
MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL, MIRANDA STREET, STRATFORD ON TUESDAY 18 MAY 2021 AT 9.00AM TO HEAR AND CONSIDER SUBMISSIONS TO THE 2021-2031 LONG TERM PLAN

PRESENT

The Deputy Mayor A L Jamieson (the Chairman), the District Mayor N C Volzke, Councillors M McKay, V R Jones, R W Coplestone, G W Boyde, W J Sandford, A K Harris, J M S Erwood, and G M Webby.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Community Services – Ms K Whareaitu, the Director – Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs T Radich, the Director – Assets – Mrs V Araba, the Executive Administration Officer – Mrs E Bishop, the Communications Manager – Ms G Gibson, the Services Asset Manager – Mr M Oien (*part meeting*), the Asset Management Coordinator – Mrs L Campbell (*part meeting*), the Revenue Manager – Mrs J Erwood (*part meeting*), the Corporate Accountant – Mrs C Craig (*part meeting*), the Community Development Manager – Mr C Julie (*part meeting*), the Community Development Officer – Mrs S Shepherd, the Roading Asset Manager – Mr S Bowden (*part meeting*), the Administration & Communication Support Officer – Ms R Vanstone, three members of the media (Stratford Press, Te Korimako o Taranaki & the Taranaki Daily News) and 57 members of the public (throughout the meeting)

1. **WELCOME**

The Deputy Mayor welcomed the District Mayor, Councillors, staff, the media and those in the public gallery. He read the health and safety message including evacuation procedures.

It was reinforced to Councillors that the purpose of this meeting is to hear submissions on the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan. Councillors were asked to hear all submissions with an open mind, to restrict their question time to the submitters to points of clarification or issues pertaining to subject matter. Councillors were requested not to get into direct dialogue with submitters as there the timeframe scheduled for the day is tight. Councillors may take notes whilst submitters are speaking.

2. **APOLOGIES**

An apology was received from Councillor P S Dalziel.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the apology be received.

BOYDE/McKAY
Carried
P&S/21/52

3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chief Executive noted that due to the clash of events (Long Term Plan Hearing) and the unavailability of the Chairman, the Audit and Risk Meeting scheduled for 2.00pm today has been cancelled and will be deferred to Tuesday 22 June 2021. The time of this meeting will be publicly notified.

The Chief Executive noted all Councillors had been provided with a hard copy of the agenda front page which includes an updated list of speakers for the day. This includes withdrawals and a couple of minor changes. There has also been one additional speaker, John Hooker of Ngāruahine, who will speak at 9.35am following Ngāti Ruanui. This will slightly change the time frames of speakers. The Chief Executive, in conjunction with the Chairman and District Mayor had approved this request.

4. **DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTEREST**

The Deputy Mayor requested Councillors to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda:

- The District Mayor – submission 27 – K Davidson
- The Deputy Mayor – Central Taranaki Safe Community Trust (submission 94), Stratford Business Association (submission 98) and Rotokare Scenic Reserve (submission 113).
- Councillor Erwood - Central Taranaki Safe Community Trust (submission 94)
- Councillor Webby - Central Taranaki Safe Community Trust (submission 94)
- Councillor McKay - Stratford Business Association (submission 98)

5. **ATTENDANCE SCHEDULE**

The Attendance Schedule for Policy and Services Committee meetings was attached.

6. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SUBMISSIONS**

Pages 7-9 – List of submitters
Pages 21-372 – Submissions

Attached are the 114 submissions received.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT each of the 114 submissions to the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan be received.

BOYDE/JONES
Carried
P&S/21/53

2. THAT each submitter be individually advised of the outcome of their submission, and notified that the minutes of the Policy & Services Committee Meeting, and subsequent meetings, are available on Council's website.

WEBBY/ERWOOD
Carried
P&S/21/54

Recommended Reason

So that each submission is formally received and the submitter provided with information on decisions made.

7. **SUBMITTERS TO BE HEARD**

Fourteen submitters requested to be heard in support of their submission. Three of these had withdrawn their request.

Submitters will be given 10 minutes to speak which includes time to answer questions from Elected Members.

Sub# 101	John Snook	Western Institute of Technology – Te Kura Matatini o Taranaki
<p>Points noted in discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WITT wants to be part of the Carbon Zero 250 and see vocational education as a key change agent in that process by looking at the primary, construction and transport industry and seeing the transformation of that workforce. • The future of work productivity report shows the need for education and training to evolve as the nature of work changes which will involve part time study for full time workers. • Would like to do this in partnership with the community of Stratford and the broader community of Taranaki. Have made a submission to all three District Councils and the Taranaki Regional Council with a similar presentation that will try to promote WITT as a campus that has points presence around the mountain. • He recognised the regional leaders group and their input in allowing WITT to get to this point. They have a cloak of knowledge that they want to wrap around the community providing lifelong learning, sustainability and employment outcomes which they are putting out via schools, Māori enterprises, primary technology, nursing, engineering and infrastructure. • Would like to support the Stratford Park as currently proposed and would like to be part of any development there and is wanting to talk to the community about what their education requirements would be. Have spoken about equine in the submission and he noted WITT had begun discussions on partnering with Massey to provide vet nursing schools. • Stratford District Council is encouraged to support the Taranaki Regional Council in changing to hydrogen buses to ensure Taranaki has a modern energy public transport system. • Stratford District Council is encouraged to support South Taranaki District Council with its innovation hub concept. • Would see Stratford linking with New Plymouth District Council in a centre for sustainable tourism and biodiversity which could possibly be centred at TOPEC which is viewed by WITT as a jewel in the region and is under utilised as it could be the greenest school in the region and teach kids as part of their schooling curriculum. • He noted WITT is Taranaki’s community college and it has been too small for too long. Similar communities have polytechs three times the size of WITT which has been around the 1,000 learner mark up until this year when it has increased to 1,700 but it should be around 3,000. • Want to be the education provider for this region. <p>Questions/Points of Clarification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Snook clarified he saw Stratford District Council taking a leadership role as governors of this District with the Stratford Park project and noted he felt iwi involvement was also critical to the leadership of this project to ensure the park becomes a proper community park which will involve iwi, education and the community. 		

Sub# 100	Graeme Young	Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Ruanui
<p>Points noted in discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr Young thanked council for the opportunity to speak to the Long Term Plan. He noted this was done with extreme disappointment and a heavy heart due to the decision not to introduce Māori Wards.• The introduction of Māori wards is all about long term planning and about the future and what is the heart of what is required for long term policy and important decision making for Māori.• Ngāti Ruanui was shocked to have heard about the decision to not introduce Māori wards through the media which is felt to be reflective of the relationship with Stratford District Council.• The District Mayor had been asked for a formal explanation for the decision on 14 April 2021 and noted the reply was sent on 12 May 2021.• This move makes Stratford the outlier in regional Local Government as the only Council in Taranaki not to have adopted Māori wards.• This shows Council is out of touch with Tangata Whenua who invest in our region.• It has been too long that Local Government has had limited partnership and felt consultation was used to shift engagement but has become a tick box or window dressing. Are Tangata Whenua nothing more than tokenism for a dial up powhiri.• Māori have been faced with an unfair electoral system. Since 2002 22 Councils have voted to introduce Māori wards but these decisions have been overturned by referendums but the Government has now overturned that.• He acknowledged the engagement with Officers but did not feel this was through true willingness for decision making.• The introduction of Māori wards is a bold step towards trying to meet Treaty obligations. The time is right to do this as other local government in the region know this. Stratford District Council needs to act now.• The collective voice of iwi has never been louder than today. Has Stratford District Council been listening? It has talked about needing to consult while making the decision to introduce Māori wards and needing to listen before consulting.• There are five reasons to urgently change this decision:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ It is the right move to remove racism around system of power – too long Māori have been oppressed with power.○ It is the right move to stop majorities deciding how minorities should be represented – this is not a tenable position anymore. Non-Māori residents do not know how oppressed Māori are.○ It is the right move to create the right balance where Māori have been woefully underrepresented.○ It is the right move to have a Council representative directly elected by those on the Māori electoral roll to ensure presence in this Council.○ It is the right move for better perspectives at the decision making table to lead better processes and better decisions. It is beneficial for land use decisions.• Māori representation in Local Government means working in partnership and empowering them to be part of Local Government. It is essential for long term planning and a Māori ward is just one way this can happen.• As a result of that single decision they feel disgust and a loss of goodwill and it has undermined all the engagement achieved to date.• The time is right. Council needs to act now and still can if it wishes to do so. The power is in your hands and he pleaded Council to make the right decision who should be encouraging and not limiting Māori's voice.		

