Ōpōtiki were doing extremely well. He said that with any risk there was reward and considered that having weighed up the risks he felt that any would be outweighed by the benefit.

2.3 Norman Izett and Stephanie de Silva – Whakatāne Astronomical Society – Submission 416

Mr Izett read his submission noting that he had wanted the area to be included as an internationally recognised dark sky reserve and to be able to share the positive benefits that the few recognised places were enjoying. He provided a number of media articles on the night sky and said that many tourists and motor caravanners were going everywhere bar Whakatāne to experience the benefits of the dark skies. Mr Izett said that night lights were not only detrimental to people and costly to operate, they also generated a great cost to the environment and he was concerned for the many nocturnal species here in Whakatāne.

Mr Izett showed a number of photographs taken around the district and indicated that lighting was installed willy nilly without any thought to the amount of light actually needed or required and no consideration given to the effect to the nocturnal habitat of the environment. He said that if that habitat could communicate with us he wondered what they would say, noting that there were a lot of animals and sea birds that hunted their prey in total darkness and we needed to share the planet with all of them.

Mr Izett said that a lot of the lights shone all night for humans, the majority of whom pull the blinds to keep the light out and then go to bed. He noted that many of the powerful lights had poor shielding

which allowed the light to trespass. He noted that there were international light guides and campaigns for better lighting to reduce the light pollution being caused by humans.

Mr Izett was thanked for the work he did with the Astronomical Society and his commitment to the community. In response to a query as to what it would take to become a dark sky area, Mr Izett noted that it was all about lights and the Dark Sky Association would provide a directive on how this could be achieved. He considered that community lighting needs were established by people in ivory towers who did not go out into the night and had no respect for the light actually needed and the light pollution their decisions created. Mr Izett asked that this needed to be addressed and the amount of lighting brought down to a more acceptable level. He said that while we had to have light, there were better ways to do it. He used an example that when you looked back at town from Angle Road you could clearly see the lights from the Board Mills.

Mr Izett said that he was not aware of the district plan rules on lighting or the cost to change the lighting, but asked that Council give consideration to making the community a better dark sky area.

Mr Izett noted that since 1989 he looked daily at the Valley Road hillside and had seen a degradation of the fauna along the escarpment. He said that there were now a lot of pine trees growing willy nilly along the escarpment and where there used to be a team of workers to remove the wilding pines, this had not happened for a long time. Mr Izett advised that since then privet had been moving in, the pine trees had regenerated and wild ginger was taking over but no one seemed to be taking any responsibility for it resulting in the natural environment and food for the fauna being restricted all the time.

Mr Izett said that the hillside escarpment could be made a showpiece for Whakatāne if it was done properly and looked after. He suggested that local schools and service clubs could take on a plot each and regenerate the area back to a natural forest. Mr Izett said that at 87 years of age it was too hard for him to tackle but he had photos of when he used to go up into the area showing it all clear, but now that it had just been let go. Mr Izett concluded by saying that was sad when it could be such a highlight for tourists to come and see.

2.4 Andrew Broxholme – Submission 381

Mr Broxholme advised that a paper was provided to the Council in 2006 outlining a road seal extension programme and three years later it was scrapped but no one was told. He said that while he was not living here at the time he felt the road sealing programme needed to be restarted as the Council had 200km of unsealed road in its 900km roading network. Mr Broxholme noted that he represented a significant group of people and none of them were happy as it was awful living on an unsealed road, your car got wrecked, it was a waste of time cleaning your vehicle, the wheel alignment needed correcting every few years and some motorists have had to replace their vehicle's steering column.

Mr Broxholme noted that while maintenance was being done on the metal roads it was not to a very high standard and people report that it continues to go down every year and the roads were falling apart. He said that these people, like him were ratepayers who paid rates and got nothing for them and considered it unfair and they all say it needs to be stopped. Mr Broxholme said that if evidence was needed his own example was that he had brought a property on an unsealed road and when he did he had no idea the effect it would have on his life. He said that unless you lived on an unsealed road you would not know how it affected you. Mr Broxholme advised that when he started building his new home it was quickly obvious how bad living on an unsealed road was and said that he had to put numerous requests in to get pot holes repaired over the years and noted that unless owners made lots of noise no maintenance was carried out. He said that lots of people contacted the Council about their stretch of road and considered that it was not fair and not right.

Mr Broxholme invited Councillors to come to his property and sit outside at 6 pm and have a good breath of dust and then turn around and tell me that if I brought a home on an unsealed road it was

my problem. He stressed that if he was not paying a lot of rates to the Council he would not have reason to make so much noise about it but he was paying a lot. Mr Broxholme asked that the seal extension programme be reinstated and said it was only a question of how much money to put aside and where it would come from. He asked that before making that decision Councillors should have a clear idea of how much money the rural ratepayers pay the Council and what little amenity they got back from them. Mr Broxholme concluded by saying that the road sealing programme needed to be reinstated to make up for the 10 years of neglect.

2.5 Derek Caudwell and David Bulley - Trust Horizon – Submission 187

Mr Bulley noted the changes in Trust Horizon since it had been formed in 1994 as part of the electricity reforms at the time and said that the \$5m in shares they had started with had been increased to \$150m and the Trustees were looking forward to how this could positively impact on the Eastern Bay of Plenty economy as the current focus. He noted that over this time \$40m had been allocated throughout the community in grants with \$4m of that provided to the Council. Mr Bulley spoke of the long term strong relationship with the Council and the community and impact of the Trust investing into the future.

Mr Caudwell acknowledged the Council's ambitious climate change targets which would take a concerted effort to achieve noting that it was a sign of the challenges for us all as a society. He noted that the Trust could support the Council in accelerating energy efficient and decarbonisation issues for improving water supplies. Mr Caudwell noted that the exclusion of methane from the targets and suggested that this decision be reconsidered. He said that it was also useful to have carbon abatement targets and given the time scale, it was also important for the Council to consider taking actions that would still be at a level of carbon to be offset. Mr Caudwell said that solar PV was also an area that should be looked at as it was an opportunity to leverage investment into both Whakatāne and Ōpōtiki and to be able to take advantage of the procurement scale.

Mr Caudwell advised that the Trust supported the active transport plans and the increase in budget to support this as it was an important way to move people from cars while helping with the wellbeing of individuals and decarbonisation in the community. He indicated the provision of strategic amenities would be needed for it to happen such as providing bike charging stations, safe storage, ablutions and the like and noted that the Board would support these.

Mr Caudwell noted that subject of resetting the town centre had been contentious in the media and felt that there needed to be a transition to journeys in order to remove the need for vehicles. He said that including transport as a service was one way to enable that, but it needed more detail in the plan and car charging facilities where people could book when they came into town for work and shopping. Mr Caudwell said that he supported the civic centre development and showcasing sustainable technology to transform the building. He advised that he had received a number of inquiries from other parties to use the building as a community hub and said that he supported the use of the council building for that purpose. Mr Caudwell concluded by noting that the Trust encouraged investment opportunities into Council and to be part of a conversations with a strong interest to explore outside of local government debt to invest in long term utilities to reduce costs and asked whether this was an option the Council would consider.

In answer to a query as to whether the Trust would offer support and expertise around breathing buildings and infrastructure, Mr Caudwell advised that while they did not directly have the staff, he had a number of expert contacts in that field he could recommend. In response to a question relating to providing a community hub in the civic centre, Mr Caudwell said that there were small local organisations and larger NZ based ones wanting a presence in the community and were looking for hot desk and meeting spaces to work from.

Responding to a question in relation to electricity spot prices being fragile, and the amount of new electric cars coming into the country, Mr Caudwell noted that there was lots of wind farms being built and said that this provided opportunities within the district. He advised that the network was capable

of dealing with the number of electric vehicles now, but said that whatever was planned needed to be done in a smart way to reduce peaks, gain better utilisation and give dual benefits for all.

2.6 Lynore Craig –Sullivan Lake Care Group – Submission 197

Ms Craig acknowledged the three newly appointed General Managers and said she was looking forward to meeting the two she had yet to meet. She said that the message was clear and simple, the Care Group wanted to see a healthier lake for the community to enjoy and requested the Council to remove the silt in a managed way. She noted the care group had been asking the same question for many years and asked why they had to keep coming back and why it was such a low priority for the Council.

Ms Craig outlined a timeline of the problems with the silting of the lake and the maintenance carried out noting that the depth ranged between 2m to its lowest at 600mm in 2016. She held up a bag of leaves she had collected from the street outside her home that morning and said if she had not picked them up they would have ended up in the lake. Ms Craig noted that there were a lot of leaves and the like that flowed into the lake from the streets and said that if the Council did not take any action to clear the lake, the rising risk of more severe weather events would cause problems. Ms Craig said that it was vital to manage the stormwater inflow which had been causing an increase in botulism levels and affecting the health of the bird life.

Ms Craig noted that the Sullivan Lake Management Plan acknowledges the build-up of silt and recommends to undertake investigations and report back to the Projects and Services Committee for consideration, but was unaware if this occurred. She outlined the work carried out by authorities with the lake over the years and said that while the introduction of fresh water in 2015-16 did help it was insufficient to make the quality any better. Ms Craig said that the Awatapu and Matatā lagoons were not working and were not the desirable recreation areas they should be for their communities and its wildlife.

Ms Craig quoted from the LTP consultation document which speaks of quality of life and the Councils role in supporting the district to flourish and said that she believes that it was the Councils job to make sure it did that. She continued to emphasise that the original intention of the land was not as a stormwater holding area, but as a lake to enjoy and the jewel of the community. Now it had lots of stormwater flowing into it and Ms Craig considered that the Council had an obligation to address the purpose for the memories of Mr Sullivan and Mr Martin. She said it was an attractive reserve that provided an appealing area for recreation and while the reserve was attractive, the lake was not.

Ms Craig asked that the Council to ensure that an acceptable water quality was met and while the introduction of grass carp would help with the lilies, they would not prevent the silt from being removed so both methods needed to be used. She said that the removal of the silt would fulfil four of the Councils priorities by having environmental benefits, creating a healthy lake environment for the community and wildlife and healthy water would be entering the river and ocean. Ms Craig said that the provision of a walkway was a possible plan, but not with the lake in the condition that it currently was and said that any three waters requirements needed to look at the water quality and the pollutants it was putting into the river and ocean and address these.

Ms Craig said that there was vibrancy in the area with families, bike riders, walkers and care groups and many more who regularly enjoyed the area. She noted that the Kawerau small boat group used to come regularly and sail boats on the lake until the weed got too much. Ms Craig said that with the density of the buildings in the vicinity, the reserve and lake were needed as a greenspace for community wellbeing said that providing an ongoing management plan would make sure the area would be one to be proud of. Ms Craig advised that the Sullivan Lake Care Group would work with the Council to achieve that goal.

In response to a question on how the maintenance plan was developed, Ms Craig said that the residents had worked on it amongst themselves and said that 100's of people used the area on a daily basis. In answer to a question about supporting the installation of a fountain in the lake, Ms Craig said that the care group had discussed it, but felt the ongoing maintenance would cause an issue. The lake was still used for educational purposes with Trident High and Allandale schools doing projects and the Whakatāne Intermediate high needs classes visiting the area on regular occasions.

Ms Craig advised that when the water lilies rot they fall to the bottom of the lake and cause more nutrients into the water, however when healthy, they also keep the water cool and use some of those nutrients. The Care Group were against the use of sprays as they ended up as a negative, and while the carp would eat the lilies, the roots would still be there so they would grow again.

2.7 Don Richards – Submission 119

Mr Richards said that he was a resident and ratepayer of the district and noted that while the consultation document provided options to fund ambitious projects, there was not enough money to go around. He said that with a proposed 5% increase each year it would take the average rate burden up to \$4,000 a year. Mr Richards commented that the plan shied away from what it would be at the end of the 10 year term of the document and trumpets the benefit of going into debt whereby those in the future pay for the assets. Mr Richards said that this placed burdens on future generations and with the challenges ahead to mitigate items like climate change there was no allowance in the budget or projections for this. He spoke of the current total debt and the proposal to increase it and asked if the reason for this was to fund climate change and said that if this was the case the growing debt signalled a portion would be paying interest to foreign banks.

Mr Richards suggested that rather than go into future debt, the Council should be considering another option which does not include an increase in debt and would keep within the rate of inflation of 1.72% by covering any shortfall from the Reserve Bank in direct funding. He considered if the Reserve Bank provided \$100b to stimulate the economy it could see every \$1 spent multiply up to \$2.80 being injected into the productive economy. Mr Richards said that there were a lot of experts now backing the direct funding idea and so were a lot of people within the Whakatāne district. He advised that he had been collecting signatures at local farmers markets and the like for a petition for direct funding of Covid recovery and so far had 188 signatures along with some others from the Ōpōtiki and Kawerau districts.

Mr Richards concluded by noting that the Council did not need to reduce service, hike up rates or burden future generations, they needed to ask the Reserve Bank to put funds into local government and suggested that the Council approach the Reserve Bank to do so.

