

**Report and Minutes of a Meeting of a SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL to hear
submissions on the 2014-15 Draft Annual Plan
held in the Council Chambers, 15 Seymour Street, Blenheim on
TUESDAY 3 JUNE, WEDNESDAY 4 JUNE, THURSDAY 5 JUNE 2014 commencing at 8.45 am**

Present

Mayor A T Sowman (Chairman), Cllrs J L Andrews, J A Arbuckle, J P Bagge, G S Barsanti, C J Brooks, B G Dawson, G I T Evans, T E Hook, P J S Jerram, J C Leggett, D D Oddie, L M Shenfield, T M Sloan.

In Attendance

Mr M F Fletcher (Manager, Corporate Finance), Mr M J South (Financial Services Manager) and Ms J R North (Support Services Administrator).

C.13/14.416 2014-15 Draft Annual Plan Submissions S300-A00-14

The Mayor welcomed those present in particular the three new councillors.

There were 301 submissions received and of those 72 submitters spoke to their submission.

The following is a summary of those that spoke to their submissions.

Jonathan Cash, Rosie Argle and Tamsin Woolf presented a submission from the Marlborough Youth Council. They spoke in support of the proposed budget of \$60,000 in the Draft Annual Plan for the upgrade of the Blenheim skate park. Rosie said youth in Marlborough saw the upgrade as overdue and a high priority. The skate park provides a safe place to skate and scooter rather than less desirable places. Tamsin spoke on the implementation of the College Travel Plans which was a follow up on their submission to last year's plan. Queen Charlotte College would still like to have flashing lights installed, and the Youth Council would like to see other recommendations in the College Travel Plans considered and included in work plans for road safety.

There were a number of submissions from users of the skatepark supporting Council's proposal to provide funding for the upgrade. Chris Watson said the skate park is being used by a large variety of people, and the park is quite old and could do with some new features to help increase skill levels of the users. He does a lot with youth at the park and there was a group of them who would like to have a say in the design so that it benefits the users of the park. Stefan McBride, a long time user of the park and representing other BMX riders said it is a positive place for youth. He questions the proposed design and would like to see that users have input to improve it.

Matt Straker along with Club members, Lance Spencer and Zac Mortimer, presented Cycling Marlborough Inc's submission. Mr Straker gave background information regarding a new velodrome. He said that Cycling Marlborough is now committed to retaining, maintaining and enhancing Athletic Park as their track cycling facility for the long term. They believe there is an opportunity to bring together all of the cycling codes to share resources and facilities.

They sought \$50,000 towards the resurfacing (asphalt overlay) and associated line marking of the existing velodrome surface at Athletic Park as it is nearing the end of its life and \$20,000 (GST excl) for the commissioning of a viability/feasibility report into developing Athletic Park's existing facilities for the use of additional cycling and sporting codes.

Barry Maister, Board member of Destination Marlborough Trust, spoke to a tabled supplementary submission which proposed the formation of a new entity (called Smart and Connected Marlborough through the investigation stage) to provide a single focus for destination marketing, conference and event co-ordination and implementing the Smart and Connected Vision and related economic development work in Marlborough. Mr Maister said that they would all be brought together with a new budget.

Destination Marlborough asked that Council ensure that adequate funding is provided to both Destination Marlborough and the Smart and Connected programmes and to that end asked Council to increase its core grant by an additional \$200,000 to \$506,000 per annum and that this be CPI adjusted from 2014/15 financial year, and asked that Council retain the Australia JV grant and CPI adjusted Tourism Targeted Rate funding for destination marketing.

Chris Faulls of Smiths Farm Holiday Park, in supporting Destination Marlborough Trust's request for an increase in funding of \$200,000, acknowledged that his wife was a Board member of the Trust. He submitted that with increased funding they can actively and cohesively market the province at a level which is credible and competitive both nationally and internationally whilst still carrying out their core functions and retaining key staff.

Barbara Faulls of Smiths Farm Holiday Park spoke in support of the funding allocation of \$290,000 in the Draft Annual Plan for Smart and Connected; and spoke in support of the proposal to introduce a Commercial Events Fund of \$75,000.

Melissa Sutherland, along with Rose Prendeville and Tim Smit in support, spoke to Marlborough Equestrian Park NZ Inc's submission. Since their 2013 submission the project of establishing a national standard multi-discipline Equestrian Park has continued to advance to the point where site works are now well underway at Botham's Bend. They now sought further funding of \$140,000 to meet a short fall in funding for the proposed Stage 1 development requirements. Their objective is to provide a fully functional and fit-for-purpose equestrian park available for use by early September this year. In response to a question as to whether there will be any further approaches from them for funding from Council, Rose Prendeville said only landscaping.

Cressida Bishop, Millennium Art Gallery Manager, along with Nigel Taylor, Board member of the Millennium Art Gallery Trust, in support, gave a general overview of happenings at the Art Gallery and acknowledged the support of Council, the many businesses who give in kind support, and their volunteers. Mrs Bishop said they are running out of room and they would like to relocate with a new library in the central Blenheim Wynen/High Street block.