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Coplestone noted that he felt a Māori ward would give a voice but no power. He questioned if consultation in a group situation rather than with one seat had been considered. Mr Young noted that putting someone in a seat at the table is a step in the right direction. It was not a request for power but one for partnership. They have been engaging with Council for ten years with no power and there is no example he could point to now or in the future that would give that. This is just one step, not all the steps, in the right direction.

John Hooker

Te Korowai o Ngāruahine

Points noted in discussion:

- He noted his past having been raised in South Taranaki but remembered playing against a range of Stratford rugby teams being Stratford, Stratford Old Boys and also on the Māori rugby team against Ngaere.
- He has always been impressed that Stratford was a community that rolls up its sleeves and gets on with the job. He noted the Marae DIY as an example where all the community rolled up their sleeves and got into the kaupapa there.
- He noted that six years ago, as iwi Māori, they were against Māori wards and were concerned about how it was compiled and the gerrymandering going on, however seeing the way they are now rolling out and developing he noted his iwi was now definitely in favour of Māori wards.
- He noted an email sent to all of the Te Korowai board members last night had an overwhelming response that Māori wards needed support in all of our rohe.
- He noted their whanau had spoken to South Taranaki District Council face to face like now. Most of that council they had grown up with and it was unanimous voting in favour of establishing a Māori ward even though the recommendation had been to defer it to next year.
- 85% of Ngāruahine hapu have boundaries and areas within the Stratford District and significant treaty assets in our area.
- He noted the recent subdivision and that iwi were now looking to the future and how they could start maximising on their own opportunities in the future.
- Māori wards were a thing that need to be done. It was not a matter of if a Māori ward would be the only method of engaging it would give a face at the governance level and staff would still meet on a management level.
- He urged Council to roll up its sleeves and get the job done.

Sub# 64

Monica Newmarch

Points noted in discussion:

- She noted her concern regarding water meters which Council intend to install over the next three years.
- She does not personally have a problem with meters/user pay systems and by all means install them over the latter part of the ten year plan but felt there has not been enough done to get ratepayers on board to respect this commodity. She noted she was a new resident to Stratford and may have missed getting to this point which she considers a last resort to conserve water.
- She noted there was only two options presented to residents – the status quo or what Council wanted. She did not want to see a wastage of water but that comes out of ignorance and felt more needed to be done with education to instil a moral sense of understanding as to why residents need to change their ways and attitude. She noted she had not seen any workshops to educate on ways of saving water. There are many people in the community who have seriously good suggestions through research or their own experience.
- She felt the lack of consultation on this implied the respect and appreciation for other people is lacking.
- She noted some people do not like change but suggested when questioned that it is not so much that they want to stay the same but the only opportunity given is not what they feel will solve the problem.
- Attitudes towards so many things need to be changed but water is a crisis commodity and she noted while Stratford gets good rainfall every year but weather patterns are not the same as they were 10 or 20 years ago.

- She noted only twice, when on rainwater tanks, had she had to buy water in – once after visiting family and once after getting the tank cleaned. They took ownership of harvesting and storage and were more conscious in looking after water and fixing leaks.
- She requested that Council show its residents their input is important and that this exercise has not been a waste of time and effort.
- She noted adding the bill will be a burden in some instances mainly on small businesses and large families and questioned if Council would then be spending a lot of money chasing unpaid accounts.
- Was this suggestion of installing meters for financial gains or to change to behaviours?
- She noted the graph from the Midhirst consumption should have been for usage over 12-24 months as it was only the first months usage on it.
- Suggested that all homes require a rain water tank with rain water as a primary source of water and then fed from the town supply at a cost.
- Suggested positive incentives for grey water tanks for new builds would reduce the demand on the river source and ease urgency for upgrades to the reservoir.
- Felt Council will do what it wants to do and suggested two or three meetings a year where public can attend as she would attend these meetings.
- She noted she would also like to provide feedback on the numbering of several roads in the District.
- She noted that when questioned at the Marae presentation on the Economic Development targeted rate Mr Hanne had responded that Council was consulting on who pays not what it was spent on.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde noted his agreeance that education was a vital part of conservation but noted that through many years of water restrictions water flow did not change at all. Education was one element but people did need to take personal ownership of it as well.
- The District Mayor noted that every meeting of Council was open to the public and members of the public can also approach any of the elected members at any time. He noted, in response to questioning if Council listened to feedback, that during the last Long Term Plan process Council changed their proposal to spend \$6 million on repairing and upgrading the current pool facility to including \$15 million in the budget to build a new complex which was as a result of public feedback. He noted he had read the concern in the submission regarding the Midhirst water usage graph and had found that over the past year there had been a steady level with one exception which was found to be a major water leak in the system and since that was repaired in March water has returned to its steady level.

Sub# 90	Brian Jeffares
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Points noted in discussion:

- He noted he was really opposed to the introduction of water meters on a number of premises. He felt it was a crude way to punish those who turn on their taps and is revenue gathering not efficient use of water.
- Installation of meters will result in almost everyone paying more and felt it would shift the relationship from rate payers (all in this together) to a servant/master relationship.
- The costs in the consultation document did not paint the full picture of costs. A house of six or more would go to about \$1,110 almost doubling the existing cost.
- He noted bathing, toilets, laundry and kitchens equated to 75% of water use in a survey done on 51 random houses in Auckland and if Council was serious about water conservation they could concentrate the energy to these areas. A dual flush toilet would provide 67% water savings and built in flow restrictions could add significant savings by slowing the flow of taps. He encouraged Council to take another look at what could be achieved.
- He suggested Council follow the Auckland example and randomly select 50 houses to test water use and then introduce conservation measures to then quantify the changes.
- With 2 meters of rainfall annually he felt that installing water meters should be a last resort as there will be resentment for paying for what falls from the sky.

- He noted a lot more education was needed to achieve a far better use of water resources.
- He noted the Stratford Power Station had consent to use 29,440 cubic meters of water a day which over a year would be about 700,000 cubic meters and work out to 1/10 of our water use.
- Waste minimisation – happy to accept this proposal but questioned if the other bin could be taken away as his household did not produce much rubbish.
- He noted his support for the Economic Development Targeted Rate and would be in favour to put this as a core service of Council.
- He noted his support for a Council led subdivision but asked that social housing be considered.
- He noted this was his first appearance to Council since he was Mayor and only did it due to his opposition to water meters. He felt this is perhaps one of the best Councils there has been for some time as it was well led in management and governance noting that the funding received for the State highway 43, Children’s Bike Park and Pool had only been accessed due to the cases being put together so well. He felt really encouraged by the A&P Association plans and congratulated Council on their role in that.
- He noted there were some incredible challenges coming up, not just around water, but with other issues we are facing.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde clarified that it would not be a money making exercise as by law water can only be charged for recovery and delivery of water. Mr Jeffares noted that Statford was the sixth highest cost of water delivery in New Zealand and he did not want to see that go any further.
- The District Mayor noted the outcome in Kapiti saw 75% of people seeing a reduction in their water bills. Mr Jeffares noted that the fact remains that 75% of water used was still inside and even if sprinklers were turned off there was still a huge amount being use inside. He suggested a scheme such as the smoke alarm project that educated people on how best to use water inside.
- It was clarified that the 14 other Councils using water meters referred to are Councils that have over 80% of their properties metered. He noted it had been a debate of this Council for years and it had never got to a point to apply it as an economic and efficient process to go through.

