

Minutes Living Together Committee – 3 October 2024

 <p>WHAKATĀNE District Council <i>Kia Whakatāne au i ahau</i></p>	Details of Meeting:	LIVING TOGETHER COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE TŌTARA MEETING ROOM, WHAKATĀNE DISTRICT COUNCIL, 14 COMMERCE STREET, WHAKATANE ON THURSDAY, 3 OCTOBER 2024 COMMENCING AT 9:00 AM
	Present:	His Worship the Mayor Dr V Luca, Deputy Mayor L Immink, Councillors W James (Chairperson), T Boynton, G Dennis, A Iles, J Jukes, T O'Brien and J Pullar <i>Via Teams: N Rangiaho</i>
	In Attendance:	S Perdia (Chief Executive), G Fletcher (General Manager Community Experience), D Bewley (General Manager Development and Environment Services), E Hatch (General Manager People and Engagement), L Woolsey (Acting General Manager Strategy and Transformation), M Hingston (Acting Kaihautu Strategic Māori Partnerships) H Allison (Senior Strategic Policy Analyst), S Ellis (Senior Strategic Policy Analyst), K Warren (Reserves Planner), I Molony (Manager Open Spaces), H Keravel (Acting Manager Strategy and Performance), C King-Hazel (Team Leader Administration) N Burgess (Manager Tourism and Events), S Evans (Urban Planning and Development Lead), K Summerhays (Senior Community Development Advisor), A Naidoo (Strategy Policy Analyst), and A Dass (Governance Support Advisor) <i>Via Teams: B Gray (General Manager Infrastructure)</i>
	Visitors:	R Meharry, C Larsen, S Stewart, J Craig, H Morris and R Morris
	Apologies:	Councillor N Tánčzos

The meeting was opened with a Karakia by Councillor O'Brien at 9:01 am.

1 MEETING NOTICES

The meeting was advised the confirmation of meeting minutes would occur prior to the Public Participation section.

2 APOLOGIES

Moved Councillor Pullar / Seconded Councillor Jukes

RESOLVED:

THAT the Living Together Committee **accept** the apologies from Councillor Tánčzos.

CARRIED

3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS / TRIBUTES

Nil.

4 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil.

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Refer to page 10 of the agenda.

Moved Councillor Jukes / Seconded Councillor Iles

RESOLVED:

THAT the Living Together Committee **confirm** the following minutes are true and correct records:

- Living Together Committee minutes - 1 August 2024
- Living Together Committee public excluded minutes – 6 June 2024

CARRIED

5.1 Minutes of Other and Community Boards

Refer to page 10 of the agenda.

Moved Councillor Iles / Seconded Councillor O'Brien

RESOLVED:

THAT the following minutes be received by the Committee:

- Murupara Community Board 29 July 2024
- Whakatāne Ohope Community Board 29 July 2024
- Rangitāiki Community Board 31 July 2024
- Tāneatua Community Board 5 August 2024
- Community Funding Committee 3 September 2024

CARRIED

Refer to pages 11-14.

Moved Deputy Mayor Immink / Seconded Councillor Pullar

RESOLVED:

THAT the following minutes and summary be received by the Committee:

- Youth Council Meeting Minutes 12 August 2024
- Youth Council Meeting Minutes 29 July 2024
- Youth Council Meet the Councillors Event 16 September 2024

CARRIED

6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

6.1 Rod Meharry

Refer to pages 6.1a-b of the tabled items.

Mr Meharry requested the Council to accurately differentiate between rough sleepers and tourists and he urged that the bylaws be amended to reflect this distinction appropriately. Additionally, he proposed that the Council investigate the possibility of creating 'Tect Parks,' similar to those managed by the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, as a potential solution.

6.2 Christine Larsen

Ms Larsen, a full-time motor home resident, expressed her concerns that the current bylaw did not adequately address or consider the needs of genuine tourists and visitors. She highlighted full-time motor home residents often stayed in one location for extended periods and adequate provisions should be reflected in the bylaw.

