

Picton Regional Forum held at Picton Emergency Centre, Memorial Park, Picton, on Monday 13 May 2019, at 1.00 pm

1. Present

Clr Oddie (Chairperson), Clr Hook, Clr Taylor, Dean Heiford (MDC) (1.15 pm)

Group Representatives

Tim Newsham (Bay of Many Coves), Graham Gosling (Picton Business Group), Jon Perano (Picton Museum), Monyeen Wedge (QCS Residents Association), Brian Henstock (Civil Defence), Ian Davis (Ngakuta), Stuart Eyes (Heritage Society), Michelle Campbell (Greypower), Don Miller (Whatamango Bay), Sergeant Richard Van Asch (Picton Police), Raewyn Buchanan (Karakā Point), John Jackson, (Karakā Point), Graham Low (Picton Smart & Connected) (1.10 pm), Rose Prendeville, (Port Marlborough) (1.30 pm),

2. Guest Speakers

Mayor Leggett, Sylvie Heard (Te Ātiawa), Chrissy Powlesland (Tōtaranui 250)

3. Apologies

Bryan Strong, Steve Merito, Matt Walters, John Reuhman, Tim Healey, Rebecca Woledge, Graham Low (for lateness), Dean Heiford (for lateness)

4. Annual Plan Update – Mayor John Leggett

- Annual Plan submissions closed on 6 May and 115 submissions were received with 86 submitters indicating they want to speak to their submissions.
- Submitters will be heard 4-6 June.
- Councillors will consider the submissions on 10 June.
- ON 26 June the Annual Plan will be adopted and rates struck for the 2019-20 rating year. Rates will become effective 1 July 2019.
- All submissions are read by all the Councillors and it is emphasised to submitters that they should use the time at the hearing to highlight important points, emphasise why their submission should be adopted and outline the costs involved.
- The draft Annual Plan has concentrated on the core business of providing good infrastructure across the district. Community projects are also a priority to help keep Marlborough a welcoming place to live.
 - There has been a push in the last few years to take responsibility for environmental protection and biosecurity.
- A 3.96% increase in rates is forecast with the draft Annual Plan. There has been a lot of work behind the scenes to try to peg the increase back.
- \$66 million has been budgeted for capital expenditure for the next 12 months. This is for improvements to sewage systems, Renwick and Havelock water and the Blenheim Library/Gallery Project amongst other things.

- Council elections will take place in October. Although Council had initially been keen to be part of a project to trial online voting at the upcoming elections, due to the expense involved this is not now going to take place. It is hoped that online voting in the future may help engage younger people in Local Government.
- The Marlborough Environment Plan hearings are now in the deliberation stages.
- Marlborough produces 60% of New Zealand's aquaculture and 80% of its wine. There has been a lot of development recently in the region, especially around Blenheim with Farmlands and Kmart, seasonal worker accommodation and residential subdivision construction occurring.
- The extension to the Waikawa Marina is going to be major piece of work for Picton.
- Tourism is a significant industry in Marlborough. The Marlborough Tour Company has plans to scale up their operation to cater for increasing numbers.
- The Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre receives the greatest numbers of visitors in Marlborough.
- The aging population in Marlborough is one area where part-time work or shared employment is being investigated through Council's Smart and Connected groups. At the same time it is important to try to retain young people in the region when they leave school.
- Over 65's are forecast to make up 1/3 of Marlborough's population within two decades.
- Under the 15 year Urban Development Plan, 100 ha has been rezoned for development in the Blenheim area. The earthquakes have had far reaching impacts with the necessity to rethink plans for Blenheim's growth in the Riverlands area. Zoning has been moved towards the north-west of the town. This has also increased infrastructure costs. The earthquakes have also resulted in extra river protection works.
- A recent Housing and Business Capacity Assessment has given Council confidence that enough land has been zoned for residential development. (link below).
https://www.marlborough.govt.nz/repository/libraries/id:1w1mps0ir17q9sgxanf9/hierarchy/Documents/Your%20Council/Environmental%20Policy%20and%20Plans/Nat%20Policy%20Statement%20HBD%20Capacity%20List/NPS_Urban_Development_Capacity_2018.pdf
- Council is applying for a grant from the Provincial Growth Fund for real time data monitoring for industry in the Sounds and to help build the Coastal Pacific Trail.
- Other topics relevant to Picton include:
 - the increasing numbers of cruise ships coming into Picton
 - freedom camping
 - Central Government's Three Waters Review

Questions/Answers

- The Mayor clarified that traditional voting methods will still be available when online voting is implemented in the future.
- The new Foreshore Plan is still in the preliminary stages and consultation will be carried out before it is finalised.