Sub# 79	Charlotte Littlewood	Taranaki Trails Trust
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Points noted in discussion:

- The trust was established in December 2019 following a study done by Lincoln University that looked at trails and the potential for trails throughout the country. She noted the strategy of the trust was part of the submission.
- A lot of work is going to talk to the Councils and it is very important to promote what they have been doing with the map of all the trails we have already and promoting to people wanting to visit.
- A video was played showing the current trails, the future trails, and the ultimate goal for Taranaki wide trails.
- It was noted the long term vision with the Stratford to the maunga via York Road plan and linking this to the New Plymouth ‘Taranaki Traverse’ trail.
- She noted the Forgotten World Adventure’s plans to turn the railway tracks into a cycle way which would be able to link in with the track being planned along the cream trail which will link to the Whanganui River and the Bridge to Nowhere ride.
- It was noted they were working with Council officers in terms of what the visions are.
- It is the aim of the trust to advocate for trails and that they were at this hearing to say they want to continue working and building our regional trails vision giving amazing experiences and an authentic nature experience.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde encouraged Ms Littlewood to visit the new Children’s Bike Park before leaving.
- It was noted the trust does organise community rides and was hosting one in Waitara this weekend.

Sub# 97	Lauree Jones	Toimata Foundation
<p>Points noted in discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted she was speaking as the coordinator for Taranaki Enviroschools, a representative of the Toimata Foundation and as an employee of the Taranaki Regional Council. • She noted Council’s visit to Toko Primary School and Huiakama Primary School and how nice it was to see Council fully immersed with what they are doing. • She noted Enviroschools was founded in Hamilton in the 1990s and still has the same Chief Executive today. There was a real need for a focus on environmental education for sustainability and that the kaupapa was designed to meet local government outcomes. Councils are putting in 20-25% across the country to run this kaupapa. • Enviroschools have been in Taranaki since 2003 and the Stratford District Council has been number one supporters the whole way through. There is also an in-kind relationship with Kindergarten Taranaki which covers the three enviroschool kindergartens in the Stratford District. • The organisation has run out of garages, kitchens, as part of Sustainable Taranaki, back to garages and in the Taranaki Regional Council’s last Long Term Plan they took them on as part of their commitment to education. 15/16 Enviroschools throughout the country are run through their regional councils with West Coast being the only one that does not. It means the Taranaki Regional Council employs the coordinator, supplies the administration, stationary and car and they are really excited about the enviroschool kaupapa and want to see it grow. • There is a really strong presence in Stratford which includes the first and second green/gold Enviroschool. • She noted they were now working with all of the principals and all of the schools to target key projects depending on where the school wants to focus. There is a wait list in Stratford to join. • The Taranaki Regional Council has challenged the District Councils and will match an increase in funding dollar for dollar. At the moment the people in the District dollar value per capita is the highest through Taranaki and the foundation is asking for an increase of funding from \$10,000 per annum to \$15,000 as it will take \$30,000 to run it as it is in the moment which has been made possible by a short term TSB Community Trust grant to see it through the transition period and will disappear in 2022. <p>Questions/Points of Clarification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Deputy Mayor noted the great work being undertaken with the Enviroschools and that the benefits will be seen for years to come. • Councillor Boyde noted the visits to Toko and Huiakama Schools were brilliant. He noted it was instilling sustainability at a very young age and agreed the benefits will be seen in the future. There is a real opportunity to have 100% Enviroschools in the Stratford District. • It was clarified with an increase to funding the foundation would be able to approach more schools (Avon Primary and Taranaki Diocesan) and there is also a plan for their fully trained facilitators to open up the learnings to the community outside of schools and kindergartens. 		
Sub# 82	Tom Vos	
<p>Points noted in discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parliament and what is called ‘Local Government’ is being protected by this church canopy of a failing example of the truthful way of living. • Stop mortgage servicing as well as voting for centralisation and that goes for plastics, texting and motors on wheels, creating economic complication and social confusion as byproducts. • Requests that a committee be arranged that focusses on this church-council predicament as other councils have already started to settle unfinished business. • As the last council to open up on agreed Māori-European relations you are uniquely placed to correct the silence on this subject by Shakespeare and by Martin Luther. <p>Questions/Points of Clarification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Boyde noted he agreed with the submitter’s point in his written submission regarding using local timber and adding value here rather than send it offshore. 		

The meeting adjourned at 10.24am and reconvened at 10.50am.

Sub# 113	Allen Juffermans	Rotokare Scenic Reserve
Points noted in discussion:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Juffermans noted he had become part of the reserve a number of years ago to provide an escape mid week and initially became involved checking fences every Wednesday and fell in love with the place which resulted in more tasks and responsibilities. • He noted volunteers become tour guides as the reserve is very busy in the weekends with a full carpark and use of the campgrounds. • The reserve does welcome freedom camping which they feel helps with keeping boy racers and vandals away. It is one of the closer freedom camping locations to Stratford and he has found a range of people staying there from out of town, staying in Stratford or passing through. • He noted while the location fell inside the South Taranaki District the benefit is just as much for the Stratford District because the township is closer to the reserve than Hawera. • He noted Eastern Taranaki Experience had arranged an event which tapped into the night tours provided at the reserve which are pretty much booked for the remainder of the season. He noted this particular group were staying in, or were from, Stratford. • Other benefits for the Stratford District were the educational experiences provided to the schools and 12 out of 13 schools in Central Taranaki are involved with either visiting or through NCEA level papers which the volunteers help with. There is a fantastic educator and it is often praised by parents for how much the kids love it there. She also did a series of YouTube videos over lockdown with the Taranaki Regional Council to keep the public energised and remind of what can be achieved with Predator Free 2050 – of which Stratford is part of that goal. • A major project is coming up with a subdivision consent currently with South Taranaki District Council to take on another 25 hectares on the north side of Rotokare which will join to the Totara block and Mangamingi township and comes onto the banks of the Patea River. • The goal is to see the river flourish with the hope it will become a avenue for our taonga bird species to settle back and with good predator controls it is hoped they will make it up the river through to Stratford and to Maunga Taranaki. • The camping experience offers toilet facilities and a shower (cold) and water supply but under the South Taranaki District Council’s bylaw there is a limit of three vehicles at any one time. The largest number of vehicles in one night was 16 which can cause issues the next morning as it is full of vehicles which are quickly replaced later in the morning by visiting families. • Lower decile schools have also enjoyed exposing kids to conservation and have seen the change and fascination with what they have achieved. • He requested a contribution from Stratford District Council be considered to provide a regular income/base fund to help to ensure bills can be paid. There is funding available for projects but these funds do run out when the projects have been completed. 		
Questions/Points of Clarification:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Coplestone noted the reserve was marvellous and that he spends a lot of time out there and has resulted in him doing his own QE2 reserve and agreed that going out to the Patea River there will be benefits seen in the Stratford District. • It was clarified that educational benefits saw the mahi begin at home and that the goal of predator free will be done through the work of volunteers and seeing the impact good trapping systems can have the kids take these ideas home and want to protect their homes and see bushland flourish. • It was noted without wages around 50-60% of expenditure by the reserve was done in the Stratford District through building supplies, food, farm supplies, sprays, chemicals and catering and would work out to around \$100,000 to \$120,000 annually. • It was noted that the Taranaki Regional Council withdrew funding for Wild For Taranaki. A submission was presented last week to try and get that fund back, however they do assist with in-kind support with man-power and resources. 		

- Mr Juffermans noted the benefits for regional growth included a list of species they wish to introduce and this will result in the reserve becoming more and more popular. He clarified there was no intention on having accommodation on site.

