
REPORT 7
(1215/12/IM)

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER REPORT BACK

1. Purpose of Report

This report provides the Board with information about matters of interest to the Tawa Community.

2. Recommendations

Officers recommend that the Community Board:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Approve the officers recommendation of a new lease for 10 years, and one right of renewal of ten years for the United Sri Lankan Association to occupy the Willowbank Hall on Boscobel Lane.*
3. *Approve the officers recommendation of a fresh lease for 10 years, and one right of renewal of ten years for the Tawa Linden Wrestling and Sports Club on land at Gee Street adjacent to Linden Park.*

3. Summary

The monthly report on general matters is attached as Appendix 1.

Contact Officer: *Neil Cherry, Chief Financial Officer*

Elected Members Mileage

The issue of Board members claiming mileage allowances on an ongoing basis was discussed at the February Board meeting. Concern was expressed over whether the Council would formally consult with the two Community Board's regarding the proposal to discontinue processing mileage claims submitted by Elected Members. The agenda for the March Board meeting includes a separate report on the mileage allowance proposal. The report serves as the formal consultation with the Tawa Community Board. The proposal was presented to the February Makara/Ohariu Community Board for consultation.

Consultations

LTCCP – Early-Engagement (pre LTCCP Consultation)

As progressively reported to the Board the Council has been carrying out an early / pre engagement process ahead of the LTCCP deliberations and formal consultation in March / April. In planning the approach to the LTCCP the Council made a number of key assumptions about the key issues facing Wellington. Among a range of issues the Council sought comment on expectations of the Council in the current challenging economic climate.

Through a range of engagement strategies and tools the Council sought to understand whether the general planned approach and strategy was reasonable and appropriate. One of the strategies adopted by the Council was the creation and facilitation of a Residents Panel. The results of this early engagement will be reported back to the Strategy and Policy Committee as part of its deliberations that commence on Tuesday 10 March. A separate report from the Residents Panel will be presented to the Committee.

A verbal update on the Committee's deliberations will be provided at the March Board meeting. In the meantime, agenda papers for the LTCCP deliberations are available on line and a copy of the LTCCP Press Release is attached to this report.

Kerbside Recycling

On 12 February 2009 the Strategy and Policy Committee received a report regarding current kerbside recycling operations. Following extensive discussion the report was left to lie on the table. A supplementary report was provided for the Committee's consideration at the 19 February 2009 Committee meeting. The issue of kerbside recycling had received a significant amount of comment in the media.

Following consideration of the Committee's report and supplementary information, the Committee agreed to consult on a range of issues affecting the current kerbside recycling operations, including:

- Methods (and containers) used for kerbside recycling
- Funding options to meet the cost of kerbside recycling (including funding to cover the current revenue shortfall in the kerbside recycling activity)

- The determination of a base level of recycling service.

Consultation on the current kerbside recycling activities will be incorporated into the draft 2009/2019 LTCCP which commences on Thursday 16 April 2009 and ends on Monday 18 May 2009.

Copies of the report have been circulated separately to the Board.

Takapu Island Development and Roothing Update

Following the February Board meeting there has been some discussion regarding the current state of the Takapu Island development and roading plans in particular. Concern has been expressed by some residents over the lack of communication and public notification of the current and upcoming roading works. As a result of the various discussions a separate agenda item has been added to the March Board agenda where a representative from Cardno TCB will discuss the roading plans for the development.

Leases on Council Owned Land

Officers are currently working to establish new lease agreements for buildings on Council-owned land. Two groups have been approved in principle by the Manager, Parks and Gardens. Input is required from the Community Board on the proposed new leases and a brief description is below. Once the Board has given their approval the leases will be confirmed by the Regulatory Processes Committee.

United Sri Lankan Association

The United Sri Lankan Association (USLA) has been identified as a dynamic and growing community which has been searching for a suitable building in the northern suburbs for some years to establish themselves in, previously based at the Rewa Rewa School.

The land is open space, and is adjacent to Willowbank Park on the corner of Main Road and Boscobel Lane. The Scouting Association used the building from 1982 to 2007 at which time the Council inherited the building. Registrations of interest were sought and USLA were the only applicants.

A licence to occupy has been granted to USLA to occupy the Willowbank Hall on Boscobel Lane, while a lease is negotiated to enable critical works to be done to the building by the group. This was also to facilitate immediate occupation, as the building has been subjected to several attacks of vandalism recently.

It is recommended by officers that a new lease for 10 years, and one right of renewal of ten years for the Association.