5. Confirmation of previous meeting minutes

Jon Perano/Graham Low: that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2019 were correct.

6. Action Items from previous meeting (11 March 2019)

Action	Person Responsible
1. Forward own associations feedback on whether to keep targeted rate to Rebecca before 13 May	Members
Completed - No requests to retain the rate were received after the last meeting. Due to most feedback from the meeting on 11 March being in favour of removing the rate, Dean made a pro- forma staff submission on behalf of the PRF to ask that the rate be removed because it is no longer required for the purpose it was being raised. Council will continue to cover the costs of the meetings	
2. Discuss what to use the surplus money for (if it is decided to remove the targeted rate) with own associations, and bring feedback to next meeting	Members
This will be kept as item for the next agenda. Members to bring suggests to the July meeting or forward to Rebecca before the meeting	
3. Forward Robyn Blackburn's request for information email to the Port Underwood and Karaka Point Residents Associations	Clr Taylor
Completed	
4. Include a small article promoting membership of the MSCVT in the Council's community pages of the newspaper	Lyne Reeves
Completed, but due to running at a loss additional publicity has been requested from Council and other organisations to encourage more people to become members of the Trust	

7. Picton Police Update – Sergeant Richard Van Asch

- Sergeant Van Asch thanked the community for their assistance in identifying the offender in the recent robbery of the GAS Service Station.
- The establishment of a community patrol is underway in Picton.
- The new nationwide non-emergency number is **105**. Sergeant Van Asch emphasised to continue to ring **111** in the event of an emergency. There is additional information on the new number on the Police website (link below):
<https://www.police.govt.nz/105info>

8. Te Ātiawa Update – Sylvie Heard

- Sylvie has been with te Ātiawa since April 2017 working for Kaitiaki o te Taiao (KT Office/Team) (Guardians of the Environment).
- The KT Office is responsible for Kaitiakitanga in Whakatū (Nelson), Motueka and Queen Charlotte Sound/Tōtaranui and Tory Channel/Kura Te Au
- Te Ātiawa has a new representative on the Tōtaranui 250 Trust – Amai Thompson – who is Te Ātiawa Trust's Cultural Manager. Amai has been working for Te Ātiawa since the beginning of the year.
- The KT Office is interested in Picton's and the Port's air quality issues and has been working with Council, the Port Company and local groups including the 'Picton Air Quality' group.

- The KT team is planning to work with DOC and local schools on environmental projects in the Sounds Rohe, involving tamariki and rangatahi. There is a push for more young people involved in kaitiakitanga.
- Support of the new enviro-hub and its sub-groups as co-kaitiaki of the Sounds Rohe.
- Tipping Points Project
 - 3 Te Ātiawa science students (15 to 17 years of age) were invited to work with two professors from the University of Auckland and Waikato University.
 - The trip was to build on an initial rapid assessment of the health of the seafloor and rocky reefs in the outer half of Tōtaranui.
 - The aim was to improve the linkage between ecosystem response to cumulative change and management actions.
 - The Professors and students will be sharing their results with our Trust Board at the end of May.

Questions/Answers

- The Tipping Points project will be used to inform Rohe management in the future. Sylvie agreed to ask Ian Shapcott if the results of the project could be shared with the Forum.
- The DOC projects with tamariki and rangatahi are still in the planning stages.
- Port Marlborough has been working with Te Ātiawa and Heritage New Zealand to have some archeology work done on an historic whare site in Waikawa prior to development.

9. Picton Targeted Rate – Dean Heiford

- This item has been dealt with in the Action Points above.

10. General Business

Marlborough Sounds Community Vehicle Trust

- It was reiterated that the Trust is now running at a loss and requires new members to join to boost funds (there is a one-off cost of \$15.00 to become a member of the Trust). Members of the PRF were asked to continue to spread the word about Trust membership.
- The Trust has made an application for funding from NMDHB.

Picton/Waikawa Civil Defence Update

- A Civil Defence Group is being established in Picton/Waikawa.
- Three meetings have been held so far, additional volunteers are still required.
- Catherine Coates, the Group Welfare Officer/Emergency Management Officer at Marlborough Civil Defence is going to give a presentation at the PRF July meeting on the role of the new Civil Defence Group for Picton/Waikawa.
- Brian brought along an inverter which could be useful in an emergency as it can be powered by a car battery to run some lights or the fridge etc.