Sub# 112	Andy Basset & Stacey Hitchcock	Creative Taranaki
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Points noted in discussion:

- Stratford was congratulated on a great Long Term Plan which showed continued support for creative arts especially around galleries the outcomes including vibrancy.
- This group has been around for a little while and the goal is to establish a regional development for Taranaki for a strong and vibrant regional creative community. This will include more efficient collaboration around the Maunga to stop silos and involve advocating on a national level.
- As part of the plan for 2050 art was one of the sectors, which Taranaki currently punches above its weight in. There were three workshops held which identified there was no regional arts strategy. The group was created from this and includes representatives from all across Taranaki. To create the arts plan will require knowing exactly what the sector wants. An online survey was sent out which had 254 respondents and was followed by hui held around the Maunga. Out of these questions on how to access funding were raised and it was felt there were barriers stopping the creative sector from moving to a business model.
- From here funding was provided by New Plymouth District Council (report in submission) and part of that report was speaking with other regional arts organisations around the country. There were a lot of common factors with the four other organisations spoken such as the trust set up, relationship with councils and they were all run by artists and creative people. Some of the advice included ensuring there was a good cultural strategy and policy – which New Plymouth District Council didn't have. They encouraged following the sports model as sports seem to get funding at all levels. Now the plan is to ensure arts are as important in uniting the community as sports are.
- The group also aims to deliver assistance with funding application, provide capability workshops and provide a place for these people to physically go to seek advice.
- The group was given a seat at the national table with Regional Arts Aotearoa which Ms Hitchcock attended. They found here that there was Ministry of Cultural and Heritage funding available and other national funding opportunities that they did not know about and are able to point people to. It also provided learnings about sharing resources across New Zealand and now as a collective they are going to the Minister to look at something similar to the sports model for the creative arts.
- They have partnered with Venture Taranaki to apply to the minister for funding for capability and capacity building which will be set up in the future in Waitara, Stratford, Hawera, Opunake and New Plymouth.
- New Plymouth District Council have allocated funding in Year 2 of their Long Term Plan. At this stage the group is looking to start building relationships with Stratford District Council with potential funding of \$10,500 to be considered next year during the Annual Plan process.

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- The District Mayor congratulated the group for identifying the need in terms of regional strategies for which sports is well represented and arts are not. He noted Council annually contributed \$50,000 to the Percy Thomson Trust which runs the gallery so it does recognise the need to support that area. He welcomed the submission that there should be a regional strategy that will enable groups to apply for funding from other sources.
- It was clarified that the group would like to have a key councillor and a key staff member to build the relationship and become the point of contact. Once funding has been granted then they will be activating very quickly.

Sub# 81	Richard Pratt
<p>Points noted in discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• He noted this submission was what he had presented to Council at the Whangamomona meeting to request Council consider creating a heritage precinct in the village of Whangamomona.• He noted the Whangamomona Hotel was currently a Heritage 2 status and felt the way forward was to create a heritage status on 8-9 other key buildings in the village to protect their facades.• He noted the suggestion made at the meeting of the opportunity for Stratford to establish a hot pool complex which are currently being built in Methven and was a result of government funding being an alpine region – which he considered Stratford to also be. The report on Stuff noted it was a \$15 million project which had received \$7.5 million loan and was expected to create 120 jobs and add \$162 million to the economy over the next decade. This would be a fantastic opportunity as there is nothing in Taranaki currently.• He requested Council consider a 25 meter set back from the highway to preserve the Forgotten World Highway as a spectacular piece of tourism facing pressure with forestry and felt a lot of this could be lost to forestry over the next 40 years of which no one would benefit from – particularly tourism. <p>Questions/Points of Clarification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It was clarified that Mr Pratt had not discussed the idea of the heritage statuses to the owners of the other buildings in a public forum but they were aware of where he was progressing with this idea.	

Due to two submitters not being able to present till the afternoon the hearing was suspended and deliberations began.

Water Conservation

Points noted in discussion:

- Councillor McKay noted a common theme that had arisen from submissions was the economic cost for larger families or low income families and questioned if there was anything that could be put in place to protect these people? The Deputy Mayor questioned if the costs were up for negotiation. The Chief Executive noted that Elected Members had considered a few options leading up to this point on how to split the fixed and variable costs. Examples were taken from around the country and the scenario for this proposal was at the more extreme end. This could be moved through the scales with the more you use the more you pay. Most of the variable use is for outside use. Summer consumption versus winter consumption rates only change because of outside use. The key principle for the water activity was that it is meant to be cost recovery at the end of the exercise but the money needed to be spent upfront and collected from someone who benefits from the activity.
- Councillor McKay noted the numerous references to the introductions of water tanks to new builds as residents own collection of water long term would be massive and could find residents going that way naturally and questioned if it could be part of the building consent process? Mr Hanne noted that reticulated water is the biggest public health benefit of the century and the use of rainwater topped up with town supply would deem all testing and treating to be meaningless if it went to residents via a tank. There is a grey area from where Council needs to protect the water to the space where it could be exposed to a breeding space of microorganisms. It could definitely be doable for garden use and was a condition for the council subdivision but there would be significant costs to bring rainwater up to drinking standard and it would lose any cost benefits. He would strongly discourage Elected Members to promote rain water use in place of the reticulated system. He noted pollution was much higher in town due to being a higher density resulting in a higher level of contamination compared to rural homes collecting rain water. A tank would also require pumps and result in higher electricity costs and then would not be that far away from the costs of metered water. The Director – Environmental Services noted this could be done through the District Plan process or incentive programme but not through building consents. Councillor McKay noted that the issue was water conservation and not the cost of water.

- It was noted that water metering would mean the rate for water would go down but then extra usage added. A percentage of the total rate would be fixed with the variable charge based on estimated consumption per year. Year 3 figures were based on a 45% fixed with the rest of the charge on consumption. The fixed cost in the plan was brought down to a level to get some real change but could be changed.
- It was noted the fixed fee this year was \$575 and Councillor Coplestone questioned if an average household would change based on average consumption and it was noted that it would due to the costs incurred for installing meters, reading of meters and the employment of staff.
- Councillor Boyde reiterated Councillor McKay's concerns but noted he was a big believer in water meters. He did note the concern of hardship and would like to see what could be done in this area. He noted everyone has the opportunity to conserve water and felt Council could do more work on education. There were three years before this would start being charged and felt the District Plan discussions did need to include water tanks and noted overseas these are used for garden and toilets.
- The District Mayor noted that households were currently using 250 cubic meters per year which is almost unlimited use charged at \$575. The figure in the consultation document indicated this would increase to \$740. He noted the problem was conserving water to meet consent requirements and ensure that Council has enough water to deliver to people. He noted the introduction of water meters was universally recognised for reducing consumption – Kapiti showed a 26% reduction of use and a 96% reduction in leaks. This is reflected by Water Care NZ and the experience with meters in Tauranga. In Stratford approximately a quarter of connections are already metered so there won't be the same level of results but there is still the potential to see great savings. He noted the submitters referring to the heavy rainfall in the District but clarified that the reality was residents did not take as much water out when it was raining. Stratford's current storage facility allowed for 2.2 days of supply and although there had been suggestions to increase storage or create a dam or lake he questioned how much would this take to create sufficient resilience to make these viable solutions. The only way to go was conservation and this is incentivised by charging for use. He noted there had been a common theme in opposition to this regarding large or poor families. He noted that all costs were increased with having a large family and this would be a charge amongst all the others. In a true hardship situation there were grants to assist with these sorts of costs. He noted he had done an example of a family with two adults and two children who didn't quite trigger the 250 cubic meter use and if consumption stayed the same then in two years time they would be paying \$660 rather than \$740 fixed fee which is less and based on water consumption. He agreed with the suggestions made by Mr Jeffares for aids to reduce water use inside and felt these could be encouraged as well as encouraging the use of tanks – although he did not agree Council should be paying for these as they would be creating their own savings by installing these. He did not think compulsory tanks were the answer but the incentive to install them based on being charged for water would suffice. He noted that there should be thought given to the 3 waters reform which should have a decision by the end of this year which may be forced on Council or it may opt to be involved meaning Council may no longer provide the service so noted any spending in this activity should be held off until the outcomes of the reforms are known. A lot of planning can be done in the mean time.
- It was clarified that large users, such as the Stratford Power Plant, were already metered so if the fixed charge was lowered and the higher proportion being consumption then they could potentially pay more – however it was noted the rate was proposed to reduce from \$1.97 to \$1.67. this could be changed to a staggered rate. The rate has been consulted on with examples in the Consultation Document and submissions have been presented based on those. As there was still a lot of time before charging regimes would be coming into use the rates could be discussed during the Annual Plan process and consulted on at that point. Any change to those rates would impact the full cost directly.
- Councillor Jones noted his support for water meters but questioned where the cost to put the meters in, staff to read the meters and interest costs would be added to rates. Mr Hanne noted that if the predictions of a 20% drop in water consumption were correct then it would effectively become a cost neutral exercise with approximately a \$500,000 difference between the installing of hardware versus the cost of that 20% of water going through the Water Treatment Plant. The interest would also come out of those savings.
- It was clarified that those currently on water meters received 250 cubic meters per year within their fixed fee.