Tawa Linden Wrestling and Sports Club

The land recreation reserve, and is adjacent to Linden Park on Gee Street / Main Road. The club has occupied the building since it was built in 1959. The Tawa Linden Wrestling Club (TLWC) recently celebrated 50 years of wrestling, where they are based on Gee Street, adjacent to Linden Park. They executed a Deed of Lease with the Tawa Borough Council in 1963, and this expired in 2005 (after one right of renewal was exercised). The club has held over on the same terms and conditions of the prior lease.

It is recommended by officers that a fresh lease for 10 years, and one right of renewal of ten years.

NEWS RELEASE FOR THE PROPOSED DRAFT LONG TERM COUNCIL COMMUNITY PLAN

6 March 2009

Plan aims to keep Wellington affordable and vibrant

When Wellington City Councillors meet next week to decide on the contents of the draft Long Term Council Community Plan, they will be working to achieve a balance that recognises the economic situation and the need to ensure Wellington is in the best possible position when the economy improves.

Councillors will be considering draft proposals that would mean total rates would increase by 3.1 percent for 2009/10. After taking account of growth in the city's ratepayer base, the average real rates increase for 2009/10 is forecast to be 1.9 percent but this could change depending on the decisions made next week and at the Council meeting on 26 March.

The Long Term Council Community Plan (2010-2019) will determine what the Council does over the next three years and provide a blueprint for the next 10 years.

Mayor Kerry Prendergast says the aim will be to continue to provide key services, retain the city's vibrant character and keep the rates increases as low as possible.

"The global economy is slowing, household budgets are tightening, and there is anxiety about jobs. Residents cannot be asked to fund significant increases in rates, or any other area of household spending. At the same time it would not be wise to make deep cuts to Council spending," she says.

"That approach would cost jobs, remove important services and in the long term make Wellington less vibrant, less competitive and a less enjoyable place to live."

The Council met late last year and agreed on some priorities and a general approach, and has been canvassing these and a range of money-saving ideas with Wellingtonians over the last six weeks.

Councillors have taken calls on the weekly phone hotlines, talked with people at ward clinics and in other ways, and will be fully briefed by staff next week about what the research and feedback has shown so far, before deliberations on the draft plan begin. They will also hear views from the residents' panel, which was set up to consider the challenges the city faces and the pros and cons of a range of options and ideas.

Mayor Prendergast says the research and discussions with the community so far indicate many Wellingtonians want Wellington to remain a vibrant place and that the majority are comfortable with the Council aiming to keep the rates increase below 4 percent.

APPENDIX 1

“There was a significant minority who believed that a higher rates rise was acceptable and also a group who believe that any rates rise should be in line with the rate of inflation.

“We’ll be considering feedback on our overall approach and the concerns that have been raised over some of the modest service cuts proposed to help keep rates rises down,” she says. “It could be, for instance, that we agree the late night at our suburban libraries should be retained and instead propose slightly shortened hours at another time.”

Mayor Prendergast says City Councillors have endorsed a long-term plan approach that prioritises spending areas including safety, events with economic benefits, greater collaboration with Central Government and keeping the city affordable, something that goes well beyond containing rates increases.

“For instance, our approach to transport is to provide people with more reliable low or no-cost options. We want to encourage walking and improve the bus network, which both also have environmental benefits.

“We know that certain services are likely to become more important during a recession. Events, for example, give people the chance to get out and enjoy themselves – they also attract people to the city, helping to sustain our accommodation, hospitality and retail sectors.”

The Long Term Council Community Plan deliberations will happen in Committee Room One on Tuesday 10 March, from 9.15am to 4pm, and will continue on Wednesday and Thursday if necessary.

Decisions made next week and voted on at a Council meeting on Thursday 26 March will determine the content of the draft Long Term Council Community Plan (2009-2019) that will go out for public consultation in April. Wellingtonians will have a month (Thursday 16 April to Monday 18 May) to consider the draft plan and make submissions.

As in past years, people will be able to check the plan and what’s planned on the Council’s website www.Wellington.govt.nz or get copies of the draft plan from libraries, Council service centres or by phoning our Contact Centre on 499 4444. There will be lots of information in the April issue of the Council’s newspaper Absolutely Positively Wellington and in the Our Wellington page in The Dominion Post.

People will be able to have their say online, by email, in writing or arrange to make an oral submission in late May (starting Monday 25 May).

The feedback received will be one of the factors City Councillors take into account when the Council meets in late June to make final decisions. We’ll publish our final plan in July.