In response to a query as to whether an approach had been made to Local Government NZ on the proposal, Mr Richards replied that had made an approach 5 years ago and was told it was not on their agenda at that time, however he said this may now have changed. When asked if there were any precedent of it being used in other countries, Mr Richards advised that the labour government did use this method after the first depression when Kāingaroa Forest was planted with the Bank of Canada providing low interest loans for 60 years. He said that this was stopped because NZ wanted to join G8 and needed to sign up to overseas banks with no inflation.

2.8 Tina Armstrong – Submission

Ms Armstrong quoted "this one was a precious life" and said that if food waste was a country it would come third equal in the world. She noted that 23% of the solid waste from the district was food and as it was a precious resource it was crazy to see it go to landfill. She said that great steps needed to be made by the Council to look at reducing it. Ms Armstrong said that the question was asked if was feasible to introduce a food waste collection, but emphasised that it should not be a question, it should be implemented and it should happen.

Ms Armstrong said that food waste utilisation was needed to reduce the climate change footprint and said that the scraps could be reused to create compost, but firstly, the food should not be wasted. She noted that Women's Refuge had a network whereby edible food was distributed and eaten and not wasted. Ms Armstrong said that all food waste should be either turned back into food, into an energy source or into compost. She said that as an organic dairy farm they had introduced chickens and fed them by collecting food waste from 15 households which she then turned it into maggots for the chickens and sold the eggs they produced. Ms Armstrong said that the process could be scaled up so easily and noted there were a number of people or organisations already doing similar things. She advised that there were huge opportunities and asked the Council to not limit themselves and to do more.

In answer to a question relating to other uses such as feeding pigs or for vermicomposting, Ms Armstrong noted that pigs do not eat food like orange peels, avocado skins, fruit stones and bones and there was a risk of salmonella with some foods. She said that these were all great ideas and reiterated food should not be going to the landfill and plans should be implemented to collect it and use it. In response to a query as to whether it was an economically viable to go to a larger scale, Ms Armstrong said that Indonesia and China had massive processing areas where they were processing 21 ton of food waste a week.

In response to a question relating to what the Council's role and expected cost would be to change, Ms Armstrong advised that the Council would need to cover the cost of the kerbside collection and it being taken to a processing facility. She said that residents should not be charged extra for food waste but should be charged more for non-food waste. When asked how susceptible a scheme was if the wrong stuff was put in with the collection, Ms Armstrong said that while that needed to be looked at, she asked the Councillors not to make excuses not to do it and said to do what other countries do and fine people for being non-compliant.

2.9 Karla Akuhata – Waiariki Park Region – Submission 186

Ms Akuhata noted the area of the Waiariki Park Region with the primary focus to create a greener, healthier, wilder, more resilient region, saying why they wanted to do this and how it was going to be done. She said that they were creating a regional tool kit to create an environmental plate to help good environmental actions and four environmental connectors, one of which was here at Whakatāne. Ms Akuhata advised that the BayTrust had provided funding for the digital platform and they were now working with others to see what this would look like and an interactive map was being built which, when you hover over an area, would show what it could look like in the next 10-15 years.

Ms Akuhata advised that they were conducting focus group and community group sessions and required further funding to ensure a multiple design model to meet the needs of tangata whenua and the community was provided and would become a useable resource. She said that if the support was forthcoming they would implement a team with environmental actions across the Waiariki region and within the Eastern Bay of Plenty.

Ms Akuhata said that the position of regional accelerator had specific skill sets and would work to build relationships and true partnerships with iwi and hapū and develop and grow the concept across the region. She indicated that the Council and tangata whenua could work together with them to undertake a collection of work and achieve goals, maintain accountability and get the work done. Ms Akuhata said that they were aware that large gaps and interpretation were missing and they need to inspire people to undertake actions. Work on the digital platform would ensure that the stories were told and help people understand why we want to make a greener and more resilient place to live. She asked the Council to please support funding for the centralised platform.

In answer to a query relating to the shortfall and the expectation of support from the Councils within the region, Ms Akuhata advised that she had presented to all of the Council's Long Term Plans and as the decisions still had to be made, there was no indication of support or otherwise at this stage. She

advised that an application was still pending with the Department of Conservation and noted that the only funding received to date was from the BayTrust for the digital platform.

In response to a question as to how the park joined up within the region, Ms Akuhata said that the concept came out of the national parks in the cities of London and while it was an international concept and we had a different landscape here, they were creating a new framework to allow environmental action through a bicultural lens. When it was noted that the plan implemented at Christchurch was struggling to get off the ground, Ms Akuhata said that while it was big, it let their group think differently. She noted that they were looking at a team of 8 here to accelerate and create awareness and grow what they were doing so they could join it altogether to make the wider region a better place for our children to grow up in. She said that they were taking a pragmatic approach for this LTP noting it was not a five year project it was a complete change into the future.

2.10 Lani Thompson and Jason Lougher - EPIC – Submission 390

Ms Thompson advised that EPIC had a large membership within the CBD with a strong commitment to see economic growth in the region and supported the Council in its continued efforts in these areas. Te Ara Hou highlighted the priority for consultation and building pathways between the Council and EPIC and Ms Thompson reminded the Council that the businesses were the most interested parties with that development. Ms Thompson noted EPIC's reservations at being left out of the steering group for the project and reiterated their desire to be represented as they had a huge amount to offer and could provide feedback to the group on the opinions and priorities of their membership. EPIC had a large part to play and wanted to be included in the discussions.

Ms Thompson requested that EPIC also be included on any discussions regarding the Council's leasehold properties and the possible lifting of the moratorium on sales. In answer to a query about EPIC's silence regarding any extension of the targeted rate, Mr Lougher noted that they weren't against additional funding, but they wanted to get the CBD in hand first and would then look at extending out the boundaries and including Kopeopeo into the future.

2.11 Catherine McCulloch and Zane Jensen – Sport BOP – Submission 412

Ms McCulloch endorsed the work that the Council did to ensure that people were able to play sport and be active in their communities and recommended that it continue to be core function of the Council as it was proven that there were huge wellbeing outcomes from physical activity. She also thanked the Council for their ongoing support of the service contract with Sport BOP. Ms McCulloch advised that they worked closely with volunteers and provided them with the support they needed to ensure a sustainable future in their sport. She noted that the trends in the region indicated that Bay of Plenty people used the outdoors the most and all Council's had a vital role in keeping people active and utilising the many lakes, beaches, walking and bike tracks.

Ms McCulloch noted that Sport BOP staff monitored what people were doing, the opportunities and play systems that lead to getting people out to play and were working more to get tamariki active and to make sure that there were spaces for them to do so. The Te Manawa fund was available to give more opportunities to play and they would work with the recipients in the area to assist them. Ms McCulloch said that Sport BOP wanted everyone in the district to become physically literate and to have a good quality of life.

Mr Jensen gave Council the thumbs up on the amount of investment made into spaces and open places, the resources being provided in the plan over the next 10 years and the increase in budget for the Active Whakatāne programme. He said that the provision of cycle ways and road sealing had broader outcomes with climate change. Mr Jensen noted that the master planning with a recreation precinct at the hall and said he looked forward to working with the Council to explore opportunities and to see what can be offered to the community. Mr Jensen said that Sport BOP supported the

Whakatāne Mountain Bike Club's bid to increase the provision for mountain biking around the district and also the Water Safety Council's call to increase water safety within the regions.

In answer to a query regarding the better use of facilities in the region not just in Whakatāne, Mr Jensen noted that the Places and Spaces strategy had a network approach whereby you do not need to do everything in one precinct nor was there a need to duplicate or replicate what was in other areas. The first utilisation was for existing facilities to ensure that there were no double ups and to look at each microenvironment to make sure everything there was accessible to all. Mr Jensen advised that the review recognised well utilised facilities that were accessible across the district and said that while some communities would want everything themselves, there was a need to ensure that nothing was underutilised and to explore ways to increase the capacity and team investment towards those facilities.

In response to a query as to whether an analysis of sport participation by code for each area had been undertaken, Mr Jensen said that in the past community sport advisers for each code were reluctant to share information which made the gathering of statistics for organised sport difficult. He said that high schools do gather information, but they did not have the resources to provide a region or district breakdown. He noted that it was known that basketball and cycling were going well and advised that they hoped to be able to gather more targeted data next year. Ms McCulloch said that there was a focus going forward on the way people wished to participate in play and active recreation.

2.12 Moira Hanna - Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board – Submission 377

The Chairperson of the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board said that we were all lucky to be able to live in a democratic society that values this agency and was listening to itself and others so it could be a meaningful representative of the community in this way. She said that it was everyone's desire to meet the aspirations, goals and targets in the Waste Minimisation and Management Plan and the intent of the plan aligns with the Board's own strategic plan and she urged the Council to continue to work on it and change the way people think about waste.

Ms Hanna said that the diversion of plastics, batteries etc was important and noted that many residents had indicated that the collection of food waste was a real opportunity to lead the Eastern Bay of Plenty in many ways. She said that there was a need to change people's mind set around waste and noted that the Board supported the regionalisation with climate change, waste and a circular economic action plan and noted it provided opportunities to work alongside all sectors of the community and for them to be part of it.

Ms Hanna said that Board Members had the privilege of meeting with the community, hearing their stories and being provided with examples from a number of residents of all ages who gave their thoughts:

- Chloe a 10 year old surfer said that her dad had lost his job and she was unsure whether there would be any jobs for her in the future either
- Jim a retired fisherman and staunch saver spoke on climate change – he was not fussed about the plans to plant loads more trees
- Business owner and kids sports coach – he was happy what money was being spent on as he could afford it but he sees a number of kids from homes that could not. He wants the unsealed roads to be sealed
- Erica a hairdresser - when she lived in Holland she rode a bike every day and now she has to drive to Rotorua to the Redwoods to train for an event

Ms Hanna said that many people care about the same things and there was no better power for change than a community discovering what they cared about. She asked the Council to demonstrate

Mana and resilience as the community deserve the best that the Council can deliver and for the Council to care about the people they were making the decisions for.

2.13 Anton Steel – Film BOP – Submission 427

Mr Steel noted that Film BOP had been supported by Workforce Development this year and over the last three years had work collectively establishing 8 film offices across New Zealand and had worked alongside a number of organisations. He said that they were now a voice for the Bay of Plenty region across the stage sector strategy 2020 with a focus on industry development. Mr Steel said that film was a \$3b industry nationwide and \$4m worth of productions had been spent in this region with the Vegas and Muru films using 80 to 100 crew and lots of extras. He noted that the last episode of Vegas had been screened on 19 May 2021 and with a \$2m budget and 110 people on the payroll they hoped to get series two started later this year. He noted that Mau Rakau at a cost of \$1.5m was based in Rotorua and said that he had been assisting with all of these productions, including retrofitting a warehouse, building a hub and working with various landowners of the regional assets utilised throughout the region.

Mr Steel advised that there were major film production companies that were looking to come to the region and although he was unable to give details, he was working with them to establish a film studio in the Bay of Plenty. He said that the film industry being included in the LTP was amazing and they appreciated the support that the Council had given them.

In response to a query regarding the training intake for upcoming films, Mr Steele said that there would be a rollout to the Eastern Bay and that while he was not involved in the present intake, he would be with series two and noted that he would provide the link to Council which focused on creating jobs and promoting this area.

2.14 Linda Conning – EBOP Forest and Bird – Submission 69

Ms Conning said that it frustrated her that there was a lack of detail in the consultation document on which projects were to be funded with the Active Whakatāne programme and noted that Forest and Bird does not want to be in a situation where a project was planned and they needed to comment. She said that they did not want any surprises and asked if there were any plans for cycle ways in the scenic reserves, and if so, they needed to know where so that they could comment on whether they were acceptable or not.

Ms Conning showed a series of photographs of phoenix palms in the area and said that Forest and Bird were dealing with trees on private sections with contractors cutting them down, and noted that the removal of some large specimens on the Ōhope escarpment had been quite expensive. She said that escarpment trees could be drilled and left to die down which was not as expensive as removing them. Ms Conning advised that the berries fell, were eaten by birds who then spread the seeds further. She noted that with fewer rats around, due to the incredible pest control programmes in the region, the unintended consequence was that there were more birds spreading more seeds. Ms Conning said that the big trees near the aquatic centre were a problem to staff mowing the area, and as a public area there was forest of seedlings underneath them that needed to be removed. She provided pictures of what the seedling plants looked like. Ms Conning noted that even when small, the plants still had huge spikes that were lethal and carried tropical bacteria which could be bad and in some cases had led to amputations. She indicated that this was a big health and safety issue and reminded the Council that they had a duty of care to the public.

Ms Conning advised that she had voluntarily carried out a survey along King Street and the escarpment and advised that there were more than 200 that could be seen from the street, with 60 on Council land and 20 of those being female. She said that there were a lot more of the plants in other parts of the town and the district and said that the Council needed to face up to the issue and

dedicate an amount in the 10 year plan to eradicate them. Ms Conning indicated that doing this would not be a great expense when considering that the public risk was so high.

Ms Conning advised that Forest and Bird had an eradication programme running and would continue to remove female plants and provide donations when needed to land owners from their small environmental management fund. She said that some landowners were removing the plants themselves, but some could not afford to and she told the Council that there was an expectation for them to take responsibility and remove the plants on Council land.