Peter Chapman said Marlborough being a geographically wide area with a small rateable population of 26,000 and low wage economy was a challenge but an exciting opportunity.

He suggested the establishment of an Economic Development Agency consisting of Destination Marlborough, Smart and Connected/Economic Development, Event Management, Marlborough Story, Regional Branding, Technology deployment. He would see the Agency being partially funded by Council through rates but would remain independent of Council.

Mr Chapman said he has taken a leading role in pushing Blenheim to participate in the race to determine which New Zealand town will win the fastest broadband speeds in the southern hemisphere in Chorus's Welcome to Gigatown competition.

Duncan MacKenzie presented a submission on behalf of John Maffey who was unable to attend the hearing. Mr Maffey had produced in his submission proposals for the upgrade of the three main road entrances to Blenheim i.e. west (to/from Nelson), north (to/from Picton and south (to/from Kaikoura and Christchurch. He had photographed the current state of the landscape at the southern point i.e. the part of SH 1 from Cob Cottage Road to the Alabama Road intersection, and finds this stretch of highway is by far the worst for being covered with overgrown weeds, poor signage and neglected plantings where they exist at all.

Mr Maffey had also submitted on his opposition to the funding of \$75,000 being allocated to a Commercial Events Fund from general rates. This is the responsibility of providers of festivals and events based organisations plus the hospitality sector. Council already provides the local infrastructure that supports these events.

Duncan MacKenzie spoke to a tabled submission on behalf of Peter Halligan of Top of the South Events Limited which related to the proposed Commercial Events Fund of \$75,000. Mr MacKenzie said there should be a funding pool to tap into and gave examples of other places that have it. Mr Halligan submitted that the Fund has the ability to add value to existing iconic Marlborough events and offers the opportunity to assist

new events. In response to questioning Mr MacKenzie said one third of the funding should go to existing events and two-thirds to new events.

The Garden Marlborough (2004) Inc Committee was represented by their Chair, Jeremy Jones, along with committee member, Keren Mitchell.

Mr Jones thanked Council for the in kind support that it currently provides e.g. the use of Seymour Square for the Stihl Shop Sunday Fête and the erection of street flags in the run up to the event.

They applaud the initiative of Council in instituting a Commercial Events Fund. Mr Jones spoke of what the proposed funding would do for their event; he said they will struggle without it and are happy to apply for \$6,500 - \$7,500.

Katrina Lange, Manager of Festivals & Events Trust spoke in support of the proposed Commercial Events Fund of \$75,000. Mrs Lange said businesses will be attracted to Marlborough; also it will be beneficial for local businesses in the off season. They would like to see comprehensive criteria that are then strictly adhered to, to ensure that the outcomes required are fully met. When questioned Mrs Lange agreed with Mr MacKenzie's observation that one-third of the Fund should go to existing events and two-thirds to new events.

Harry Leov of the French Pass Roding Advisory Group along with Michael Brennan, both long-time residents of the French Pass area, requested the continuation of the French Pass Rating Area charge for further sealing of the French Pass Road. Currently the charge is applied, until 30 June 2015, towards the cost of sealing between Matapehe Hill and French Pass.

They spoke of the potholes in the road and feel that a centre line would be a good idea. They said there needs to be a better road to French Pass citing more tourist vehicles using the road and service vehicles benefitting from a safer road. They have identified areas of road for sealing as a priority.

Ross Withell, President of Kenepuru and Central Sounds Residents' Association, requested funding from Council for the placement, construction and maintenance of a public toilet on Department of Conservation land in reasonable proximity to the Torea Bay jetty. The Association strongly believe that such a facility is long overdue given the significant year round flow of people, vessels and vehicles to and from this busy jetty.

Michael Baines Chief Executive of Motel Association of New Zealand said almost as many rooms are available to rent each night in private homes in Marlborough as there are in motels and they don't have to meet the same safety standards as commercial operators. They believe that the Council is exposing itself by operating two separate safety regimes for commercial accommodation.

They also believe that those that operate as commercial accommodation from residential premises should carry the same costs and be required to reach the same standards as those that operate commercial accommodation from commercial premises; and they further believe that the Council needs to look strenuously at the way it delivers its services and the charges for those services to the small and medium business sector in the greater Marlborough area.

ATTENDANCE: The hearing adjourned at 1.00pm and reconvened at 1.20pm.

Graham Brooks would like Council to give serious consideration to a long term project to locate, collect, copy, repair as needed, Marlborough's past and may be present photographic images on an ongoing basis and suggested that the images when in a finished state be made available to the public and learning institutions of Marlborough in both a digital and a hard copy format.

NOTE: Cllr Brooks withdrew from the table during the above presentation.

Francis Maher, Chair of the newly formed Marlborough Heritage Trust alongwith Trust members, Dale Webb and Judith MacDonald, advised that the Trust Deed has been registered and the parties to the Deed are Marlborough Historical Society, Edwin Fox Society, Marlborough Vintage Farm Machinery Society, Renwick Museum and Memorial Library, and Brayshaw Heritage Park Administrators. Mr Webb advised that the Edwin Fox Society is in difficulties and wants help from the Trust.

