

Kūaotunu Residents and Ratepayers Association

Notes on Public Meeting held at Kuaotunu Hall

7 January 2024

Meeting opened: 3:04pm

Present: KRRR committee members: Chair Brent Page, Kathy Speirs, Alastair Brickell, Carrie Parker, Kevin Crawford (Secretary), Kim Crosland and Marguerite Muellers

Apologies: Roimata Taimana, Bella Pierce. **Not present:** Nicci Kerr

Duly elected public officials: Councillor Deli Connell

Public: approx. 33 members of the public

Welcome

Brent thanked all those attending for taking time out on a holiday weekend and welcomed the official guest Deli Connell, introduced the Committee members, noting that it was a meeting for the community – and for the Committee to hear feedback on whether we were advocating in the right areas. It was also to identify other opportunities that were important to members of the public.

1. LTP 10-year 2024-2034 Annual Plan submission by KRRR – Outlined by Kevin Crawford

Briefing session 27 October by TCDC - 30-year horizon over Rooding, Solid Waste, Infrastructure, Waters and Shoreline management plan. Incorporates the effects of Cyclones Hale and Gabrielle and approx. \$33m required to fix local roads.

Noted the Funding Assistance Rate (FAR) from central Govt at 51% was increased to 20% for each event – totalling 91% but still resulting in a shortfall of c\$3m for TCDC ratepayers. Note that this FAR is based on restoring to prior condition and not “building back better” – the resilience necessary for future events.

KRRR presence at the Waka Kotahi Resilience Strategic response (RSR) funding meeting described and TCDC submission for resilience infrastructure in roading next 15 Years – c \$1bn + for TCDC.

28 October Drop-in Session where KRRR submission was made over eight items – listed on the handout circulated to the Meeting (**Handout attached**)

8 Items included Connectivity Matarangi – Kūaotunu full length including the suspension bridge at Bluff cove and SH25 safety improvements Bluff Rd to Quarry Point.

Dark Sky Kūaotunu Peninsula, Tennis court overlay, Boat ramp improvements – Revetments, cyclone damage repair Gray Ave culvert through the Dune face, funding for Coastal Dune Care specific budget items identified for each area, Sealing of Whitianga runway for resilience for the community.

Public submissions – March / April 2024 on Draft – Public Hearings 1 May and full Council meeting end May – adoption 1 July 2024.

Dog Control bylaw – Deli Connell reinforced the value of public submissions in general and the KRRR submission on dog bylaw resulted in restrictive conditions being removed.

Brent asked Deli the importance of public submissions and she confirmed the volume made the difference and she and Brent encouraged people to make personal submissions on LTP and other

issues (via Request for service) (RFS) to TCDC. Brent noted the TCDC efforts of TCDC to repair Blackjack Road prior to Christmas (Stage 1). Other issues from the floor were sought by Brent.

2. Other issues from the Floor

2.1 Road damage requiring TCDC action

Road entrance to the Village - John Scott / Garrick Simpson (FENZ) note the emerging issue of the slip at the entrance to the village on the stream side can if left result in the road access to and from the village and Otama and Opito being compromised especially in flood or tsunami events.

Action: Deli noted - agreed she was to make representations to Ed Varley – KRRRA noted Ed Varley aware of the issue.

Cuvier Crescent - Marguerite Muellers noted Cuvier Cres repair to road and footpath subsidence and lifting has not been addressed by TCDC.

Action: asked Deli to add to her notes and followup with Ed Varley.

Seaville / Bluff Road corner – pothole remains after Council repair to the slip on Bluff Road

2.2 Suspension Bridge Bluff Cove

Kevin outlined TCDC recent action on the Options Study – commissioning Urban Solutions to review options including 6 slips and resilience but without costing or programming. Report not online. Noted the width does not have significant c 2.5-3m for shared use walking and cycling so cost should be put into that context.

Action: KRRRA to add to its website this report and previous reports and TCDC responses.

2.3 Traffic Calming Village / SH25 footpath Safety

After 3 years of advocacy the speed reduction in the village finally actioned 22 Dec by TCDC but not finished – missing sign decluttering, 30km/hr roundels painting on pavement and a gateway sign like other communities. Noted a frustratingly lengthy process and assisted by renegade action (zebra crossing). Brent thanked Councillors – Deli Connell, Rekha Giri-Percival and John Grant for their assistance and added a request that TCDC need to assist with Waka Kotahi on SH25 footpath Waitaia to the village and a simple solution that could have community volunteer support.

Deli Connell advocated submissions to Scott Simpson Coromandel MP now in Govt and potentially able to achieve an outcome for ratepayers/ constituency.

Kevin noted all SH25 speed reductions have Temporary labels because of increased traffic from SH25a closure – now that the bridge is open these temporary signs could be removed. This Community is all about making it permanent and the reduction Cemetery Waitaia to the Village to 50km/hr not the current 70km/hr. KRRRA have submitted regularly to Waka Kotahi Waikato for this – to no avail. The new Govt policy to remove speed reductions (for productivity gains) makes this a key issue to continue to advocate through all channels to achieve safety outcomes.

It was noted that both Waitaia Road to the Village and Bluff Road to Kingfisher Way were on the 2018-2028 LTP but have since omitted – Deli noted the process but important there is consultation as to why items are omitted. It was noted by KRRRA and the meeting that we need this item it be returned to this 2024-34.

2.4 Boat Ramp Rockwall Revetment renewal - Bill Muir noted a local contractor was trying to identify a suitable rock. Plans have been supplied to TCDC.