6.3 Stewart Stephen and Jodie Craig

The submitters noted that Maraetōtara Reserve was an area commonly utilised by freedom campers. Concerns were raised about the existing bylaw, which was seen as obstructing parts of the reserve. The suggestion was made that the Council consider converting this area strictly for parking use.

Numerous instances regarding community safety concerns were cited. Observations from the morning prior to this meeting indicated 10 vehicles had stayed overnight, with only 2 being self-contained, and it was emphasised that the area was not being monitored. It was also mentioned that the Council has been contacted multiple times to enforce regulations in the area.

6.4 Helen Morris - Edgecumbe Development and Improvement Team (EDIT)

Refer to page 6.4a of the tabled items.

The E.D.I.T. group expressed dissatisfaction allowing freedom camping at the Edgecumbe Domain carpark. It was highlighted that the group had been working to improve various areas of Edgecumbe. The carpark was noted as a space frequently used by community members, and concerns were raised about the dump station's location, which posed risks to children unaware of potential dangers. Additionally, concerns were voiced about littering from non-compliant freedom campers. The E.D.I.T. group suggested redirecting camping activities to McAlister Street as a potential solution.

6.5 Robert Morris

Mr Morris expressed concerns regarding freedom campers in Edgecumbe and identified the current dump station as a potential risk. He recommended decommissioning the dump station to mitigate these risks. Additionally, he suggested that Thornton Hall Road could serve as a potential location for public conveniences, which would better align with the community's needs.

Attendance:

S Stewart and J Craig left the meeting at 9:57 am and C Larsen left the meeting at 10:22 am.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 10:23 am and reconvened at 10:40 am.

7 REPORTS

7.1 Public Places and Freedom Camping Bylaw

Refer to pages 15-179 of the agenda.

It was highlighted that staff had received a total of 81 submissions and that staff were looking for direction on section 4.6:

1. The proposal to prohibit the lighting of fires in a public place (excluding cultural fires).
2. The proposal to increase in night stays in restricted areas from two to three nights within a four-week period.
3. The proposal to extend prohibited areas at West End, Ocean Road, and Port Ōhope.
4. The proposal to prohibit freedom camping at Rex Morpeth Park to allow Council to use the Freedom Camping Act for enforcement.
5. The proposal to allow self-contained vehicles to freedom camp at Edgecumbe Domain.

Discussion ensued around several key points concerning freedom camping and associated matters. There was general support for items 1, 2, 3, and 4. However, item 5, which specifically addressed freedom camping, did not receive support.

Council suggested there should be further investigation into the Kiwi Camp Facility and suggested taking action to prohibit freedom camping on Maraetōtara Reserve before the next meeting. It was also proposed that staff assess the suitability of the current camping areas and explore potential alternative locations for camping.

Council emphasised the need for clear definition of groups on items 1, 2, and 3, particularly regarding which groups would be exempt from the regulations. Item 4, concerning Rex Morpeth Park, was identified as difficult to enforce under current conditions.

There was opposition to the inclusion of the use of coal in item 1, with a suggestion to investigate the use of fires on the beach. It was further suggested that CCTV cameras be installed at the Maraetōtara Reserve to enhance safety measures. The location of the dump station in Edgecumbe was recommended for review.

Moved Mayor Luca / Seconded Councillor O'Brien

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Public Places and Freedom Camping Bylaw – Hearings and Deliberations report be **received**; and
2. THAT the Living Together Committee **receive** the written submissions as set out in appendix 1 and **note** that the oral submissions were received during the public participation section of this meeting; and
3. THAT the Living Together Committee **accept** the late submissions attached as appendix 2; and
4. THAT the Living Together Committee **deliberate** on the amended Public Places Bylaw and Freedom Camping Bylaw.

CARRIED

Attendance: Councillor Iles left the meeting at 11:31 am and re-entered the meeting at 11:34 am.

7.2 Adoption of the Whakatāne District Tree Strategy - Ngā Taonga a Tāne

Refer to pages 180-305 of the agenda.