The Trust asked that Council continue to provide funding to Marlborough's heritage organisations as it currently does; provide a one off grant of \$10,000 for legal advice to prepare a memorandum of transfer to

allow the gift of assets from those organisations that wish to do so, to the Marlborough Heritage Trust; provide \$20,000 per annum to the Marlborough Heritage Trust for the next three years and that in addition this is matched dollar for dollar for any other funds sourced by the Trust up to a maximum of \$50,000 per annum; and provide \$50,000 support for an ANZAC Anniversary Commemorations 2015-2018 for events and exhibitions in Marlborough. In response to questioning Dale Webb said that the Marlborough RSA was supportive of the project.

Steve Austin, Chief Executive, along with Dale Webb, President, spoke on behalf of the Marlborough Historical Society. Mr Austin put forward as an idea that museum exhibition space for two major exhibitions i.e. Wairau bar and Wine Exhibition be made available as part of a new library/art gallery development in the CBD. Cllr Andrews said that may be the exhibitions could tie in with the Aviation Centre and with cruise ship visits.

Council has provided funding towards the preservation of the Cob Cottage heritage building on Department of Conservation land at Riverlands. The Society invite Council to partner with them so that the necessary work can be completed.

The Steering Group has attracted high calibre participants for the Marlborough Story project which heritage is part of. They urge that this work continues with Council support in every possible way; they urge Council to ensure this work is developed properly and well resourced.

Mr Austin said they were delighted to participate in the Smart and Connected project. They commend the sponsors on their vision and urge that all of Marlborough support this work and submit that Council must lead on behalf of them all. Mr Austin gave an update on the Heritage Experience Strategy; and they asked that Council resource Destination Marlborough to be on par with the best of New Zealand.

Marnie Campbell of The Picton Historical Society asked that their operating grant of \$20,000 be increased to \$25,000 per annum in order to cover an increase in wages as they recently employed a manager, to attend personal development courses, cost increases resulting from increased summer opening hours when cruise ships come in, an increase to utilise costs over the last four year period and ongoing website maintenance. In response to a question, Mrs Campbell advised that they do have an entry charge to the museum when cruise ships are in.

Bill Brehaut of the Picton Historical Society requested a one off grant of \$5,000 from Council's Heritage Grants Fund for the application of the museum cataloguing software programme known as PastPerfect to the Picton Heritage & Whaling Museum artefact collection.

Peter Hamill a member of Kaipupu Point Mainland Society Inc requested a grant of \$10,000 per annum specifically to support the transport of 1000 school children to the Kaipupu Point Sanctuary. The only access to the Sanctuary is by sea; the entry is from the Kaipupu jetty in Shakespeare Bay. The schools in Marlborough are already engaged with Kaipupu Point Sanctuary through their visitations by their Education Volunteers. Cllr Oddie asked whether they could access the Sanctuary by using Port Marlborough land. Mr Hamill said that this was not possible.

Stephen Doecke representing the Sister City Sub-Committee requested an additional annual grant of \$10,000 bringing the total Sister City budget to \$30,000 per annum. Council has an annual education exchange with Tendo and Otari, Japan with four students and a teacher visiting Marlborough in March each year and a reciprocal group from Marlborough go to Japan in July/August.

The Sister City Sub-Committee feel they should focus on building new relationships whilst maintaining and building on the current relationships with Tendo and Otari. This focus will include building on the recent relationship with Marlborough UK, and investigating requests from manufacturers/exporters for sister city type relationships with China.

Beryl Bowers, the Chairperson of the Picton Maritime Festival Trust, along with Pauline Gregory invited Council to provide a grant of \$10,000 towards their logistic (includes rubbish removal, porta loos, security guard, road closure, marquees, fencing, lighting, stage, etc) costs for 2014/15. They thanked Council for the one off grant of \$10,000 in 2013 as a contribution towards their logistic costs.

Mrs Bowers said the purpose of the Maritime Festival Trust is to raise funds and create a fundraising platform for other non-profit organisations thereby providing support for the benefit of needy and deserving groups, individuals, community organisations and projects within the Marlborough community, particularly with the emphasis towards youth.

They have 70 odd sponsors and there is a small fee for stall holders including food and beverage. They have donation cans situated in the area.

Bev Moore, Chair and Neville White, Treasurer of the Marlborough Migrant Centre along with their Manager, Margaret Western gave a presentation on the Migrant Centre. They are increasing their staffing, support and overall capability to meet the increasing demand for services by migrants coming into Marlborough. Their expenses are forecast to increase by 28%. They receive Government funding, and their other funders are responding positively to their increased needs i.e. Lotteries, Canterbury Community Trust and COGS. Safer Communities gave them a one-off grant last year of \$10,000. They asked that Council increase their annual grant of \$10,000 to \$15,000 per annum to meet ongoing needs.

Sarah Gray and two young school pupils, Ella Schoni and Tane Anderson, spoke to Rarangi District Residents Association's submission. relating to the extension of the walkway/cycleway from Blue Gum corner to Pipitea Drive, Rarangi. Mrs Gray said that Marlborough Roads staff have visited the site and identified a possible access way along the eastern and southern side of the road and around Blue Gum corner. The cost of construction for this project has been estimated at between \$20,000 and \$25,000 depending on whether a separate culvert will need to be installed over the wetland stream. The Association requested funding of \$15,000 towards the construction of the path.