Ms Conning said that she was flabbergasted by the number of times reserves were mown and considered that the Council could save money by halving the mowing frequency and at the same time help the climate change strategy. She asked the Council to put in place a process for investigating the extent of the mowing, looking at what was necessary, what was not and what could be converted to vegetation to help the climate change strategy. Ms Conning said that research available made you think about what you should do on Saturday in your own back yard.

When it was noted that some of the large trees in the town had protection within the district plan, Ms Conning said that she was aware of this and noted that one had been removed recently. She said that a way forward with managing the trees was to cut off the berries but reminded the meeting that any remaining spikes were still dangerous. Ms Conning said that she did ask for the removal of the protected trees from the phoenix palms, but said that she respected the history behind the protection. Ms Conning said that there were many unprotected palms on Council land. She noted that while many of the stumps were ground to remove them, most did not regrow, and said that the problem was seedlings as these would still come up but they were easy to remove if done regularly.

In answer to a query relating to a lesser frequency of mowing in the rural area, Ms Conning said that she understood the rural mowing was done for road safety reasons.

In response to a question regarding her comments on pest management programmes not completely eradicating the rats, and whether there needed to be a managed population for the eco system to work, Ms Conning said that this needed to be debated and to also wait for ecological evidence. She said that everything we do had a consequence even though we did not know about some of them yet.

When asked about Forest and Bird's stand on the removal of pampas grass and privet, Ms Conning said that they were active in the weed removal area allocating funding for work in the Mokoroa reserve and were actively appealing to the Regional Council's management plan on weed pests. She advised that they were also doing a push through the media to restrict mowing and promoting wildflower growth to enhance bird life. In response to a comment regarding more weeds growing if not mown, Ms Conning noted that if wild flowers were established there would be benefit for insects and also for pollination. She agreed that privet was also a huge problem in the area and as the plants were now along the whole of the escarpment huge source for seeds was created. She hoped that a programme could be developed to remove these plants in the near future.

2.15 Mawera Karetai – Submission 44

Ms Karetai thanked the Council for its decision to introduce Māori Wards and set aside the world view and noted that she had written about this extensively in her PhD. She also thanked the Council for their work in the youth space and community development as tamariki faced a lot of challenges that we did not see. Ms Karetai spoke of witnessing a drug exchange taking place in The Strand and said that behaviour like this becoming normal was extreme. She considered the new places to eat amongst the exhaust fumes created an imbalance, and noted that she had witnessing people playing the pokies, coming out to get more money and going back inside without seeing the sun was sad. Ms Karetai noted how many bottle stores were in the area, the hours they were open and the places where people

were able to gamble and reminded the Council that they were enablers by the decisions that they made.

Ms Karetai said that there was concern about the amount of family violence in the area and asked what the Council was able to do about it noting that she was thankful for the privilege to make a contribution and create a positive community with a bright future. She asked that more light be provided in Kope to make the area safer for older people and families and to provide more biking spaces. Ms Karetai advised that there were at least 100 kids recently at a biking competition for 5-8 year olds and said that if it was able to be held in town more teams would have competed and engagement undertaken on what was being done to get kids on bikes. She said that the community did not need the NIMBY behaviour of some residents but did need formal spaces for the kids to be able to ride. She said that a mountain bike park would bring more people to the town than the marina would and would not be degrading the environment – more active zones were needed with light and less dark spaces.

In response to a query as to how to achieve rate affordability, Ms Karetai said that everything was out of kilter, rates were not affordable and her initial fear was that with the next round of valuations increasing by \$200,000 that she would have to pay an increase in rates. While she was pleased that she did not, she still considered that rates were too high but appreciated the benefit gained, noting that sometimes money spent unfairly could be spent more wisely.

2.16 Lillian Maaka Marks – Submission 46

Ms Maaka Marks advised that she was a resident of Te Teko and a care worker and in the group which was known as the working poor who did not qualify for WINZ subsidy or rates rebates as they earned over the threshold. She said that she could not afford any increase in rates as she was really struggling now and indicated that with Council forfeiting homes for unpaid rates she did not want this to happen to her and her family members. Ms Maaka Marks noted that she could not afford the proposed increase and said that it was likely she would not be able to pay the rates.

Ms Maaka Marks noted that her hometown was run down and needed facilities, and asked why part of her rates were being used to pay for the swimming pool when it takes half a day to get to Whakatāne. She said that not everyone had a chance to come to town and considered it was a service that they were paying for that they did not have access to. Ms Maaka Marks said her and her son had brought her father's house and wanted to keep it. She pleaded with the Council to hear her cries and not ask her to get a better paying job as she loved what she was doing and it helped her to help others.

Ms Maaka Marks was thanked for submitting and attending the meeting to speak to the Councillors. In response to a query as to whether she had spoken to the rating team to assist with payment methods, Ms Maaka Marks said that she had not as she had a demanding job as she was also caring for her terminally ill mother noting that she struggled to find time when she was working. Ms Maaka Marks was advised that staff would visit her to talk about rates and provide options for payment.

2.17 Rex Humpherson and Amy – Submission 49

Mr Humpherson noted that the Mountain Bike Club submission was about the future for the community and generations to come.

Amy advised that she was a keen young biker who supported the Mountain Bike Club submission and the Active Whakatāne programme to make travelling by bike easier and safer when going to town and to schools and said it would also make people fitter. She said that there were a number of submissions to the 2018 plan asking the Council to provide mountain biking facilities closer to town and while acknowledging what now existed, there was still a lack of facilities compared to what our neighbours

had. She noted that the area was missing out on tourist dollars and local people were going out of town to ride.

Amy noted that the Onepū Bike Park was owned by Norske Skog and said that the biggest barrier was access to the land and trying to meet climate commitment. She considered it would be better for community outcomes if a recreation reserve area was available close to town that could provide for a mix of activities and benefit the community. Offsets for carbon footprints could be planting natives and would also provide bigger benefits.

In response to a question as to whether the club had looked at raising funds and buying a piece of land itself, Mr Humpherson said that they had not looked at purchasing land specifically for mountain biking and noted that most of the current trails were on land where they could gain access. He noted that the Onepū site was owned by Norske Skog and with the mill closing it was up in the air as to what would happen, but they hoped that the new owners would see the benefit the site was to the community and would keep letting the public use it. Mr Humpherson said that while the use of Mokoroa reserve would help it did not have long term advantages for the club.

In answer to a query as to whether the club was in discussions with any land owners, Mr Humpherson advised that the club was in discussions with one to allow for a small number of trails that would deliver benefits for the community. He said that the area was only 40ha when most parks would be in areas of up to 200 ha. When asked if there would likely be a fee for users, Mr Humpherson noted that they were looking at land that had free public access, noting that the Redwoods were free and generated over \$50m a year to the Rotorua economy. He said that as soon as you start charging, you run into health and safety issues so any trials would be run by the club with the Bike Trust Whakatāne providing support for its development. Mr Humpherson advised that a block of 200ha would allow different trails for different skill levels from high end riders to beginners. He said that he did not have any information on the economic benefits for any areas other than Rotorua, but noted that the recently completed business case did.

2.18 Carolyn Hamill and Rex Humpherson – Mountain Bike Working Party – Submission 379

Ms Hamill said that the Mountain Bike Working Party along with APR Consultants had presented to a Council workshop recently where a business case was provided which, when released, would be available as a case study for different regions. She said that mountain bike riders had been delivered a curve ball with Norske Skog changing plans and it was now timely to consider alternative options to be able to ride. Ms Hamill noted that the Working Party had been set up in July 2020 under Council leadership and included stakeholders with the purpose of pursuing land options for the Council to work alongside the mountain bike club. She said that there were two key points - giving approval as land owners for two trails in the Mokoroa Reserve so that they could take the next step and applying for consent once the green light had been given. The second was to pursue other options.

Ms Hamill said that the Trust needed finance to move forward and were seeking \$100,000 for three years to cover costs and be able to lease any areas of private land that may become available. She advised that case studies were included in the business case and noted that the Mountain Bike Club currently maintained and up kept the Onepū Park. Ms Hamill advised that the Trust's Facebook page had 1,000 followers which indicated that there were a lot of people wanting to ride in this region.

In answer to a query regarding the future of the Onepū Park, Mr Humpherson advised that they were currently in discussion with management at Norske Skog. When asked what the alternative was if the Council did not fund the requested amount, Mr Humpherson advised that the funding was based on identified costs for trail development and noted that these would not be specific to mountain biking and could also include dune trails and the like. He said that they wished to overcome the funding so that they could allow for planning and the development of trails.

2.19 Jannie Brown – Chain Gang – Submission 48

Ms Brown and her group sang 'I Want to Ride my Bicycle Now'. She noted that she was part of a chain gang that had been biking around the area together for 2 years. They had 50 people on their facebook page and had 25 active cyclists who were presently biking on the roads in and near the town. There were 15-18 more cyclists wanting to join them but with concerns for the safety of groups of cyclists on the road, the amount and speed of traffic it was not safe for them to join the rides at present. Ms Brown asked the Council to support extending the coastal trails from the Mōtū and to bring it forward promptly. The logistics on the open road is often safety and Ms Brown noted that there were an abundance of off road trails in other areas and questioned why there were none here.

Ms Brown said that she supported Council cycleways and the efforts made to date, but said that there needed to be off road trails especially with the increase in e-bikes, prompt action was needed to address the two fold issues of off road and safety. She indicated that other areas had received NZTA funding to get bikes off highways. Ms Brown advised that most of the riders were retired and bingo did not cut it with them – there was an active retired age population throughout the district that wanted to see the trails extended so that they could safely ride and have a positive environmental wellbeing for all in the district. She said that they were not asking for money, but to look at creating beautiful tracks and to make a start on them now so that they, the aging population that want to bike can get out and do it and don't have to go to another area to ride. Ms Brown said that they want people to come here and if the trails linked up cafes would open and people would come here to spend their money. Ms Brown said that there had been some hard times with Covid and Whakaari and they want to bring happy times to the district.

Ms Brown said that she was aware of the proposed Motohora coastal trail that would reach Matatā and noted the number of parties that were involved such as Iwi, Doc, NZTA, the District and Regional Councils. She advised that the Chain Gang were shovel ready and wanted to see a vibrant coastal biking hub developed. Ms Brown advised that a group of local cyclists went to the South Island for 8 weeks over the summer and said it was absolutely wonderful to bike around safely and off the road and said that was what they wanted in our area as well. The age of their group ranged from 48 to 85 year of age.

In response to a question relating to the groups neutral opinion on the sealing of metal roads in their submission, and whether the group were happy to ride on them, Ms Brown said that they were. In relation to a query as to whether the group had any input into the use of stopbanks as a prime route, Ms Brown said no, but had a member liaising with the Regional Council to be able to ride these and advised that they had done a lot of research on this.

2.20 Ruth Gerzon - Eastern Bay Villages – Submission 58

Ms Gerzon said that there was a group of older people in the district that wanted to stay out of rest homes for as long as possible and Eastbay Villages provided a community development service not a health service where members participate and share their skills. They had two co-chairs who worked alongside one another and this enabled them to have good networks utilising their talents and focusing on the needs of the community. The focus was on ways of people within communities and if one could not easily and safely access communities, were no longer able to drive, were shaken by crossing busy roads or crossing kerbs it could be difficult.

Ms Gerzon tabled a graph outlining how many older people there would be in the community in the future. She noted that they don't usually ask for treatment for older people, but over the next 25 years there would be 3 times more people over 90 and double the number over 80 that there were currently. Ms Gerzon said that the Council needed to consider the growing needs of older people and the increase of mobility scooters on streets. She advised that there needed to be greater resources to make the streets safer and more accessible for this group as they want to be part of an

age free and active community. Ms Gerzon noted that there were other areas that had committed to this initiative and Whakatāne were not on that list. An age strategy needed to be developed in the hope that the area could join and become an age friendly community.

Ms Gerzon alerted the Council to a link to lottery funding that could fund affordable transport for those who could not drive and said that she would work with the Council and Regional Council to access it. She said that there were a lot of good drivers around and maybe there was need to look at a locally owned uber type response here. Ms Gerzon said that there were issues within town and to ensure that there were wheelchair accessible vehicles available and suggested that it needed be done by a standalone organisation similar to that in other communities. She said that this would go part way to solving the problem. Ms Gerzon advised that there were a number of rural communities within the district and while this would not help Rūātoki or Murupara it would be a start to getting communities to connect with one another and to move in the same direction. Ms Gerzon said that this would make a huge difference to a lot of things in terms of carbon emissions, the need for parking and they would start to research this next week.

In response to a comment that the Regional Council were trialling smaller transport vehicles in some areas, and whether there were any wheelchair services operating within urban Whakatāne, Ms Gerzon noted that there was one vehicle but considered that there needed to be an organisation of people to look after this group and to have an admin system in place. She said that they could get money for that and they were not here for money, but research needed to be done and a proper system set up. Discussions had also been held with the Disabilities Resource Centre on the provision of services and these would continue.

