



REPORT 11
(1215/12/IM)

REPORTS BACK FROM COMMITTEES/PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Purpose of Report

To provide the Community Board members with a reporting back facility regarding their portfolio responsibilities and other activities they have been involved with as a member of the Tawa Community Board. A copy of activities covered by the Chair of the Board is attached as appendix 1.

2. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Tawa Community Board:

- 1. Receive the information.*

CHAIR'S REPORT – 7 June 2012

A substantial amount of time in May and early June has been taken up with the Tawa Community Civic Awards, the ceremony for which will take place on Friday 22 June 2012.

TAWA COMMUNITY CIVIC AWARDS

See my separate report on this.

TAWA RAILWAY STATION

Around 80 people including a number of community board members were at a special meeting late Sunday afternoon, 6 May, to hear “arguments” for and against the restoration of the Tawa Railway Station building. The meeting was chaired by Murray Lucas, Tawa College principal.

Angus Gabarra and Cr Peter Glensor presented the Wellington Regional Council’s viewpoint that the less expensive and less time-consuming option is to demolish the current building and replace it with a modern shelter at a cost of around \$600,000.

Bruce Murray represented the Tawa Historical Society whose contention is that the building is one of the very few left in Tawa of any historical significance and is worthy of preservation.

Allan Dodson of the Plimmerton Residents’ Association advised how his community had rallied together to restore their railway station.

There was agreement that maintenance of the Tawa Railway Station building had been sorely neglected over the years, but questions were asked about the veracity of the Regional Council’s claim that it could cost \$1.5m to restore, with closure of the station for as long as 18 months.

The meeting ended with a “straw poll” of those present. Around 25% voted for restoration of the railway station. Of the two-thirds or so who voted for demolition and replacement with a modern shelter, some saw absolutely no merit in preserving a “derelict building”, whereas others would like to have seen the station saved if possible but the projected cost of restoration and likely length of closure meant that they saw no alternative but to go along with the Regional Council’s recommendation.

We received 36 emails on this issue. The breakdown of those for and against was pretty much consistent with the percentages above.

On Tuesday 29 May the GWRC’s Economic Wellbeing Committee agreed to demolish the building and replace it with a modern shelter. The committee asked that officers work with the Tawa Community Board on the timing of works and design aspects of the new shelter. They will also work with the Tawa Historical Society to enable them to obtain a photographic record for their archives and to preserve some of the original signs.

This is scheduled to occur sometime in the next financial year (July 2012 to June 2013).

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ORAL SUBMISSIONS

The board sent in two written submissions in May, the first to the Greater Wellington Regional Council's Long Term Plan, the other to Wellington City Council's Long Term Plan. Thanks to Robert Tredger for his efforts in coordinating these. Robert and I spoke at both oral hearings.

AT THE GWRC HEARING on 21 May the main points we covered were:

- support for greater co-operation between the various councils in the Wellington region and looking at what benefits might be obtained from some form of 'amalgamation'.
- a request for more 'park and ride' facilities at Tawa's railway stations. Some station carparks are overflowing, with no parking provision available for those wishing to catch the train any time after 9am. This issue does need to be addressed.
- support for the extension of pest control programmes.
- acceptance that the majority view in Tawa appears (reluctantly or otherwise) to be in favour of demolition of the current Tawa Railway Station building and replacement with a modern shelter. However we expressed concern that public opinion may have been steered in the direction of the lower cost option because people had been deterred by the alternative.

We suggested that the estimated cost and time involved in restoring Tawa station could be way off the mark - as it was with Kenepuru Station. Last August a figure of \$1m was bandied about as the expected cost of 'rectifying' that station. In the end the work that needed doing cost only \$320,000. We stressed that more accurate costings should be obtained by the Regional Council before a good decision could be made on Tawa Station.

