

REPORT 9
(1215/12/IM)

RATIFICATION OF SUBMISSIONS

It is recommended that the Tawa Community Board:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Ratify the Tawa Community Submissions to the Wellington City Council 2007-2008 Draft Annual Plan (attached as appendix 1).*
3. *Ratify the Tawa Community Submissions to the Greater Wellington Regional Council 2007-2008 Draft Annual Plan (attached as appendix 2).*

Attached is the Boards submission to the:

- Wellington City Council 2007-2008 Draft Annual Plan (attached as appendix 1)
- Greater Wellington Regional Council 2007-2008 Draft Annual Plan (attached as appendix 2)

Draft Annual Plan Submission

Tawa Community Board – 16 May 2007

The Tawa Community Board has pleasure in making the following submissions, to the 2007-2008 Draft Annual Plan.

Community Board Funding

This program was implemented, four years ago, to provide flexibility in delivering community based projects and community based decision making.

Over the past year the Tawa Community Board has:

1. Investigated and part funded a number of minor projects and programmes to enhance the sense of place within the Tawa Community. Including:
 - Continuation of Physical Improvements within the community together with the lighting of the Norfolk Pine Tree in the centre of Tawa.
 - An extension to the safer roads project, to apply those principles to the Woodman Drive / Bing Lucas Drive anticipated connection.
2. Implemented other initiatives identified within the Tawa Community Board Plan. Including:
 - A regular published newsletter and regular email updates.
 - The Tawa Community Awards Programme to promote and support volunteerism within the Tawa Community, which we believe is the backbone of the way of life which we enjoy in Tawa, from Sporting Clubs through to the protection and revitalisation of our local bush and streams.
3. Continued to raise the awareness of the Tawa Community Board within the community, allow the Community Board to fulfil its functions as required and set out in the Local Government Act 2002, and advocate for, and on behalf of, the residents of Tawa. Including:
 - Consultation in relation to the Representation Review.

We wish to support Council's Annual Plan / LTCCP which continues to support the Tawa Community Board by providing this modest sum of money to allow the Board to undertake its function and purpose.

Uniform Annual Charges (UAC)

The Tawa Community Board for many years has been of the opinion that the use of a Uniform Annual Charge provides equity across all users of a service and believes that UAC's should more directly relate to the full cost of use of the service, rather than the value of the ratepayer's property. The Board congratulates the council in continuing to take bold moves to address this in the current Annual Plan.

APPENDIX 1

Northern Growth Framework

The Board believes that the continuation of this project is vital to the wellbeing of Northern Suburban Communities. We are concerned that the delays and deferral of many of the projects places at risk future infrastructure (including the provision of adequate water services and roads) that would remedy stress on existing services and would reduce traffic congestion to and from the city and within northern suburbs. The Board hopes that there will be no further deferrals as the implementation is very important for the Northern Ward and the Tawa community in particular.

Contributions Policy

The Board agrees that a development contributions policy is long overdue. We believe that it should not only provide for the basic infrastructure needed for new development, such as sewerage extension schemes, reservoirs etc, but it should also be providing for new community facilities where the existing facilities are inadequate.

We continue to advocate the concept of connected communities. We believe that it is imperative that walk ways / cycle ways be considered as part of the infrastructure of a new development and that this be provided at the time of design and implementation of the scheme.

We believe that playgrounds should be considered in the same manner.

Tawa has had significant development in its eastern hills over the past 5 years and more to be development in the future. The Board is very familiar with both the Playgrounds policy and the Northern Growth framework which foresee the need for new playgrounds, however we were very disappointed to discover that a playground for Pikitanga (off Woodman Drive, a significant growth area in Tawa) is not scheduled for another 2 – 3 years. This will leave a generation of children in that community without play equipment in their local area. We would like Wellington City Council to bring forward this project funding as a matter of urgency in this years annual plan. We do support the concept of development contributions however; they must be appropriately targeted to the community of benefit. We are concerned that the developing areas of Tawa (incl. infill), hold little association with the development of the Johnsonville pool or the Churton Park Town Centre and question the appropriateness of the identified catchment, for these projects.

Walk way Development

The Tawa Community Board fully supports the development of a walk way along the Porirua Stream from Takapu Rd to Kenepuru. We believe that such an amenity would be widely used for both access and recreation of residents and visitors who make regular use of walking routes on both sides of the valley. We would like to encourage Council to continue to plan and implement the sections which are able to be completed easily.

We continue to support the improvement of access to the proposals for Outer Green Belt routes and new circuits on both sides of the valley.

Pest Control

We believe that there are opportunities to increase the amenity values of local bush reserves through increased animal pest control. This has been demonstrated through

APPENDIX 1

the work of volunteers in this community. Further expansion of the areas protected will add value to what is already being achieved and help create a northern pest control boundary.

Recreation Facilities

Swimming Pools

The Board is very concerned about the impact that an increase in swimming pool charges will have on competitive swimming as a sport.

Tawa's young people have a long history in competitive swimming, which contributed to the formation of TOPA (Tawa's Own Pool Association) which fundraised for the building of this pool and has led to many regional and national titles being linked to this facility.

We believe that the public benefit generated through the provision of pools, is as high today as it was when they were first conceived. Obesity is at epidemic proportions within communities in New Zealand and councils should not be placing barriers to children and young people taking advantage of swimming as a sport for health and recreation.