2.21 Rihi Vercoe – Submission 375

Ms Vercoe noted that she was an activist for reducing carbon emissions and therefore supported active and alternative means of transport saying that a lot of people had asked the Council to look at reducing congestion especially between 3 and 5 pm over the bridge. She asked if there was any chance of looking at a second bridge in the near future. Ms Vercoe was advised that a second bridge was not included in this LTP, but staff and elected members continued to hold discussions with NZTA and would be considering options as part of the spatial planning work.

Ms Vercoe said that it was only when a bird raised its feathers can it fly, so she supported the increase in rates for Te Teko to 13% as it was important to ensure adequate financial resources go with reliable budgets and she did not want to see a budget blowout to materialise and the projects stopped that she had been waiting for a long time. She asked what metal roads would be sealed and said that she would prefer that the roads within Te Urewera be left as they were as she had done a lot of hiking in that area and liked the metal road.

Ms Vercoe advised that she preferred to set the rates every year as people were struggling with rate increases, saying that she had a neighbour who could not afford any more increase. She asked the Council to look at a process where the people who could hardly afford to pay were able to apply for time extensions. There were lots of low socio economic areas in the district where people would prefer to see rates set yearly as it would be easier to monitor and they want to see the way the rates were being applied to their community and see regular maintenance programmes. Ms Vercoe concluded by noting that she agreed with the introduction of Māori Wards and a paradigm shift where Maori would manage their own rates.

2.22 Rainus Bakker – People First NZ - Submission

Mr Bakker said that he was with the People First NZ group that wanted access for people with disabilities. He noted that people were sleeping in their cars outside the Whakatāne War Memorial Hall and the rubbish bins there were being used to put household rubbish in.

2.23 Scottie Saunders – Submission 245

Mr Saunders advised that he was a champion for those with a disability in the community and co-chair of the Accessible EBOP Group. He said that this group were due to get a working agreement with the Council prior to the natural disasters occurring several years ago. He said that there were challenges that their members faced every day and they would be ready to give the Council a draft copy of the document within the next few days. Mr Saunders noted that they were very grateful for the work done by the Council and the positive steps made and hoped that once the agreement was signed they would continue to work with the group not without them. He said that they were hoping and praying for that as with the new convention rights, and with accessibility being a basic need like eating a breathing, they wanted to be inclusive and work alongside and with the Council to move forward in a more positive community.

In response to a question as to whether the local Accessible EBOP group had anyone trained in building or park design, Mr Saunders noted that he had a lot of experience in Queensland. He said that NZ was a young country when it came to laws and regulations and considered them to be quite weak when it came to accessibility. Mr Saunders said that together we can step ahead and look at what the Council could do for the disabled.

2.24 Lisa Eve – Submission 18

Ms Eve said that she was a local resident that lived on White Pine Bush Road and consulted and worked in waste management and Waste Zero Whakatāne. She said that her pet project living there and being a cyclist, the only option they had presently was to get in a car or take their life in their hands and ride a bike along the main roads. Ms Eve provided an update on the company that built the Tikitiki swing bridge and said she had visited a site as a potential crossing point that was feasible for this area. Although it would be the longest swing bridge in NZ, a rough estimate of the cost was \$1m which was much cheaper than a second bridge costing \$80m. She said that it would only be a pedestrian and cycling bridge and with no easy options to get to town this would give 1,000 rural people an easier way to access town without driving.

Ms Eve noted that the Tikitiki bridge was a tourist attraction and said that with the Ōpōtiki and Mōtū tracks it would bring more visitors to the area. She said that Poroporo children could get to school safer rather than having to cycle 10km through heart stopping roads they could cycle 2km across a bridge that would link with other Active Whakatāne trails.

In response to a question in relation to the traffic light timing on the Pekatahi bridge to allow for cyclists to ride across, Ms Eve said that it while it was long enough for the multi sporters to cross it was not long enough for children to ride and much of the traffic were many incredibly impatient and even when cyclists were cycling within the rules, people toot their horn at them. She said that she had a 10 year old and an 8 year old and any lengthening of the lights would still not be a safe option. Ms Eve said that by installing a bridge from Rewatu Road, which was a nice quiet road, to Arawa Road by the Marist Rugby Club along the stop banks would cut 7km off the trip and she reminded Councillors that it was about people going from place to place and getting where they needed to go.

Ms Eve said that the Whakatāne Management and Minimisation Plan was much needed and working with Waste Zero she came in contact with people with tricky recycling problems. She thanked Councillor Tanczos and staff for their support and said that there was a general lack of understanding what should go in the recycling bins and with a recent competition, hardly anyone got it right, especially with soft plastics and tetro pack containers. She said that there really needed to be an intensive campaign and budget allocated to it and to introduce a three strikes and you are out system. Ms Eve said that the second point was the introduction of recycling of soft plastics with a bin especially for them. She said that the third issue was illegal dumping and asked if this was not covered in the plan, where would it be covered and advised that she would like to see the Council enforcing this more strongly than they were at present noting that enforcement was within the Litter Act. Ms Eve advised

that the Act had to be adopted for the local area which would then enable fines to be issued for littering, whereby the only option under the bylaw was to prosecute, which as a time consuming process. She said that the Council needed to adopt and use the Litter Act.

Ms Eve advised that her own submission to the Waste Management and Minimisation Act required support if it was going to happen and said that the food waste collection had not gone anywhere. She said that the Council needed to have an understanding of how the decision would be made and if it was purely financial then it was only 2 years away if you did not want high dump fees to bring it on. Ms Eve said that a food waste collection would reduce greenhouse gases at landfill and add a voice to support for such a collection. She said that she understood that many people would say no to being asked to pay more. She said that the Murupara discussions supported a transition to run a resource community centre and noted that this was done elsewhere where it was a transition from Council control to community control. Ms Eve concluded by asking the Council to please do something about all of the illegal dumping.

In answer to a question as to any practical ideas to engage people for all recycling, Ms Eve considered that you needed to tell people over and over again what they should be doing with regards to kerbside collections and have a specific budget to it as it should not be under the control of the contractor to do it. She said that it was simple and easy to understand and then to back it up with enforcement and noted that while the Council considered that the wider context of waste was not the Council's problem to fix, you need to take responsibility for waste producing and provide residents with the ways to make the changes.

2.25 Audrey Ingram – Submission

Ms Ingram noted that she had been away from home for a number of years and had travelled the world and seen a lot, but had come back to Murupara to help her community and was distressed to come back and see what it now was. She said that the community had started to implement changes as they wanted to see a healthier community and considered that safe and stable walkways without the fear of traffic or unstable surfaces was an integral part of this. Ms Ingram advised that Murupara does not have any walkways and she cannot understand why that was after all this time saying that there should be trails going along the riverside and roads where people would be able to train. Ms Ingram said that the only place for whānau to run or walk at present was on the dangerous forestry roads or post office hill which were both metal surfaces.

Ms Ingram said that there was limited time to start making changes and a track along State Highway 38 would be ideal as the streets of the town were not suitable with instances of dog attacks making people scared. She said that since she had been at home, she had encouraged many people to go for regular walks but they won't in town because of the roaming dogs which they were fearful of. Ms Ingram advised that there was no walking path and with only metal roads, grass verges or the road to walk on they felt unsafe and with the unstable surface they did not want to end up with an injury. She said that for parents wanting to take their kids in prams or on bikes and residents in wheelchairs there was nowhere for them to walk apart from Ngatimanawa Road which some of the elderly do use, but being only 1km in length you had to do it a number of times if you were in training. The only other option to get a 6-7km long stretch was to run along State Highway 38 but as it was a busy road with a 100km speed limit, it was not very safe and you have to jump off the road to the side where is slippery in winter when a vehicle comes. The area was not safe for parents with children as it is also a good overtaking area and it was frightening when this happened. She also noted that people often hurled abuse at you if you are on the road.

Ms Ingram also noted that there was a slight hill to London's Garage and you had to get off the road because if a car came hurtling over the hill it would run you over. She said that just this morning one of the walkers saw a car overtaking by her and had to get off the road as far as she could without getting onto the wet grass. Ms Ingram advised that it would be a lot safer to have a path along the

roadside to the entrance to the gorge and then at some stage it could be extended to go all the way to Te Whāiti. She said it was a start to getting people out and walking without fear of dogs or being run over. Ms Ingram advised that she was training for half marathons and worked at the Murupara Area School where she was encouraging the teachers and tamariki to do it too.

In answer to a question as to the type of path required, Ms Ingram said that as long as parents could push a pushchair, the elderly could walk, and people could use their wheel chair or bike would be suitable. She noted that there were a number of walkers in the early morning and it was still dark when they were out and said that there were others who would not go unless they had someone like her with them. Ms Ingram advised that 10 locals had recently competed in the New York and China Wall marathons and they would do more if they had better facilities. When asked if along the State Highway was the best place, Ms Ingram said that a 6-7km track along that road was a good start to getting people into the habit of walking.

Attendance: Councillor James left the meeting at 2.00 pm

2.26 Glen Crowther – Sustainable BOP – via zoom – Submission 388

Mr Crowther advised that he was keen to explain the new trust and with his role as a sustainable business network to support the whole of the Bay of Plenty starting off with a focus on Tauranga and the Western Bay of Plenty and to deliver value to the Whakatāne and Eastern Bay of Plenty region and put forward suggestions on how that could be done. He said that the Trust were interested in ideas that the Council may have and to add value and assist to deliver outcomes to achieve climate change, waste management and minimisation targets and the like. Mr Crowther noted that following discussions with many from the district who were keen to put forward an EBOP group and with Whakatāne leading the way in this space, and the potential to combined with Māori business and leadership and climate change the region would be in a good position to collaborate and do something special. He said that Sustainable BOP wanted to be part of it.

Mr Crowther said that there was no agreement tightly locked in and Sustainable BOP wanted to see a relationship that would work best to support each other. He advised that he kept in touch with Council staff and talked about climate change. Mr Crowther noted the Regional Transport Committee's passion for low carbon and resilient transport networks and said that he was excited to see their transport approach in the LTP. Mr Crowther said that he hoped that it would receive support and that Whakatāne could roll out its projects sooner noting that they were trying to link up in the climate change area and he was happy to come to Whakatāne and hold further discussions.

In answer to a query regarding the establishment of the regional park group and the planting of more trees, Mr Crowther advised that there were overlaps working with the Waiariki Park region and were looking to collaborate with the group and focus on certain areas including climate change. He said that they were more about pulling together what was happening and to tell a story around that noting that there were groups and organisations that were doing their own thing and Waiariki would pull that together with a more cohesive baywide picture. When questioned on the requested increase in funding from Council, Mr Crowther advised that Sustainable BOP was an options membership for organisations and as a big chunk of their funding was from business members they had to compete with other organisations such as the Chamber of Commerce for funding. He said that while they received funding from BayTrust and the Regional Council the pathway was to partner with them rather than to take on another membership organisation.

In response to a question relating to whether there would be increased visibility and more presence in the Eastern BOP and at local events Mr Crowther replied yes, however, as a national organisation they were unable to spend much time here, but now that the trust was up and running, they want to spent more time here and hence want more from the Council. In collaboration with Toi EDA and the Chamber of Commerce there would be more happening than what had happened in the past. He noted that as his grandparents came from this region he was pleased to take on a role in climate change

and said that the impact in Tauranga with production groups had been noticed and it showed in media articles what Whakatāne were doing. He concluded by saying well done to all the team working on it.

2.27 Maurice Eddy – Submission

Refer to the tabled items

Mr Eddy noted that there were 3 sections to his submission in regards to the entrance to Whakatāne including information from Council reports, what he had observed and what he sees as needing to be done. He noted that the trial period was originally to close the roundabout until 2021 and presumed actions would be formally given to the residents before anything was done, however lots of things have been done yet he had not received any responses to the approaches he had made. Mr Eddy said that once a decision was made on the roundabout it would be difficult to make any other changes further on. Driving to the Coastlands roundabout was sometimes dangerous with vehicles joining the queue from the bridge and vehicles accelerating on the left to push through. He said that once the traffic was on the bridge it then built up on Landing Road and extended to Domain Road and said it would help if people learnt to use Eivers Road to access town.

Mr Eddy said that turning from Victoria Street and turning left into King Street often also caused the traffic to back up and with people parking at the Landing Road extension there were sometimes 15-25 cars in the area. He said that with people using the walkway or fishing and the GPS sending people the wrong way, it all helped to cause the roundabout traffic to build up. He said that people from other towns expected to be able to turn at a roundabout and then find that they could not go around. Mr Eddy said that there were a lot of cars using the grass berms and with some of the traffic travelling fast and not stopping when coming from Hinemoa Street it was dangerous. He had seen people reverse to go to Hinemoa Street or onto the reserve and with people walking in the area it was an accident waiting to happen.

Mr Eddy recommended that immediate action be taken to ensure safety measures such as flexi poles being put in place in the area marked out in 2016 and place No Right Turn signs at the exit from the Landing Road Extension so that the Police would be able to act with bad behaviour. He asked that the roundabout be reopened and said that this was not just a peak time problem but one of too much traffic entering a restricted space and insufficient ability to leave at peak times. Mr Eddy suggested that an 80km speed limit be imposed on the state highway to Kope Drain Road, then to 50kph from the Coastlands roundabout and 100kph for all traffic leaving so that the choker spot and the impatience is less and nose to tail accidents on the road from the Coastlands roundabout were avoided.

