

Council Meeting

Tabled Documents

26 September 2019

Item 8

Portfolio Updates:

Cr Ash – Youth Development / Samoan engagement / Environment

Cr Aslett – Heritage and Tourism

Cr Gordon – Northern Sport and Taihape Building

Item 9

Administrative Matters – September 2019 – supplementary

Late Item

Re: Haylock Park

Portfolio Report. September 2019.

Cr Ash.

- Youth Development
- Samoan engagement
- Environment.

Youth Development

Has been a positive experience for our young people to be involved in the election process and the "Meet the candidates" evenings. Thanks so much to them for their enthusiasm and commitment.

The opportunity for our youth council to consider important issues such as the class 4 gambling act, and the impacts, both positive and negative on our communities is a valuable one. I am sure they are all extending their critical thinking in a positive and influential manner. This is a topic that even most adults don't stop to think deeply about.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the last youth meeting, so missed out on the opportunity hear the discussion with such weighty issues such as the gvt Child and Youth Wellbeing strategy.

This is a serious issue, with so many edges that I am very keen to hear how their discussion went.

Environment.

We have been reading recent policies and statements from central government that gives me heart that finally our country will take into consideration the impact of humans on this planet, with steps of mitigation and remediation. On the flip side of that, I wait to see how much is rhetoric, and how much will be changed by pressure from outside interests before it actually becomes policy.

The product stewardship guidelines appear relatively comprehensive. However, it would be great to see indication towards support for more education around the 7 R's. Support to change the culture of our communities to one that embraces our responsibility as individuals and gives sound advice as to how to implement changes within a home or business would be valuable.

On the NPS-FM review, I was unable to find anything that would suggest renewed policy around product use, that ultimately ends up in our waterways. We have seen successful policy with the removal of microbeads, however it would make a further and dramatic impact on the regeneration of our water quality to extend that out to any product that has potential to go into our waste and storm water systems. This could include garden products and household products, considering the use of environmentally responsible product. The majority of products used on a day to day basis have such a degrading impact on the health of our waterways, (and when we move to land dispersal, will have a detrimental impact on soil health)

I did however read a Mountains to Sea approach, and found myself wondering if that would see higher levels of fencing along all tributaries. I continue to see it as really weird science to think that just fencing the larger waterways will be sufficient. Naturally, every stream runs to the larger streams, to the rivers etc...That's how the whole cycle works. So, an approach to protecting the entire catchment is where we need to be heading.

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Tabled at Council

on 26 September 2019

SDG Summit – 2nd Sept.

The SDGs were signed at UN in New York 2015, and at the time were recognized as a bold and visionary agenda.

The 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals provided an agenda for transforming the world to meet the challenges of ending poverty, enhancing social inclusion, environmental sustainability, peace, good governance and economic prosperity for all countries and peoples.

Interestingly everyone I have spoken with since the summit, when asked , is unable to tell me what their understanding of the SDGs are, or even how we are performing against any sort of measure.

The 17 Sustainable Development goals are.



The need for urgency and greater action to progress sustainable development were recognised in the 2019 Summit's theme of *Accelerated action, together*.

The purpose of the Summit was to bring together people from all sectors to develop and commit to positive action and accountability on the critical SDGs within our broader spheres of influence. The summit provided a platform for recognising, sharing and combining knowledge and skills, and seeking to weave together many threads of accelerated action through preparatory work, keynote addresses, panel discussion and action planning.

As a country we do ok against the backdrop of the global realities. (Health and Wellbeing, Peace & Justice, Sustainable Cities, Reduced inequalities). Yet is that even a fair comparison? To measure ourselves against countries that face much greater challenges, and give ourselves a pat on the back because we are doing so well? With a series of reports that seem to contradict each other it certainly raises questions. An interesting space to watch will be the OAG, as they are about to launch an audit of the government on their performance against the SDG measurables.

The consensus was, that (with the exception of many great NGOs), as a country we pay eloquent lip service to our aspirations of leading the charge with meeting the SDGs, however the reality is strikingly different to what we want to believe of ourselves.

Speakers and panelists were engaging and encouraging – Geoff Perry, Acting Vice Chancellor -AUT- spoke to the impact that our neighbouring islands are currently feeling. He spoke of a theme that was echoed throughout the day, and that was of the partnerships and tighter collaborations that essential to being able to achieve any ground with the SDGs.

