

Tawa Community Board Monthly Report – September 2006

A Structure Plan for Lincolnshire Farm

On the 10 August the Strategy and Policy Committee agreed to the notification of a structure plan for the the area of land called 'Lincolnshire Farm' (roughly the area between Woodridge and Grenada North). This structure plan builds upon previous consultation and the principles of the Northern Growth Management Framework and provides for the future development of this area for housing, parks, roading and an employment area. The structure plan will now be notified as part of a package of plan changes to guide the future development of the northern greenfield areas on the 16 September. Councillors will consider public submissions on Lincolnshire Farm early in the new year. If the structure plan and rezoning are approved, building work could start within the next two years.

Copies of the structure plan and zoning changes are available at the Council offices at 101 Wakefield Street, at service centres and libraries, and on the Council's website, www.Wellington.govt.nz.

Parks and Gardens Update

Tawa Rotary Club members planted over 300 natives around the Tawa lookout off Kilkelly Place on Saturday 5 August.

Reserve areas at Bishops Glen and Court Road where pine trees were removed in 2005 have been planted out with 1,200 native plants.

Due to ongoing flooding in Duncan Park we have had a new sump installed at the lowest point in the park.

The garden areas outside Willowbank Park on the right hand side of the entrance into Tawa have been tidied up and replanted.

Tree planting is occurring in several reserve areas this winter including Mahoe Park, Wall Park, Kowhai Park, Tui Park and Victory Crescent Park. Tree cages have been installed to protect the trees.

Safety Issues - Parks and Gardens in Tawa Community

Parks and Gardens carry out assessments of parks/play areas and upgrade them accordingly, including issues of safety for visitors, in particular for children. With streams, the major issues are steep slippery banks and access across the stream where bridges are not provided. Most of our walkways now have bridges where streams are crossed. We are happy to check out any specific parks where the Board feels there may be safety issues associated with streams.

Tawa Progressive & Ratepayer Association planting at various sites in the Tawa Community

Parks and Gardens work with many community and residents groups throughout the city and often get approached for assistance. This was the case with the Tawa Progressive and Ratepayer Association who approached Parks and Gardens directly with some ideas for beautification of areas through the suburbs. We have assessed their proposals and agreed that two or three are worthy of implementation. In future we will pass these proposals to the Board.

Tawa Centre Upgrade

The Tawa and Linden centres have been completed. A heritage sign is presently being made to be installed in the area by the Library.

Lions Pergola

The Tawa Lions Club has completed the work on the Pergola.

Tawa Heritage Walk

All 12 plaques have been made and are now ready to be installed. We are currently waiting for Tawa Historic Society funding.

Tawa Centre Tree Lighting

Officers are currently investigating which options for lights on the Norfolk Island pine tree will be the most cost efficient. The original quote received from Commercial Signals was for a temporary installation of Christmas lights on the Norfolk Island Pine. This would require the lights and wires to be installed and removed each year and the lights to be stored until installation. This cost was not included in the original quote.

Officers have received two prices for different installation of lights on the Norfolk Island Pine.

There are two ways of illuminating the tree:

1. Install six sets of lights attached at the top and bottom vertically down the tree. The vertically attached Christmas lights have a smaller initial investment but need to be installed and removed every year with an ongoing cost of approx \$1,800.00 + GST.

For the supply of 100 metres of 1metre spacing, Christmas lighting, harness and installation for Christmas 2006 including all electrical, labour and bucket truck hire etc, allow \$4, 800.00 + GST (this is for six sets of lighting installed vertically).

2. Permanently attach the lights horizontally along the branches. The lights permanently attached have a higher initial setup because 200 lamp holders need to be tied onto the trees branches. Once the initial work has been done no further costs are incurred apart from minor lamp maintenance.

For the supply of 200 m of 1m spacing Christmas lighting harness and installation along the branches for Christmas 2006 including all electrical, labour and two day bucket truck hire etc, allow \$8,684.00 + GST.

Tawa Speed Limits

As a result of the number of submitters in opposition to lowering speed limits on Tawa's residential streets, Officers will not be recommending to Council to lower the speed limit.

Officers are working with Land Transport New Zealand to find alternative methods of differentiating to drivers the difference between through roads and residential streets. All submitters will be notified of the Council's decision within the next four weeks.

Former Service Centre Site Refurbishment

Officers from Council's City Communities unit have conducted initial discussions with members of the Tawa Community Board subcommittee in relation to future use of the Centre as a community facility, and have drafted a proposal for subcommittee input. Details include:

- the purpose of the Centre
- the process to establish the Centre as a community facility, and
- the criteria for selecting tenants/users.

Proposed Development at the Old Tawa Station Junction

The resource consent outlines that this proposed development, owned by Mutual Trust Properties Limited, will be the establishment of a retirement village at 10 Surrey Street, Tawa. The redevelopment of the site will provide a retirement village incorporating apartments, serviced care units and a hospital wing.

