

## PAHIATUA ON TRACK INCORPORATED

Minutes of meeting held Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2006 at the Service Centre, TDC.

Including an open forum to discuss the Dannevirke High Street Upgrade.

**Present:** Cynthia Cass, Robin Whiteman, Graham Collinson, Judy Maxwell, Adrienne Wake, Shirley Hull, Bill Keltie, Ann Marie Bengston, Mayor Maureen Reynolds, Peter Wimsett; Manager Financial Services TDC, Troy Gerbich; Project Manager TDC, Ivan Johanson, Ron Gray, Larry Gordon, Fraser Lea, Ian Arbuthnott, Terry Watson, David Lea TDC Councillor, Warren Davidson TDC Councillor; Judy Swenson TDC Councillor, Roger Twentymen; TDC Chief Executive, D H Reid, Peg Jones, Ian Staples, Chrissie Staples, Colleen Cotter, Phil Cotter, Gordon Irving, Joan Irving, T Van-Osta, Gerald Shone & Hart Udy.

**2. Apologies:** Mike Fouhy, Brian James

**3. Personal Matters:** Chairwoman Cynthia Cass informed the committee of Belinda Vial's passing, and noted the good works that she had done for the community. Shirley will send Graeme, Melissa and Richard a condolence card.

**4. Extraordinary Business:** Car parking - a retailer in Pahiatua has suggested opening up some of Pahiatua's 'green belt' for car parking, committee decided that until the retailer put in a submission we could not respond, but in general committee were opposed to the idea. Shirley was asked to put out the December agenda in Cynthia Cass's absence.

Our committee meeting was put aside to hear public concerns about the Dannevirke Town Centre Refurbishment; Chairwoman Cass greeted Mayor Maureen Reynolds, Councillors and TDC staff and turned the forum over to the Mayor. The Mayor outlined the history of Dannevirke High Street, how there was a need to replenish old services and look at safety issues. The Mayor stated this was many years in the planning and that this was 'a community project, it was their plan (Dannevirke community). 'This is the third plan the Council have seen in eight years' stated the Mayor. The original amount set for the project was \$1.1million, this is now \$4.4, the Council share is \$2.5million – this is the reason for the meeting, to seek the views of the community.

The Mayor handed over to Peter Wimsett, Manager Financial Services; Peter explained that State Highway 2, through Dannevirke, is due to be upgraded and that Transit have approved the design. The design, apparently, takes into consideration safety issues, lighting, seating and tree planting. Car parks would be made longer; the road would be raised for drainage, and new stormwater systems would be installed. The project would take 45 to 50 weeks over 2 years.

Questions were then open to the floor:-

Q. R Gray – Why are you not using hot mix, how much are these tiles costing?

A. P Wimsett – Tiles are made of stone and have a 40 – 60 yr guarantee. They are coming from England, total cost for the purchase and laying is \$1.72 million.

Q. P Cotter – How much will you spend on consultants?

A. P Wimsett – we have spent \$50,000 to date and expect to pay \$300,000 in total.

Q. Mrs Irving – What public consultation took place before this (design) was approved?

A. Mayor Reynolds – Public were consulted in July with flyers and articles.

Q. Mr. Irving – What consultation did you do when Dannevirke realised this would cost \$4.5 million?

A. Mayor Reynolds – We're doing it now.

Q. C Cass – Why didn't TDC find out what a 'ball park' figure was going to be and warn people, the

designer knew roughly (they designed Waipukurau). I suggest costs were out in mid-September and suggest this plan was going to be passed with very little consultation, and now you have been forced into consultation. Previous consultation was a waste of time without knowledge of cost. And, the document you have produced, only considers how we are going to pay, not consult on the issue of if we want to pay on that plan, design or cost level.