- Councillor Sandford noted that the need for education was strong within the submissions. He supported the ability to relook at pricing during the Annual Plan process and noted the submission from Chrissy Darth that provided alternative charges. He also supported mock bills being sent before the charges began to let them know what they could be charged and prepare earlier. He felt more discussion was needed around charging but supported meters due to our resource consent requirements and the huge results with leak identification.
- Councillor Harris noted her support of water meters to incentivise water conservation. She noted the request for more education but felt water restrictions were a huge a platform for education but were not adhered to. She supported the idea for a mock bill to be sent to residents to prepare them.
- The District Mayor referred to the Midhirst example and noted the use of water meters in terms of leak identification that might otherwise have gone undetected should not be underestimated. He noted the identification and repair of leaks could alone provide water conservation and make savings based on that alone.
- Councillor Webby noted the reading of meters is a big expense but felt that changing technology would allow users to see how much they were using, being charged and assist with the reading of them.
- It was noted that Midhirst universal metering was done over a long period with much bigger users so could not provide the data to prove that it was a cost neutral project.
- The Chief Executive clarified with Elected Members that the one change was not to make an investment until the outcome of 3 Waters Reform was known. The budget could remain in Year 1 and be used in the latter part of the year or carry forward to Year 2. He noted a charge needed to be established for properties that are unable to be connected to a meter.
- It was agreed that it would be irresponsible to implement universal water metering without the knowledge of the 3 Waters Reform outcomes. It was not known if these would include the implementation of water meters.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT it is recommended that the decision regarding Issue 1 – Water Conservation be option 1.

BOYDE/JAMIESON
Carried
P&S/21/55

The meeting adjourned at 12.03pm and reconvened at 12.46pm.

Waste Minimisation

- Councillor McKay noted her support for this option providing the right location to put the green waste is found as she was not a fan of transporting it outside of the region. She felt this was a huge step towards the future in dealing with green waste and will help people feel better that their waste is not going to landfill. Assuming there is a hot compost site that can turn it into something then it will bring value to home gardeners and be put back to the land to revitalise the soil.
- Councillor Boyde questioned the opportunity to opt out if residents were already using their green waste and food waste in their gardens. He noted the proposed 240 litre bin was huge and would be far too heavy for elderly to move. He noted his concern regarding the Eltham Landfill project and worried this process may repeat itself. Mr Hanne clarified the location was not yet set so this question could not be answered. The intent is for it to be regionally based between New Plymouth and Hawera. He noted the outcomes of both South Taranaki District Council and New Plymouth District Council's decisions were still to come so it was unknown who will be part of this or not and who will own it – he noted the current pricing structure assumed Council would be a customer. He noted the ability to opt out would have a direct impact on the cost of the service. If this particular service had an opt out option then that would require significant administration which would then have the service competing directly with the private market which was not a desired outcome of this activity. Councillor Boyde reiterated his reservations especially as it can cost only \$8 a fortnight to have a monthly collection through a private contractor and therefore felt an opt out option was needed.

- Councillor Coplestone noted his reservation in regards to the active ingredient in sprays called Picloram. This is used on sports grounds and if it goes into compost it lasts a long time which he noted would not be an attractive option to buy. He noted the composting society of New Zealand had come across this issue and were trying to get legislation through at the moment as this can last up to (or more) than 12 months in lawn clippings. There would be no way of proving who is dumping the compost in the bins. He supported the idea in principle but noted the operational side was very technical.
- It was clarified that the 65,000 tonnes referred to in the community meetings was the amount estimated to go to the Te Roti landfill if this had gone ahead. There was no minimum amount that has been set for the greenwaste project.
- Councillor Sandford noted the feedback he had received was this was an unfair system for a lot of the District's ratepayers. He questioned if the goal was to reduce greenwaste to landfill could fines be issued for this going in bins or could the fee at the transfer station be waived for residents if they can prove they are a Stratford District resident. He noted he was weary going into another three Council facility following the landfill situation and was not prepared today to support a greenwaste collection.
- Councillor Jones noted his opposition to the preferred option as it was another cost to add to ratepayers. He noted only 63% supported this proposal but a large amount were already doing composting themselves. He felt the amount of people wanting to opt out did not make it a viable activity.
- The Deputy Mayor noted his support due to the waste minimisation aspect to reduce waste going to landfill.
- Councillor Boyde noted he agreed with the concept of it but also noted the Enviroschools work being undertaken around sustainability, composting and growing everything. He noted that this generation was starting to think differently and this will have a flow on effect for the future.
- Councillor Erwood did not support the option due to the cost. He reinforced the education concept with starting this process in residents own back yards. Kids through Enviroschools are doing their own things and will realise the impact fertiliser and sprays can have on compost and damage for future growth.
- The Director – Assets reminded Elected Members that this proposal had come about due to the need to reduce waste going to the landfill – currently 41% of waste going to landfill from the Stratford District is green and good waste. The only way to reduce this would be to have a separate collection to divert it to another use. There will be higher disposal rates coming if it isn't reduced.
- The Deputy Mayor noted he supported the proposal which had 53 responses in support and only 30 against.
- Councillor Coplestone felt that education needed to be done first and responsibility taken for residents own waste.
- Councillor Boyde noted he supported the concept but without the knowledge of what the other two Councils were doing it was hard to make an informed decision. Mrs Araba noted that New Plymouth District Council already collected food waste separately and that South Taranaki District Council had an arrangement with local contractors to collect green and food waste. Stratford was the highest generator of general waste and it was because the green and food waste was not separated.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. THAT it is recommended that the decision regarding Issue 2 – Waste Minimisation be option 1 with provision Council knew what the regional facility will look like .