2.5 Fibre connections Kūaotunu – Chorus

Currently there are no fibre connections to Kūaotunu West from Hilldale – only copper. How have connections been made to Opito and not Kūaotunu West. Kevin noted he understood rural rollout funding completed and it now required groups of homeowners to club together to get a fibre connection rolled out.

Action: KRRRA to write to Chorus to request options and the plan for 2024. **Post Meeting Note:** Committee decided that this was best canvassed in the Newsletter and Kevin Crawford be noted as the contact for people to express their interest in collective approach to Chorus and Kevin to make contact with Chorus to find out the current situation and what would be required in terms of collective action to get any change in the status quo.

2.6 Rubbish Collection – potential revision to the contract

Elisabeth Resl noted her and others concern at the provision of food waste bins that many people who compost do not need – and the cost that has been incurred with little prior consultation from Council. The community is locked into a 10-year contract and cannot opt out of the \$ 350 per year charge. The economics of the contract was clearly based on all ratepayers paying whether they used that service or not. This is an Urban Waste Management solution imposed on a rural environment. The question was raised whether anyone can legally opt out of the food waste and red bin. There is a potential for fly dumping. Other methods include going to the dump and paying per bag.

Noted that this is in response to a government national policy on waste collection, but some examples were offered at other Communities in the South Island choosing their own path – encouraging composting.

A request was made to relocate the Rubbish Collection date sign from impeding driveway exit visibility just before Kawhero reserve –this has since been removed by TCDC

Action: KRRRA to consider asking the new Works Manager Mohammed Imitiaz what the possibilities are of opting out of food waste and red bin use. **Post Meeting Note:** Committee noted given the economic model and contract period any change was very unlikely and that this issue should be left to individual action so agreed no further action by KRRRA.

2.7 Significance and Engagement Policy

Brent noted that even after Consultation with TCDC by KRRRA - Residents and Ratepayers organisations have been omitted from the final policy.

3. Committee Vacancies upcoming at next AGM Easter / Engagement with TCDC

Brent noted upcoming vacancies of long-standing Committee members and it was absolutely essential that people considered standing or encouraging others to stand to continue the advocacy work of KRRRA and to have as wide and robust representation as possible from the diverse community of Kūaotunu. Brent noted that all Committee meetings are open to the public and please come to express your concerns. We KRRRA need to stay connected with councillors and go to MBCB and monitor issues proactively and be involved in issues, observe TCDC website and meeting minutes and online recordings.

Kevin noted the handout had links to the TCDC LTP briefing. Kevin noted he was very concerned at the lack of engagement of the public attending. The opportunity is in our hands. Deli noted the Northern and Southern RRA Chairs also meet Councillors and the Mayor- this is quarterly.

Action: Deli suggested adding these dates to the KRRR Website. **Post Meeting Note:** Committee agreed that these were already in the KRRR minutes and KRRR website was not a first port of call the more direct and correct location is the TCDC website. Majority agreed no action (Marguerite dissented) but consider adding those TCDC links to the Newsletter.

4. KRRR Funds available

Brent noted funds available as c \$12k – and requested ideas - Garrick noted the jetty at the back of the Fire station needed maintenance and to discuss with KRRR

Should the Domain Board want to progress the Tennis Court overlay- KRRR has agreed to part (\$7,000) contribution – the project c \$80k +, so it requires three parties to fund the overlay including TCDC – added to the LTP. KRRR has just funded new football nets at the Domain and the tennis courts have remarked and new netball and basketball hoops and new tennis nets funded by MBCB grant completed.

AED location situation queried – At the Village at the Public Notice Board in the Village and 26 Gray Ave at Alan Hill residence Kūaotunu West and several other locations – refer www.aedlocations.co.nz

5. Other Kūaotunu Organisations – Brief review

5.1 Rings Beach Wetland group – Carrie Parker

450 trap lines in a 270ha reserve between Rings Beach and Matarangi - very dependent on volunteers and keen for new members for clearing and baiting traps and track and trap line maintenance. Involves an excellent walking track between the Bluff / Vodafone tower through the wetland to the eastern end of Rings Beach.

5.2 Dark Sky – Kūaotunu Peninsula / Rainfall Figures - Alistair Brickell

A trust formed with 4 trustees and February sees the International Dark Sky Association (IDSA) application being made and the District Plan change is to be submitted to the next TCDC February meeting. However, it was noted another \$ 15k maybe needed for Council to adopt the policy and he trusted that this was not going to be required.

The European Space Agency (ESA) telescope at Opito is now up and running successfully tracking potentially hazardous space junk and debris. A new meteor camera which is part of the Global Meteor Network (GMN) is now operating at Stargazers in Kuaotunu and analysing up to 800,000 images a night looking for meteors. Both cameras depend on good dark skies for their success.

Matariki events held and are to be reprised this upcoming Matariki.

Kuaotunu rainfall records collected over the last 43 years show 2023 as the highest at 2545mm and 2022 the next highest at 2381mm with the long-term average being 1698mm.

5.3 Kūaotunu Dune Care – Jenny Crawford

Jenny noted the funding successes of 2023 – WRC and Aotea Gambling - and the considerable number of plantings – now totalling 6000 and 550 volunteer manhours 2023 in achieving the success in Zone 1 across the stream from Blackjack reserve and at Kawhero reserve and the Matariki

plantings at Grays Beach Reserve. Next Working bee Wednesday 25 February and the AGM in March/ April. Volunteers very welcome

6. Summary

Brent thanked all those that attended and reminded them of the AGM at Easter Monday at the Hall and the need for Committee members to stand and active participation by all the community to engage with TCDC and via KRRR on issues before they become difficult to resolve.

Meeting ended at 4.11pm