A. Mayor Reynolds – We are consulting now.

Q. Terry Watson – If we're borrowing all this money how safe is it?

A. P Wimsett – Outlined staggered borrowing plan. Money very safe.

Q. I Staples – Dannevirke High Street is too narrow, it's trying to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear, and your plan has less parking – why don't you put in a bypass?

A. Mayor Reynolds – there are extra car parks off street, there will be no bypass and no roundabouts.

Q. Mrs Irving – The road is too narrow, did TDC survey retailers, otherwise it's extravagant spending if there are no benefits?

A. Mayor Reynolds – Dannevirke retailers are happy and will help with funds, they are looking forward to it (refurbishment). The Northern ward is happy to pay.

Q. C Cotter – Have retailers not made mention of the negative affect the trucks have in High Street?

A. Mayor Reynolds – Retailers are split 50/50.

Q. Adrienne Wake – Please do refurbish Dannevirke – it's long overdue, but could you use hot mix?

A. Mayor Reynolds – Yes it is an option.

Q. Ann Marie Bengston – Is the plan 'Disability' aware?

A. P Wimsett – Yes

Q. Mr. Cotter – Was a heavy traffic bypass request made or not by TDC for Dannevirke?

A. Mayor Reynolds – No.

Q. T Watson – If the difference in price is so huge and would save ¼ million dollars, why are we having pavers and not hot mix?

A. Mayor Reynolds – Community wanted it (pavers).

Q. Terry Watson – Council told us they would reduce ratepayer debt, now TDC want to borrow \$2.5 million and increase our debt. We have basic issues like water supply that needs addressing – is this a budget/spending out of control?

A. P Wimsett – The Pahiatua water supply and sewerage are on the agenda, we want full subsidy from government as costs for this are \$8 – 19 million.

Q. Mr Irving - The government have made water standards legislation, is that right?

A. P Wimsett – Yes but they don't think they should fund it, but we are working on that.

Q. T Watson - I have visited different towns that look good, but one thing they have in common is that they only have one Main Street – we have four – we simply cannot afford it (refurbishment). Our water is disgusting, we cannot afford luxuries, and we need the basics, water and water pressure. TDC need to look at core issues and values. As the majority of the population live in Dannevirke. Will TDC listen to us?

(No response - taken as a statement).

Q. C Cass – Is there not a cheaper option for tiles?

A. No – UK pavers will be delivered at same price as Australian.

Q. Mr Irving – Is not just a cheaper option of tiles we need to know about, is there not an alternative plan that is optional to vote on. We don't just want to know the how to pay options – because in the

future Dannevirke won't support the southern ward?  
(No response - taken as a statement).

Statement –T Van-Osta– This (project) should be the last thing on TDC list.

Q. I Staples – Do TDC guarantee pavers for sixty years?  
A. P Wimsett – Yes.

Q. I Staples – Our own (Pahiatua) infrastructure is knackered too, what's happening to that?  
A. P Wimsett – TDC have done a lot of work in Pahiatua over the last six years especially in the area of stormwater drains. The quality and source of Pahiatua water are all being researched and when it is done may depend how well TDC can lobby government for subsidy, it may take years.

Q. Will Dannevirke retailers shops increase in value?

Statement made by Councillor David Lea. Mr. Lea apologised for leaving meeting early, but wanted to state that 'I would like you to consider the effect on all the towns, if we want separate funding for Dannevirke, towns like Woodville and Eketahuna may suffer in the future, as they need the support of larger towns (Dannevirke and Pahiatua). We do not want a 'them and us' scenario. Also, there are only 20 of us and 20 submissions will not be enough.

Q. Mrs Irving – Where are the alternatives?  
A. Put in the comments field of the submissions form.

Mayor Reynolds thanked the community for their attendance.

C Cass, Chairwoman stated that in her opinion TDC were signing the death warrant of Dannevirke. It was the shops that should be good, not the pavers. We cannot afford to pay for the pretty things and TDC should get rid of the bricks, balustrades, bollards and bullshit. Get rid of the heavy traffic so that shoppers are not consumed by diesel fumes. When you sign this off you will be locked in by Transit to have heavy traffic on that road for years. I have talked to the Pahiatua community; they are not in favour of the rating options and do not support TDC borrowing \$2.5 million.