AT THE WCC HEARING on 28 May the main points we covered were:

- support for greater co-operation between the various councils in the Wellington region and looking at what benefits might be obtained from some form of 'amalgamation'.
- bearing in mind that although certain central city buildings require earthquake strengthening, Tawa also has some including the Council-owned Pool and Library. There may be others which need to be identified and dealt with accordingly.
- ensuring that the artificial turf proposed for Tawa or Grenada North is not delayed and that further investigation should take place in regard to joint sponsorship/funding with the likes of Tawa College with a view to possibly bringing this forward from 2014/15.

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- ensuring that the shared walk/cycleway is not delayed as this could put supporting funding from the NZTA at risk.
- support for the redevelopment of Grasslees Reserve, and the possibility of an area within this space suitable for a community garden in association with Tawa College and local food banks.
- keeping a check on rates increases over the next 10 years.

TAWA PRIMARY SCHOOLS' CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

In the latter part of the month I addressed the senior students in six out of seven of Tawa's primary schools, including the Intermediate, telling them about the primary schools' citizenship awards and encouraging the Year 6 students in each school to strive to be the winner of the award. Each session was 7-10 minutes and was "visually enhanced" with a billboard of last year's winners, along with the wooden shield now resident in each school's office block. The shields list the names of successive years' winners (just one in each school to date). The awards ceremony itself will take place at the end of November with (hopefully) the Mayor presenting the awards.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

I attended the following meetings/events in May (in addition to the TCB meeting on Thursday 10th May):

- Wednesday 2nd: Inspection of inside of Tawa Railway Station building with fellow board members, Regional Council and Tawa Historical Society representatives.
- Friday 4th: All day community board workshop at the WCC offices. Chaired by Mike Richardson, former CEO of Christchurch City Council. Graeme also took part. Worthwhile session and good opportunity to liaise with community board members from other areas.
- Sunday 6th: Public meeting re Tawa Railway Station.
- Wednesday 9th: Informal meeting requested by new manager of BNZ Tawa. The purpose was for her to introduce herself and ask questions about the Tawa community.
- Monday 14th: Tawa Progressive & Ratepayers' Association monthly meeting. Ngaire was also at this.
- Thursday 17th: Inspection of renovation work inside the Tawa Pool building with fellow board members and WCC representatives.
- Monday 21st: Oral submission to GWRC with Robert.
- Wednesday 23rd: Graeme, Robert and I met with Porirua City Councillors over a light evening meal followed by an informal discussion time. The get-together was their initiative, designed to build our working relationship.
- Friday 25th: Meeting with John Price, new Area Commander for Kapiti-Mana Police. Initiated our end to give him opportunity to meet local community patrol reps, fire brigade chief and police volunteers – total of six Tawa community representatives including Robert and me. Agreed to work more closely with the Police.
- Friday 25th: Robert and I met with Stuart Bullen and fellow WCC officer to look at parking issues in Willowbank Reserve carpark. P120 carparks are

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currently used all day by Takapu Road station commuters, part of ongoing parking overflow problems at the station.

- Monday 28th: Oral submission to WCC with Robert.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS

The overgrown brambles on the side of the stream between Take Note Tawa and On the Spot drycleaners (mentioned in my March & April reports) have apparently been sprayed before a working bee from the local Lions Club takes action to remove them.

We have had residents contact us concerned about the ending of both the shuttle service to Countdown in Johnsonville and the shoppers' bus to New World in Porirua and Churton Park. Graeme, Chris and I have taken turns to ascertain what is actually happening. As suspected, very low patronage is the simple reason for the cessation of these services. New World have advised they will continue with a one-day-a-week service to New World Porirua, on a Thursday.

Regarding progress with the Countdown supermarket at Takapu Island, they have advised they are "... starting ground work on the store as we speak [early June] and aim to be open early in the new year."

A local resident contacted me asking about recycling options for used ecobulbs. She pointed out that if they contain mercury it wouldn't be environmentally-friendly to send them to the landfill, they're not welcome in the usual recycling bins, and there are no other recycling options for such bulbs in this part of Wellington. After making enquiries I ascertained that they can be dropped off for recycling at the southern landfill, but I suspect that most Tawa residents are not going to make a special trip to do that. Perhaps a solution would be to make a bin available for used ecobulbs at the community centre and when it's full it can be sent to the southern landfill.