Jacinda Adern spoke about building a togetherness to deliver wellbeing across all spheres, recognizing these spheres, environment, economy and people are all interconnected. She then spoke of us being innovative, resilient, noting we also have our fair share of challenges. The emphasis was on the policy development and that we leave no one behind, acknowledging this requires honesty and openness...The VNR (**Voluntary national review on achieved goals**) <https://www.mfat.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/New-Zealand-Voluntary-National-Review-2019-Final.pdf> is looking to build a sustainable, diverse, productive and inclusive economy by gaining a deeper understanding of the groups that will be most affected, so they/we can ensure the right strategies are in place to support them. This framework needs data, so they have developed a suite of statistical indicators to support that work.

She also spoke about NZ being a leader and constructive partner nationally, and internationally to achieve SDG 17.

Voluntary national review on achieved goals.

Helen Clarke spoke to her concerns of the lack of traction of the global community achieving the SDGs. Noting the significant challenges we face globally to achieve the SDGs with US leader pulling out of the Paris agreements and Brazil progressing more farm development despite the monumental degradation to the environment.

“None of the goals can be reached if environment is pillaged”. Ms Clarke noted the “cascading collapses of natural ecosystems” that surrounds us, the 1 million species on the verge of extinction, the modelled 3 degrees of warming, all despite a heightened awareness of environmental protection. “NZ can lead on this, it has agreed on the framework of climate change policy, it does need cross party support to spare NZ from the stop-go approach that NZ has to climate action over the last 2 decades”. Helen Clarke tellingly suggests the NZ policies are not inconsistent to achieving the SDGs, however needs to formally adopt SDG strategy and targets, and would be enhanced by moving to embrace a formal strategy with targets, and a commitment to monitoring and accountability in line with the approach by many other countries around the world. It is now that we need action, not speeches.

I would suggest this is where people feel challenged and potentially see the SDGs as contrasting. Less poverty is seen as achievable, but with greater degradation to the environment. A certain amount of environmental demise is considered acceptable collateral damage for a gain in progress, growth and prosperity. However this is all very short-term thinking. The bottom line is, without a healthy ecosystem everything else is irrelevant. We cannot continue encroaching into an environmental deficit without having to face the consequences, and we are beginning to witness those consequences now.

Jeff Sykes highlighted the impact growth and prosperity was having on our health, with record numbers of obesity & diabetes. This has been the collateral damage of positive returns of certain

industries. The growth of many industries is often left unchecked without monitoring the affects they may have on the health and wellbeing of our both our people and our environment. In a discussion workshop we broached the subject of individual accountability of businesses, and how businesses and individuals need to be accountable, having measurable indicators of the impact their business has on the wellbeing of the people and environment. While it was considered vital that the govt and local govts set strong policies to lead in this area it was agreed that there can be a lot quicker response when cultures change within communities and businesses rather than waiting for government policies.

Kevin Hague CEO of the NZ Forest & Bird highlighted the dismal rate at which NZ has allowed the degradation of our endemic species. NZ is one of the few countries in the world with the highest rate of endemic species, but have the highest number of species at risk of extinction point. 4000!! 2 thirds of our ecosystems are in decline and entire ecosystems have been lost. He challenged the priorities in which we work, instead extolling the basis that economy should be the subset of environment and not the other way around. Fundamentally it is about the relationship between environment, economy and people. We need to have the economy as a subset of environment and wellbeing of people. He suggested govt needs to actively work to deliver the SDGs and not just view the international agreements as a "treadmill of compliance". The agreement itself does not drive what we do domestically, we need to actively engage with the goals to deliver on our targets.

Dr Gill Greer, after co-writing the Peoples Report <https://www.sdg.org.nz/peoples-report/> spoke of the damning indictment of where our country is at delivering the SDGs.

Sadly Jacinda Adern spoke an all too familiar rhetoric about us being a great country, and leading in this space, and what we see in the VNR is the usual narrative about our innovative country, a real treasure...yet as Kevin Hague pointed out the reality is the environment is getting worse, across the board and quickly.

I did leave the summit wondering where we fit with these targets. Where are they even in our discussion, other than SDG 6, which is within areas of core business such as the 3 waters. Do we challenge ourselves to acknowledge other areas of the SDGs, is it possible to take us out of our comfort zone, and tackle some of the other areas? What should we do better, what could we do better, and how are we going to do that?

