

REPORT 8
(1215/12/IM)

RATIFICATION OF SUBMISSIONS

It is recommended that the Tawa Community Board:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Ratify the Tawa Community Submission to the draft Engagement Policy and District Plan Change 45 - Urban Development Area & Structure Plans.*

Attached are the Boards submissions to the

- Draft Engagement Policy (appendix 1)
- District Plan Change 45 - Urban Development Area & Structure Plans (appendix 2)

Meeting with the Tawa Community Board

12 and 26 October 2006

Role of Community Boards

The Board was concerned that community boards are not specifically referred to in the draft Policy. The purpose of community boards is set out in the LGA 2002 as being to “represent and act as an advocate for the interests of its community”. The boards are in a special position of having a mandate to speak for the grass roots communities they are elected by.

This purpose is also reflected in the Terms of Reference that have been agreed to for both boards. This is articulated as being to:

- facilitate the Council’s consultation with local residents and community groups on local issues and local aspects of citywide issues including input into the Long Term Council Community Plan, Annual Plan, and policies that impact on the Board’s area; and
- engage with council officers on local issues and levels of service, including infrastructural, recreational, community services and parks and gardens matters.

As such, the Board requested that the purpose and role of community boards be reflected better in the policy. In this case this means ensuring that what the policy says is consistent with the purpose/role outlined for community boards through:

- recognising that community boards are not just another group, but have a statutory position that puts a level of obligation on the Council to consult with them
- ensuring the policy reinforces that the Council will consult with the boards on issues that impact on their areas

Consultation Leadership

The Board also discussed the possibility of taking on more responsibility for leading consultations in their areas (e.g. as done with the Safer Roads consultation process).

Early Involvement

The Board does not feel it is currently being involved early enough in consultation processes. This is an expectation of the Board (and is set out in their TOR), particularly where the area is going to be directly impacted by a decision to be made by the Council.

The Board feels the Policy can be a mechanism for ensuring the organisation is aware of the need to consult early with the Board. Early involvement may include inviting board members to elected members’ workshops etc, but the Board is also willing to meet with officers outside of the Board’s formal meetings.

Consultation timeframe

The 20 working days given in the consultation was not considered long enough, with a minimum of five weeks appearing more reasonable. Community boards only officially meet once a month, so the timing can work against them being able to make a submission.

APPENDIX 1

Council's discretion

The Board was concerned with the reference to the Council being able to use discretion in determining who it will consult with (section 5.3). The Board wants to be sure that the Council will refer all issues affecting its area to the Board for comment and/or consideration.

Council's previous consultation

The Board was concerned that some of the wording in the Policy undermines what the Council has achieved – as it does not necessarily recognise that some very good consultation processes have been run by the Council (i.e. the wording of the objective that starts with “to encourage increased engagement”).

APPENDIX 2

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Dated: 27 November 2006

District Plan Change 45 – Submission

The Tawa Community Board wishes to support the element of plan change 45 that confirms the road link between Jamaica Drive and Mark Avenue, which has been anticipated for many years.

In principle, the Board supports the link road from Tawa to the Grenada Interchange and over toward the Hutt Valley, however this support is provisional upon greater understanding of the environmental and economic impact at the time of Resource consent.

The Board has had concerns raised with it in relation to the capacity of the existing storm water system and the Porirua Stream, as it relates to existing development.

We have concern that both the additional subdivision as provided within this scheme and the additional road infrastructure will place additional pressure on a stream which often runs at capacity during heavy rain fall. We believe that all run off must be either retained on site or full assessment (taking consideration of existing and consented developments feeding into the Porirua Stream) must be made to ensure any further development does not cause further risk of flooding to properties down stream.

The Board recognises the importance of planned development and an appropriately connected road network within the Northern Suburbs, which in time may allow for further public transport options to the region and services within the Grenada North area.

Thank you for your consideration of this submission.

Ngaire Best (Chair)
Robert Tredger
Tony Parker
Penny Devine
Graeme Sutton
Malcolm Sparrow