ATTENDANCE: The hearing adjourned at 3.25pm and reconvened at 3.40pm.

William McCook of TBfree New Zealand and Richard Tripe, Marlborough TBfree Committee appreciated Council's continued Bovine TB control funding support.

Graham Gosling, Chair of the Picton Business Group said they still have concerns with freedom camping at Koromiko. It was their understanding that any camper van that stayed in a Council designated site was to be self-contained. They believe that this does not appear to be happening. Mr Gosling remarked that the issue has become a 'thorn in the side'.

The Group also have concerns at the inadequacy of lighting on the walkway from the Interislander ferry terminal across the foreshore that is used by many users to access High Street or Wellington Street at night time. Mr Gosling was advised that money has been allocated in 2014/15 for the first stage of a lighting upgrade.

ATTENDANCE: Cllr Leggett withdrew from the hearing at 4.00pm.

Hamish Macfarlane spoke on behalf of the Marlborough Chamber of Commerce on their support of The Link Pathway Trust's project and request for funding of \$75,000 per annum over the next four years in order to complete the pathway. Mr Macfarlane said the returns are way in excess of what it costs.

Friends of Murphys Creek, Ross Inder, spoke of their concerns with storm water being discharged down Murphys Creek. Mr Inder said it is not acceptable and is not any sort of solution to storm water disposal from further development. It would put properties at risk and degrade the ecosystems of Blenheim's urban waterways; the issue must be resolved urgently. Lindsay Dahlberg objected to Murphy's Creek being turned into a drain. He cannot find any plans in the Draft Annual Plan to address the requirements to deal appropriately with this issue. He would like to see Council making long term plans to provide for appropriate handling of storm water discharges from new developments. Mr Dahlberg said that people in the area do not agree with it.

They said there had not been communication from Council since October last year and even if there was nothing to report, they would welcome contact.

Mr Dahlberg was advised that the Long Term Plan 2015-2015 was the appropriate place to address the issue, not the Annual Plan.

Clr Jermyn asked Mr Inder whether he would be prepared to contribute more than average and he said he would be prepared to consider it.

The Mayor said that no one wanted to turn Murphy's Creek into a drain and told Mr Inder and Mr Dahlberg that they would be kept fully informed in the future.

Mark Wheeler, Manager, Assets and Services said several staff had spoken regularly to individual members of the Friends of Murphy's Creek but the message had obviously not got through about the work that staff had under way. No consent application would be made without Council approval. Staff were working on flood level analysis. Soils, groundwater levels and ecological factors were all being investigated in terms of discharge quality and volume. Urgency was not evident given current subdivision plans. Staff would communicate more regularly with the group.

The hearing adjourned at 4.50pm and reconvened on 4th June at 8.45 am.

Gerald Hope, Chief Executive of the Marlborough Research Centre along with Associate, John Patterson, tabled further information on the Food and Beverage Innovation Cluster. Mr Hope spoke in support of the funding from reserves of \$75,000 provided in the Draft Annual Plan for 2014-15. Mr Hope said that there was still a lot of work to be done yet and they would put effort into sourcing other funding.

Noel Noble spoke on behalf of the Marlborough Motel Association with regard to commercial accommodation. Mr Noble said that Council is allowing substandard accommodation for commercial purposes. Those that operate as commercial accommodation from residential premises should carry the same costs and be required to reach the same standards as those that operate commercial accommodation from commercial premises. He remarked that holiday homes mainly owned by outsiders are being subsidised by our ratepayers. Council needs to look strenuously at the way it delivers its services and the charges for those services to the small and medium business sector in the greater Marlborough area.

Sheira Hudson of Atlantis Backpackers spoke of the wonderful Council staff (Customer Services). Ms Hudson said there needs to be more communication with the Picton community. A number of people were not listened to with regard to the Picton bus shelter and the extension to the Picton Museum. Smart and Connected is not about money.

Darryn Thomas said more important things need to be built rather than spending money on roundabouts. He would like something done about the Grove Road Bridge; something will happen he said; it needs to be made wider to accommodate cars, trucks and buses.

Clr Barsanti said the bridge is on state highway; the issue needs to be pushed. Clr Leggett said the bridge has a low accident rate and it slows traffic down.

Ross Cooke, President of the Awatere Branch of Marlborough RSA asked for the reinstatement of the earthquake damaged Awatere War Memorial entrance archway and gate at Seddon to their previous condition before the earthquake, and the area west of the Memorial be terraced so that there is more flat standing ground for people to stand on during the Anzac Day service. Mr Cooke said the ANZAC Day service next year will be at Ward.

Mr Cooke was advised that the work will be carried out from existing budgets.

Willy Wills who has a tattoo and piercing studio said that people who tattooed or pierced in a shop or at home should have to abide by the regulations or face fines or closure. All tattooing and piercing areas should be up to health standards and the only way to keep the Tattoo, Piercing and Beauty industry professional is to regulate. He tabled a draft Bylaw he had prepared.