The esplanade reserve owned by the Wellington City Council that joins the western boundary of the site along the bank of the Porirua Stream is also proposed to be developed and it is intended that these esplanade reserves will be formed as a public walkway. This intended walkway is demonstrated on the landscape concept development plan included with the application but it does not form part of the resource consent application. At the time of any development of the walkway by the council we could ensure that the design concepts take account of the national guidelines for Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) the urban design protocol and lighting standards.

Response to the Tawa Emergency Management Group Submission

The Porirua Stream Catchment has been the subject of considerable investigation over the past 15 years. Those investigations considered the possible future developments, including those now being realised in the Northern Growth areas. Therefore the Porirua Stream catchment currently has adequate flood protection measures both proposed and actual. The current floor level restrictions in the Porirua Basin are based on the expected water levels associated with this full development. Therefore no further comprehensive flood protection investigations are considered to be necessary. However smaller investigations will be carried out as required for the sub catchments in the valley.

The Tawa Emergency Management Group submission also requests that the Council consider exceptional flood events. Council's agreed level of service for residential flood protection is one in 50 years. Higher standards like this are not considered to be economic. GWRC have designed and constructed the Stebbings and Seaton Nossiter dams to withstand a 100 year storm. If these dams were to be overwhelmed by a storm larger than that, the valley floor would already be severely flooded. No further large dams are envisaged as they are not necessary, but smaller detention areas are being constructed as required.

If further information is required, GWRC will be able to assist as they manage Porirua Stream.

Climate change

The ramifications of climate change are being closely monitored and mitigation put into place when possible. The latest information from NIWA states that there is a likely *"change in annual precipitation of between -4% decrease and +10% increase by 2030 and between a +1% and +26% increase by 2080."* Also the intensity of rainfall can be expected to increase between 1% and 28% of their current estimates.

With such a large variation in possible future changes, risks, ramification and possible mitigation need to be carefully considered before works are proposed. This is underway.

The effects of the possible climate changes are currently the subject of a report being prepared by NZCEE (New Zealand Centre for Ecological Economics) in conjunction with the University of Maryland. Appropriate mitigation will be determined when the final report is received but the draft of that report indicates that the measures currently in place, or being considered, are suitable. However any validated predictions will be taken seriously and compared with the desired level of service Council offers. If the gap between the desired level of service and the predicted level are of concern, Council will consider measures to fill this gap.

Local Government Roadshow

In 2007 the Local Government Commission will be reviewing the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) and the Local Electoral Act 2001 (LEA). The Local Government Roadshow is an opportunity for elected members to talk directly to the LGNZ National Council about the state of local government, the local government legislative framework, and what is working and what needs to be fixed. This review provides an opportunity for a comprehensive look at what has worked and what could be improved. The Roadshow is also interested in thoughts and comments on other legislation impacting on local government (e.g. the Resource Management Act and the Local Government Rating Act).

The City Secretary, Michael Webster previously circulated to all members of the Board a memo about the Local Government Roadshow outlining the purpose of this event. Mr Webster will be present at this month's Board meeting to further discuss the topics of discussion that Wellington City Council raised with the Local Government Roadshow panel as a part of the presentations given. The Local Government Roadshow is to be held on Thursday 14 September.

Traffic movement around Tawa College and Tawa Intermediate

As a result of concerns regarding traffic movement around Tawa College and Tawa Intermediate including those of local police, local residents and both school authorities, there have been many physical changes made, including the following:

- Parking has been altered including an inset bus stop outside the intermediate and secondary schools.
- Angle parking and time-limited parking has been introduced outside the kindergarten.
- Parking has been prohibited on parts of Ranui Terrace from McLellan Street to the cul-de-sac.
- A 'Give Way' sign and markings have been established in Ranui Terrace at McLellan Street.
- A new footpath has been constructed along the north side of McLellan Street between Ranui Terrace and Hinau Street.
- A roundabout has been constructed at the junction of McLennan, Duncan and Hinau Streets.
- A pedestrian crossing has been established over Duncan Street adjacent to the pedestrian path serving Tawa Intermediate School and Tawa College.

Recent observations show that:

- Problems are caused for short periods, particularly after school but also in the half hour before school, by parents who transport their children to and from classes.
- Most pupils from both schools use the same 'bottom gate' path to buses waiting in the lay-by and parents illegally parking causes considerable congestion and risk.
- Parking is generally illegal and chaotic and largely defeats the physical changes and intentions to improve safety for children around these local schools.

Proposed actions to be taken by the School Safety Officer and Road Safety Coordinator are to increase parking enforcement during drop-off and pick up illegal parking, educating parents and meeting with Tawa College/Tawa Intermediate to discuss potential hazards caused by inconsiderate behaviours.

Safety Issues at Railway Crossings in Tawa

Officers have looked into the Board's concerns about traffic safety at the railway crossing in Tawa and have found that the Railway Safety and Corridor Management Act 1992 governs the integration of road and rail infrastructure. The railway level crossings in Tawa require safety features to be maintained and operated and therefore it is unlikely for OnTrack to agree to any other measures to mitigate the issues of queuing and waiting time apart from major investment in overbridges.