

Picton Regional Forum held at Picton Emergency Centre, Memorial Park, Picton, on Monday 9 March 2020, at 1.30 pm

Present

Clr Oddie (Chairperson), Mayor Leggett, Clr Taylor, Clr Faulls, Mike Porter

Group Representatives

Rose Prendeville (Port Marlborough), Brian Henstock (Older Persons Forum), Bryan Strong (Tirimoana), John Reuhman (Picton, Marlborough Sounds Tourism), Raewyn Buchanan (Karaka Point), Stuart Eyes (Bike Walk Picton), Monyeen Wedge (QCS Residents Association), Rob Burn (QC Track), Rebecca Woledge (Karaka Point), Beryl Bowers (Picton Historical Society), Graham Low (Picton Smart & Connected), Linda Thompson (Envirohub Marlborough) and Tim Newsham (Bay of Many Coves)

Guest Speakers

Grant Beattie (Port Marlborough) and Steve Murrin (Marlborough Roads until around 2.10 pm)

Attending

Chris Hines (MDC Secretary)

1. Apologies

Dean Heiford (MDC), Steve Merito, Don Miller, Ian Shapcott (Te Atiawa) and Margaret McHugh

2. Confirmation of previous meeting minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2019 as a true and correct record.

Linda Thompson/Rebecca Woledge - Carried

3. Update on new Waikawa Marina – Grant Beattie Project Manager

Slides attached as **Appendix 1**

- Approval from the Board was received last month to commence with the project.
- 16 March - early works (water based activities) will start.
- 23 March – on site development will commence with contractors taking over the north western area of the Marina Trust. There will no public access to this area while the development is happening.
- The reclamation works on the land side will be 5 to 6 months.
- The whole project will take around 2 years with finish being early 2022. The first berths should be available in summer 2021.
- A website has been set up on the marina's webpage and there will be updates to let the community know what is happening with the development. <https://marlboroughmarinas.co.nz/waikawanorthwest/>
Feedback and enquiries can be made on the website page.
- Access will still be available to the breakwater, but beach access will be gone during the development.
- During the consent process, Port Marlborough worked closely with Te Atiawa and all stakeholders. There are extensive plans in place for everything from marine mammal management through to transport and traffic management. These can be viewed on the Resource Consent document on the Council site.

Questions/Answers

- Sea level rise variation (allowing for storm surge) has been accounted for in the planning.
- Truck movement on Waikawa Road – volume is maximum 32 truck and trailer units (that is 64 in and out) per day between 7.30 am to 6.00 pm Monday to Friday. Saturday if only there is a wet day during the week. Port Marlborough is working with the local quarry to get trucks out on alternate routes and plan to meet with all schools. Work is being done off peak, and truck movement will go through till the end of July. When commencing breakwater and jetties the truck movement will drop significantly.
- Port Marlborough has worked closely with Marlborough Roads and the contractors to optimise the traffic. Planning has gone into minimising effects. A traffic management plan will be available.
- A drop-in day for interested parties will be next Monday 16 March, 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm at the Waikawa Boating Club. Chris will send out details to everyone.
- On completion there will be parking for the public at the northern end along with amenities. The northern breakwater has a walkway for public and a shingle beach area with access to the water for water activities.
- Moorings are currently being relocated into the northern management mooring area. Arrangements have been made with all the mooring holders.

2.20 pm Grant Beattie left the meeting

4. NOC and Roading Workshop – Steve Murrin

- The maintenance contract has been awarded to Fulton Hogan/Heb – a joint venture that will commence on 1 April. There will be completely new systems and management structure. All staff on the current contract have been made redundant and are now reapplying for positions in the new structure.
- Around 50 percent of the work will be using local subcontractors, and they will employ local people as much as possible, which will allow good response times.
- Still closing out of current contract. There will be delivery on the rehab/renewal program. There will be 70 kilometres of reseals this year and about 6 kilometres of rehab across the district. Currently about 70 percent has been completed and on target to finish at the end of March. Anything safety related has a focus.
- Next meeting the contract will be in place, and Steve offered to bring the new manager along to talk to the group.

Questions/Answers

- Steve is happy to attend the Sounds Advisory Group meeting to let them know about the changes.
- An accident occurred the previous week on the coast road around Tuamarina which resulted in a convoy of traffic producing a lot of dust. The 50 kilometre speed limit is also not appropriate.

Steve's response was that 50 kilometre sign is to indicate the maximum speed anyone should travel that road and definitely not a target. He acknowledged that the dust is an issue. There is 6½ kilometres of unsealed road, and there is no money to deal with it. All acknowledged the drought is not helping the dust situation.

Clr Taylor advised that Council is doing a by-law review of the speed limits on gravel roads to possibly drop the speeds and bring that out for consultation.