McKAY/JAMIESON

For 3

Against 7

Lost

P&S/21/56

Economic Development Targeted Rate

- The District Mayor noted that throughout this whole consultation process this had been the most misunderstood item. There had been criticism around the amount of detail on what the money would be spent on which then spilt over to who should pay. He noted Council already spent money on Economic Development and would continue to do so with the \$190,000 extra a year to be spent on the same activities currently being done plus enhancements. There had been little argument against the increase as it had been focused on who should pay. He noted that under the new regime everyone would continue to contribute to this activity however it had been an attempt to shift the ownership/spread of who pays and load it a little more on the businesses as they receive the greatest benefit from this activity. Another argument had been that by rating the property owner this would then be put onto the tenant but he noted that this would just become another business cost like any other. There had been legitimate questions around the map and the urban area when there were clearly businesses that would also benefit in Midhirst, Toko and Whangamomona – he agreed this was a discussion that needed to be held.
- Councillor Boyde noted his support for this proposal. He noted he had gone straight to business owners and not one business owner on the main street said they were not keen on economic development but didn't believe the targeted rate should be just in the main street. He noted discussing it with farmers they had questioned why they should be funding the whole amount. He agreed that those who benefited the most should be paying.
- Councillor Coplestone noted that commercial properties in Stratford were quite cheap and there were several owners that lived in New Plymouth or Auckland but hold their properties here due to the low cost. He couldn't say the new cost was cheap but it was a necessity. He noted as a spraying contractor that has little to do in town he was not opposed to it.
- Councillor Sandford noted he had seen targeted rates in the past that were hard to understand but he felt this one was clear. He clarified this was not going to be collected to enhance buildings in the township. He noted he supported the proposal.
- The Deputy Mayor noted he supported the concept but the map was wrong and felt if Council was going to target businesses then they should all come under that umbrella.
- Councillor Jones did not support the proposal. He felt the map was not clear enough and there had been confusion as to what everyone would be getting. If the whole community gets the benefits then everyone benefits. He noted businesses are approached locally for sponsorship and they put back into the community in these ways. There needed to be more clarity on how much is being targeted and clearly define who is being targeted.
- Councillor McKay noted that she had been supportive to begin with, however she questioned if it was the right time to target our businesses right now when it couldn't be clearly articulated to the community what they will gain from the Economic Development increase. Part of this increase would be used to develop the strategy to know how to implement this in the future and she felt Council needed to wait until it could show businesses how it is going to be targeted and how it is going to be spent. She suggested to hold off until the next Long Term Plan and she agreed the map needed to include the whole District.
- Councillor Erwood did not support the proposal. Economic Development benefits everyone in the community and flows through from being a business owner to a customer. He also questioned the businesses working from home who would get the benefits and should be paying for it also.
- Councillor Sandford questioned if the whole District was included then would farmers fall into that category as they are a business and if not how would you distinguish farms and businesses. Councillor McKay noted another discussion would need to be held to clarify what was in and what was out.
- The District Mayor noted that Council was currently delivering this service and this increase was about improving and expanding this service and increasing Council's participation at a regional level as there are more and more demands on Council to pay its share into the regional development. He noted sectors such as accommodation would benefit greatly from this regional work with increased visitor attraction.
- Councillor Boyde noted there is a fundamental difference between the businesses who benefit directly from this and those that don't such as farming. Discussion noted that farmers would benefit from shopping in the town.

The discussion on Issue 3 – Economic Development Targeted Rate was paused to allow the last two speakers to present to Council

Sub# 69	Alena Hojdelewicz	Stratford District Youth Council
<p>Points noted in discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• She noted this submission had been made at the request of Councillors to participate in the process and was compiled during a series of debates at Youth Council meetings as well as at the Youth Council camp.• They agreed with water meter installation but had concerns that it could negatively affect families which could impact on ability to pay other fees. Proposed that a large family leeway be considered which would only cost after a set amount of water is used. Smart meter installations would help families know how much water they were consuming instead of waiting for the bill to arrive and allow them to enact water savings themselves.• Waste Minimisation – agreed with the green waste collection but had concerns with the bins and believe residents would see a way of removing excess waste resulting in bins not being able to be emptied into the right waste streams.• The Youth Council noted their concern that there was no reference to youth, kids or children in the document. They felt this group was not being discussed enough and requested that this be considered for future documents. <p>Questions/Points of Clarification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Councillor Boyde congratulated Miss Hojdelewicz on her presentation. He noted it could be very daunting to present to Council. He agreed youth were not well represented in the documents. He reiterated a previous invitation for the Youth Council to regularly present to Council and Miss Hojdelewicz confirmed they would be presenting at the public forum on 8 June.		
Sub# 99	Mark Hooper	Taranaki Federated Farmers
<p>Points noted in discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The three broad topics they wanted to cover off cover roading, three waters infrastructure and yellow bristle grass.• Roading was the key infrastructure Taranaki Federated Farmers members were concerned about. There was a lot of discussion at a recent meeting regarding logging trucks with the primary concern about this activity and the pressure on the road network. It was questioned if Council had considered a differential rate for forestry. They also questioned if a forward looking approach could be implemented to avoid Council contractors and logging trucks working simultaneously and get work completed before the heavy traffic will be operating. They also requested consideration be given to community meetings to update on the roading activity.• Freshwater in general is a major issue faced by all in some form or another. For the rural community the freshwater regulations would have a major impact. Their perspective was that this issue needs to take precedent in the plan particularly around the management of rate rises to ensure these are fair and equitable and to ensure borrowing capacity was maintained in order to make provision for what may arise from the 3 Waters Reform. There needed to be a clear focus on the future to ensure provision is there and felt the rates rise was not high but with the 3 waters infrastructure asked if it was appropriate at this time.• Yellow Bristle Grass – this issue has been raised with all of the Councils. Recently a group called the Taranaki Catchment Communities was established which brought together 14 different catchment groups with more also looking to join. The common theme raised by this group was the spread of yellow bristle grass. He noted they were taking this opportunity to give clear guidelines around the management of this which included the ceasing of glyphosate roadside spraying as bare ground going into summer gives the perfect seed bed for yellow bristle grass. He noted there was only a narrow opportunity to use this between mid-May to winter. He suggested a vegetative barrier to prevent the spread into paddocks and noted he was happy to discuss in more detail with Council staff moving into the spraying season.		

Questions/Points of Clarification:

- Councillor Boyde noted that logging was currently a permitted activity so differential rating is difficult but he agreed with the concerns. He requested this be raised during the District Plan discussions.
- It was noted the yellow bristle grass was widespread throughout Taranaki and there was a map available from the Taranaki Regional Council to show identified areas.
- It was clarified that hill country farmers had expressed their support for a differential rate for forestry and that there had been some good examples throughout the country and suggested that Ruapehu District was a good model which is being well supported and functioning well.
- The District Mayor noted the submission was opposed to a residential subdivision as it was not core business and he noted that this activity contributed to both the economic and social wellbeings and would also help spread the rate burden over a number of new properties. Mr Hooper noted his concerns were regarding the core roles of Council around freshwaters and felt that if sales took a long time then debt being carried when access is needed for borrowing is a risk.
- The District Mayor clarified that the rate increased proposed was 4.25% and an average of 4.69% over the ten years.
- It was clarified that you can ask Council to not spray outside your property.

Economic Development Targeted Rate – continued.

- Councillor Jones noted you could not definitely define who benefits – motels benefit yes but felt the whole district benefits when businesses are doing well which is reflected in sponsorship. He noted that as a farmer he would support this charge as if the town is doing well then it is vibrant but as we cannot agree on how it is being defined then he currently did not support the proposed option.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. THAT it is recommended that the decision regarding Issue 3 – Economic Development be option 2.

McKAY/JONES

For 6

Against 4

Carried

P&S/21/57

It was clarified that this would retain the status quo with the activity spread across the whole District and still included the additional \$190,000.

Residential Subdivision

- Councillor Coplestone noted that the support through the submissions show that people are in favour of it. Council does need to be cautious where it buys but at least if the opportunity arises then it would be prepared and ready to move on it. There are a number of subdivisions going on at the moment which may see opportunities for land slide by.
- Councillor Boyde confirmed his support for this proposal. There was a common theme that Council look at affordable housing.
- Councillor Harris noted her support for the proposal and agreed that the themes from the submissions of affordable housing and social housing needed to be looked at.
- The District Mayor supported the proposal. He noted the request was to borrow of around \$3 million to do a development. This could be a couple of smaller ones or one larger one. This would be borrowed and repaid when sections were sold to be cost neutral to the ratepayers. He noted one of the outcomes from the recent subdivision was the confidence it gave private developers to

go ahead with their own subdivisions. He agreed the discussion of location benefits, public housing and linking Flint Road to the new subdivision all needed to be factored in when the approval to proceed has been given. There would be good opportunity for these discussions in workshops over the next few weeks.

RECOMMENDATIONS

4. THAT it is recommended that the decision regarding Issue 4 – Residential Subdivision be option 1 .

VOLZKE/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/21/57

Other matters

The Chief Executive noted these were significant projects added to the Consultation Document but included projects that were currently underway.

District Plan

- Councillor McKay noted this was a key opportunity to tidy up big issues around the District, in the township and with roading and Broadway and she was looking forward to having this discussion.
- Councillor Boyde noted that there was also the opportunity to look at the heritage status requests through this process and set backs for forestry could be added to the District Plan as well.
- The District Mayor noted that Council had to have this discussion and plan but noted the \$1.5 million budget was the most ridiculous expense Council has ever embarked on.

