
ORDINARY MEETING

OF

MAKARA/OHARIU COMMUNITY BOARD

MINUTE ITEM ATTACHMENTS

Time: 7:00pm
Date: Thursday, 15 March 2018
Venue: Ohariu Valley Hall,
550 Ohariu Valley Road

Wellington

Business

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2.2 Chair's Report

1. Chairperson's Report 2

3.2 Forward Programme

1. Makara Beach Report 3

1. Assisted with clean-up of Makara Beach properties after Cyclone Gita, 21 March.
2. Attended and chaired meeting at Makara Beach Cafe (Steve Wright attended also) of Beach residents to discuss the recent damage.
3. Met Steve Wright, at top of Makara Hill to identify position for new Makara sign, then did drive through Makara, Beach and Ohariu Valley to inspect other roading issues. The Fire sign near McClintock Street to be repositioned and the new Ohariu sign to go in that place. Painting of fenceposts on Makara Hill is currently being actioned.
4. Met Peter Hemsley, WCC Project Manager, Parks, Sports and Recreational Manager and went to Makara for walk around, and taking photos.
5. Queries being received by me from visitors and residents on delay on work being done, hopefully information and repairs to follow shortly, particularly moving trees/wood from access to Walkway.
6. Request by MP for Ohariu, Greg O'Connor to visit next meeting in April to introduce himself, accepted.
7. New bike track at Makara School now in place, thanks to Bikes in Schools, WCC, Meridian Power Up Fund and School funding. Many families are using the track in the weekends, not just locals, as it is a track for younger riders to learn cycling, and using the various playground items i.e. Flying Fox, Rugby and Soccer goalposts, swings and other equipment.
8. John and I meeting Glenise Dreaver, new reporter at the Independent Herald, Monday 19 March for general chat.
9. Wellington Water – Karori Pipeline Consent application to cancel Condition 24.
10. Meeting being held for residents of Ohariu on 26 March, with 2 Planners to go over Rural Design Rules in District Plan.
11. Request by Ohariu resident (owner) to attend Board meeting regarding application for 630 Ohariu Valley Road.
12. Resource Consent (630 OHV) for this now received by Board, forwarded to Board 15/3/18.
13. Emailed Bill Stevens, Resource Consent Team Leader regarding proliferation of tiny houses/container homes, copy of this attached for discussion.
14. Board has been notified that the application for 511 Ohariu Valley Road (4 container homes) has been withdrawn.

Makara Beach Community

Ex-cyclone Gita Residents Meeting

15th March 2018

This document has been compiled by Chris Renner (Council Member) on behalf of Makara Beach Residents present at the community meeting on Wednesday 28th February 2018.

Document Purpose

The purpose of this document is to present the outcomes of our residents meeting to the Makara/Ohariu Community Board requesting **urgent action and advice** relating to the impacts of ex-cyclone Gita on the Makara Beach Community (both small business and private residence).



Image taken from the beach looking east down Makara Road Wednesday 21st February.

Summary of Events

On 21st February 2018, ex-cyclone Gita made landfall on the southwestern coast of Wellington causing gale force winds and extensive rainfall. After midnight, a storm surge occurred which resulting in seawater flooding the beachfront pushing a significant amount of driftwood, debris and rocks onto Makara Road and the public car park area in front of Makara Beach Café. This created a significant amount of damage to the local café itself, several homes, garaging and boat sheds on Makara Road and Estuary Street.

Based on observations made both during the storm and afterwards, the seawater was largely funneled via the car park which we believe was due to its lower level of elevation in relation to the surrounding area.

The local café bore the brunt of the seawater surge funneled through the carpark which then drained into surrounding properties on Makara Road and Estuary St causing significant damage.

The NZ Fire Service provided support by manually pumping the seawater from the properties and Estuary St down into the river mouth.

Large amounts of driftwood and debris were pushed as far as the intersection of Makara Rd and Estuary St with several boat sheds and garages suffering severe damage as a result.

