

HUTT CITY COUNCIL

WESTERN COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

**Meeting to be held in the Manor Park Golf Club, 32 Golf Road, Manor Park on
Thursday 11 February 2016 commencing at 7.00pm.**

ORDER PAPER

**LATE
PUBLIC BUSINESS**

1. DEPUTY CHAIR'S REPORT (16/116)

Report No. WCC2016/1/33 by the Deputy Chair

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03 February 2016

File: (16/116)

Report no: WCC2016/1/33

Deputy Chair's Report

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Deputy Chair

HCC Western Community Committee

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Portfolios

Transport & Cycling

Participated in discussions on cycleway from Petone to Lower Hutt Station within Rail Corridor. Note increasing pressure on park and ride at all stations servicing the Western Hills, and that bike racks at Petone are now also at capacity. Continuing concern over use of free P&R carparks by non-travellers who work in vicinity. Suggestion of introduced parking fee offset against train fare raise again.

Concern noted over potential impact of changes to Gold Card funding on Regional Council rates. Also requirement for use of electronic card. Taken up with other organisations lobbying in this area.

Although there has been some improvement, parking facilities for bikes within the city centres remains minimal. Some recent roading layout changes criticised for emphasising maximisation of traffic flow over pedestrian and cycle safety and convenience.

Environment

I participated as a member of the inaugural HCC Environmental Advisory Group. Still early days and my view is that the group has not yet consolidated and that neither group members nor HCC have a clear view of the scope, role and responsibility of the Group. Nonetheless HCC is to be congratulated in taking the initiative here.

Training

Late last year I attended an LGNZ course on financial Governance. This was probably the most intense LGNZ course I have attended, and although I would recommend it to anyone intending to assume a governance role in Council at any level, the amount of homework prior to and following the course should not be underestimated.

The presenter gave a very clear and thorough insight into Local Government Finance, and the implications and requirements of the LGA. He emphasised also the importance of day to day oversight, and the importance of asking awkward questions. This led to some debate about the relative merits of experienced councillors who 'know the system' and the newly elected. It was felt that the latter could be too passive for fear of being shut down by experienced councillors and Mayors, but frequently asked the obvious questions that everyone else assumed they knew the answers to, but often did not.

An area covered in some depth was the ability of councils to set targeted rate. The court case brought by the Mangawhai Rate payers association was in the news at the time, and so the end game of any rates revolt was also briefly covered.

If I had to sum up the learning from the course in one sentence, it would be that:

A Governance role means that an elected representative should have their nose in the detail, but not their fingers.

I believe this course contributed to that ability and I would recommend it.

General business

With the summer weather it seems the fly tipping of garden waste is the problem de jour. We have had three trailer / ute loads dumped off the bank and in culverts along Normandale Road in the last few weeks. An associated problem is that it seems that when the phone service is used, the current HCC problem reporting software, whilst no doubt admirable for an urban situation, cannot cope with problems that don't have a street address. This has led to contractors wandering about by my gate when the actual problem is up to 1km away. The on-line system since it uses either a visual or GPS fix is fine.

Pete Matcham
Deputy Chair, Western Community Committee