RECOMMENDATIONS

5. THAT the proposed budget for the District Plan be approved.

JAMIESON/McKAY
Carried
P&S/21/58

Whangamomona Road Upgrade

- Councillor Sandford noted that Mr Smith had made good comments in his submission. He agreed something needed to be done and Council had to take ownership of it as it owned the road.
- The Roothing Asset Manager noted this had been pushed out to Year 3 to give time to get a bylaw in place which would restrict the type of vehicle permitted to go down the road and also to allow time for the funding application to have been processed.
- Mr Bowden clarified that it was currently a public road with no restrictions on access. By restricting access it would make the road more trafficable while retaining the rustic character of the road. There is \$200,000 of structural repairs to be done on two tunnels and bridges and there are also a few failed culverts and deep bog holes needing repairs. It is planned that the primary reason for use will be walking, trekking, cycling, trail biking and 4x4s and the national 4x4 clubs are on board with that.

RECOMMENDATIONS

6. THAT the proposed budget for Whangamomona Road be approved.

BODYE/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/21/59

Changes to how Council applies Rates

- Mr Hanne noted that this covers community hall rates and changes how the water and waste water is charged to properties within the rated area but are not serviced as a choice of the property owner. He requested that the Council's internal submission regarding the removal of Ngaere Hall from the community centres be considered during this time. This was as a result of it having been sold.
- The Director – Corporate Services noted this issue had been raised to clearly define community boundaries so residents are now aware of whether or not they are within that zone or not.
- It was clarified that the Douglas Hall and Whangamomona Hall had not requested a targeted rate. The money is collected by Council at the request of the hall who sets the dollar amount and to increase or decrease that amount is done by submission.

Community Centres

RECOMMENDATIONS

7. THAT the proposed changes to the targeted rating areas as per the maps published for each hall be approved and the targeted rate for the Ngaere Hall be removed.

VOLZKE/JAMIESON
Carried
P&S/21/60

Water and Waste Water

- This is to cover properties that are able to access the pipes but do not connect for various reasons. This will be half of the connection fee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

8. THAT properties able to connect to the water or wastewater reticulation, but choose not to be, be charged a rate equivalent to 50% of the fixed rates component for the relevant source.

McKAY/BOYDE
Carried
P&S/21/61

External Funding/Support Requests

Toimata Foundation/Enviroschools

- Councillor McKay noted her support for this project especially to continue the education through the schools on disposal options for green waste.
- Councillor Boyde questioned if an increase of \$5,000 was enough as the benefits will be huge in the future.
- Councillor Harris noted her support to increase this contribution particularly with the Taranaki Regional Council pledge to meet the increase dollar for dollar.

RECOMMENDATIONS

9. THAT the Toimata Foundation contribution is increased to \$15,000 per annum
- McKAY/HARRIS
Carried
P&S/21/62

Creative Taranaki

- Agreed to support.
- Councillor Sandford requested a workshop be held on this to develop an Arts Policy.

Stratford Park Project (Future Support)

- Councillor Boyde noted Council had already supported the project and wanted to see it progress but there had been no specifically defined requests for further support at this time.

WITT Support

- It was agreed to form a partnership with WITT for endorsement of projects although no specific commitment requested at this point.
- The District Mayor noted that if WITT was planning to be part of the Stratford Park Project then that should be supported by Council as an organisation.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Webby and Councillor Erwood departed the table at 2.24pm, the District Mayor took on the role of Chairman.

Central Taranaki Safe Community Trust

- Agreed to continue support of \$15,000 annually.
- Councillor Sandford noted the fantastic job done by the Trust with a number of neighbourhood support projects and that this fit well within Council's wellbeings.
- The District Mayor noted the outstanding work done by the Trust during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Councillor Erwood and Councillor Webby rejoined the table at 2.25pm

Rotokare Scenic Reserve

- The District Mayor noted there was no question in the value of the work that this group does. It was pointed out that they perceive Stratford as a beneficiary for the services they provide in terms of visitor attraction and through education for schools. This would result in an extra cost to Stratford ratepayers.
- Councillor Sandford noted that community grants had been removed years ago. He noted that he completely supported the project but did not feel ratepayers should have to pay especially having heard about vulnerable and poorer families earlier in the day.
- Councillor Webby noted the increase of the contribution to Enviroschools was for education.
- Councillor Boyde agreed with the points raised but felt there were other ways Council could support such as advertising and helping promote events. He noted this did not stop individual rate payers supporting the reserve directly.
- Councillor Jones noted his disappointment that the Taranaki Regional Council did not support this project as he felt it was more in line with their outcomes.

- Councillor Coplestone noted the benefits received in his area but noted the boundary had to be drawn somewhere and the reserve was in South Taranaki.
- It was agreed to not support financially but offer in-kind support through promotional material.

The Deputy Mayor returned to the table and resumed chairing at 2.30pm

Museum and visitor Centre in Le Quesnoy

- There was no support for this request for funding.

Internal Submission

- The Chief Executive requested the Committee consider a 0.5 FTE position to increase education for water and waste as there was no capacity to do this beyond what is currently being done.
- It was clarified that this would be funded through both the water and waste activities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

10. THAT a 0.5 FTE position be approved to provide education to ratepayers on water conservation and waste minimisation.

BOYDE/JAMIESON
Carried
P&S/21/63

Other Matters

- Councillor Sandford noted his concern that direct questions by residents were not being addressed as highlighted in Debbie McKinlay's submission number 89. Mr Hanne noted that operational issues were passed onto the right department. Most of the submissions were straight forward and related to the content of the Consultation Document and that the outcomes would be communicated to those submitters. Engaging in submissions not related to the Long Term Plan were outside of the scope of this hearing.

Councillors went through each of the submissions and discussed the management response. Questions, clarifications or changes to management response were discussed below.

Submission 10

- Management could not answer the question relating to Economic Development targeted rate as the outcome of the hearing was unknown at this time. The outcome will be communicated.

Submission 19

- There were specific comments regarding dirty shops and dirty windows and the owners being held accountable. It was noted that this was outside of the scope of Council as these were privately owned.
- The use of images on empty shops was discussed and it was acknowledged this was expensive to do but could be done. Painting grants had been offered in the past to building owners and only one had been taken up.

Submission 23

- It was clarified that Council must list heritage buildings in the Heritage Inventory in the District Plan. Being an old building did not necessarily mean it met the criteria to receive a heritage status. It was noted that the submitter's own building had recently been added but was not currently included in the District Plan but would be when the plan was reviewed. The only way to ensure no buildings were missed would be to undertake a comprehensive assessment of heritage buildings. Mr Hanne noted that a heritage status then it does heavily restrict what can be done to that building, therefore Council generally leaves that decision to building owners rather than proactively identifying buildings for this.

- Note that submissions are taken into account when decisions are made and note that two proposed items were withdrawn as a result of this process – Economic Development Targeted Rate and Green and Food Waste.

Submission 28

- There was no support for a softball pitch.
- It was noted that parameters could be put in place on a future subdivision to ensure affordable housing.

Submission 34

- It was noted a water fountain was being installed.
 - Management response
 - No to softball pitch.

The meeting was adjourned at 3.00pm and reconvened at 3.29pm.

Submission 58

- It was clarified that in order to enhance the safety and the viewing ability for the Glockenspiel it had been planned to move the pedestrian crossing as part of Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency's planned works along Broadway. However as this work had been significantly scaled down it would be at Council's own cost if it was to continue with this plan. This would be discussed at a future Policy and Services Committee meeting.

Submission 62

- Add promotes water conservation to the management response.

Submission 64

- Note two key issues were removed following public feedback.
- Add note about water conservation incentives regarding the education position approved at this meeting.

Submission 69

- Look to engage more with the Youth Council regarding plans.
- Encourage members to submit and to encourage other youth to submit to be part of the process in the future.

Submission 71

- Note that it is part of the Taranaki Regional Council rates that contribute to Yarrow Stadium and not part Stratford District Council's rates.