A number of questions were asked of Mr Wills.

Monyeen Wedge of Queen Charlotte Sound Residents Association supported temporary Council funding for coastal monitoring until more appropriate funding arrangements e.g. coastal charging, are in place. They support coastal monitoring for ecological reasons such as understanding and protecting water quality.

Mrs Wedge tabled further information and asked for more information on the increase in rates for the Sounds Admin Rural area.

Graeme Faulkner, Officer Manager, along with Gayle Chambers, Vice President, represented Marlborough Grey Power Inc's submission.

Mr Faulkner tabled further information. He said that Marlborough is already over represented by older people when compared with the rest of the country and they are concerned that this be taken seriously in future planning by Council as the numbers of their organisation will no doubt increase. Mr Faulkner spoke of the problems associated with older people not being so nimble on their feet and not having the ability to react so quickly to impediments around them. An example is the footpaths (rough surface), roads (surface and potholes) and kerbs (different heights). Cllr Sloan encouraged members to contact Marlborough Roads when potholes became an issue.

Mr Faulkner said they had received two other matters that they wished to raise. Concern had been expressed from a member in Wairau Valley that was unhappy with the way that water is charged in that area. He felt it unfair that he should pay the same charge as a major industry would Mr Faulkner understood that some action has been taken on this matter. A Springlands member was unhappy at the amount of money being spent on Sheps Park to upgrade it to full park status. He considered it was suitable as it was and as there were already enough parks in town the money could be better spent elsewhere.

Members have expressed concern at the lack of access to toilets on the Taylor walkway. A possible solution would be the sign posting of adjacent facilities e.g. in Athletic Park and Brayshaw Park as facilities on the stream side of the stop bank are unlikely to be compatible with the floodplain.

ATTENDANCE: The hearing adjourned at 10.30am and reconvened at 10.45am.

Anthony van de Water said he is impressed with the Kobus Mentz Urban Plan but not one item in Renwick has been implemented. Mr van de Water also wants Council to take pro-active action to improve road safety within Renwick township i.e. Pak-Lims Road and Gee Street/SH6/Boyce Street/Terrace Road intersection; Boyce Street widening//kerbing/markings; and smooth road surfaces rather than cheap ineffective repairs.

Phil Brown of Phil Brown Motors would like to see the Alfred Street car park building which stands on the former site of Lucas Brothers Ford Dealership which operated for some 60 years (Mr Brown was a former employee), be named the 'Lucas Car park'. He showed a photograph which he is willing to donate of the Lucas Brothers site taken in 1930 to hang in the foyer of the building along with a short history of the site.

Vicky Nalder speaking to the Nelson/Marlborough Branch of New Zealand Institute of Surveyors' tabled information requested that the Council leave the Development Contributions at the level currently set and delete the remissions level. They also requested that Council look at the option to allow the Reserve Fund Contributions to be paid at Building Consent stage for rural subdivision where it is proposed in the application that no residential dwellings will be erected. Ms Nalder said they submitted to last year's annual plan on this same issue on Rural Reserve Fund and they understood this was to be referred to the Community and Financial Planning Committee for consideration; they were not aware that this had occurred to date. They asked that the Community and Finance Committee consider the request in 2014.

Elsbeth Wells said she strongly objects to the proposal to relocate the library near the river; she has issue with losing the bus stop. It is convenient for library users having a bus stop in close proximity. She suggested may be putting a new building where the current theatre is located as it is close to the bus stop. Mrs Wells suggested a new library could have a café upstairs along with other things including space for children to play.

Ninety-four year old Pam Jungersen would like to see a classic and gracious looking building housing a new library on the High Street site if there is enough land, however feels that the Civic Theatre site could also be good. She is for a new library having other things like a café. Mrs Jungersen said Blenheim is a small country town; it doesn't have to be modernised. People like the weather.

John Butt of Butt Drilling Ltd is disappointed that water quality in outlying communities is not being attended to. He had an experience regarding water quality in Seddon at Easter and found that it was not a good advertisement for tourists when using facilities there. Cllr Evans told him that Council is going to do work on it.

Marlborough Provincial Past President, Gary Barnett, presented the submission of Marlborough Province Federated Farmers and in so doing firstly introduced the new President, Greg Harris. Mr Barnett presented a number of recommendations relating to changes to Land Value and resulting Volatility in Rates; Shift to Capital Value Rating; Rates Remission for Anomalous or Iniquitous Rates Increases; Uniform Annual Charges and District Wide Targeted Rates; Road Related Costs; Transparency; Use of Debt; Community Facilities; Flaxbourne Irrigation Scheme; Floodwater and Stormwater; and Tourist.

Mr Barnett said their submission on Road Related Costs needed more extensive discussion. In response to their recommendation with Council providing more in-depth information on the rates database, the Financial Services Manager, Murray South, advised Mr Barnett that the information is available on request.