Tawa has a fabulous facility designed for this purpose and we believe that increasing fees would have a detrimental effect on both the numbers of participants and the number of training sessions children and young people are involved with.

We have identified two options that may reduce the impact on this user group.

1. Set entrance fees in accordance with the level of facilities provided. (This must take into account facilities provided within neighbouring territorial authorities).
2. Put in place a fixed fee for competitive swimmers and high users.

We believe that the current proposal places undue hardship on children and young people who participate in the sport of competitive swimming.

Sporting Facilities within the Wellington Region

The Tawa Community Board strongly supports the provision of an indoor sports facility. We do not believe that Kilbirnie is a satisfactory location. We continue to have concerns that residents from Tawa and the Northern Suburbs will have difficulty in accessing this facility, due to the traffic congestion at the Basin Reserve and at Ngauranga George, in addition to the difficulty in using public transport to access this part of the city from the North.

We believe that an Indoor Sports facility is well overdue for both the city and region and encourage local government across the region to work together to develop in a central location an Indoor Sports facility.

Suburban Centres Upgrade

The Board is very concerned about the impact of the change to this service level. We have seen over recent years, our suburban centres upgraded and improved, resulting in a shift in the psyche of residents and building owners alike to value the amenity that has been provided. We challenge all councillors to consider what would happen in your local suburban centre if no renewal work was undertaken for the next 30 years as is proposed. We suggest that there would be a return of the bad old days of tatty suburban shopping centres, with little pride taken in appearance of shop fronts and little investment made by building owners within suburban centres. We believe that this is not satisfactory and encourage you to retain the existing capital expenditure program.

APPENDIX 1

Suburban ratepayers must see value for their rating dollars not only in the city centre but also in the suburb.

Cleaning Service Levels

The Board has concern with this in relation to the level of service that is occurring with street cleaning and general road side weed control, we note that over the past few years our public areas are becoming scruffy and grimy and in places now look dirty. We would like the Council to examine the level of service which is being offered in particular to the Tawa suburban central area and along side our roads, with the view to cleaning the pavements of gum, grime and rubbish and ensure that long grasses are kept under control. Further we note that our community playgrounds are in desperate need for a clean - what were nice new playgrounds just a few years ago, now look filthy and un-kept. We would request that this equipment be appropriately cleaned and ensure that any graffiti is removed quickly from these public spaces

Graffiti

The Tawa Community Board fully supports and endorses the proposal for Graffiti, Flying Squad. Graffiti is a blight on the city and we must be both proactive and reactive in dealing with this problem. We believe that together with local communities the Flying Squad has the capacity to address this issue, both dealing with the output and harnessing the input of the problem. The Board looks forward to working with this Squad to deal with the Graffiti issue that is within our community.

Central Government vs. Local Government Responsibilities

The Board is concerned that an increasing number of Central Government responsibilities are being delegated to Local Government. This has the effect of creating a further burden on Council and ratepayers. This has caused, in effect, a greater indirect tax to householders and dilution of Councils efforts to manage effectively the Wellington environs. This is particularly apparent in housing and health and administration.

Grants

Over recent years there has been a greater demand for grants from sporting and education establishments, which have previously been met through central government funding and lottery grants by way of organisations such as the Hillary Commission. We agree that there is a need to support sports clubs, which in turn will improve self esteem, fitness and address many health issues within our communities. However; we believe that this need is more appropriately met from Central Government Funds.

Establishment of a wet hostel

This appears to be a social need and primarily a District Health Board / Social Services area of responsibility rather than local government.

Housing

Our greatest concern is the lack of information relating to the "Partnership with the Government to upgrade our Council houses". The information supplied is insufficient and inadequate to enable us to make an informed decision.

We are left with little understanding of the actual terms of the long term liability and impact on the ratepayers in future years. The current parties to this agreement may

APPENDIX 1

change with elections and the interpretation of the rules of play change with them; however the liability to Wellington ratepayers remains.

The Board would appreciate an opportunity to make oral submission and respond to any questions councillors may have.

Tawa Community Board

Ngaire Best (Chair)

Vicki Beachen

Graeme Sutton

Tony Parker

Robert Tredger

Wellington Regional Council Draft Annual Plan Submission Tawa Community Board – 16 May 2007

Rail Services

The Tawa Community Board generally, supports the increase in rail services on the main trunk line, with the aim of reducing emissions and congestion on the Wellington road network. However, we are concerned with the impact that this will have on the Tawa Community. At present Tawa is bisected regularly (sometimes with only 30 sec – 1 minute between trains) with rail barrier arms being down, this results in some of our motorists and pedestrians taking risks to their safety in order to “beat the barriers”. This is of particular issue in the mornings with children and young people both walking and being driven to the intermediate and secondary school from the western side of the community. This situation will be exacerbated with increased services, we believe that it is time that this issue be explored to find a solution and ask that this investigation be undertaken with urgency.

Park and Ride

The Tawa Community and its Board fully supports the concept of park and ride. This can be evidenced by the heavy demand on this service at all the railway stations in our community. We note that this service is running at capacity within this community, and believe that with an increased provision of rail services and car parking, resident commuters would be further encouraged to park and ride, reducing emissions and pressure on our road network . We would like the regional council to consider the extension of this service to the Tawa Community.

Signage

It has come to our attention that our railway stations are not well signposted, and request that the WRC install signs from the main arterial routes in our community to each railway station.

Tawa Community Board

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Graeme Sutton

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