

Minutes of the meeting of the Matura Community Board, held at the Matura Elderly Citizens Centre, McQueen Avenue, Matura, on Monday 19 June 2023, at 5.32pm.

Present Nicky Coats (Chairperson), Cr Phillips, Laurel Turnbull and Steven Dixon.

In attendance Cr Stringer, Governance Manager (Susan Jones), Roading Asset Manager (Mr Murray Hasler), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Keith McRobie), Facilities Administration Officer (Mr Neil Mair) and five members of the public in the gallery.

Apologies His Worship the Mayor, Colleen Te Au and Darren Matahiki apologised for absence, accepted on the motion of L Turnbull and seconded by S Dixon.

1. URGENT LATE BUSINESS (SC3535)

RESOLVED on the motion of N Coats, seconded by S Dixon, **THAT** pursuant to Section 46 A (7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, the Matura Community Board address the following matter in committee.

Subject

Update on sensitive aspects of the Resilience on Crime in the Community (ROCC) programme.

Reason for not being on agenda

Information unavailable at time of agenda being published.

Reason for urgency

To update the Board about a recent incident.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (SC3529)

Item 12 – State Highway welcome signs - Cr Phillips and S Dixon declared conflicts of interest as employees of McDonough Contracting.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED on the motion of S Dixon, seconded by L Turnbull, THAT the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Matura Community Board held on Monday 8 May 2023, as circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chairperson as a true and complete record.

4. RESILIENCE IN ORGANISED CRIME IN COMMUNITIES (ROCC) (SC3535)

Senior Sergeant Cynthia Fairley was in attendance and provided a presentation on the Resilience to Organised Crime in Communities (ROCC) programme. The programme had been Cabinet mandated. Organised crime caused a lot of harm in communities. The Southern Police District had pockets of high deprivation and it was fortunate to be involved. Southern was also looking at prevention initiatives to help young people stay away from crime and preventing addictions to drugs such as methamphetamine. Meth was one of the dominant drugs found in wastewater in Invercargill. There had been a recent local operation that had had as much focus on the wahine and rangatahi as it did on the offenders. The impact of that operation was yet unknown and she wanted to reassure the Board it had a phase included in the programme. There had been 50 Police staff involved in the operation and there was more Police presence in the community as a result. The Chairperson thanked Sen Sgt Fairley for attending the meeting.

In response to a question from a member of the public, Snr Sgt Fairley said there were a lot of options available from service providers to help whanau. Any gaps in services were identified if they were found, but it was also about the barriers to accessing those services. Risk assessments were carried out according to the likely situations. S Dixon asked if the families had taken advantage of the services offered. N Coats confirmed there were families engaging with the Runanga.

ROCC was a long term programme and the mindset was that the outcomes had to be done differently. The purpose of it was to encourage the community to be stronger and resilient. N Coats said the Terms of Reference for ROCC included a representative from the Community Board. She had assumed that role and would provide reports to the Board.

5. TULLOCH PARK STAGE 2 PROJECT TEAM – DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE (SC1570)

A memo had been received from the Parks and Recreation Manager together with a copy of the draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Tulloch Park project team.

The Chairperson advised she had spoken with both Emma Watson and Tina Elers who were keen to be involved. The Manager said he had spoken with the Hokonui Runanga who also wanted to be involved but may struggle to attend every meeting. He added there was also an avenue perhaps for dialogue to be undertaken with young people and youth.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of L Turnbull, seconded by S Dixon, THAT the Board endorse and adopt the Terms of Reference for the Tulloch Park Stage 2 project team.

6. PET CEMETERY (SC3487)

A memo had been received from the Parks and Recreation Manager advising that he had been unable to find any evidence of Council run pet cemeteries in the lower South Island. The Christchurch City Council had established a pet memorial at the Greyness Reserve in 2009. The memorial allowed people to bury a pet or pet remains (ashes) in a plot and a tree was planted on top. The Manager advised there was no current provision for a pet cemetery in the Gore District nor was it provided for in any of the existing cemeteries.

S Dixon said the Board had thought about including a pet cemetery at Henderson Park near the toilets. A lot of people had pets cremated and would like somewhere to put them. The Facilities Administration Officer said it would need to be discussed with the Pony Club who currently leased that area of land. The Chairperson added it would be a user pays arrangement.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of N Coats, seconded by S Dixon, THAT the Parks and Recreation Manager report back to the next Board meeting about a pet cemetery being included at Henderson Park.

