


Hahei Walkway Stakeholders Group				
Minutes of Meeting				
Meeting Date and time	13 February 2015 12.00 pm to 2.05pm	Meeting No.	1	

Main Parties Involved:

Stakeholders Group
TCDC
Doc
Ngati Hei

File Ref:

Date Issued: 19 February 2015

Title of Meeting

Stakeholders Group Meeting with TCDC, DoC, Iwi

Meeting Location

Community Hall. Hahei

Issued by: Shelly Osborne

Signed:

Attendees:

Thames Coromandel District Council

Len Whittaker,
Gary Towler,
Sophie Dickinson,
Laurna White
Chair Bill Stead, Peter Harrison, Alastair Sims, Peter Hawley, Karen Blair, Ian Chalmers, Brian Keucke, John Dallimore, Graham Harsant, Brian Green, Jeremy Lomas, Shelley Osborne
Peter Johnston

Hahei Walkway Stakeholders Group

Ngati Hei

Mercury Bay Community Board Chair:

Paul Kelly

Department of Conservation

John Rich
John Gaukrodger

Apologies: ????

Distribution: Attendees +

		<u>Actions By</u>
1.	<p>Stakeholders Chairman's Report</p> <p>Bill Stead presented the group's report.</p> <p>He outlined of how the group was formed and why, the activities it has undertaken over the last two months to gather information from the communities it represents in order to provide feedback and response to the proposed section of the coastal walkway from Hot Water beach, through Hahei, to Lees Road and on to the Purangi.</p> <p>More than 100 people have contributed to the report – and more are coming in.</p> <p>(Report attached)</p> <p>This last holiday season has been the busiest ever in Hahei.</p> <p>The parking ambassadors and shuttle buses from the Park and Ride area have alleviated some of the past problems.</p> <p>The main thrust of the opinions of the contributors to the report is to ensure that whatever planning and development happens, it is done to ensure the beauty of the greater Hahei area is not destroyed, and property values are protected.</p> <p>A Community Plan needs to be developed which will become an integral and binding plan for the future. People of Hahei want control of the development of Hahei.</p> <p>The car parking problem in the village, at the beach carpark, and on the roads leading to the beach during the peak tourist times has got to be solved before any more development or other projects are undertaken.</p> <p>The Stakeholders Group hopes that if the parking problems can be solved before next Christmas, people will have confidence that it is a group that “gets things done”.</p> <p>Local people want to determine their own future.</p> <p>The challenge will be to maintain the village atmosphere and also allow growth to happen.</p> <p>Seventy percent of the people who have provided feedback do not support the walkway – some say “no” outright, and others support it cautiously. Therefore the Stakeholders Group cannot say it supports the walkway at this stage.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Car parking is the main reason 2 The walkway is not complete – it was to be Whitianga to Hot Water beach coastal walkway, but even the end section to Hot Water Beach cannot be completed around the coast. 3 Attracting more and more people to Hahei will mean locals will lose control and the peaceful atmosphere of the village will be destroyed 4 There are concerns about the cost and the funding of the walkway 	
1.1.	Lees Road representative John Dallimore	
	There is support for the concept, but there is not enough detailed	

