

Hikurangi Steering Group for Council's Placemaking Plan

**Inaugural Meeting held on Monday, 3rd August 2020 at Lighthouse Playgroup,
20 George St, Hikurangi**

Meeting opened at 7.10pm

Present:

Alex Smits (FH), Tony Horton (WDC), Paul Cook (FH), Injoo Riehl (WDC), Shayn Rouse (Rouse Motors and HBA), Marjorie Macnay (Hik School), Ray Crofts (Hik Mountain Lions), Ian Hodgson (WholeyHealth!), Jocelyn Apeldoorn (HBA)

Apologies:

Kirsten, Steve (Free Masons), Pete (Police), John (Sports Hub), Dale van Engelen, Tracey (O.N.O 2nd Hand)

Alex welcomed those present to the inaugural meeting of the Hikurangi Steering Group for Council's Placemaking Plan. He also outlined the purpose of the gathering and the need for a steering group to ensure that everyone has a voice.

A number of people are aiming to be involved but have not arrived to the meeting yet.

Tony summarised the Placemaking Plan process, purpose and background. Explained that a steering group is useful to aid the process and works like a "sounding board", but will reach out in a broader sense to relate directly through community workshops, etc.

Comment was made at the limitations of the online questionnaire and that was acknowledged as not being their only source of information.

Injoo added that the process is designed to be integrative and find opportunities to work with the community – including roading issues, etc.

General discussion about involving the community and how the steering committee can help to make that happen. Marjorie explained that she is attending as a voice for the kids – she is acting-principal at the Hikurangi Primary School currently. Tony explained that there will be some issues and projects that the District Council cannot deliver, but they can pass on these concerns to the many connections they have. Discussion also established that there will be issues and projects that can be addressed by the community if the awareness is there. Further discussion emphasises that the Placemaking process is a way for everyone to interconnect and network. Paul discussed the newsletter and how that is a great way of connecting people and Alex added that the HBA website is developed to play a role in connecting the community also.

Tony advised that they are happy to be present at meetings as required and the meeting agreed that it would be valuable to have them present.

Meeting frequency: Monthly

discussed that monthly doesn't give a lot get togethers. Suggested that committee could meet more often but the council staff attend once per month.

All present agree that they are happy to be part of the Steering Committee. Meetings are to be open, so anyone from the community can attend and participate.

Role of Steering Committee is to help:

- identify key, problems and wishlist – facilitate community workshops
- conduit for suggestions and inputs
- consolidate,
- organise feedback with the community and assist council with consultation
- Set goals and an action plan
- Remain connected with the community for the on-going process

Discussed that the minutes be posted up for the community to see and comment on.

Goal for next meeting in a month:

Committee to get feedback from their various groups and return with feedback and then make a plan with what future consultation will look like

Roading issue was discussed as being an important issue that council does not have authority to change directly but there are strategies they can use to influence outcomes.

Parking in the village was discussed and suggestions

Consultation regarding road works mentioned as not being adequate

Tony acknowledges that we will be looking at the Village as a focal point but will also be looking at issues for the wider region that Hikurangi services

Dog control discussed as there are problems with dogs wandering or frightening pedestrians walking on the streets.

Rubbish dumping as an issue – Tony suggested that Grant Alsop could come out and talk about this with the community. There will be other issues that may not be part of the plan but can be addressed.

Agreed that the purpose is to build a wish list. Paul acknowledges Marjorie's vision that we create a Hikurangi that acknowledges all that it has been, but also create a character.

Discussion also talked about vulnerable historic buildings, including the Pub and encourage that these be discussed in the process.

Jos suggested that small communities are more resilient, have autonomy, and build community if they own their own buildings.

Shayn suggested that footpaths be given more attention and Marjorie added that lighting is an issue – the streets are too dark.

Speed is an issue that needs urgent attention and is problematic because it is under Transit NZ authority. Marjorie suggests judder-bars for Valley Rd which is Council.

Community Garden was raised and waterways management.

EV Charge point was raised as being important for encouraging visitors and for local EV vehicles.

Zoning rules around life-style subdivision - also discussed saving the “feeling” or character of the town – general discussion about small towns have been “lost” but Ray also suggested that he has seen some very successful small town models in Australia.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm – next meeting on 7th September 2020 at 7pm

CONTACT DETAILS OF THOSE PRESENT at Inaugural Meeting:

Whangarei District Council’s Placemaking Representatives:

Tony Horton Ph: 0210540959

Injoo Riehl 0211984013

Hikurangi Business Assoc:

Shayn Rouse - chairman (Rouse Motors) 027433847; shayn@rousemc.co.nz

Jocelyn Apeldoorn (WholeyHealth! Co-op Village Market) 0211833747; wholeyhealth4u@gmail.com

Ian Hodgson - vice chair (WholeyHealth! Co-op Village Market) 0273500494; hoddy.e@gmail.com

Friendship House:

Paul Cook 021539652; paul.cook@wdc.govt.nz

Alex Smits - chairman 0212736975

Hikurangi Mountain Lions:

Ray Crofts 02041357054; croftsNZ@gmail.com/hikurangimountainlions@gmail.com

Hikurangi Primary School:

Marjorie Macnay 0212696690; m.macnay@hikurangi.school.nz