- Steve advised there had been a workshop with Councillors the previous Thursday setting the direction for the future. If Councillors agree at the next meeting, there will consultation on the decisions and looking at implementation from 1 July.
- Rebecca Woledge thanked Steve for paving the Karaka Point carpark.

5. Actions from the previous meeting

Action	Person Responsible
1. Forward options for Ngakuta Bay crossing to the Ngakuta Bay Community	Steve Murrin
<i>Met with Julian and 2 others 3 weeks ago. Looking at options about where the crossing can be located safely. While there, also talked about the lookout they want to prepare and seal for which they have submitted an application to the Small Townships Fund.</i>	
2. Follow up with Robyn Blackburn on pedestrian safety issues on Port Underwood Road.	Steve Murrin
<i>People park along here which is unsafe. Anything specific let Steve know.</i>	
3. Check if the rubbish bin removal on the foreshore is temporary.	Clr Taylor
<i>The 'asset' was away for refurbishment, but is now back. The recycling bins were only ever a trial and have been moved to another part of the province to be trialled. Hopeful that after the trial may get them back permanently.</i>	
4. Follow up on whether there is sufficient security camera coverage on the foreshore.	Dean
<i>New security cameras have been installed. Complete.</i>	

6. General Update – Mayor Leggett

The Mayor was happy to take questions, but first some observations:

- Mayor Leggett advised he spent a lot of time in Picton over Christmas with visitors. The comments received from visitors were very positive. The work on the Queen Charlotte Yacht Club is outstanding. People get drawn to it and when finished will be a real asset to the foreshore and general area.
- Looking back further the Tuia 250 commemoration and the Maritime Festival was done absolutely superbly in Picton, so kudos to the community.
- Covid-19 issue – there hasn't been a lot of publicity from Council – theirs is a fairly limited part to play. The drive itself is from the local DHB and Ministry of Health. Tomorrow in Nelson Minister Twyford is looking at announcing packages to help out some impacted businesses who are suffering already.
- Regarding the wine industry, they are reasonably confident they have all their workers for harvest, but it is unknown about pruning, which is the next stage. There are RSE workers booked to come but it may depend on what happens over the next few weeks. In terms of readiness, the Mayor believes that the region/community is as ready as it can possibly be.
- Council has to ensure core services such as sewerage and water continue to operate. Business continuity plans are in place.
- Port Marlborough projects coming up such as Waikawa will be a game changer for the local community. The development at the port, the Picton Ferry Terminal, the road and rail infrastructure - it is a once in a lifetime opportunity to get that right, to get involved and make sure the community's interests are well looked after.
- The Mayor commented that the Parks and Open Spaces staff does a great job on the foreshore.

- The Council is in the midst of the annual plan process. There is likely to be a rating increase which is believed to be pretty conservative in the circumstances. There are inflationary pressures with local Government cost index. Council are looking at a 2.2 percent inflationary increase, and in addition there are pressures from Central Government about responsibilities in the environment. Government signalled extensive reforms around drinking water, streams and rivers. Farming is a difficult environment with additional costs being incurred with Government directives which landowners must meet.
- Picton through the annual plan process is going to have a reasonably major spend on services, sewerage, drinking water and stormwater disposal.
- From the last Council meeting – increase in levels of service around Picton maintaining additional facilities and increasing levels of service. \$252,000.00 extra has been allocated, most of which will come from rates but some also from the forestry and land sub account.
- The planter boxes down the centre of High Street are to be removed. Planting ground level natives to replace them has already started.
- There will be an allocation of funding to review the traffic management cruise related maintenance along with the cruise co-ordinator.
- The Grove Road Bridge is near completion which will make a significant difference for traffic movement to and from Picton.

Questions and Answers

- What is happening about the dry dock?

The Mayor said that there had been strongly based submissions made in favour of Shakespeare Bay as the best site for a NZ dry dock. However, the government has made Provincial Growth Fund finance available for further investigations in Whangarei and at present, dry dock development there seemed a more likely outcome. Rose said the Port is disappointed, but there remain a number of large projects available to the Port that will be beneficial to the community.

- What has happened about the Jet Ski bylaw?

The harbourmaster has been in communication with Maritime New Zealand (MNZ) and it was pointed out to him that it might be necessary to bring the commercial navigational rules back into the bylaws. If this has to occur there will have to be consultation with the community because it will be a substantively different bylaw.

- Some of the group Monyeen represents who live in remote areas outside email coverage, are disappointed that the consultation period for the ferry terminal wasn't enough time for feedback. Could a further meeting be organised so any concerns they may have could be put forward?