Mr Eddy also suggested that the Hinemoa Street markings be moved 3-4 metres back to give greater vision to be able to see turning indicators and to put more signage to encourage the use of Eivers Road as an entrance to the town area.

2.28 Diane Plant – Submission 169

Ms Plant advised that she spoke to the Council's LTP 3 years ago outlining the benefits of mountain biking and filled up the Chamber on that day. She said that she was here again to talk about the benefits and noting that there was no other activity that could provide for the whole community the way that mountain biking could as it was one of the few activities that the whole family could participate in and it appealed to a whole cross section of the community. Ms Plant said that even those people that were not fit realised the benefits of getting outdoors on bikes and with the recent increase in the e-bike market, they don't want to miss out.

Ms Plant noted that the local mountain biking talent was enormous and it was a wonder as to how these athletes did so well when there was nowhere for them to ride. She said that there were also benefits to at-risk youth and said that trial building and learning mountain biking or off road riding

skills was a thrill and a buzz and some kids had swapped gang life for biking. Ms Plant advised that the way young people perceive risk was different to how adults did and many kids would shine if given the opportunity. She said that there were untold benefits to mental health, youth health, obesity etc and it was one of the new and innovative ways to engage with youth as it was brimming with a degree of risk and danger. She said that the health related saving with every \$1 spent on tracks would bring \$3 in other savings for health – so it was a no brainer.

Ms Plant said that with changing modes of transport heading into the future, people would do all they could to own a bike and the programmes that could be introduced to benefit nature such clearing planting and pest destruction would allow the bush to regenerate and adventure tourism to flourish. She noted that adventure races were on the increase and over \$50m was generated in Rotorua with many jobs being created. Ms Plant wondered how many locals went out of town to ride and said that the Council should be doing all it could to keep the \$'s here by building local trails and along with the cultural aspects this would add more reasons to come back and stay. Ms Plant concluded by asking what else would offer such a wide cross section for the community and requested that the Council set aside funding to gain access to private land for riding. She noted that people needed somewhere to ride and said she supported all of the other submitters wanting the same thing.

2.29 Sue Whale – Arts Whakatāne – Submission 163

Refer to the tabled items

Ms Whale advised that she had been a member of Arts Whakatāne since 1994 and had held the positions of President and had many years of involvement with the Molly Morpeth Canaday Arts awards. She noted that the group were formally the Whakatāne District Community Arts Council and as such had a long association with the Council as a group of volunteers and organisers of the Molly Morpeth and 3D art awards. Ms Whale noted that she personally had collaborated with staff from the gallery since 2013 for the nationally recognised art awards, the Summer Arts Festival and Arts on Tour. She said that that Arts Whakatāne took on the financial costs of all of these events and had to fund raise to gain the money to put these on. Ms Whale said that the co-ordination had been done by various members with David Poole doing a lot on a voluntary basis and because it had now become too big and stressful, members had stepped in to provide support in collaboration with other organisations.

Ms Whale noted that Arts Whakatāne would like to collaborate more with the Council on its Arts and Culture Plan and ensure that the Molly Morpeth Canaday Arts Awards and other events were continued. She advised that no koha was paid to either the judges or the co-ordinator and both the Trust and Arts Whakatāne recommend that the role should be a paid part time position and noted that they had recently appointed a person to the position of co-ordinator. While they had applied for funding and were able to secure some to cover the 2022 awards, they were seeking support for the position in the long term and for an events co-ordinator for the summer arts festival.

Ms Whale indicated that when the Molly Morpeth Canaday Arts Awards were started, the Council was supposed to provide administration support, but that never happened and now they were seeking a per capita funding model to deliver arts and culture events. She advised Napier had a fund that covered the cost of events staff, building two galleries and an office for an Arts Events Manager and said something similar here at Whakatāne would be beneficial to ensure the awards stayed in the region long term. The position of Arts Co-ordinator would ensure the continuity of art events in the area and they would like to see the foundation document honoured. Arts Whakatāne want to ensure input into the new arts and culture strategy and to continue partnerships with the Whakatāne Gallery staff. They ask that funding be included in the LTP to ensure support and the creation of a vibrant community arts centre with permanent galleries, workshop spaces and an established paid position of an Arts Events Co-ordinator.

In answer to a question relating to the continuity of Arts Whakatāne with number of volunteers dwindling and aging and how to ensure that they could rejuvenate themselves, Ms Whale advised that they had received some funding and once support was received from the Council they could create a stronger base and attract more members to join. She said that they may be able to come up with new ideas and were key to introduce these to an events team that could also work in partnership with staff.

Councillors complimented Arts Whakatāne on a great job within the community and in obtaining their own funding. In response to a query regarding the impact of Covid last year and whether they would look at developing their own arts and culture strategy with funding available, the meeting was advised that the group had recently upgraded the kitchen area at the Rose Garden's amenity block with the help of volunteers and members of the Menz Shed for their use. Ms Whale concluded by noting that Arts Whakatāne valued the support of the Councillors and staff.

Attendance: Councillor James re-entered the meeting at 3.58 pm

2.30 Mem Jenner and Wai Wright– Murupara Community Board and CAYAD – Submission 352

Board Member Jenner noted that the kindergarten sector in Murupara had grown significantly and asked that speed bumps and signage be installed warning of children in the areas where there were schools and pre-school premises as street calming measures. She said there were no permanent parking spots in these areas so the children were able to be picked up safely. It was important that we instil safer practices in the children from primary school through to adulthood so that they learnt these as good behaviours.

Board Member Jenner advised that a resident wished to put a seat in the Galatea cemetery and asked what the process was to do this. Regular visitors to the plots had also requested that a tap be put outside the gate to ensure that people were able to wash their hands as they exited the cemetery and were willing to fundraise to get it put there.

Board Member Jenner said that the local Councillor was working hard for the community and noted that there had been a number of community hui with people coming forward to assist with improving different aspects including empty section, roading, walking tracks and random dumping of rubbish. She noted that the Board were also appreciative of the Senior Community Development Advisor who was assisting with putting together a community plan for the town. Board Member Jenner said that while some residents moaned and asked what they get for their rates, she said that the Board was about solutions and looked forward to another year. She also asked for an increase of \$5,000 in the Board's discretionary fund so that the local rangitahi would be able to plan and hold more events.

Ms Wright said that the Future Leaders team was the backbone of a lot of activities in the area and they would continue to work on these. She said that while there was a lot of negative feedback, Murupara was a good place to live. Board Member Jenner said that she had spent time in parliament to help step up the rules for liquor off licence premises and had made a couple of recommendations to monitor these more closely in the area, as there were some areas in South Auckland where it was atrocious with alcohol being freely available.

Answering a query regarding stronger calls for animal control at Ruatāhuna, Board Member Jenner said that the local Rūnanga had a relationship with the Council and they would work through the issues together. It was suggested that a management plan be drawn up for the control of horses and cattle on the roads around Ruatāhuna. Board Member Jenner agreed that roaming dogs still posed a danger to the public in many areas of the ward.

2.31 Carolyn Hamill, David Wicks, Richard Hamer - Bike Whakatāne Trust – Submission 231

Ms Hamill said that the Bike Trust had been formed in 2017 under Mike van der Boom and that they were to provide advocacy and support for all forms of cycling including education around safer cycling. She noted that the Trust's submission to the LTP supported the proposed funding for the Active

Whakatāne strategy and they were advocating for the crew and to see it get underway. The Trust were also offering thanks to staff and Ms Hamill noted that it was a relief to finally see it come to fruition. Ms Hamill said that now was not the time to stop and there was a need to keep going and with climate change now was the time to get people out of cars and kids biking to school. She asked if \$1m was actually enough to be bold and to design a future friendly town offering safe routes in Whakatāne and district. She said that they did not want to look back in 10 years and say they could have done more.

Mr Wicks advised that he represented an age group that had merged into e-bikes and he also belonged to the U3A group which also had a cycling group of 40 members, all with electric cycles. He complimented the Council on the wonderful improvements shown in the plan and said that many people now cycled to town to do their small item shopping. Mr Wicks said that Keepa Road was a wonderful way to look to the future saying that the track was currently in a pretty poor state and in need of repair.

Mr Wicks said that he endorsed the community cycling and families wanting to ride on safer cycleways as this was important. He said that the trail from Whakatāne to Ōhope was an opportunity to promote town to sea and wanted to see it extend out of town to Thornton in the future. Mr Wicks said that the U3A group were slightly different to the chain gang group where they stopped for coffee more often and many would not be cycling if they did not have e-bikes. He said that the improvements would also make it easier for those on mobility scooters to get around.

Mr Hamer advised that a number of kids had come from Rūātoki today and were excited to be shown around the Awatapu lagoon and to be out and about riding their bikes safely. He said that children were not supposed to be cycling on the road until they were 11. Mr Hamer said that he recently held a well supported night ride starting at 6.30 pm and said that all Trust members wanted to be as proactive as possible and teach people to ride their bike safely. He noted that members at Pou Whakaaro wanted to use scooters so he was running courses for them on how to ride them safely.

In response to a comment that it was hard to hear electric bikes coming up behind walkers, Mr Wicks said that there needed to be a way to share the space safely, for cyclists and scooters to keep their speed down and to use their bells to warn walkers. He noted that walkers sometimes had ear phones in and did not hear so it was a matter of educating both parties. Mr Hamer noted that with assistance from the road safety budget, every local child had the opportunity to learn how to share with care and to tell their parents to be careful when reversing out of a driveway.

Ms Hamill advised that the Trust were working alongside the Council to provide more tracks as they were passionate about cycling.

2.32 Toni Boynton – Tāneatua Community Board – Submission 252

The Deputy Chairperson of the Tāneatua Community Board advised that the submission from the board had an emphasis on going through the key areas of the LTP and noted how they drew feedback from Members as well as other parts of the community. She offered her congratulations to the Council for the introduction of Māori wards. Board Member Boynton said that the board supported the increase in funding for the Active Whakatāne strategy and noted that they wished to see active rural satellite townships also receiving part of the fund as there were opportunities within their communities where the money could be utilised for bike trails through the bush, the gorge and plenty of other areas could be developed in the future.

Board Member Boynton advised that Te Urewera would like to see more projects in their area in the future and would like to see students working on new projects as sometimes this did not happen and these young people fell off the wagon. She said that when there was a regular form of transport residents utilised it for appointments and shopping and the board offered support to get more of this as any effort to reduce the amount of cars on the road and provide alternative options for communities

was important. The Board supported the resealing programme and wanted to see \$1m per year put towards the programme noting that since the resealing had ceased the amount of homes in the area had increased and would continue with more people were coming into the areas of Stanley Road, Burke Road, Waimana and Matahī.

People were returning from the cities with the high cost of living and returning to their land as they were not able to afford proper housing and were more than likely to become not compliant. Board Member Boynton advised that the Waimana Kaaku had carried out a survey with 78 families being interviewed, 15 lived in non-compliant housing or were overcrowded. She said that the increase in people in the community also increased the use of vehicles movements on the roads. Matahī Valley road has a school, 4 kohanga reo and a marae and with those and if there was a tangi, up to 300 people could use it in one day. There were big health and safety concerns for the school children and other users of the road and those accessing the Lions Hut camping ground.

Board Member Boynton said that the board supported option 3, the core improvements for the Civic Centre and would like to see a set rate for 3 years to provide stability for households to be able to manage their budgets. The Board Members opted for the debt cap to be set at 150% and in Question 6 opted for option 1 to achieve a balance in costs and services.

In answer to a query in relation to a cycle track and walkway in Waimana gorge, Board Member Boynton advised that she knew the owners of both sides of the road and had grown up with some of them. She considered it was a matter of feeling out the idea with the land owners and saw it as an opportunity, especially when you saw how successful the Mōtū trials and Whakatāne were. Support was needed to encourage tourism and bring activities to that part of the district.

Attendance: Deputy Mayor Iles left the meeting at 4.31 pm

2.33 Keith Hamill and Quinton Kerr Otamakaokao Kiatiaki Trust – Submission 378

Mr Hamill said that there was general support for Active Whakatāne programme and the creation of connective safe routes for Awatapu by connecting the river to the town and indicated that the faster this was done the better. He advised that he supported committing \$50,000 per year to remove pest plants from the Awatapu lagoon and recommended improving the oxygen regime and the permanent removal of nuisance plants.

Mr Kerr said that he became more interested and involved with the lagoon 4 years ago and said it had been an interesting time with the lagoon becoming more like a moot. He had grown up in Awatapu and as it was a low decile area the Otamakaokao Kiatiaki Trust were setting out to try and make a positive impact in the community. Mr Kerr said that with a large gang presence in the community, residents were looked upon as vandals and mischief men and the Trust wanted to create a more positive space and change people's mind-set. He commented that people were able to ride to Kope on flash paths, but the kids in the community only had a few swings to play on. He said that growing up in poverty gives one a poverty mind-set. Mr Kerr thanked all those involved in giving it a good go and supporting the Trust and said that as a result of their work things were changing.