7. QUEEN'S PARK FLYING FOX (SC1229)

The Parks and Recreation Manager had advised that the latest delay with finalising the Queen's Park flying fox had been obtaining a short safety wire to attach to one end of the flying fox cable. It had been ordered and the equipment was intended to be operational by the end of the week of 12 June.

In response to the Chairperson, the Manager said putting a rope on the flying fox to pull it back was a hanging hazard and would not be provided by the Council.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of S Dixon, seconded by L Turnbull, THAT the information be received.

8. CULLING TERRACE UPDATE (SC3274)

A memo had been received from the Parks and Recreation Manager advising that the main portions of the upper and lower tracks had been formed and surfaced with a stone chip material. A section of retaining wall had been installed on the upper track adjacent to the track to prevent bank erosion. The next stages would be undertaken in the next financial year and involve completing the resurfacing of the remaining track at the southern end of the site and further large tree removal.

The Manager advised community service workers were keen to undertake work in Mataura and spreading gravel on the southern end of the walkway had been suggested.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Phillips, seconded by L Turnbull, THAT the information be received.

9. WALKWAY-CYCLEWAY MATAURA TO GORE (SC3274)

A memo had been received from the Parks and Recreation Manager advising there had been little progress on the issue. Possible external funding options had been considered and the Manager had spoken with River Valley, Gore Host and Mataura Lions about their previous interest. It was suggested a community group be formed to drive the project with support from the combined Lions Clubs, Hokonui Rūnanga, the Hokonui Mountain Bike Club, the Council and any other stakeholders.

The Chairperson advised she had spoken with Terry Nicholas of the Hokonui Rūnanga about a representative on a working party for the cycleway. The Rūnanga was very supportive of the proposal and wanted to be involved. The Rūnanga was pressed with being able to attend evening meetings. The Manager suggested pushing the working party back for about six months until the Tulloch Park development had been completed. He had also spoken with Riki Parata at the Rūnanga who wanted to be involved along with Richard Pasco of the Hokonui Mountain Bike Club. Mr Mike Whale from the Mataura Lions Club spoke about a planned route that had been investigated some years ago.

The Roding Asset Manager thought it would be a Long Term Plan issue which the Council was commencing work on. He suggested having something in front of the Council in six months so that any funding could be considered. The Parks Manager said he would like to think the majority of the project could be funded externally. The Roding Manager said any funding from NZTA would need to be considered. Mr Whale said the last proposal did not require any funding from the Council. In 2017, NZTA had been happy with the proposed route but had not committed any funding to it. The Parks Manager added Environment Southland also needed to be involved. Mr Whale added every landowner along the proposed route had given their verbal consent in 2017.

N Coats was happy to be involved with the working party. L Turnbull was also. N Coats asked if there needed to be a Terms of Reference (ToR). The Parks Manager thought it would be appropriate to have a ToR. He would discuss it with Mr Whale.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Phillips, seconded by L Turnbull, THAT the information be received.

Cr Stringer departed the meeting at 6.09pm

10. UPDATE ON DEMOLITION OF THE MATAURA SWIMMING POOL (SC3485)

A memo had been received from the Facilities Administration Officer advising that samples of materials had been tested for asbestos and all were negative. An electrician was preparing a new power board and looking at alternative power sources for the toilet lighting and BBQ. Demolition of the building had been discussed with three companies and quotes would soon be requested.

The Officer added when the asbestos reports had been undertaken in 2017 it had been presumed there was asbestos in the building, but once samples had been tested, it had been confirmed there was none.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of S Dixon, seconded by Cr Phillips, THAT the information be received.

Cr Phillips asked if the toilet lighting and BBQ was being met from the Parks budget. The Officer said it would be part of the demolition cost.

11. UPDATE ON THE ELDERLY CITIZENS CENTRE VERANDAH (SC3482)

A memo had been received from the Facilities Administration Officer advising there had been considerable discussion between the engineer and the building based on the original plans for the Elderly Citizens Centre verandah and extensive internal investigation. Further work would be undertaken to find a solution so that the verandah did not need to be removed. The guttering would not be replaced until the verandah had been secured back into position.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of S Dixon, seconded by L Turnbull, THAT the information be received.