One home is currently uninhabitable, and the café remains shut.

Following on from the weather event, the Makara Beach residents held a community meeting where approximately 40 residents were in attendance. The meeting was chaired by Christine Grace, Makara/Ohariu Board Member.

Community Meeting Discussion Points

On busy days Makara Beach is a hive of activity with its variety of visitors ranging from cyclists, walkers, fishermen, divers and general beach goers. We also have a high number of international tourists and freedom campers given it's clearly a "must see" destination on many tourist travel sites.

It's not unusual on a nice day to have in excess of 200 vehicles parked on the beachfront, carpark and along both sides of Estuary St. Many of these vehicles resort to parking directly on the beach rocks along the foreshore which leads to compaction of the beach bank itself. It' also creates a potential hazard for visitors, young families with no clear parking lines and a heavy flow of large utility vehicles towing boat trailers.

Several points were raised as part of the discussion which are summarised below;

1. Return the beachfront to its original state of elevated sand dunes. This was the natural state prior to the New Zealand Government at the time removing these in preparation of a potential enemy invasion during WW2.
2. The Makara Beach walkway is now heavily inundated with driftwood and is seemingly impassable at the beginning of the track. The track needs to be cleared immediately as it poses a safety hazard to the hundreds of residents/international tourists who are still visiting the beach. Many locals are also called upon day and night to tow vehicles who have become stuck in the soft shingle areas.
3. Current drainage within the public carparking area is inadequate, resulting in several flooding events over the past several months. Elevation of the car park area was also discussed as a potential solution.
4. A drainage solution was discussed to capture water flow from Makara Road and channel down Estuary St back into the river mouth. This was however met with some opposition without there being a full investigation by experts to understand wider impacts on other residential properties further down Estuary St.
5. Some of properties were protected through bollards and chain which run along the beach frontage by the reserve. This prevented the driftwood flow however, the beachfront reserve has dramatically changed since the storm and many bollards/chains have been lost. These will need to be replaced with further consideration to be done around the addition of more bollards in front of the carpark as a possible preventative measure for future events.
6. Urgent action is required to implement a proactive management system of the river mouth and opening of the Makara Stream at certain intervals during the year. Installing a water-monitoring tracker in the Makara Stream would help determine overall water toxicology and when the estuary mouth should be opened throughout the year.

7. Many locals and tourists visit Makara Beach to take part in fishing activities. This requires the boat ramp to be accessible given the recreational value to Makara Beach and wider Wellington Region. The ramp has been cleared with the help of local residents but it requires ongoing maintenance and possibly, signage to assist with reducing the parking challenges many experience on a fine day.
8. Breaker Bay preventative measures were discussed in relation to the placement of boulders along the foreshore for protection. These boulders could assist with debris collection in future storms, adding further protection to the first line of houses on the Makara foreshore.

Actions Required/Advice Sought

Action Item	Detail	Priority
MBC001	Clear current debris, driftwood and reinstate accessibility to the walking track area	High – Immediate action required
MBC002	Clear current debris, driftwood and damaged chain/bollards surrounding reserve/car park areas/boat ramp	High – Immediate action required
MBC003	Seek qualified assessment and recommendations in relation to drainage along Estuary Street	Medium - Medium term immediate action required
MBC004	Seek qualified assessment and recommendations in relation to restoration of coastal sand dunes	Medium – Longer term planning and action required
MBC005	Seek qualified assessment and recommendations in relation to placement of boulders along foreshore	Medium – Longer term planning and action required
MBC006	Seek qualified assessment and recommendations in relation to the raising of the car parking area, extending bollard/chain surround and drainage options	Medium – Longer term planning and action required
MBC007	Implement proactive management system for Makara river mouth.	Medium – Longer term planning and action required

Item 3.2 Attachment 1

Next Steps

We ask that the Makara/Ohariu Board act with urgency on the above information and provide a response back to the residents with 10 business days on proposed action to be taken.

Should further clarification or detail be required, please contact:

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Item 3.2 Attachment 1