Mr Hamill advised that the lagoon had been neglected and even though a strategy was developed in 1990 it had not had any consistent actions for water quality. He said that it did not have to stay this way as the core problem was with the water quality and the amount of pest plants growing in the southern lagoon with almost 100% cover. He said that in a healthy waterway plants were high in oxygen during the day and low at night. At Awatapu the level does not get high even in the day as it was in a decomposition state which was even too low for fish to live in and said that this was also extending to the central lagoon. He said that the water quality had got so bad that the Whakatāne Intermediate School were unable to complete their lagoon restoration work, residents could not see the water anymore, birds were walking on the surface and it was a death trap for fish.

Mr Hamill said that when the plants rot it adds to the load and the cycle starts again. He noted that active spraying or harvesting of the pest weeds was better than leaving them as it took out the nutrients and was a pretty cost effective method as it was also a biometric function. He noted that the weed would regrow and suck the nutrients from the water column so it would be better to remove the nuisance plants and set up a system where algae could get established. Mr Hamill said the healthy plants could not survive as there was too much weed and said that the weed removal work done in the past had worked a treat with 200 tonnes of plant removed, however it grew again within two years so that showed that there had to be a regular commitment to clear the area rather than just a short term fix.

In response to a query about harvesting to waste, Mr Hamill said that the removed plants could potentially be used for other uses and noted that in the past it had been taken to the composting eco site at Kawerau. Mr Kerr said that this year was the most weed that they had ever seen in the lagoon and noted that when it had been harvested in the past, it created a positive flow on effect which was why it was so important to maintain it annually. He said the only fish he saw in the water were gold fish and that was not good for any waterway.

In response to a suggestion that water needed to be regularly pumped in to flush into the lagoon, Mr Hamill said that although he had not considered opening up a pipe from the river or diverting the stormwater from Awatapu into the lagoon, it was a good idea but you would need to ensure the quality of the water was adequate. He noted that the only flow at present was from the Wainui Te Whara which was not sufficient. Mr Kerr said that flushing would bring life back into the lagoon and if you were able to catch a kahawai by the intermediate school, the community would flourish.

When asked how much harvesting would cost, Mr Hamill said that \$5-10,000 would enable works but \$50,000 would be needed for the southern, central and western lagoons, with harvesting taking place, weed laid on the shore to dewater and then taken away. He said that this would allow certainty to get both lagoons done annually and \$40,000 would be needed every two years. Mr Kerr noted that a lot of the local people were now hitting the gyms and with when trying to rid a p addiction people needed some type of help for rehab for adults. He said that the gym was a positive place to let off steam and some residents were leading by example and hopefully better water quality and a maintenance programme would also help to lead to a better community.

3 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

THAT the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely:

1. Proposed Purchase of Land for Reserve Purposes

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 are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution	When item can be released into the public

1. Proposed Purchase of Land for Reserve Purposes	Good reason to withhold exists under Section 7.	That the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists. Section 48(1)(a)	The decision will be released once the purchase has been completed.
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This resolution is made in reliance on sections 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 7 of that Act, which would be prejudiced by the holding of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public are as follows:

Item No	Interest
1	To carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) (Schedule 7(2)(i)1,)

Councillor Jukes/Councillor Dennis

CARRIED

3.1 Resumption of Open Meeting

After the above item had been considered, the public were readmitted to the meeting.

4 THE REPORT

Refer to pages 6-8 of the agenda.

RESOLVED:

THAT the Hearing of submissions on the Long Term Plan 2021-31 and Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2021 report be received be received.

Councillor Jukes/Councillor Luca

CARRIED

5 SUBMISSIONS CONTINUED

5.1 Talei, Ashley, Faith and Teako - Whakatāne Youth Council – Submission 330

Talei thanked the Council for establishing Māori wards saying it showed the Council had a flow on effect for the Treaty of Waitangi. She noted the strong climate change strategy that had been developed and said that this would lead to strengthening and maintaining relationships.

Faith said that the Youth Council submission was in direct line with the 5 key questions saying it was a yes for transport, they wholeheartedly agreed with greener options and an increased budget for Active Whakatāne, but want to see actions for rural communities included. She advised that when they see

a shared footpath being formed they did not know whether it was part of Active Whakatāne or just a footpath. The Youth Council wanted to see a work programme of at least 4km of metal roads being sealed to ensure the safety of children travelling to and from Kura especially in areas like Matahī Valley where there were a number of Kura and Marae along the road. Option 3 was the preferred option for the Civic Centre where core work only was done as with the current housing and rent costs for people it was hard to include bigger costs for a building where people work from. Many staff members should have the flexibility to be able to work from home and to be mobile which led to the added benefit of conserving energy.


Ashley and Teako liked the idea of rates being set for three years as this would allow whānau to have certainty with what they would be paying. Increasing the debt cap was supported and the Youth Council felt that the balance was right although they did consider that some communities were lacking facilities when you read the feedback provided on the plan.

Talei thanked the Members for their support and said that the Youth Council role was taken seriously and they wanted to actively converse with the Council on all strategies including climate change. They wished to provide strong feedback for future planning and were using all sorts of methods to do so including polls, workshops, collaborated events and the like to capture the voices of youth to effect that change. Talei said that youth needs were not being met and the results of a survey where 5,000 youth voices had been heard would be shared with the Council and youth support services to direct priorities. She indicated that they supported the increase in operational costs for the Youth Council as the current budget did not cover the costs and the work strategy, noting that it was not the work of one but the work of many. The Youth Council concluded their presentation with a Waiata.

In response to a question as to how much budget the Youth Council required, Talei requested that it be increased from \$2,000 to \$5,000. When asked what would happen with the results of the youth survey, Talei advised that the results would allow everyone to see what was lacking in the community and the CBD and noted there was also a push in the rural communities to see what rangatahi wanted in these areas. She noted that they had been to Murupara and Matatā and would be going to the other areas in the near future.

In answer to a query as to whether increasing the debt cap for their generation to pay was acceptable Teako responded that yes they were, but noted that with the increasing cost of housing people his age were unlikely to be able to afford to purchase one and become a ratepayer. When asked if they were aware that youth homelessness was an issue nationally with 1 in 10 young people having housing insecurity, and whether this was a problem in this area. Teako responded by noting that any surveys undertaken in secondary schools were 100% anonymous and if the results did not line up with policies they would want them included going forward.

The meeting adjourned at 5.58 pm to reconvene at 1.30 pm on 8 June 2021

 <p>WHAKATĀNE District Council <i>Kia Whakatāne au i ahau</i></p>	Details of Meeting:	RECONVENED EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, COMMERCE STREET, WHAKATĀNE ON TUESDAY, 8 JUNE 2021 COMMENCING AT 1.30 PM
	Present:	Her Worship the Mayor J A Turner (Chairperson), Deputy Mayor A V Iles, Councillors G L Dennis, L N Immink, W B James, J C Jukes, V Luca, J W Pullar, A R Silcock, N S Tánczos and G F van Beek
	In Attendance:	S O'Sullivan (Chief Executive), D Bewley (General Manager Development and Environmental Services), K Scott (Acting General Manager Strategy and Transformation), G Fletcher (General Manager Community Services), R Trass (Chief Financial Officer and General Manager Business Partnering), E Hatch (General Manager People and Engagement), B Gray (General Manager Infrastructure), C Ball (Manager Strategy), W Vullings (Senior Strategic Policy Analyst) and C L Butt (Governance Manager)
	Apologies:	Nil
	Visitors:	

6 Public Forum Continued – Wānanga Tūmatanui

Council agreed to hear the balance of submitters wishing to speak to their LTP submissions, and to receive six late submissions, five new and one additional submission(s).

RESOLVED:

THAT the Council agree to receive the six late submissions to the Long Term Plan and Policies and Proposals included in Appendix 1, including five new submissions and one additional submission, in accordance with Council's Acceptance of Late Submissions Policy.

Councillor Tánczos/Councillor Pullar

CARRIED

6.1 John Howard – LTP Submission 366

Mr Howard congratulated Council for the refresh of the Edgecumbe War Memorial Hall. He submitted incremental rates rises had an impact on his business and others in the district, and was concerned looking forward to 2031 if rates would be affordable. Based on the last 10 years of rates rises it would be \$140 per day. He said Council expenses were not the only increases he had to deal with and other costs had risen significantly. As a primary producer he could not pass on his costs as his income was set by international demand for products, which meant there was no guarantee his income would continue to rise. There was uncertainty about where farming is heading into the future and he needed real certainty, and that Council needed to understand it had a part to play in it. He asked Council to remove any uncertainty from its thinking stating rates were maxed out and had reached the ceiling for his business.

Mr Howard said the way Council was run was not the way Councillors would run their own business. He asked Councillors to bring their personal business skills to Council and start controlling ratepayers' destiny. Treat the new vision with integrity, mana and respect and as an opportunity to think differently from how Council had in the past.

Mr Howard submitted central government was transferring debt to district councils and the increasing debt trap could not continue. It's time to stand up for your ratepayers. He said expenditure around the harbour was because of a slush fund of money that needed spending. He suggested the harbour fund was considered a dividend investment stream back into Council much like the Port of Tauranga was for the Regional Council. If Opotiki can get a cycle bridge access, then cycle or walking access to Coastlands should be provided.

Mr Howard said he was concerned about the way Council was addressing rising rates and the level of debt it was incurring. He asked about the purpose of reserves that have a beach access in Ōhope that require Council maintenance, weed control and mowing, and submitted Ōhope had plenty of reserve land along the beach and with current land values and debt load ahead of Council it was time to consider infilling these sections.

Mr Howard requested a sign for the Awakeri toilets and said Council should consider more residential opportunity in the Whakatāne CBD and questioned whether we really needed as much purposed parking in the CBD and whether it catered to the right type of vehicles.

In conclusion Mr Howard said the LTP was a chance for Council to look forward with a purpose for a sustainable future for us all.

6.2 Tu O'Brien – LTP submission 357

Mr O'Brien gave a mihi and submitted on issues related to two places that held special meaning to him. The first was the Rangitāiki River, where he requested Council to build ablutions for the eastern side of the river as that was well used by the local residents and fishers. He said currently locals voluntarily clean up messes left by river users and it wasn't nice. He suggested the ablutions are located so they were easily seen, were eco-friendly and were containerised.

The second place was Ōhiwa Harbour and the ongoing problem of dumping of fish waste in both the harbour and ocean side of Ōhiwa. He advised he was kaitiaki of Ōhiwa and a resident there. He said dumping fish waste was prohibited in Councils District Plan and asked Council to enforce it by putting up signage, creating information pamphlets to educate people that it was forbidden, and state the liability of dumping. A previous request he had made to the Whakatāne-Ōhope Community Board for assistance with signage had been overlooked. He commented that the Top 10 Holiday Park at Ōhope had signage that instructed its guests to dump fish waste in the ocean 500 metres east from the Park which was a main beach access point and where residents swam, so pamphlets would help to educate the Park proprietors and guests that dumping of fish waste was prohibited.

Mr O'Brien advised access to Ōhiwa Harbour from Te Taiawatea Drive was over privately owned Māori land that he was a trustee of, and was only permitted by the land trust who granted public access for the enjoyment of all. However if the fish waste dumping was not managed he and his trustees would consider stopping public access across their land.

Mr O'Brien questioned signage on the Council's rubbish bins in the area saying that it was contradictory because it stated no fish waste was allowed, but in small print said it was allowed. In conclusion he requested Council provide containerised fish bins that were emptied daily, as it does at the Whakatane wharf and employ monitors/compliance officers to educate fishers that the dumping of fish waste was not allowed.

6.3 Chris Ingle, Rangitāiki River Forum – LTP submission 248

Mr Ingle advised he was speaking on behalf of Maramena Vercoe, Chair of Rangitāiki River Forum who was unable to attend the meeting today. Mr Ingle explained the purpose of the Rangitāiki River Forum was to “protect and enhance the environmental, cultural, and spiritual health, wellbeing and sustainable use of the Rangitāiki River and its resources, for the benefit of present and future generations.”

Mr Ingle said the Forum submitted that the Council provide budget to address social and safety issues arising at the Thornton River mouth, specifically the CCTV camera trial and a coordinator to ensure the area was maintained as a safe and family friendly location. The Forum also endorsed a multi-agency approach to establish toilet facilities on the right bank of the river mouth.

6.4 Neil McInnes, Water Safety Council – LTP submission 64 (via zoom)

Mr McInnes asked Council for its support and leadership to promote and develop a ‘water safety local government engagement strategy’ for the wellbeing of the Whakatāne people, and that Council continued to invest in water safety and drowning prevention activities.

Mr McInnes outlined the four wellbeings in the Local Government Act advising they aligned with the Water Safety Council’s aspirations to improve the wellbeing of the Whakatāne District residents and reduce preventable drownings and improve water safety. He also noted that drowning rates for Māori were high, and focus was needed to support a kaupapa Māori approach to water safety for tangata whenua.

In conclusion Mr McInnes said the Water Safety Council was not seeking funding from Council but sought partnership opportunities that would contribute to improving water safety and the wellbeing of the Whakatāne District constituents.