Parking on the Port Underwood Road

- There is an increasing problem with drivers parking their cars on the side of Port Underwood road while visiting baches or homes. This is a hazard because of lack of lighting and the narrowness of the road.
- There is a problem with car parking at Karaka Point, as cars are parking and obstructing other vehicles from using the pull-off area to turn back towards Waikawa. This turning area is necessary as it is not possible to turn left into driveways between Waikawa and Karaka Point with a trailer so drivers have to double back towards Waikawa if they have a trailer on.

- It was requested that Steve Murrin be asked to provide a response to the two issues above. (Added to Action Points).

Port Marlborough Survey

- Port Marlborough is developing an online questionnaire on sustainability to send to stakeholders. Rose is going to send the questionnaire to members of the Forum to get a wider community view.

Parking in Picton

- A comment was made on the growing problem in the Picton CBD with the size and increasing numbers of campervans using the angle parking. It was requested that Steve Murrin be asked to provide a response to this issue. (Added to Action Points).

Internet Connection on Queen Charlotte Drive

- The problem of slow and poor quality internet in the Sounds was discussed. Dean commented that because of the lack of population, internet providers don't want to invest in fibre to remoter communities. This is an ongoing issue and no solution is in sight.

Wattle Eradication

- An area in Waikawa has been used as a trial for Wattle eradication. The group doing the trial are applying for funding from the Rātā Foundation and the Annual Plan to continue eradication on the hills above Waikawa Bay.

11. Tōtaranui 250 Update – Chrissy Powlesland

Chrissy followed up from John Hellstrom's presentation at the last PRF meeting.

- The flotilla consisting of the Replica Endeavour, Spirit of New Zealand, V'aka from Tahiti, Waka Hourua from around New Zealand, will be welcomed to Meretoto/Ship Cove by tangata whenua at a Pōwhiri on 21 November, they will then arrive in Waitohi/Picton on 22 November, and berth in the Marina until 26 November.

Community Welcome – Friday 22 November – Waitohi/Picton

- The Marlborough region will gather together to witness the arrival of the flotilla, and offer a warm South Island welcome at the Waitohi/Picton Foreshore.
- Beryl Bowers will be leading the community working group, which will include representation across the region, and will be concepting the elements of the welcome.

Tentative dates:

- 10.00 am visible from Picton foreshore ; approach will take approx 1 hour. (*The timing is still tentative at this stage*).
- 11.00 am crew tie up and disembark
- 11.30 am to 12.30 pm community welcome on foreshore
- A roadshow will accompany the flotilla and be set up on the foreshore with science, conservation and sustainable oceans information as well as a planetarium and information on each vessel.

First Encounters – Light Show – Saturday, Nov 23 - 8.30 pm to Late - Waitohi/Picton

- A pyrotechnic show will take the audience on an incredible visual journey using the harbour as a backdrop, to tell the story of Aotearoa.



Schools and Volunteers Day – Monday 25 November

- An opportunity for schools in Marlborough to bring their classrooms to visit the flotilla and a 'give back' to the volunteers by offering a special experience with the vessels and crew.

Rāngitane Events – Blenheim - 27, 28 November – Ukaipo, Grovetown

- Two public events centred around the theme of First Voyagers, Kupe and Tupaia; with a focus on the Tahitian voyagers in the flotilla. More details to come.

Poroporoaki / Farewell – 29 Nov– Weather Dependant – Location tbc

- Iwi partners and community will be invited to gather to bless and farewell the flotilla as it departs for the last leg of its journey. The exact date won't be known until closer to the time.

Otago University Conference – 1-3 December – Marlborough Convention Centre

- Encounters and Exchanges: Exploring the history of science, technology, medicine, and mātauranga (indigenous knowledge). The Conference will be held in Blenheim 1 – 3 December.
- The Trust is looking for volunteers from the community. Follow the link below to volunteer to help out or go on the mailing list.

<https://www.totaranui250.co.nz/contact>

12. Actions from the meeting

Action	Person Responsible
1. Discuss what to use the surplus money for with own associations, and bring feedback to next meeting or forward to Rebecca prior to the July meeting	Members
2. Continue to advertise the need for members of the public to join MSCVT.	Lyne Reeves/ Members
3. Invite Marlborough Roads to respond to the problem regarding vehicles parking on Port Underwood Road	Rebecca
4. Request information from Marlborough Roads on the issue of cars parking and obstructing the turning area at Karaka Point	Rebecca
5. Ask Marlborough Roads for comment on the problem of the large campervans parking in the Picton CBD	Rebecca

The meeting closed at 2.45 pm.

Future Speakers

Safe Communities representative

Rhys Welbourn (CE Port Marlborough) – July

Picton Civil Defence Update (Catherine Coates) - July

Air Quality Monitoring Update – September

Proposed Meeting Dates for 2019

- 8 July
- 9 September
- 11 November