Rose advised there will be open day/evenings for Interislander/KiwiRail Picton Ferry Redevelopment as follows:

- Picton Library 4.00 pm – 7.00 pm Wednesday, 25 March
- Chamber of Commerce luncheon in Blenheim on Wednesday 25 March
- Blenheim ASB Theatre, Whitehaven Room 4.00 pm – 7.00 pm Thursday 26 March
- Project website address is <https://pictonferryprecinct.co.nz/> (accessible in the library)

The December consultation was a starting point with a lot of feedback being received. This has been taken into consideration in planning but still looking for more feedback. The next stage is doing final pre-consenting design. It is expected the Resource Consent will be lodged around July.

- What happened about Picton Forum levy on rates?

Council has approved the recommendation that come from the Picton Regional Forum. The \$1.20 is no more. Everyone who paid will get a refund. There was some confusion about who had paid.

- What is the status of the Picton Development Plan?

Being scoped out at present to determine what questions are to be answered, what are the contracts, and who should be doing the work. When collated, it will be brought to Council through the Planning, Finance

and Community Committee for Councillors to approve. It has been slightly stalled by the Picton ferry development.

- Public safety – Is it true that there is only 1.5 Police in Picton? There are community concerns that Black Power is established in Angle Street and Mongrel Mob in Waikawa.

Richard Van Asch was scheduled to be at the meeting, however, he has moved on from Picton. Chris will follow up to have Police representation at the next meeting. It is unknown how many Police are assigned to Picton.

- Mayor's update on the finance planning - There was \$6M put aside to replace the drinking water pipe from Speeds Road pump and another \$2.2M to redo the pipes from Essens Valley into town. This has been in the long term plan and come through in the last round.
- Rob on behalf of those involved with the cruise ships thanked the Mayor and Councillors for funding for the cruise ship stop. It is appreciated having someone available and also money invested in safety.

7. Other Matters

Increase in number of ducks on the foreshore – Graham Low

- Graham remarked about the increase in the number of ducks (about 40 plus) now seen on the foreshore. Cllr Taylor advised that there is little that can be done in eradicating them; however, there has been a reschedule in pavement cleaning so that it occurs on the Friday or early Saturday, and the area is good for the weekend.

Report on the Vehicle Trust – Bryan Strong

- There has been a change of name from the Marlborough Sounds Community Vehicle Trust to the Marlborough Community Vehicle Trust. The dropping of the word Sounds properly reflects what the Trust does. Two thirds of passengers come from the Blenheim area.



- At the end of February 2020, from when the service commenced in October 2016, over 600 passengers have been carried.
- The biggest issue at the moment is dealing with the DHB. Patients admitted to Wairau Hospital, taken to Nelson Hospital where after treatment, they are discharged and become stranded. Brian has suggested to the DHB that MCV Trust be engaged at a cost of \$55.00 to bring the people back to Marlborough.
- Brian thanked Council for the publicity given to the service.

Update on Envirohub – Linda Thompson

- Relocated to new premises in Auckland Street thanks to Port Marlborough.
- Last Sunday Envirohub was involved with relocation of the sea creatures from the marina extension area. There were 17 or 18 tanks of sea creatures relocated out to Curious Cove. Linda thanked Stuart from the Waikawa Dive Centre for his dedication and perseverance. Paul Luxton volunteered his boat Sea Watch for transportation and there were numerous volunteers that assisted, along with donations from Fresh Choice and Port Marlborough. It was great to see the community pulling together.

- Envirohub organised a foreshore clean-up on Sunday 8 March which was very successful.
- Working hard on zero waste events. Marina to marina was a good event with an excellent turnout.
- Happy to help anyone who is planning on running an event.

Dutton Sreet – Graham Low

- Dutton Street - nice to see the broom upgraded and the walkway through. The other side to be planted in shrubs.
- Some ratepayers are looking at putting a boardwalk from the Waikawa Marina across into Waikawa Bay, across the mudflats. Clr Oddie pointed out this is a proposition at this stage, with issues and a lot of work yet to be done.
- Waikawa Basin foreshore is being upgraded with new planting commencing next week.

Wilding Conifers – Monyeen Wedge

- Thanked Council for adding Wilding Conifers to their pest control plan.

Wattle Program

- Has been very successful around Waikawa Bay. Clr Oddie added there was a proposal to carry on with this program this year to bring it up to just prior to the College.

International Woman’s Day – Tim Newsham

- Acknowledged International Woman’s Day and the women in the room.

8. Actions from the meeting

Action	Person Responsible
1. Send out information regarding the open day for Waikawa Marina development to all Picton Regional Forum members. <i>Done</i>	Chris Hines
2. Contact Steve Murrin re bringing new contract manager to next meeting.	Chris Hines
3. Contact NZ Police for a guest speaker at next meeting.	Chris Hines
4. Check the geographic coverage of those who paid the targeted rate.	Clr Taylor

The meeting closed at 2.50 pm.

Future Speakers

- Picton Police Update
- Peter Payne

Proposed Dates for meetings in 2020

- 4 May 2020
- 6 July 2020
- 7 September 2020
- 9 November 2020