
REPORT 11
(1215/12/IM)

REPORTS BACK FROM COMMITTEES/PORTFOLIO RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Purpose of Report

To provide the Community Board members with a reporting back facility regarding their portfolio responsibilities and other activities they have been involved with as a member of the Tawa Community Board. A copy of activities covered by the Chair of the Board is attached as appendix 1.

2. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Tawa Community Board:

- 1. Receive the information.*

APPENDIX 1

CHAIR'S REPORT - 31 August 2011

Projects undertaken or meetings attended by the Tawa Community Board Chair since our 11 August meeting:

SPRING INTO TAWA MARKET DAY

Cr Ngaire Best and I (Malcolm) are the co-organisers of this annual event which is always very well attended by the community at large. Once again the number of stallholders is in excess of 50. The Community Board itself will be operating a stall at the very heart of the action. Its purpose is for board members to liaise with members of the community and ensure that the board's name is kept in the public eye. With this in mind

a 1200 x 900mm sign stating "TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD ... *working for Tawa*" will be on display. The board's new brochures will be handed out at the same time. Margaret Lucas is taking responsibility for operating the stall on the day. Unfortunately I will not be there as I will be out of the country at the time.

The "drawcard" will be to invite punters to guess the number of Jaffas (or similar sweets) in a jar that will feature prominently on our table. The winner each hour will be announced at 10, 11 and 12 noon by the NZ Radio Training School students MCing the occasion.

As part of our liaising with the shopkeepers on the Main Road (in conjunction with Spring into Tawa), Ngaire and I have visited them on at least one occasion and, in many instances, twice. Our new Tawa Community Board name badges are useful in helping foster the link with the board.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT GROUP IN MEXTED TERRACE

I was invited to attend a relatively new Neighbourhood Support group on a cold winter's night in Mexted Tce. I think it was only their second meeting. Sarah Riddering (community constable) and Jim Higgins (Tawa NS coordinator) were also taking part. Ten people from the immediate neighbourhood were there. They seemed a friendly and neighbourly bunch! I spoke briefly about the role of the community board and suggested that they might want to be involved in Neighbours' Day Aotearoa next March. Their response was positive.

I also mentioned the Tawa community eNewsletter and asked if anyone was interested in receiving it. Six new households, all those present apart from the hosting couple who already receive it, "signed up".

REJUVENATING TAWA NEIGHBOURHOOD SUPPORT

The most recent list of Neighbourhood Support contacts in Tawa dates back to 2003. We have been able to come up with current contact details for 70 of the 105 names on that list. Jim Higgins, Cr Ngaire Best, Alastair Campbell (Tawa Lions) and I met together to discuss how we go about making contact with those people and the part they might still be prepared to play in Neighbourhood Support in their own street.

APPENDIX 1

At the minimum level we will be encouraging them to be willing to distribute 15 to 20 circulars in their neighbours' letterboxes once or twice a year. At the other end of the scale the ideal will be to see a full Neighbourhood Support group continuing or being resurrected in their street.

We are working towards as many Tawa neighbourhoods as possible being involved in "Neighbours' Day Aotearoa" which is scheduled for the last weekend next March.

ASSESSMENT OF KENEPURU RAILWAY STATION

Around 12 individuals from the Wellington Regional Council, both officers and councillors, and the chair of the Tawa Community Board met at Kenepuru Railway Station to survey the station and to ascertain why there is talk of its possible closure. Regional Councillors Jenny Brash and Peter Glensor were there, as was Wayne Hastie, General Manager, Public Transport Group, GWRC.

A great deal of money would be required to bring the platform up-to-scratch and KiwiRail is loathe to make that investment for a relatively small number of users. We have subsequently invited some of the above to our next board meeting to discuss the prospects for Kenepuru Station.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Dominion Post recently ran an article on Tawa on the front page of its Saturday Property Market section. It was generally positive but unfortunately had a small number of errors which we felt needed correcting.

Graeme Hansen and I took it upon ourselves to send a letter to the Editor endeavouring to "set the record straight". The letter was not published. However it was included in the recent community eNewsletter.

It read as follows:

Tawa is indeed a family-friendly and facility-filled suburb (Property Market writeup, August 20th). The article about Wellington's top suburb (geographically, at least) read well and accurately summed up the benefits enjoyed by the 14,000 residents who live here, not 8,000 as mentioned. However one or two aspects need clarifying. As we understand it the suburb as a whole is Tawa and it contains localities such as Linden, Redwood and Greenacres. Tawa became a borough in 1953, not 1959.

In terms of expansion, there has been more on the eastern hills than that resultant from infill housing. Tawa is a popular place in which to bring up a family because it has so much going for it including an excellent range of schools. Although Brandon Intermediate was mentioned, it is in Cannons Creek and has no connection with these parts. There are six primary schools in Tawa plus Tawa Intermediate, He Huarahi Tamariki (School for Teenage Parents) and a highly-regarded secondary school, Tawa College. At the other end of the scale, Tawa has an abundance of groups catering for the senior population. Those who live here are privileged to do so.

Malcolm Sparrow - Chair, Tawa Community Board

Graeme Hansen - Deputy Chair, Tawa Community Board

APPENDIX 1

STREET INSPECTIONS

Graeme Hansen is kept busy with his roading portfolio. There are usually a few times each month when he and I meet with either a concerned resident to discuss a roading issue, or we meet on the street itself to look at some aspect that has been brought to our attention. In recent days we have met in Tainui Tce because at one point it is so narrow that if cars are parked on both sides, there isn't room for a fire engine to get through. We also had a look at where the Tawa Shared Walkway will be crossing the railway tracks opposite Tawa College. There's current discussion about the siting of a new pedestrian crossing that will link Tawa College to the shared walkway. It is on the agenda for the September 8th board meeting.

SNOW IN TAWA

It has been said that the role of a community board is 25% governance and 75% community engagement. How that community engagement is enacted in practice may simply boil down to the extent of the board's imagination. Fostering community spirit can be achieved in 1001 different ways. One of those was to invite the local community to submit their photographs of the recent snowfall in these parts – for compilation into a webpage or two. Although this wasn't a community board initiative as such, it was all about building "social cohesion", an important goal for the board. About 60 locals chose to send through more than 240 photos recording the event in their own neighbourhoods.

The resultant webpages feature 170 pics of the snow in Tawa. In the four days after people were notified that the snow scenes were "officially" available for viewing, the stats showed 400 hits on those pages.

The day after the initial snowfall, Kris Dando from the Kapi-Mana News rang me to discuss the effects of the snow in Tawa. I was subsequently quoted in a "snow article" on the front page of that (local) newspaper. Again, good publicity having the Tawa Community Board mentioned.

TAWA COMMUNITY BOARD BROCHURE

A full-colour promotional brochure outlining who the community board is and what it does is currently being compiled. It will be used for the first time at Spring into Tawa Market Day.

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

This continues to be sent to 1000 Tawa email addresses twice a month. In addition to general community news it features snippets from the community board, including information about the Tawa Shared Walkway which is continuing to progress, and a recent "profile" of board member Chris Reading.

OFFICIAL WELCOME FOR WALES RUGBY TEAM

In my role as chair of the Tawa Community Board I will be attending an official welcome put on by the Porirua City Council for the Wales rugby team on Sunday afternoon, September 4th.