7 Reports

7.1 Council Long Term Plan Deliberations

Her Worship the Mayor announced the meeting would begin with a presentation from the Manager Strategy to outline the deliberations process, followed by Councillors individual presentations on their initial thoughts and responses to the six ‘Key Questions’, and finally any requests from Councillors for further information to support their deliberations. Mayor Turner acknowledged the need to work at pace due to stringent timeframes.

The Manager Strategy advised the hearing of submissions had concluded and Councillors had seen and heard all submissions to the LTP. Staff now sought direction from Council on how it wished to proceed with the six key questions and the six strategic themes resulting from submissions. Direction from Council would inform the final 2021-2031 LTP. She encouraged Councillors to ask for any further information, if needed, to assist their deliberations.

The Manager Strategy gave a powerpoint presentation that provided analysis on the public responses received, and outlined the management comment on each of the six key questions. Councillors were invited to provide their feedback and direction, which is summarised below:

7.1.1 *Question 1 – should we support more active and alternative transport options?*

It was noted the analysis of submissions showed there was a high level of public support for this. Councillors provided their comments confirming support for Active Whakatāne and an opportunity for enhanced walking and cycle trails to promote the growth of the local economy. Concern was expressed

of the need to include outlying rural communities and to look at low cost low risk budget for small communities.

General consensus supported option 1 for \$1m per year, for 10 years. Members noted this was included in the 6.84% proposed rate increase, and also attracted a NZTA subsidy.

7.1.2 Question 2 – Should we introduce a work programme to seal metal roads?

Members noted submitters very strong support that the seal road extension programme be funded. Councillors provided feedback, and all Members strongly supported a seal extension programme based on the preferred option of \$500k per year however, Council agreed a final budget provision was subject to implications of its decisions on the proposed rates setting and debt cap increase. Some Members also recommended the seal policy be reviewed.

7.1.3 Question 3 – What option should we take for upgrading the Civic Centre?

It was noted the majority of submissions supported option 3, to undertake core improvements for health, safety and security only. Councillors provided their feedback with some in support of option 1 to enhance the Civic Centre as a community hub, and others were undecided. Some felt information on the proposed upgrade was confusing and required clarification. Members requested more information be provided to them prior to the decision being made on which option to adopt.

7.1.4 Question 4 – Should we set rates for the first three years?

It was noted the option to set rates for the first three years (a rate increase of 6.84% for each of the next three years) was supported by 56% of submissions. Some Councillors supported the option to set rates for three years, and others provided feedback noting the challenge of people wanting lower rates but more services, and affordability. Some considered the proposed 6.84 % increase over 3 years was too high, and setting for three years would not provide Council with flexibility to enable change. Members requested more information to clarify the concerns around flexibility and affordability, prior to their decision on which option to adopt.

7.1.5 Question 5 – Should we increase our debt cap?

It was noted the majority of submissions supported option 2 to keep the debt limit at 150% of total revenue. Councillors provided their feedback with the majority in support of an increase of the debt cap.

7.1.6 Question 6 – Have we got the balance right between the things we deliver and the cost to our communities?

Members noted the analysis showed 44.5% of submitters felt the balance of costs and services was about right, and 36.2% said Council should deliver more services even if it meant an increase in rates. Generally Councillors felt the balance was about right but subject to clarification on the points and concerns they had raised.

7.2 Strategic Themes

Councillors provided feedback on the strategic themes resulting from submissions:

7.2.1 Walking and cycling

Council supported the requests from submitters to look at ways to enhance walking and cycling in the district by developing a range of walking and cycling trails across the district including connection and amenity to smaller towns. Members also asked that the following improvements be considered; footpaths in Murupara, curbing in Whakatāne CBD, and a footpath from Te Teko to Kōkōhinau Marae.

7.2.2 Sustainability and biodiversity

Council noted the range of requests for projects to enhance sustainability and biodiversity, and that some could be forwarded to the annual grants process or were already being addressed within existing services. Other requests were presented for consideration at the meeting. Members noted climate change resilience and enabling sustainable housing were key future issues that Council must consider. There was support for the Phoenix Palm Project request and privet control. Suggestion was made to look at existing budgets to cover the additional requests and to consider opportunity to refer relevant projects to the HALO Group.

7.2.3 Lagoons and lakes

Council strongly supported the request to enhance and improve waterway and amenity values of Awatapu lagoon, Sullivan Lake and Matatā Lagoon. Members agreed the management plans for each lagoon/lake be updated and strengthened to enable a strategic approach and long term sustainability.

7.2.4 Youth Focus/Support

Council supported the request for a budget increase for youth initiatives, and for assistance to develop the Youth Strategy.

7.2.5 Arts strategy and funding

Council supported the request to collaborate on the development of an arts and culture strategy and to fund a coordinator.

7.2.6 Focus on smaller communities

Council agreed more effort and investment for the district smaller communities in particular Murupara, Te Teko and Matatā, including the request to increase community board discretionary funding and the shared footpath from Te Teko to Kōkōhinau Marae. A Member requested Murupara footpaths, trees and water supply be looked at, and that abandoned houses in Murupara be offered to local residents first.

8 Next Steps

Councillors congratulated staff for a great engagement process that was reflected in the sizable number of submissions received. The LTP needed to consider capacity to deliver services and the changing requirements of the community, and affordability. Three waters was a significant challenge that Council must continue to support, along with the challenge of climate change resilience and providing for sustainable social housing.

In conclusion Members were advised the continuation of deliberations would take place on Monday, 14 June 2021. At this meeting Council will consider items raised from today, and further recommendations to progress the proposed LTP 2021-31 to submit to audit for approval.

RESOLVED:


1. **THAT** the Council Long Term Plan Deliberations report be received; and
2. **THAT** the Council receive the 429 submissions to the Long Term Plan included in Appendix 1; and

3. **THAT** the Council receive the 9 submissions to the Long Term Plan Supporting Policies and Proposals included in Appendix 1; and
4. **THAT** the Council agree to receive the 6 late submissions to the Long Term Plan and Policies and Proposals included in Appendix 1, including five new submissions and one additional submission, in accordance with Council's Acceptance of Late Submissions Policy; and
5. **THAT** the Council provide direction on budget and LTP decisions based on the submissions received, for inclusion in the Long Term Plan 2021-31

Deputy Mayor Iles/Councillor Jukes

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 4.54 pm to reconvene at 9.00 am on 14 June 2021

	Details of Meeting:	RECONVENED EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, COMMERCE STREET, WHAKATĀNE ON MONDAY, 14 JUNE 2021 COMMENCING AT 9.00 AM
	Present:	Her Worship the Mayor J A Turner (Chairperson), Deputy Mayor A V Iles, Councillors G L Dennis, L N Immink, W B James, J C Jukes, V Luca, J W Pullar, A R Silcock, N S Tánczos, and G F van Beek
	In Attendance:	S O'Sullivan (Chief Executive), D Bewley (General Manager Development and Environmental Services), K Scott (Acting General Manager Strategy and Transformation), G Fletcher (General Manager Community Services), R Trass (Chief Financial Officer and General Manager Business Partnering), E Hatch (General Manager People and Engagement), B Gray (General Manager Infrastructure), P Warbrick (Kaihautu Strategic Māori Partnerships) C Ball (Manager Strategy), W Vullings (Senior Strategic Policy Analyst), N Clarke (Manager Solid Waste) and H J Storey (Governance Support Advisor)
	Apologies:	Nil
	Visitors:	

9 LTP – DELIBERATIONS CONTINUED

Refer to pages 6-34 of the agenda

The meeting was advised that the meeting would give consideration to the submissions that were not related to the six key questions and the staff recommendations for each of these and further deliberations would continue at the 16 June 2021 meeting. The meeting was advised that a 1% rate increase was equivalent to \$8m in the capex budget and \$450,000 in the opex budget.

9.1 Table 1 – Strategic Themes from LTP Submissions

9.1.1 *Walking and Cycling*

There was clear support for the Active Whakatāne programme and for the establishment of further cycleways to benefit local residents and to increase tourism in the area. While there was no dedicated budget for cycle trails, the \$50,000 Partnership fund was available to assist and support community groups such as cycling groups. The fund could also provide a clear purpose and possibly facilitate the establishment of a separate cycle trails trust and provide a venue, administration support, connection to relevant people in the community and assistance with applications for external funding. Council had a dedicated staff member to invest in tourism development and some of this time would be spent on cycling.

The meeting agreed to support the establishment of a Cycle Group Trails Trust and to continue to work with the Mountain Bike Trust.

9.1.2 *Sustainability and biodiversity*

The following decisions were made:

-
- It was noted that phoenix palms are not identified as a pest species by the BoPRC and therefore not prioritised by WDC
- It was noted that removal of pest plant species was generally the responsibility of the Bay of Plenty Regional Council
It was noted that a tree strategy was already under development and matter could also be forwarded to this process for further consideration.

9.1.3 Lagoons and lakes

- It was discussed that a more strategic approach is needed toward the management of the three lakes and lagoons, to move away from reactive maintenance towards a more proactive longer term solution

Awatapu lagoon:

- Scientific work needed to be undertaken to ensure the right advice was received prior to any work commencing in the lagoon – getting it right now would save opex funding in the future
- staff were working with community groups to improve the areas around the lagoon to provide a much wider benefit to the whole community including installing a playground and fruit trees

Matatā Lagoon:

- clearing the stormwater flow area had made a huge difference to the lagoon and needed to be included in an ongoing maintenance programme
- the maintenance work had provided a cleaner and safer walking area for residents and visitors

Sullivan’s Lake:

- proposed work included clearing the silt from the stormwater pipes entering the lake and undertaking asset management plans to determine the best long term solution
- sufficient funding was provided in the opex budget to deal with the silting, with the additional funding required to plan appropriately for the future

9.1.4 Youth focus

- Members considered that while the Civic Centre was ideal for Youth Council meetings, it was not ideal for other activities - a separate space such as the Rockpit would be more suitable

9.1.5 Arts strategy and funding

- there was no capacity within the tourism and events team to provide administration support for Summer Arts
- the development of an Arts strategy would see the benefits of delivering the arts throughout the whole district and would include a review of the Artists in Residence scheme
- Molly Morpeth Canaday Art Awards was not a Council administered event but was hosted at the Te Kōputu Exhibition Centre
- the awards had wider benefits to the community with over 500 entries being received each year. It was well established on the NZ Arts calendar and attracted major sponsorship
- The Council did not currently have a staff member dedicated to the arts

It was agreed that \$30,000 be included to develop an arts strategy in year 1 and \$30,000 to implement the strategy in following years.

9.1.6 Focus on smaller communities

Path to Kōkōhinau Marae

Discussion ensued on the proposed pathway, the proposed route, whether it could be included in the Active Whakatāne or the proposed cycle trails funding and whether external funding could be sought.

- the Te Teko Residents Association had been discussing a path for a few years to provide a safer and off road access to connect and link all of the Marae in the area
- a track along the stop bank would be 6 km in length and would require Bay of Plenty Regional Council permission, whereas a path beside the road would be 2.4 km
- Active Whakatāne had signed off a suite of projects with Waka Kotahi. The bulk of the funding was for projects within the urban areas of Whakatāne with \$50,000 being allocated to projects within the smaller communities of the district
- Discussion acknowledged other individual requests for specific walking and cycling facilities - work will be required to understand what the priorities were for each community. It was acknowledged that the request for the path to Kōkōhinau Marae was from Te Teko Residents Association.
- The safety benefits for installing the path to Kōkōhinau Marae was evident with the success of the footpath recently installed at Waiōhau

It was agreed to support the installation of the path and that the funding be reviewed.

Community Board Discretionary Funds

It was agreed that the Discretionary Funding be increased requested:

- Murupara Community Board from \$10,000 to \$15,000
- Rangitāiki Community Board from \$15,000 to \$19,000

9.2 Table 2 – Items Raised by EM from LTP Submissions

9.2.1 Public toilet at eastern side of Thornton River

- a large part of this area was a DOC reserve with only a small portion being Council road reserve
- there was a clear demand for a facility with evidence of people using the area as a toilet
- consultation needed to be undertaken with DOC to either provide a toilet facility or contribute towards the installation of one
- there was no funding in the budget to provide a facility at this stage

It was agreed that staff hold discussions with all parties who own or administer land in that area. The recommendations in table 2 were accepted.

9.3 Table 3 – Further Recommendations from LTP Submissions

Gym at Murupara – it was considered that this would be better provided in partnership with Murupara Area School and be established in the school hall as there was already gym equipment at the facility.