Tabled at Wanaka 26 Sept 2019

Portfolio Update Heritage and Tourism on Cr Richard Aslett – Sept 2019.

1) Update on the Rangitikei Heritage Group Recent Activity –

Next meeting of RH Group will be Tuesday 6th Oct, at the earlier time of 3.00pm at Hunters Café, Hunterville. The last meeting, following a tragic accident on just south of Hunterville on SH1, affected numbers of attendees and meant our administrator George Forster could not attend. This also meant Gioia Damosso (RDC Tourism/Economic Development) who was due to make a presentation on Tourism and Economic Development for the committee with a plan to discuss how Heritage and the Heritage Group could work in with all this, was also unable to attend. Hoping this next meeting can be well attended by all. **Items up for discussion will be Heritage Inventories, various local matters, the Heritage Trail and Signage revamp and how to progress matters for promotion of the Magaweka Bridge** becoming a 'destination' as part of a walking and cycling facility for users of the Manawatu Scenic Route and users of the local campgrounds etc.

2) Update on Tourism :

With daylight saving having just arrived and summer just around the corner, the district will be looking forward to increasing visitor numbers in general and those attending local 'iconic' events such as the upcoming Hunterville Shemozzel (Sat 2nd Nov) Marton Markets (Sat 23rd Nov) and Mangaweka Fakes & Forgeries & Massive Book Fair (Sat 30th November) Also awaiting more specific info and results from the questionnaire "**Enhancing the digital profile for businesses in the Rangitikei**" sent out by Gioia Damosso, and the "**Brainstorm**" meeting was held with local businesses and tourism operators. **Economic Development Strategy* (DRAFT v1.0)** now in circulation and hopefully becomes the basis for '**Attracting visitors to the Rangitikei - to enjoy everything Rangitikei has to offer**' this area having not had much focus in recent years due to Rangitikei Tourism going into abeyance.

Rangitikei.com Website :

Website Stats : Quick view; the number of hits for August are 96,814 slightly down on July's 117,034 (roughly the same as June's 97,894), so plenty of online interest in the district and again seeing good late winter/spring averages at around the 90K-100K+ monthly hits rate. As always the number of 'Hits' (A hit being a request to a web server for a file such as a web page, image, JavaScript, etc) is only part of the story regarding site visits and on-line activity etc, so happy to forward the full stats and comparison charts etc via e-mail to anyone who interested. Just ask at the e-mail below.

Thanks, Cr Richard Aslett - e-mail : mangawekagallery@xtra.co.nz

Northern Building and sport portfolio report.

Discussions with the all of the memorial park user groups are progressing well. These have been undertaken by Mr Benadie, Ms Prince and myself with his worship the Mayor in attendance at some of the workshops. Mr Danny Mickleson has been representing clubs Taihape. All of the user groups have been very constructive in their feedback with many good take-home points received from them. So far rugby, netball, TAS, equestrian sports and A&P have taken part. Tennis, Mokai-Patea services, St Johns, Gumboot day organisers (TCDT), Nicholls swim academy and other minor users yet to take part. It would be fair to say that the "internal detail" of the draft has been massaged significantly, but the overall footprint remains unchanged. Some of the original items in the draft have been deemed as superfluous in the ground floor, which frees up space to increase the changing room footprint. All codes have asked that the build be undertaken as soon as possible as the aged facilities that many rely on are at the point of failure and in some cases have failed already. The grandstand switchboard is stretched beyond its design life and capacity, and the A&P/ equestrian shower facilities are effectively condemned without a major and unnecessary spend. With any luck we can negotiate the next 18 months without any service failures or reputational damage, needless to say the new build can't happen soon enough.


The Hautapu river park project is slowly progressing, with an ecological inspection being currently undertaken to ascertain the level of risk to significant indigenous vegetation within the proposed work areas. This is one of the threads of this project that needed to be woven in as part of the ongoing relationship between RDC, DOC, HRC, iwi and the friends of Taihape group. The Papakai road park site which was re-grassed late last autumn has settled down well and is already attracting casual use. The consent process which is being undertaken by RDC will be crucial in progressing this project, as will fundraising.

Cr Angus Gordon

September 2019.