Yvonne Wratt representing the Grovetown Residents' Association said it was unfair the rates being charged to Grovetown ratepayers. They request that the loan rates and charges paid by Grovetown ratepayers for Council owned sewerage infrastructure be reviewed and be more in line with what other ratepayers in the wider Marlborough community are paying. They say there is the option for councillors to reduce the interest rate percentage on the internal loan or as with other sewerage connections and upgrade work include the costs in the combined Blenheim sewerage rating area of which Grovetown is part of.

The Association also submits that since the sewerage scheme was installed there is the inability for many of the property owners subdividing their residential sections due to there being no storm water plan. Ratepayers who own bare sections are currently paying hundreds of dollars each year in sewerage rates and charges including interest along with other area rates with no prospect of being able to build. It was noted that there has been a lot of work already done on a storm water plan.

The Awatere Rugby Football Club Inc was represented by James Jermyn. He said that as a result of the recent earthquake when some buildings in Seddon were damaged, the Awatere Rugby Football Club outlined their vision for rebuilds and repairs to those buildings to cater for sporting needs in the Awatere for the future without creating duplication and unnecessary expenditure. In response to questioning he said that a shift of the changing rooms to the club rooms has not been discussed.

Margaret McHugh tabled further information on her submission. Ms McHugh said that they fully support core services in the Marlborough District having first priority from the rates i.e. sewerage, water supply, solid waste, storm water, flood protection, footpaths, roads and foreshore lighting. The proposed funding for Coastal Monitoring strategy implementation of \$337,000 should come from users of the resource e.g. fishing, coastal traders, ferries and the like, not from the ratepayers of Marlborough. Does not agree with the proposed Commercial Events Fund of \$75,000; believes that Council must work within the generous allocated funds so far. With regard to the proposed funding of \$290,000 for Smart and Connected, mentioned the \$120,000 shared promotion led by Wellington and suggested that the total of \$485,000 be retained by Council until it is proven that we are at least starting to be smart and connected.

Ms McHugh thinks the time is right for rental cars on the sea front area on Port Marlborough/Council land be made available in the busy summer season for public metered car parking. Rental firms will have to find alternative privately owned land. Mention was also made of finding a way to help Rainbow Ski Field build on the quiet winter and shoulder seasons; Picton spa hotel investment on the Picton foreshore; freedom camping, water collection tanks on site for new dwellings; and Picton High Street Development – asked that consideration of fruit tree planting be given in the Marlborough District; and Destination Marlborough - \$200,000 funding request.

Ms McHugh said that it is about time an investigation/strategy was undertaken making Picton and the Marlborough Sounds an entity on its own under the umbrella of Destination Marlborough based on the conception of the hugely successful Lake Wanaka Tourism Inc. The Destination Marlborough Trust receives the majority of its income by way of annual grant from the Council, some of which are a 'targeted rate'. Tourist businesses in Marlborough pay an additional amount through their rates and have to pay again to get any business plus pay a percentage if they get some business.

Lil Broadhurst of the Awatere Community Trust tabled information on the Awatere community pool building repair. Funding of \$153,558.49 was requested to provide additional works in conjunction with the reinstatement of the original pool facility (of which funding has previously been approved).

The Trust also requested an increase of \$2,500 in their annual facilities grant of \$45,000 for electricity, training staff for the pool and pool wages. They also requested a grant of \$5,000 to reimburse individual trustees' costs associated with administering the purposes of the Trust and in particular its contract with the Council.

The Trust support having a multi-purpose sports building constructed for all sporting codes and community groups as it should be more cost effective to have the one building.

Vicki Nalder on behalf of the Marlborough Softball Association tabled further information on the development of Lansdowne Park north for a dedicated softball park. The Committee will be working closely with the council Reserves Section with regard to the layout, infrastructure and financing of the venture to ensure that there is a positive outcome for all. Ms Nalder said that the Committee sees that if a plan can be agreed on then its members would get behind major fundraising and be actively involved with any shift.

Ray Alexander supports the Council's vision to be Smart and Connected with this region. His submission centred on concerns regarding the overall far reaching impact of the liability for social and revenue needs to cover the Government's transference of legalisational responsibilities on to the local bodies. His main focus was on the repercussions in relation of the unfair, unequal rating and housing costs to the ratepayers.

Graeme Ward spoke of the parking issues in Beach Road, Waikawa Bay and the solution of the road being widened. He feels a realistic short term only Council response could be for a yellow 'no stopping' line be painted the length of one side of the roadway. He said something has to be done now. Cllr Oddie said there needed to be interim measures undertaken and would be speaking with Marlborough Roads in the next few days.

Jim Newman gave a presentation on a concept i.e. the establishment of a Council controlled Marlborough International Visitor Centre incorporating the Blenheim railway station building. He is looking for support from a wide variety of potential stake holders to establish what he believes is a viable and unique tourism opportunity for Blenheim.

Council, through community grants and tourism and regional development funds would have to be the main funding source. Mr Newman was advised that KiwiRail who own the building are looking for tenants.

David Winstanley spoke of his concern at all the empty shops in the CBD – 21 and rising he said. Council needs to help make it easier for someone to start up a business which will help fill the vacant shops.