Chairwoman Cass put forward the following resolution:-

1. We do not support any of the rating options outlined in the consultation document.
2. We do not support borrowing 2.5 million dollars under any circumstances.
3. We support a modified project with a funding cap of 2 million dollars. (As proposed in the Tararua District Council LTCCP).
4. We support the Northern Ward being rated to cover any expenditure over 2 million dollars (in whatever proportions they decide).

The resolution was supported with a full show of hands and was a unanimous decision.

Mayor Reynolds was asked if POTI could lodge submissions in the form of a petition. Mayor Reynolds stated 'she did not like petitions, and would like submissions written individually'.

Cynthia Cass thanked the community for 'putting their hand up'. Chairwoman Cass thanked Mayor Reynolds, Councillors, TDC Staff and the community for their attendance.

**5. Confirmation of Minutes** of October 2006. Graham/Robin

**6. Matters arising:** Replacement of secretary after December. Nomination forms are in the office and we will advertise for interest – closing in January. Decision will be made at a special meeting in

February.

7. **The TDC report:** Tabled and read.

8. **Matters arising:** Shirley noted that other Community Groups held their meeting on the first week of the month and would like Pahiatua to move a week earlier to give more time to prepare minutes. To be discussed further. Cynthia/Robin

#### 9. **Correspondence –**

Inwards correspondence

- Turitea Wind Farm – acknowledged our submission
- PHO- Teeny Lowe is new PHO manager
- TDC – Invite to David Jamieson's Civic Award evening
- RSA – Invite to Armistice Day Celebration ceremony on 11<sup>th</sup> November

Outwards correspondence:

- Fonterra – Lighting Walkway
- Claire Matthews – Change in Christmas Carol night
- TDC – Youth Parking
- TDC – Response to 'New Paths' proposal

Adrienne/Robin

#### 10. **Financial Report**

A written financial statement is attached to these minutes.

Accounts moved for payment S Hull Admin \$240 and Tennix (Xmas) Lights \$9000.00  
Financial report read, discussed and accepted.

Graham/Adrienne

11. **Discretionary Fund:** No applications

12. **Co-ordinators and Secretary issues** - none.

13. **Safer Community Council.** Nil

#### 14. **Progress with Projects:**

Carols by Candlelight – Judy Maxwell: Judy and Angela Leatherby from Bush Multisport Trust held a meeting, and set plans and details up.

BYO chair and rug.

Main Street approved use of their Xmas lights.

Bar will not be open.

Adrienne will organise town signs.

6pm - Fun Run, 7pm School, 8pm Carols.

Judy asked if we can have a fireworks display to end the evening, a capped figure of \$250 was moved Shirley seconded Unanimous.

#### 15. **Portfolio Reports**

Roading -Graham Collinson: 28<sup>th</sup> Road Safety Group meeting and 15<sup>th</sup> Senior Citizens meeting.

Waireka Home – Graham Collinson: AGM held, John Jackson still chairman. The board is smaller but operating well.

Street Closure: - Adrienne Wake; Don Selby's team asked about a fee for operation of the street closure team. They would like \$500. Cynthia/Robin

## **16. Extraordinary and General Business**

There will be an event on Armistice Day 11<sup>th</sup> November at 11.11am to celebrate the new flag & pole. Committee are invited to attend.

A discussion was held on some of the needs of the Pahiatua community. Top of the discussion was the terrible drinking water. Mention was also made of sweeping of paths, maintenance of gardens and that the kerb around the town's Main Street needed water blasting and painting.

Next meeting will be on 13<sup>th</sup> December after which we shall join with partners at the Black Stump for dinner.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm

Next meeting: Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2006