Staff highlighted that the tree population was approximately 7,000. It was noted that matured trees posing issues (for example, damaging footpaths) would be addressed in future Council briefings.

Moved Councillor Iles / Seconded Mayor Luca

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Adoption of the Whakatāne District Tree Strategy - Ngā Taonga a Tāne report be **received**; and
2. THAT the Whakatāne District Tree Policy - Ngā Taonga a Tāne be **received**; and
3. THAT the Living Together Committee **receive** the written submissions to the draft Whakatāne District Tree Strategy - Ngā Taonga a Tāne; and
4. THAT the Living Together Committee **adopt** the Whakatāne District Tree Strategy - Ngā Taonga a Tāne.

CARRIED

7.3 Naming of 59 Bunyan Road

Refer to pages 306-327 of the agenda.

Staff highlighted the road naming had been a challenging decision and that it had been presented to the Council three times in total. During discussions it was raised that Acacia Avenue did not reflect significant historical and cultural aspects. Additionally, it was noted that there was no applicable disadvantage for Waana Davis Place. Concerns were raised about the long timeframes for road naming.

Moved Councillor Pullar / Seconded Councillor Dennis

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Naming of 59 Bunyan Road report be **received**; and
2. THAT the Living Together Committee **approve** Acacia Avenue as the road name, being the preferred name by the developer.

CARRIED

Councillors O'Brien, Boynton and Rangiaho requested their votes **against** the motion be recorded.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:18 pm and reconvened at 1:00 pm.

7.4 Adoption of the Revised Road Naming and Property Addressing Policy

Refer to pages 328-413 of the agenda.

Council determined the previous policy no longer aligned with Council values and that road naming could not be completed within reasonable timeframes; establishing a six-month engagement process would be beneficial.

It was confirmed that current names of roads would not be overturned.

Moved Councillor Pullar / Seconded Councillor O'Brien

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Adoption of the revised Road Naming and Property Addressing Policy report be **received**; and

2. THAT the Living Together Committee approve the draft Road Naming and Property Addressing Policy for **adoption**.

CARRIED

Attendance: The Chief Executive entered the meeting at 1:01 pm.

7.5 Mitchell Park Master Plan Staging

Refer to pages 414-446 of the agenda.

A discussion ensued. In acknowledging the current hardships faced by the community with the increase in the cost of living, there was a suggestion that perhaps the use of allocated funds for the project could be redirected to lower rates. Staff advised that this project had already been budgeted for in the 2023-24 Annual Plan.

Moved Councillor Jukes / Seconded Deputy Mayor Immink

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Mitchell Park Master Plan Staging report be **received**; and
2. THAT the Living Together Committee **adopt** the Mitchell Park Master Plan and Staging Plan of the outlined works; and
3. THAT the Living Together Committee **approve** the 2023/2024 Annual Plan capital budget for Mitchell Park improvements be allocated to the projects outlined in the Mitchell Park Master Plan and Staging Plan.

A **division** was called, and votes recorded as follows:

For	Against	Abstention
Deputy Mayor Immink	Mayor Luca	
Councillor Pullar	Councillor Iles	
Councillor Jukes	Councillor Dennis	
Councillor Boynton		
Councillor O'Brien		
Councillor Rangiaho		
Councillor James		

The motion was **CARRIED** 7 votes to 3.

7.6 Draft Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy

Refer to pages 447-461 of the agenda.

Staff highlighted that this policy was ready to commence with the public consultation stage.

Moved Councillor Boynton / Seconded Councillor O'Brien

RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Draft Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Policy Cover Report be **received**; and

2. THAT the Living Together Committee **approve** the Draft DEI Policy for public consultation to inform the final policy document; and
3. THAT the Living Together Committee has **noted** that the consultation period will be from 4 November 2024 to 5 December 2024; and
4. THAT the Living Together Committee has **noted** verbal submissions will be heard at the Living Together Committee meeting 5 December 2024.

CARRIED

The meeting concluded with a Karakia from Councillor O'Brien at 1:39 pm.

Confirmed at the meeting dated:
CHAIRPERSON