He spoke on converting Market Street North into an area for pedestrians only thereby closing the street at Alfred Street to vehicles. He suggested the area could be a mix of grass and pavings. Mr Winstanley feels that having a library near the river at the end of High Street would be a good move as it would draw more people to the north end of town.

Mr Winstanley acknowledged there is more than sufficient parking available and the Alfred Street car park building is good, however serious consideration needs to be given to the requirement of Council on businesses going into certain areas whereby they are required to provide parks or pay. He believes parking fees are cheap and could be increased however consideration could be given to installing meters which provide a time of so many minutes free before the cost cuts in - this could be considered when the existing meters are replaced.

Russell Hopkins presenting on behalf of the Marlborough Road Safety Community Group introduced mobility scooter riders Sir Robin Campbell and Barbara James who spoke to the Group's submission. Sir Campbell said they needed help with intersections particularly being able to tell where the bevelled edges were and he would like to see them marked with bright paint to make them stand out more; this has not been welcomed by NZTA said Mr Hopkins. Mrs James said there needed to be more signs on pedestrian crossings. Mr Hopkins said there are more than 500 mobility scooter users in Marlborough. The Group advocates to Council for the rights of mobility scooter users to be comfortable and safe when using the footpath and roading network within Marlborough. They ask for more emphasis be given to the needs of mobility scooter users in the Annual Plan but within existing roading budgets. They submitted a number of recommendations. Mr Hopkins said they have developed a policy and they would like Council to advise Marlborough Roads that it supports the policy.

ATTENDANCE: The hearing adjourned at 3.10pm and reconvened at 3.20pm.

Clare Pinder speaking on behalf of Sustain Our Sounds said that users of coastal space should pay for coastal monitoring, such as the aquaculture industry, fisheries, ferry and tourism operators. Cllr Hook questioned whether there should be a charge on occupying a space such as moorings. Mrs Pinder said they are not a business and do not pollute as mussel farms.

Ed Gilhooly, supported by Geoff Barnett, presented Marlborough Cricket Association's submission. They requested that Council cover the cost of replacement matting as part of the upgrade to practice nets at Horton Park. The quote received for this work is \$22,481 which equates to nearly 50% of the total upgrade cost. They also requested the construction of practice nets at College Park be included in the draft Annual Plan 2014/15 based on a 50/50 cost share basis with Marlborough Cricket. Mr Gilhooly said the Horton Park Pavilion Committee has asked Council to prioritise the removal of the large tree standing to the east of the pavilion next to the practice nets on a cost share basis.

Representing the Royal New Zealand Plunket Society Nelson Marlborough Area Inc, Kerry Hamilton asked that the Oliver Park fenced playground area be upgraded. She advised that the playground is one of two playgrounds available in Marlborough focused on the under 5 age group.

Rick Edmond spoke to The Link Pathway Trust's submission which requested further funding of \$75,000 per annum over the next four years which will be the estimated time to complete the Link Pathway project - a pathway between Picton and Havelock with a link from Linkwater to Anakiwa which will enable walking/running/mountain-biking from Picton to Havelock or beyond, including Ship Cove. Rick Edmond, co-ordinator of the Pathway project was congratulated by the Mayor on a job well done as he said it wouldn't have happened otherwise. Mr Edmonds said there are no real physical challenges left in response to a question as to whether there are other things to solve over the next 4 years apart from funding. Another response with regard to what other funding had been sourced, was significant applications had been made to other sources. The first year's funding of \$75,000 would be used on a comprehensive plan.

Lynette Rayner speaking on behalf of Marlborough Netball said that remedial work of the facilities at Horton Park needed doing. They requested funding for the upgrade of two court surfaces (\$80,000 to \$130,000); some of the lighting (\$165,000) that will suffice until a definitive timeline is put on the relocation to Lansdowne Park (or the Stadium 2000 southern car park) and storm water upgrade.

Scott Adams, Coatbridge Limited asked that Council put money into control works of the Wairau Flood Plains above the Waihopai. He asked why Council did not do river protection in this area. Cllr Evans said the Rivers team will be reporting to the Assets and Services Committee on the current state of the river works above the Waihopai. Mr Adams was also advised that there were a lot of issues and was asked who would pay the rates. Other people in the area were not aware of his concerns.

ATTENDANCE: The hearing adjourned at 4.50pm and reconvened on 5th June at 8.45am.

A number of ratepayers spoke in objection to the proposal of transferring 58 properties from the eastern point of Waikawa Bay to Karaka Point and including 351 Port Underwood Road from the Picton vicinity geographic rating area to the Picton geographic rating area.

Richard Rose representing the Karaka Point and Environs Residents Inc spoke to tabled supplementary information. Mr Rose said they were shocked to learn of the proposal to move their properties back into Picton Geographic Rating Area so soon after the High Court decision quashing the previous attempt. They recommended that Council not adopt the proposal; any discussion around movement of rating areas needed full consultation with all property owners who receive the same or similar benefits within Picton Vicinity. They were willing to sit down and discuss in a broader sense. The Mayor said that Council was not attempting to railroad the issue through the Annual Plan process, it was a Long Term Plan issue and he said Council was happy to have dialogue with them.