Submission 75

- It was clarified that a Bio-fuel plant is a very appropriate add on to a landfill or compost facility however it would depend on the type of composting plant being developed. If there was an obvious by product then this would be considered during the design of the facility. This point will be taken into account during the design process if Stratford District Council is part of those discussions.

Submission 78

- Note that Stratford District Council is unlikely to be the decision making body regarding fluoridation of drinking water due to legislation going through parliament at the moment.

Submission 79

- Note Stratford District Council will continue the principle of the Taranaki Trails.
- It was clarified the cycle trail that comes down from Inglewood through Matau is part of a New Zealand cycletrail that has been in place for a number of years.

Submission 82

- It was clarified that there was no supporting infrastructure in Midhirst or Toko for a subdivision as in a commercial project it would be the preferred choice to have all facilities available to the developer. However the point is relevant and for those who would like to be self-servicing there is no stopping developments in those towns.

Submission 83

- Mrs Araba noted that she had received costings to provide a monthly collection from Toko, Douglas and Whangamomona which were \$6,200 plus GST (Toko), \$6,700 plus GST (Douglas) and \$9,000 plus GST (Whangamomona). This would involve a contractor spending an hour at each point to collect recycling and then take to the transfer station as the only way to avoid contamination.
- It was agreed that this would need to be funded by the users and may not be supported. This option should be put out to the community to discuss at a later stage.
- Councillor Harris noted a community led scheme to take recycling to the transfer station could be a better option.
- Note the significant costs in the reply to the students.

Submission 81

- It was noted that Mr Pratt had not spoken to the other property owners. The appropriate next step would be to discuss with those owners this suggestion as part of the District Plan review.
- Forestry set backs would also be discussed as part of the District Plan review.
- It was agreed that the Hot Pools suggestion should be a private investment.

Submission 89

- It was noted that there had been no requirement for the new owner of the strip of land at the Malone Reserve to do anything other than fencing. Council will complete its planting programme there in the next planting season.
- There were a number of points within this submission that needed to be referred to the right Officer as they were operational issues.

Submission 90

- Note the approval of a an education facilitator role to follow through with education for conservation of water.

Submission 96

- The Director – Community Services noted that in the last 10 years there had been two drownings in the Stratford District both of which were NZ European with one between the ages of 35-40 and the other 65 plus. It was noted that this submission was likely to have been a generic one sent to all Councils.
- Note the water safety programmes that are run through the TSB Pool Complex in response.

Submission 94

- Note the benefits of what the Trust is doing in Council's response.

Submission 93

- The District Mayor noted that this requested Council be aware of the direct impact its decisions can have on health particularly in regards to water, waste and provision of exercise areas. He noted the request for consideration of distance of exercise areas and parks from those who are unable to drive to these locations and compared it to the Taranaki District Health Boards response regarding the closure of the maternity home in Stratford being that the distance to New Plymouth for women in labour was not significant.

Submission 99

- Mr Hanne noted that Council did not target yellow bristle grass but would be utilising processes to avoid further spread.
- Councillor Harris noted she had requested a copy of the map from Taranaki Regional Council and thought areas of concern should be concentrated on.
- Councillor Coplestone noted that he had seen it on almost every roadside and that it was a very expensive exercise to undertake. Getting rid of it was relatively cheap on roadsides but the practice of doing it was the difficult bit – not spraying the glyphosate would be the best deterrent as it does not like being choked out by other weeds.
- Mowing was also an issue as it spread the seed. Mowing was undertaken as a safety measure for road users. Councillor Coplestone noted that this can be undertaken as long as it was not when the grass was in seed which was end of March to May.
- It was requested that Officers look into what can be done to contain it.
- It was requested that Officers look into options for differential rating for forestry roads.

Submission 100

- Councillor Sandford did not feel this was up for discussion due to it not being a long term plan issue.
- Councillor McKay noted that the relationship held with Iwi would have a direct implication on Council business long term and questioned what a damaged relationship would look like. Mr Hanne noted Officers have put a lot of effort into these relationships over a number of years and noted the genuine benefit in those relationships enabling conversations to be held on a regular basis. Depending on the Iwi view on the outcome of Māori wards then there could be negative impacts on Council's work but encouraged Councillors to look at this relationship from a mutual benefits approach.
- Councillor Erwood noted it had been discussed several times and the decision had been deferred not dismissed.
- The Deputy Mayor noted that Councillors had discussed this when they had thought there was time on their sides and when the time was brought forward they were not prepared to be able to work within that extension.
- The District Mayor noted the submissions were direct and clear in their point. It has already affected Council's relationship with Iwi. Mr Young referenced the email sent by himself explaining that Council had decided not to review Maori representation in August last year and then through the legislation change had decided not to review it March and wait until 2024. He pointed out that Council's reason for doing this was because it was unsure of the position of Iwi at that time and had requested to get their view, input and guidance as to how they best saw Maori representation. Two Iwi have expressed that today although he acknowledged that conversation had not been held with the five other Iwi in the Stratford District and did not feel he could make the assumption that everyone thought the same. He noted Christchurch and Southland had decided not to establish Māori wards as a direct request by Iwi. He noted this would not stop Council from proceeding with trying to build relationships around partnership and potentially look at other forms of representations such as committees or on standing committees. He noted that if the Māori ward decision was to be had then the deadline for a decision was Friday 21 May 2021. He noted that the Mayoral Forum had been part of the abolitions of the poll provisions in legislation by giving their support to the Minister. He noted that there was still a lot of work to do to continue to build relationships and this decision to date has taken Council a step backwards. He noted Council had a lot more in common with Iwi than it does have differences.

- Councillor Boyde felt consultation had been dropped on this and noted that Council did not know Ngāti Maru's view on Māori wards.
- Councillor Coplestone noted the ward system would give a voice but not more power and did not feel one chair would achieve anything as it was just one voice at Council. He questioned that Stratford had seven Iwi and would have to consult with all of those seven Iwi. He felt Māori had been duped by Central Government as yes it was representation but not really representation at all.
- Councillor Erwood noted Council's position had not changed since the decision in March. Council needs to increase its interaction with Iwi and felt this discussion fell outside of the Long Term Plan.

The media from Taranaki Daily News and Te Korimako o Taranaki left the meeting at 4.21pm.

Submission 103

- The Deputy Mayor noted he would like to see more work done on finding another water supply. The District Mayor felt that conservation would need to be tried before a consent would be issued for a future water take. Mr Hanne noted that the bore at Hawera was not used as it was too expensive to treat that supply. He felt this would become a Long Term Plan discussion at some point in the future.

Submission 112

- Note happy to proceed with relationship building. Advise that Council does support the arts through its contribution to the Percy Thomson Trust of \$50,000 annually.

Submission 111

- Councillor Harris noted that this highlights the points that have been raised over a number of years that there are a number of properties that are unfairly labelled as separately used and therefore attract a separate UAGC. She noted in Stratford there were properties that had multiple uses but only attracted one charge and this had not been transferred into the rural communities with land used for one business unit and vital to that business unit. She requested a review be undertaken of the rates remission policy.
- Mrs Radich noted that the policy was different to others in New Zealand as it did not give remission for properties that are not contiguous properties. She noted if the owner was able to demonstrate that it was used for one business unit then a remission could be added but there would still need to be a definition of how far down the road this property may be.
- The rates remission policy would be brought to Council for review.

8. CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

11. THAT it is recommended that decisions regarding other issues raised during consultation be as noted in the comments above.
12. THAT the proceeding amendments be adopted and recommended to Council for inclusion in the 2021 - 2031 Long Term Plan.

BOYDE/ERWOOD
Carried
P&S/21/64

Recommended Reason

The Draft 2021-2031 Consultation Document has been through a rigorous consultation process and scrutiny by both Council and the public.

It was noted that with the changes made during the hearing the average rate increase was now reduced to 4.63% in Year 1.

The meeting closed at 4.46pm.

A L Jamieson
CHAIRMAN

Confirmed this 22nd day of June 2021.

N C Volzke
DISTRICT MAYOR