

ORGANISATION	WHANGARA	DATE	23/03/2018	NOTES TAKEN BY	Edwina Ashwell
MEMBERS (13)	Mayor Meng Foon, Councillor Pat Seymour, Councillor Meredith Akuhata-Brown, Nick Zaman (GDC), Andrew White (GDC), David Wilson (GDC), Heather Kohn (GDC), Eddie Ashwell (GDC), Anthea Lincoln, Jenny Newman, Peter Reeves, Sarah Lincoln, Cushla Murphy.				

ACTION REQUIRED**1. RFS SYSTEM**

Resident: RFS system is very efficient, they always email back.

No action required

2. REP REVIEW

Resident: What about migratory type of communities, are these groups considered?

Response: That would require looking at census information, to determine the numbers.

Discussion followed about the representation review.

No action required

3. EASTLAND COMMUNITY TRUST

Resident: What contributions are ECT giving towards our growth as a city? Consider people who relocate here, the increase in tourism. How does council extract money from ECT for major projects that improve the growth of our city?

Response: The key role is economic development, and this has been transferred to Activate Tairāwhiti. They will be focusing on tourism infrastructure. ECT continues to support local community projects, bike park, theatre etc. They have up to \$10m a year to contribute to the community.

No action required

Resident: Investment made into things that do not go directly into the community.... From electric cars, people can't afford these cars, shouldn't they invest in things that can be of greater benefit to the general community such as rates rebates etc. Discussion followed.

4. RATES

Resident: What about rural farms that have forestry on them, how are they rated?

Response: Depends on your classification, depends what the majority of your land is used for... pastoral, horticultural or forestry. Discussion followed about how properties are classified and rated, shifting from land value to capital value.

No action required

5. ROADS:

Resident: There is more and more heavy vehicle and demands on roads, what if people/organisations whom you are seeking funds from, do not come up with the money. It says in your consultation document that "council will seek funding" but is not definitive.

Response: We have entered into partnerships with forestry. If during winter the road is getting wrecked, we will close it to Heavy Trucks, not stock or farmers. They also pay massive amounts of road user chargers, which we continue to lobby for from Government. We are pushing for a proactive approach to road maintenance in an environment in which we are currently reactive.

Resident: Would you not consider this as a compliance issue for forestry resource consents, there are skid sites popping up all over the place.

No action required

Response: We can't stop access to the road network, but we can look at skid sites. Discussion followed about the Billion Trees Project.

Resident: The roads have been significantly improved since Downer came on board.

6. TOILETS

Resident: The public toilet in town, Bright St is spotless, clean and nice to go into. All the public toilets should look like that. They are really good.

Response: Those toilets look good because we have a full time person looking after it, we can't afford that for all other toilets.

Resident: What's happening with Peel St?

Response: Peel St received no tenders, we will need to look at a different method.

No action required

7. GHL UPDATE FROM PETER

Commercialising things helps to put cash back in GDC account, Holiday Park, Vehicle Station, and Farms. We have been well served by Matt Fiest, but he will be moving on. The HP gave us a great opportunity, the swimming pool helps us aim towards increasing the number of families staying there. It's been great, the next stage is setting up units along the road. We also have a grade called Glamping, the big advantage is always about people. The staff are friendly and our greatest asset. We are able to deliver under budget and on time.

No action required

8. COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Resident: I commend these meetings, things are dealt with and I appreciate the response.

No action required