Martin Hay on behalf of the Tironui Trust – Hay Family said they opposed the proposal to move their property to within the Picton Rating Boundary. The subject land values are disproportionate he said to Picton rating land values as land parcels in the area affected are generally much larger. The current rating system is based on land value whilst much of Council's justification to change rates is based on housing quality and is not relevant. They don't agree the predominant character of dwellings in the subject area can be determined by

the value of improvements. Refuse aside roading is the single most direct benefit to Karaka Point residents; however roads provide a general benefit to all residents. The residents have roads at a lower standard relative to those within the Picton rating area and are regularly damaged by landslip and also by heavy duty truck movements. Mr Hay said that Council has disadvantaged residents by not allowing sufficient time for consultation and to adequately explain its position.

Rebecca Woledge, the secretary of the Karaka Point and Environs Incorporated Society, tabled extensive supplementary information which she read out in opposition to the proposal. Mrs Woledge said that whilst her views largely represented those of the society she made the submission on behalf of her family.

Mrs Woledge's submission discussed issues from a report on the Picton/Picton vicinity Geographic Area that the Council's Corporate Finance Manager put to Council's February 2014 Budget Meeting under the headings of Background; Contiguity; Intensity of Development; Character of Dwelling; Where to Stop; Services Provided and Comparative Rates with accurate statistics that looked at the whole of Picton Vicinity.

They believe they should remain in the Picton Vicinity Geographic Rating Area as they find the analysis undertaken to inform them of the issues related to considering whether or not to move Karaka Point from its current Picton Vicinity to Picton Rating area are very one sided and do not accurately reflect the actual situation.

Khalid Suleiman, the treasurer of the Karaka Point and Environs Incorporated Society, also tabled extensive supplementary information which he read out; his views largely represented those of the society, however, made the submission on behalf of himself and his family. His parents own a property in Sunshine Bay which is affected by the proposal. He is disappointed that the Council is proposing the rating change again so soon after the same proposal was quashed in the High Court. Mr Suleiman's submission also related to Mr Fletcher's report to Council's Budget Meeting in February this year. He said that councillors should vote to remove the proposal from the Draft Annual Plan and forget the proposal or enter into negotiations with all of the Picton Vicinity ratepayers with properties smaller than 1ha in keeping with the Blenheim rating requirements.

ATTENDANCE: The hearing adjourned at 11.10am and reconvened at 11.30am. Cllr Leggett withdrew from the hearing at 11.10am.

Alan Izard spoke on behalf of himself and his wife and tabled supplementary information. He said they are very disappointed and disillusioned with Council relating to its repeated move to include properties from 79 to 351 Port Underwood Road into the PGRA and cannot follow any sound reasons why this should be. He enlarged on a number of points.

Geoff Tyson spoke to his and his wife's submission which detailed a number of reasons why they opposed the proposal.

Mr Tyson said there has been no information provided on how the Council has introduced contiguous boundary as a mechanism for defining rating boundaries. They would like clarified guidelines for setting rating areas. Council has not identified the areas of unoccupied and/or unstable land that cannot be developed even though it may have been subdivided from adjoining farmland.

Bill Brehaut said there are not a lot of permanent residents at Karaka Point. The submission questions the three reasons Council offers for the proposed zone change.

Dr Brehaut asked what they get for this massive hike in rates. They don't have footpaths, street lighting, kerb channelling; they don't usually have river floods along their road; and they don't have storm water problems. They should not be subsidising consents and compliance fees; and they don't enjoy reserves along their road other than those of the Department of Conservation.

Bruce Carey speaking on behalf of Palmbank no 1 Trust said there was no advice from Council of the change. They strongly oppose Council's current proposal. Surely Council must accept that the range and level of amenities available to them are in no way comparable to those provided for residents in the existing Picton Rating Area.

Don Miller said the argument that the affected ratepayers have full access to the services (other than water and sewerage) is not completely accurate. They do not have a footpath to their properties and the footpaths of Picton itself thus have less value to them than to residents of the Picton area. The road between Waikawa and Karaka Point is built on challenging terrain and is already not fit for purpose. The numerous truck and trailer units using this stretch of road are obliged to cross the centre line to negotiate a number of blind corners creating a very real hazard.

Mr Miller spoke to tabled supplementary information which concentrated on the need and the problems of providing a footpath along Port Underwood Road between 78 and 351 Port Underwood Road.

Gavin Bayliss spoke to tabled supplementary information in opposition to the proposal to transfer 58 properties at Karaka Point into the Picton Geographical Rating Area. Mr Bayliss said the judgement of Mr Justice France published on 21 October 2013 emphasised that there must be a significant change to justify the increase in rates for the affected area and he clearly demonstrated that such a change had not occurred. He does not accept paying a massive increase in rates to subsidise the existing Picton rating area which generally receives all services - sewer and water, stormwater drainage, kerbing, berms, footpaths, and street lighting. Also, he said, the new reasons stated in the Draft Annual Plan have no validity to support such an increase.

Mr Bayliss said it will cost Council more in Court costs if they do not drop the proposal.

The hearing concluded at 12.30pm.

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