	planning supplied and there has not been enough consultation e.g.: no one has talked to one of Ian Carter's neighbours who has land running right to the coastline..	
1.2.	Karen Blair Hahei Reserves representative	
	<p>Parking is the issue. The former Grange Road problem has been pushed down to Beach Road and Dawn Avenue. People coming into Hahei do not know where to go. A large carpark, information centre with walking maps and directions on how to get around is needed.</p> <p>And how do we make people use the carpark (especially if it is pay and display) when they can drive another 200 metres and park on the grass verge for free?</p> <p>Encourage making Hahei a walking only village during the peak tourist times</p>	
1.3	Peter Hawley Walkway representative	
	Carpark size is important – one day during the summer there were 220 cars in the carpark and another 280 parked in Hahei village. Need to create a longer vision plan of 10 years or more	
1.4	Ian Chalmers non-residents representative	
	Concern about how people are going to access the walkway with narrow roads and no footpaths	
1.5	Jeremy Lomas Pa Road area representative	
	Concern that we are adding to the problems we can't deal with already. We are talking about a return walk for which Hahei again becomes the hub.	
2.	DoC Hahei Coastal Reserves Integrated Management Plan Presentation – John Rich	
	<p>John Rich presented PowerPoint report of the research regarding visitor numbers, Cathedral Cove visitor experiences, and the creation of an integrated plan for Cathedral Cove.</p> <p>Visitor numbers have been monitored and these figures are useful for applying for funding for projects such as the coastal walkway.</p> <p>Trip Advisor and nationwide feedback rates the Cathedral Cove experience as "very good" or "excellent".</p> <p>Surveys have been carried out over this last summer regarding people's Cathedral Cove experience; including toilet facilities and crowding at Cathedral Cove.</p> <p>Slides included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Integrated plan;</i> • <i>Area the plan covers</i> • <i>Values</i> • <i>Management topics</i> • <i>Vehicle access and parking</i> • <i>Outcomes by 2019-2020 – possible traffic bans in Hahei</i> • <i>Cultural and heritage values</i> • <i>Landscape and natural values – whatever is done sustainable and preserve what is import.</i> 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Natural hazards</i> • <i>Biodiversity – there is a lot of work in pest control</i> • <i>Recreation values and use – don't under estimate the value people get from Cathedral Cove. Their perceptions of crowding are different depending on where you come from.</i> • <i>Tracks in general – they must fit with the landscape; be easy to maintain; preserve the experience of the walk – 1.8 km distance of the present CC track does this.</i> • <i>Coastal Walkway is supported by DOC</i> • <i>Plan for buildings and structures</i> • <i>Signage and interpretation - DOC wants a plan for this by the end of this year</i> • <i>Concessions – a myriad of opportunity comes with the walkway. Big opportunities for the carpark in Grange Road – think 30 year concessions. Need DOC lwi and TCDC to talk and agree on policy for this.</i> • <i>Community Engagement</i> • <i>Monitoring and reporting so DOC is ahead of the eight ball</i> • <i>Next Steps.</i> <p>The present issues have come from unmanaged growth and development.</p> <p>In the next 12 months DOC expects to continue with the parking ambassadors and have parking enforcement at the Grange Road carpark. No structural changes at the Grange Road carpark are planned just yet.</p> <p>This year 300 pohutukawa will be planted on DOC land in the area as a memorial to the NZ soldiers who died at Gallipoli 150 years ago. The site for the plantings on the CC track is on the flatter grassy area where stock formerly grazed.</p> <p>The ongoing care and management of the trees will be undertaken by WINTECH</p>	
3	Garry Towler, TCDC	
	<p>Garry confirmed that all the legal work for the release of the former wastewater site behind Hahei village has been completed so a permanent carpark can be created there.</p> <p>The Hot Water Beach to Purangi section of the walkway is on hold as a result of the feedback from the community and the Stakeholders group.</p> <p>Funding applications will still proceed because of the expense and long time frame needed for these to be completed. A full Council resolution would be needed to stop the funding application</p> <p>Already council has spent \$80 to 90,000 on the walks project.</p> <p>Once funding was awarded the walkway would proceed with the support of the community and stakeholders group.</p> <p>The carpark at the former waste water site is not conditional on the</p>	<p>Garry to send key TCDC Planning information</p>

	<p>funding – none of the funding proceeds will go to this or the proposed Less Road carpark.</p> <p>Garry explained that various TCDC will be issuing draft 10 year plans and other planning documents. He offered to send us key dates and so we could make submissions on behalf the residents of Hahei.</p>	
4	Len Whittaker, TCDC	
	<p>Len said the Lees Road carpark is in the 10 year plan but they were unable to give detail on it as negotiations with the present land owner had not been completed.</p> <p>Further tar sealing of Lees Road would depend on where it sat on the priority list which is reviewed yearly and adjusted according to road usage.</p> <p>From 9 March to 9 April 2015 TCDC’s draft long term plan covering the 10 years from 2015-2025 is open for submissions. Late April hearing will be held, and decisions made in late May. One voice from Hahei would be advantageous in having the community’s wishes heard. The 10 year plan is reviewed every three years.</p> <p>Council recognises that there is too much “freeness” for people coming into the area.</p>	
5.	Peter Johnston, Ngati Hei	
	<p>Peter said we need to look 25 to 50 years ahead and set the foundations now for the growth that is going to occur in this time. A holistic approach is needed to identify the multiple problems so the solutions can be agreed upon and got on with.</p> <p>We need to plan for infrastructure so a greater amount of funding can be raised, rather than a knee jerk reaction as is happening now.</p>	
6.	Paul Kelly, Mercury Bay Community Board Chair person	
	<p>Paul said that diversity of opinion has resulted in difficulties in the past. A community plan agreed upon – in the same way that the communities in Wharekaho and further north have – would make a difference and allow for some progress</p> <p>Paul offered to help Hahei prepare a Community Plan.</p>	Paul Kelly/Garry Towler to provide Community Plan Guidance
6.	Summary and Conclusion of Meeting _ Bill Stead	
	<p>The walkway has created huge discussion in the greater Hahei community. The Community Plan needs to be update and TCDC and others involved in the development of Walkway must incorporate updated Community Plan concepts and requirements in the Proposes Walkway. If possible, the Community Plan shall be and re a binding document.</p> <p>Discussion continued that a Community Plan needed to be all encompassing and owned by the community. And it should include policies on the utilisation of land on the outskirts of the village.</p> <p>Peter JOHNSTON said that Ngati Hei would not necessarily bow down to a Hahei Community Plan, as iwi values are not always aligned with the values of a predominantly pakeha community with different cultural understandings. However, as not much is unique to</p>	

	<p>man, Ngati Hei would consider each and every point of concern raised by the Community and if those concerns were aligned with Ngati Hei's view, then the iwi would seek to support those concerns. If though, the community exhibited values in a manner not in accordance with Ngati Hei values, the iwi would have to agree to disagree.</p> <p>Discussion about locals having to pay for the pay and display parking and ways in which this could be changed.</p> <p>The Stakeholders Group agreed to help prepared an updated a Community Plant as soon as possible.</p>	
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