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Tabled at Council
on 26 September 2019

Tabled at 10:00on 26 September 2019  **RANGITIKEI**
DISTRICT COUNCIL**REPORT**

SUBJECT: Administrative Matters – September 2019 - supplementary

TO: Council

FROM: Michael Hodder

DATE: 26 September 2019

FILE: 5-EX-4

1 MW LASS – continuing exemption as a Council Controlled Organisation

- 1.1 One further administrative matter needs to be attended to. Manawatu-Wanganui Local Authority Shared Services Ltd ('MW LASS') was set up as a council controlled organisation during 2007/08 to provide councils in the Horizons region with an umbrella vehicle to investigate, procure, develop and deliver shared services. Apart from Palmerston North City Council, all councils in the Horizons region are members. Up until 30 June 2019, MW LASS has been deemed an exempted organisation under the provisions of section 7 of the Local Government Act 2002. The Directors look to all member councils to review their respective resolutions and confirm the exemption for a further three years.
- 1.2 A review of the CCO exemption requires the Council to consider the matters specified in section 7(5) of the Local Government Act 2002:
- the nature and scope of the activities provided by the organisation; and
 - the costs and benefits, if an exemption is granted, to the local authority, the council-controlled organisation, and the community.
- 1.3 The objectives of MW LASS are confined to shared services where 'a business case shows that they provide benefit to the (voluntary) council users by either improved levels of service, reduced costs, improved efficiency and/or increased value through innovation'. While that could potentially involve many council services, this will take considerable time given the decision to focus on a few projects at any one time. It is likely that the nature and scope of the activities undertaken by the LASS will continue to be considered as narrow.
- 1.4 The dedicated resource base for the MW LASS is very small. Its affairs are managed by a half-time Executive Officer. While it is important to develop reporting as part of the accountability to councils within the region, the costs with achieving full compliance with legislation in respect of a council-controlled organisation are considered to outweigh the benefits (which would be primarily

around documentation in the public arena): the member councils are all represented by their chief executives on the Board of Directors (who are well-placed to keep their respective communities up-to-date with the activities of the LASS) and a significant (but undocumented) part of the LASS's resource base is staff time from member councils. Continuing an exemption from the CCO requirements appropriately recognises the scale the company is operating at.

- 1.5 The Council is required to review this exemption every three years, so the recommendation takes that into account and also the need to align with other member councils of the LASS.

2 Recommendations:

- 2.1 That the report 'Administrative Matters – September 2019 - supplementary' to the 26 September 2019 Council meeting be received.
- 2.2 That, subject to confirmation by all member councils, Manawatu-Wanganui Local Authority Shared Services Ltd ('MW LASS') be exempt for the purposes of section 6(4)(i) of the Local Government Act 2002 and thus not be a council-controlled organisation under that Act, and that this exemption applies up until and including the year ending 30 June 2022 or until member councils determine an earlier date when this exemption should no longer apply.

Michael Hodder
Acting Chief Executive

Re Haylock Park.

As a past councillor and held the port folio at one stage for roads and footpaths etc under the watchful eye of the then Dr Owen Haylock.

I would be remiss not to make mention of what Dr Owen Haylocks intention was when putting a large sum of money towards securing this extra land in question in conjunction with the councils purchase.

Because the portfolio that I had and we both agreed on progress in Bulls I was told by Owen of what his intentions were.

Owen and I were very concerned at that time of all the land in Bulls that was landlocked by certain people creating a huge number of dead end streets.

Unfortunately the council at the time and years gone by made some bad decisions in not securing certain sections for a road access when the opportunity arose.

This section of land that Dr Owen Haylock purchased was extra land with the proviso that certain streets could be linked up plus a portion to be used as a green area.

To carry out his wishes at that time was not an opportune time as the demand was not there because other sections in town were still available.

It is to be remembered that it makes sense to try and subdivide where our services are and not extend them to the outskirts of our town.

I signed the petition that was presented to me and congratulate the organizer Bruce Dear for the work that he put into it.

My reason for signing is that I felt the public were confused and hoped that this would make the council come out with a clear picture of what the developer plans actually are.

In conclusion, the Bulls community owe a huge gratitude to this learned, hardworking gentleman, Dr. Owen Haylock who worked tirelessly for our community that we live in today.

Brice Tamblyn. 24th September 2019.

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Tabled at Council
on 26 September 2019