CCTV cameras at Thornton Reserve

- it was noted that no budget had been dedicated to providing CCTV cameras at Thornton Reserve – the cost to do so would be \$25,000 per camera and could only be installed in an identified crime area and could not be used just as a prevention measure
- a number of improvements had been initiated to stop motor bikes being ridden on the reserves
- Staff were continuing to work with the community, the Police and other networks to prevent bad behaviour at the reserve
- The Mayor would appeal to the Chief of Police regarding responsibility for CCTV

Change of use of chemical weed sprays

- the use of chemical weed sprays was topical across the country – it was agreed that the community would need to be taken on a journey if an alteration was proposed as a change of sprays would impact on the levels of service and have financial implications

Alternative access across the Whakatāne River

- consideration of a cycle/walking bridge – Pekatahi Bridge already had a traffic light timing cycle to allow pedestrian and cyclists across the bridge and while the time to cross could be lengthened there was also farm machinery wanting to cross. Motorists tended to get impatient if they had to wait too long to cross the bridge
- the use of the Pekatahi Bridge by cyclists was minimal at present because of the safety issues and then riding into Whakatāne from there was hazardous
- Pekatahi bridge would need to be upgraded at some stage as the resurfacing work recently carried out would not have the life span that was initially anticipated. There was a possibility of it being replaced with a two lane bridge, so cyclist safety should be considered at that time
- continued discussions on the provision of a second bridge was supported by the other EBOP Councils to ensure route security and to get products to port
- the cable ferry option which was proposed at the last LTP did not gain traction, and now with the location of the boat harbour there was no intention to revisit the proposal
- Lisa Eve’s connectivity proposal for active transport modes from Poroporo to town – questions were raised on how many people would use it, what connectivity it would provide and whether a cost benefit analysis would be carried out
- cycle lane access across the Landing Road bridge was limited to one cyclist at a time if travelling in opposite directions and it was suggested that consideration be given in the future to widen the path to allow better connectivity to the trails
- connectivity issues brought forward the need to move forward with spatial planning for the district

The recommendations in the table 3 were accepted.

9.4 Table 4 – LTP Policies Recommendations from submissions

The recommendations in table 4 were accepted.

9.5 Table 5 – Funding Requests

Discussion ensued on the funding requests and whether or not to increase the annual grants budget by \$50,000 to \$100,000. It was agreed that:

- no funding be provided to the NZ Memorial Museum Trust – Le Quesnay
- the Water Safety New Zealand be referred to the Bay of Plenty Regional Council’s contestable fund and the annual grants
- the Partnership Facilitation fund remain at \$50,000
- that there was a need to review the Council’s community funding policy

9.6 Overall Package and additional items

The meeting was advised that staff had reviewed the health check process and budgets to ensure that the Council had the necessary resources to move the organisation forward into the future.

It was noted that the following items had been identified since the LTP consultation had been undertaken and needed to be included in the budget:

- increased water sampling for Murupara – an additional \$55,000
- Whakatāne Airport landing fee reduction and health and safety costs – an additional \$45,000

- Braemar water supply arsenic removal – the quote received was higher than originally allowed for – an additional \$700,000 for capital costs in year 2
- Awatarariki Managed Retreat – there had been a cost overrun of \$1.6m resulting in an additional cost to Council for its share of \$800,000 – these costs would be debt funded
- escarpment management – an additional requirement of \$80,000

The following points were made:

- Use reserve balances where possible
- the debt cap was likely to be challenged within the next three year period
- focus was on three key areas – three waters, spatial plan and business as usual
- the Active Whakatāne programme had been through an extensive consultation process and had been well supported by the community. Commencement and planning, including conversations being held with community and interest groups in Year 1 and then the works would be staged. Any reduction in the budget would reduce the amount of subsidy received.
- Due to changing prices, reference to reseals was based on the amount rather than number of kilometres
- there was only a \$1,000 per km difference to maintain a sealed or an unsealed road

10 REPORTS

10.1 Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2021 (WMMP) Deliberations

Refer to pages 35-141 of the agenda.

Councillor Jukes - noted an interest as Chairperson of Crew and advised that she would not vote on any items in relation to that organisation

Discussion ensued on the report and the submissions received. It was agreed that:

- reference to Three Strikes and You Are Out not be included in the plan as it was considered that this could cause alternative problems such as illegal dumping
- that residents be encouraged to compost their food waste as much as possible through awareness and education programmes


RESOLVED:

1. **THAT** the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2021 Deliberations report be received; and
2. **THAT** the Council receive the submissions to the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2021 included in Appendix 1 (Kōrero Mai submissions) and 2 (Verbal and Written submissions); and
3. **THAT** the Council adopt with amendments the revised Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2021 included as Appendix 3.

Deputy Mayor Iles/Councillor Pullar

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 3.50 pm to reconvene at 9.00 am on 16 June 2021

 <p>WHAKATĀNE District Council <i>Kia Whakatāne au i ahau</i></p>	Details of Meeting:	EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE, COMMERCE STREET, WHAKATĀNE ON WEDNESDAY, 16 JUNE 2021 COMMENCING AT 9.00 AM
	Present:	Her Worship the Mayor J A Turner (Chairperson), Deputy Mayor A V Iles, Councillors G L Dennis, L N Immink, W B James, J C Jukes, V Luca, J W Pullar, A R Silcock, N S Tánczos, and G F van Beek
	In Attendance:	S O'Sullivan (Chief Executive), D Bewley (General Manager Development and Environmental Services), K Scott (Acting General Manager Strategy and Transformation), G Fletcher (General Manager Community Services), R Trass (Chief Financial Officer and General Manager Business Partnering), E Hatch (General Manager People and Engagement), B Gray (General Manager Infrastructure), P Warbrick (Kaihautū Strategic Māori Partnerships), W Vullings (Senior Strategic Policy Analyst), D Saunders (Property Projects Consultant), C Burns (Consultant) and H J Storey (Governance Support Advisor)
	Apologies:	Nil
	Visitors:	

The meeting was re-adjourned with a Karakia from Councillor Tánczos.

11 DECISIONS

Refer to the tabled items.

The Acting General Manager Strategy and Transformation provided a power point presentation outlining the decisions that needed to be made at the meeting. Staff were thanked for many hours of work undertaken to provide the information required for the meeting.

11.1 Active Whakatāne

RESOLVED:

THAT the Council approve the budget for Active Whakatāne of \$1m for the next 10 years as proposed through the consultation document.

Councillor Jukes/Councillor Tánczos

CARRIED

11.2 Debt Cap Limit

RESOLVED:

THAT the Council approve an increase to the debt limit in Council's financial strategy to 175% of revenue.

Councillor James/Councillor Pullar

CARRIED

11.3 Responses to Submissions Received

RESOLVED:

1. **THAT** Council promote and support the establishment of an independent Whakatāne Trails Trust, with the purpose of establishing a network of trail opportunities across the whole district; and
2. **THAT** Council continue to work in partnership with the Mountain Biking Community to further potential opportunities; and
3. **THAT** the Council undertake an analysis of areas currently mowed and their frequency, and the option of vegetating some areas in perennial plants that do not require regular maintenance, and potential for planting trees for carbon sequestration (with the initial assessment undertaken within operational budgets); and
4. **THAT** the Council refer the Community Arts Coordinator request to the Annual Grants process; and
5. **THAT** the Council approve the amendment of timeframes for the Kahui Awatarariki project to support community timeframes, noting the timing and budgets in the LTP can be amended at minimal rating impact.

Councillor Jukes/Councillor Tánczos

CARRIED

RESOLVED:

THAT the Council approve the 'non-budget' recommendations and actions in response to submissions (included in table 3 of the agenda for 14 June 2021) subject to the following Council changes:

- Council agrees to work with partners to investigate options for public toilet facilities on the eastern side of Rangitāiki River
- Council investigates the option of using the Murupara Area School Hall as a potential venue for a Murupara community gym (alongside the other options currently being assessed)
- Council contacts the submitter to investigate concerns related to the use of chemical weed spray

Councillor James/Councillor Pullar

CARRIED

11.4 Submissions to LTP Policies and Funding Requests

RESOLVED:

1. **THAT** the Council approve the recommendations in response to submissions on LTP policies and proposals (included in table 4 of the Council meeting agenda on Monday 14 June 2021); and
2. **THAT** the Council approve the recommendation to refer funding applications to the community grants process (included in table 5 of the Council meeting agenda on Monday 14 June 2021); and
3. **THAT** the Council decline the application from the NZ Memorial Museum Trust for a donation of approximately \$38,000 to build a Museum and Visitor Centre in Le Quesnay.

Councillor Immink/Councillor Jukes

CARRIED

11.5 Key Themes

11.5.1 Civic Centre Strengthening

The Property Project Consultant provided an overview of the number of components with regards to the upgrade of the Civic Centre including the need to create a robust Emergency Operations Centre, installation of air conditioning to regulate the temperature within the building, to increase staff security and implement health and safety measures. She noted that:

- the concept design had been created to reflect the cultural identity of the district
- to improve energy efficiency within the building
- to create a modern work environment
- to provide sufficient meeting spaces
- Public consultation resulted in a majority of submitters favouring option 3 with staff favouring either option 1 or 2
- approximately 70% of the build would be spent using local sub-contactors
- the cost to cover staff working out of the building was expected to be \$1m
- Option 1 would add 0.17% onto the rates, Option 2 - 0.11% and Option 3 - 0.01%

11.5.2 Financial implications

The following items were noted:

- use of reserve balances was \$400,000 per annum for three years - \$100,000 from 4 reserve funds
- each \$100,000 used from the reserve balance equated to a rates reduction of 0.1%
- the roading storm damage reserve balance was currently depleted – the intention was to add \$275,000 each year for the term of LTP – the increased debt cap would allow for response costs if and when needed

An updated summary table was tabled which included an option for \$750,000 for the reseal programme and a contingency of 10% for the main building and 15% for the west wing of the Civic Centre.

Attendance: Councillor Luca left the meeting at 12.35 pm

11.5.3 Opex and Capital Budget Changes

It was noted that the other minor projects funding within Table B of \$266,000 the capital budget included the installation of telemetry equipment for waste water, allowance for a carpark extension and an urban chemical trail.

RESOLVED:

THAT the Council approve the further changes made to the LTP included in 'Table A - Operational Budget Changes' and 'Table B - Capital Budgets Changes' as a result of LTP submissions and deliberations as follows:

Table A

Item	Yr 1	Yr 2	Yr 3
Sustainable Bay of Plenty increase (from 2.5 - 6)	3,500	3,500	3,500
Lagoons and lakes strategy	100,000	0	0
Lagoons and lakes annual funding	0	75,000	75,000
Youth Council increase (from 2 - 5)	3,000	3,000	3,000
Youth Strategy	10,000	10,000	10,000
Arts strategy and implementation	30,000	30,000	30,000
Funding for Molly Morpeth Coordinator	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)
Molly Morpeth coordinator	10,000	10,000	10,000
MCB discretionary fund increase (from 10 - 15)	5,000	5,000	5,000
RCB discretionary fund (from 15 – 19)	4,000	4,000	4,000
Community partnership increase	0	50,000	50,000
Murupara water sampling	55,000	55,000	55,000
Airport budget changes - fees	22,500	22,500	11,250
Airport budget changes - Strategy	25,000	0	0
Resourcing Response to HealthCheck	0	0	0
Escarpment management (\$100K loan funded)	1,188	6,937	8,637
Total OPEX changes to draft LTP budget	259,188	264,937	255,387

Table B

Item	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Te Teko to Kokohiunau Marae Walkway (\$400k year 2)	0	5,780	22,462
Awatarariki Managed Retreat (\$800k over years 1 and 2)	5,940	25,899	40,209
Braemar Water Supply Arsenic Solution (\$4.1M over 2 years) \$1.3M funded by 3W Stimulus, WDC cofunding increased from \$1.3M to \$2.8M	7,425	42,813	85,047
Adjustment in funded depreciation owing to movement of Water Storage Renewals project; \$1.5m aligned to Arsenic increase, balance timing moved from year 2024/2025 to 2034/2035.	(67,609)	(99,202)	(98,235)
Other minor projects changes totalling \$266k over three years	3,950	15,089	15,370
Awatapu Lagoon Wetland Construction - \$2.1M 2024			29,733
	(50,293)	(9,621)	94,586

Councillor Dennis/Councillor Puller

CARRIED

11.5.4 Road Sealing

RESOLVED:

THAT the Council approve a budget of \$750,000 per year towards sealing metal roads, for inclusion in the final Long Term Plan 2021-31.

Deputy Mayor Iles/Councillor Dennis

CARRIED

11.5.5 Civic Centre

RESOLVED:

THAT the Council approve Option 1 for upgrading the Civic Centre, for inclusion in the final Long Term Plan 2021-31.

Councillor Pullar/Councillor Jukes

CARRIED

Councillors Dennis, Immink and Wilson requested their vote against the motion be recorded.

11.5.6 Rates Smoothing over First Three Years

RESOLVED:

THAT the rates be smoothed to a set percentage increase for the first three years of the Long Term Plan 2021-31.

Councillor Tánczos/Councillor Pullar

CARRIED

Councillor Silcock requested her vote against the motion be recorded.

11.5.7 Annual Grant Funding

RESOLVED:

THAT the Annual Grants budget remain at \$50,000 in the final Long Term Plan 2021-31.


Councillor Jukes/Councillor Tánczos

CARRIED

The result of the decision set the rates impact at 6.94% as per option 4 noted in the tabled in the presentation.

Her Worship the Mayor thanked all for the excellent debate and discussions with the series of meetings to reach the decisions. She also thanked all staff for the work done to allow the Council to be able to get to this point.

THE MEETING CLOSED WITH A KARAKIA BY COUNCILLOR TÁNCZOS AT 1.24 PM

Confirmed this 14 th day of July 2021

CHAIRPERSON