

Draft Annual Plan Submission Tawa Community Board 2010-2011

The Tawa Community Board (TCB) has pleasure in making the following submissions, to the 2010-2011 Draft Annual Plan.

KEY PROPOSALS

Rates

With the current fiscal pressures upon ratepayers, it is pleasing to note that the Wellington City Council (WCC) has proposed to restrict the rates increase to 2.88%. It is hoped that this will be the maximum, and that potential frivolities are not introduced and the focus remains on the 'nuts and bolts' (water, roads and sewage) of Council responsibilities.

Uniform Annual Charges (UAC)

The TCB, 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 UACs should more directly relate to the full cost of use of the service, rather than the value of the ratepayer's property.

Community Facilities

Please see the separate TCB submission upon this topic.

Pool and Facility Upgrades

Please see the separate TCB submission upon this topic.

In general terms the TCB supports cooperation and collaboration with local schools/Ministry of Education et al, to improve access to the populace of facilities, but do not think that it is the responsibility of ratepayers to provide additional funding to meet Governmental responsibilities.

Climate Change

Please see the separate TCB submission upon this topic.

In addition, it is unusual that in this DAP there is continual comments regarding population growth, without consideration of the implications that it has upon climate change. If the projections are correct, much of the centre of Wellington would be at risk of flooding.

Rugby World Cup.

The TCB generally supports the WCC's Rugby World Cup Proposal, although the actual spin-offs to Tawa are likely to be limited to more personal visitors, camper vans and full motels.

It will however provide a large boost to the economy for the entire Wellington area, and specifically to the World Cup village on the waterfront, which will be the focal point, and provide spin off benefits to businesses around the Wellington area.

Appendix 1

We support the concept of open air sculptures in the Wellington region. They provide a focal point in the immediate area in which they are placed, and can revitalise that area. Hopefully the sculptures planned would be durable and be a point of interest into the future.

In order to show Wellington consistently at its best, it is imperative that:

- the streets and buildings are kept clean of rubbish, graffiti, etc.;
- there is increased, friendly policing of the area;
- upgrades are made to the Courtenay Place toilets;
- improvements are made to Waterloo Quay road;
- sports fields are upgraded;

and understand the additional funding required. These should all benefit Wellington far longer than the time of the World Cup.

We welcome the concept that the owners of private car parks could contribute to the costs of parking advisory signs. This helps to avoid the idea that the World Cup was being used to justify expense to the ratepayers, which could otherwise be difficult.

Rugby World Cup time is an opportunity to show that Wellington is a fantastic city of which we can be proud.

Population Growth

The TCB is concerned about the significant growth, in population and the required accommodation, and the associated challenges. Tawa is still very much a defined suburb, with all the positive benefits that a proud, and perhaps parochial, population creates. The continuing growth of Churton Park can now be easily seen from Tawa's surrounding hills, and with the potential soon to be started Transmission Gully, the flavour of our community could be altered to urban sprawl. This would be detrimental not only to Tawa, but to Wellington as a whole.

Graffiti

The TCB supports the continuing emphasis upon the early eradication of Graffiti. Graffiti is really just another name for vandalism from which Tawa is not exempt. The TCB applauds WCC attempts to stem graffiti by the ongoing funding of the flying squad.

Walkway Development

The TCB fully supports the development of a walkway 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. This proposed walkway has huge public support and ongoing work should be planned, as a priority, for the start and continued construction of this walkway over the next few years.

We would like to encourage Council to continue to plan and implement the sections which are able to be completed easily.

Appendix 1

Transport

Tawa residents are high users of public transport, but are also high users of roads as vehicle drivers, cyclists and pedestrians.

The only route for cyclists and pedestrians to areas south of Tawa is Middleton/Glenside Road.

This route is narrow and was never designed for non-motorised use. It is thus dangerous for cyclists and pedestrians as there is insufficient room on either side of the road to safely accommodate both them and vehicles.

The TCB requests urgent work to make this route safer for cyclists and pedestrians.

In addition, we believe that the Tawa Stream Walkway/cycleway, would be widely used, and thereby reduce the congestion on Tawa Roads.

Commuter Traffic

The TCB is concerned at the increasing traffic congestion from Tawa to the City and the Hutt Valley. We acknowledge that some of this could be exacerbated by the current higher use of road transport against rail, however traffic on SH1 is now slow and frequently stopped from 7.00am through 8.30am and in the evening from 4.00pm through to 6.00pm. We look forward to a positive resolution from the various transport studies over recent years.

Similarly the planned increase of trains through Tawa, create additional delays and congestion to road traffic and pedestrians at the train crossings on Linden Avenue, McLennan Street and Tawa Street. The Tawa Stream Walkway/Cycleway may help to mitigate the delays.

Parking

The TCB agrees that central city parking is important for shoppers, tourists, people working in Wellington and people coming into the city for recreational activities.

The TCB supports the continuation of free on street parking during the weekends. Any move away from this would affect the vibrancy of the city centre by discouraging people from the city centre.

The TCB supports the enforcement of parking times and the imposition of realistic parking fees.

Appendix 1

Pests

The TCB supports funding for pest removal to protect natural ecosystems. The continued support of local voluntary groups such as 'The Friends of Tawa Bush Reserves' to ensure removal of pests, eg possums, and weeding of areas will greatly enhance the natural beauty of the region. Further expansion of the areas protected will add value to what is already being achieved and help create a northern pest control boundary.

Should the WCC and its Councillors have any questions relating to the above, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Tawa Community Board\
May 2010**

NB – Councillors Best and Wain were not involved in the drafting and approval of this submission.