12. INTERSECTION UPGRADE – MAIN STREET (STATE HIGHWAY 1)/BRIDGE STREET (STATE HIGHWAY 93) – PROGRESS REPORT (SC2401)

A report had been received from the Roding Asset Manager advising that Waka Kotahi NZTA (NZTA) had been progressing design drawings for the project. Over the past couple of weeks NZTA had sought feedback from the Manager on some aspects of the design particularly relating to the need to alter the arrangements for pedestrians to cross Bridge Street. KiwiRail advised NZTA that it had concerns regarding the existing pedestrian crossing on Bridge Street. Pedestrian crossings gave priority to a pedestrian over vehicle traffic. KiwiRail was concerned that truck and trailers coming off Main Street onto Bridge Street could potentially be trapped on the rail crossing if a pedestrian was on the pedestrian crossing. The proposed solution to the issue was to replace the pedestrian crossing with a courtesy crossing including a pedestrian refuge median island.

NZTA had a very tight deadline for a decision to be made on this issue. The Manager had contacted the Board Chair and Cr Phillips about their opinion on the proposal.

Both agreed with the proposal provided that the median islands did not interfere with traffic movements into and out of McQueen Avenue or to the adjacent off street carpark entrance and those requirements would be met by the design. The Chair had questioned whether the design would eliminate the need for truck and trailers, travelling from Bridge Street towards Gore, having to turn south before carrying out a 'U' turn on the Main Street to then head north to Gore. NZTA confirmed that the design, once implemented, would eliminate that need and for trucks to have to do a loop around Carlyle and Dover Streets.

A copy of the draft overview plan had been circulated with the agenda. The plan provided a general idea of what was proposed however it could be subject to amendment of some details. It was noted that the draft plan had been drawn before the changes to the Bridge Street pedestrian crossing had been requested by KiwiRail.

The Chairperson advised she had had a discussion with a representative of Highways South who had apologised for not being in contact with the Board since its election.

The Roading Asset Manager said there were a lot of benefits in what had been proposed by NZTA. The changes would reduce the number of traffic movements on local streets which would also assist with ongoing maintenance. If a bus shelter was constructed at Coster Park there may be a possibility of having a courtesy crossing constructed near the existing medical centre to provide safe crossing for pedestrians.

Cr Phillips was concerned about the removal of the pedestrian crossing and those not having zebra markings could cause confusion to people. N Coats thought the crossing was being shifted. The Manager said crossings were supposed to have warrants that required a certain number of vehicle movements. The number of pedestrians currently using the crossing was well below the stipulated criteria. A crossing was an area of high risk for pedestrians, especially those with low numbers of pedestrians. In response to L Turnbull, the Manager said NZTA would have traffic count numbers for Bridge Street.

Cr Phillips asked if the new crossing refuge would be raised. The Manager did not believe so. Cr Phillips was concerned there was a crossing available now and it would be replaced with a refuge crossing. He asked for his concerns to be relayed back to NZTA. He thought a pedestrian refuge needed to be retained near McQueen Avenue. Senior Sergeant Fairley added there were also elderly people on mobility scooters who needed to be considered. Cr Phillips said he wanted to see safe access for people to cross the road. Having trucks waiting at the traffic lights would impact on visibility. The Manager would take the Board's concerns back to NZTA and hoped a representative may be able to attend the next meeting to explain the plan.

In response to the Chairperson, the Manager expected the timeframe to implement the changes would still be about 18 months.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Phillips, seconded by S Dixon, THAT the report be received,

AND THAT the concerns of the Board about the location of pedestrian crossings on State Highways 1 and 94 be relayed to NZTA.

13. STATE HIGHWAY ONE WELCOME SIGNS (SC2696)

A memo had been received from the Roading Asset Manager advising that the concrete plinths for the new signs had been completed at Balcrom in Balclutha. Unfortunately Balcrom had closed its factory in Balclutha which meant the completed concrete plinths had been transported back to Seddon's at Mosgiel. The contractor applying the colour and anti-graffiti coatings would be carrying out the work in the week beginning 19 June. Following that, Seddon's would install the resin, pebbles and attach the lettering. That phase was likely to take approximately two weeks and once completed, the signs would be transported to Matura for installation.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of S Dixon, seconded by L Turnbull, THAT the report be received.

The meeting concluded at 6.39pm