

Chairs report to Policy and planning meeting

December 2021

Welcome to the December policy and planning meeting

As you will see there are a number of our agenda items presented along with a smattering of legislatively driven material so I will try and raise a few relevant issues as I see them.

Firstly you will remember that we elected to go out for public submission on the easter trading bylaw, due to the timing of the submissions this work stream will be heard in council at the end of the month, please take the time to read the submissions as we have attracted comment from near and far, one in particular is a friend of the Easter bunny who claims to be living in Australia, I am sure that you will now all be reading the submissions with interest just to find this one 😊

The issues around freedom camping were raised with me as a potential agenda item, I would like to thank his worship for bringing this back onto our radar screen. As you will see in the order paper there is the intention for central government to review this relevant piece of legislation in the near future, but this does not change our immediate problems. From my observation in Taihape, "freedom camping" currently seems to involve those who have opted out of the housing market and bought a camper van to live in, and those that are itinerant or short term workers who are self-reliant and arrive in a town to fill a short term vacancy. I would like us to share what we know so that we can make a more informed decision on which way we would like to go on this issue.

The policy draft on the rates remission on Maori land is going to TRAK this month, this committee will be reviewing the outcome at its February meeting.

You will have noted the email trail shared by His worship around the subject of the banking industries performance and a submission to parliament. My question for this committee is do you want to step in to the space of helping the mayor with any content assuming that there is sufficient time to do so. Historically items like this did arrive on this committee's agenda, but with bi-monthly meetings time constraints may get in the way. Some feedback would be beneficial if you want to be involved.

There is an item around the welcoming communities program which we have been successful in our application to, and what future work streams may eventuate, as well as reports in the work streams economic development, destination management plans and improvements to the resident's survey improvement plan. As always I look forward to your input both inside and outside of the meeting.

Angus Gordon

Chair Policy and Planning