

HUTT CITY COUNCILPOARI HAPORI O ŌKIWINUI
EASTBOURNE COMMUNITY BOARD

Minutes of a meeting held in the East Harbour Women's Clubrooms
145 Muritai Road, Eastbourne on
Tuesday 8 February 2022 commencing at 7.15pm

PRESENT: Ms V Horrocks (Chair) Mr M Gibbons
Ms B Moss Mr B Spedding (Deputy Chair)
Mr F Vickers
Deputy Mayor T Lewis

APOLOGIES: There were no apologies.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor C Barry (part meeting)
Mr J Kingsbury, Head of Traffic
Mr B Hu, Traffic Engineering Manager
Mr R Soni, Traffic Engineer

PUBLIC BUSINESS1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. THE EASTBOURNE AWARDS

An Eastbourne Award was presented by Mayor Campbell Barry to the following recipient:

- **Gail Abel**- for the many years of energy and love with which she had cared for the environment of Eastbourne and the Bays.

The full citation is attached as page 8 to the minutes.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Speaking under public comment, **Mr George Tuffin, a representative of the Eastbourne - Bays Community Trust (EBCT)** advised a discussion document had been prepared for the Board on the proposed merger of the EBCT and the Okiwi Trust. He noted the Board had appointees on both Trusts. He said Jarden Securities Ltd had advised a merger would streamline the two investment portfolios and reduce the overall administrative burden. He said the Okiwi Trust

would be holding a meeting to wind up and transfer its assets to the EBCT. He added the name of the merged Trusts would be the Okiwi Eastbourne - Bays Community Trust. He confirmed the ethos of the Okiwi Trust would not change. He believed the merger would benefit both Trusts and residents of the Eastern Bays. He advised a consultation process would follow and would include presentations to churches and the Lions Club.

Speaking under public comment, **Mr John Welch** expressed disappointment the Eastbourne Pool (the pool) was continuing under a 14 week open season that had become permanent due to the financial impacts of COVID-19. He noted the pool season was two weeks shorter than Council's other outdoor pools. He had calculated that the pool could expect enough revenue over an additional two weeks of entry fees to offset costs and had sent the calculations to Council. He said apart from an acknowledgement he had received no feedback.

Speaking under public comment, **Ms Kaye Wilmshurst, a representative of the Eastbourne Swim Club** (the Swim Club), noted the pool played an important role in saving lives by providing swimming lessons. She said the Swim Club had previously been able to fit in 11 club nights but now could only fit eight and it was struggling to complete its programme. She added the pool and its swim programme were accessible to local people who could find it difficult to get to the other pools. She believed Council should not be shortening the pool season.

Speaking under public comment, **Ms Kate Evans, an Eastbourne Swim Club parent** noted Council had previously provided free entry to pools for children taking part in the Weetbix Triathlon. She advised last year the Eastbourne Pool closed early so the Swim Club had to use the harbour. She highlighted this was not as safe for the children. She noted the same issue would have arisen this year if the triathlon was going ahead. She advised Council had limited spaces available for lessons in its other pools and they were expensive. She considered swim training at the Eastbourne Pool was accessible and affordable.

Mayor Barry explained that pool costs were not broken down into individual pools but were seen in totality. He highlighted Council had been forced to make some difficult decisions due to COVID-19. He acknowledged there had been significant pressure on pool use over the summer season. He agreed to organise a meeting with Council's Director Neighbourhoods and Communities and invite concerned residents.

Speaking under public comment, **Ms Maggie Adam** noted there had been a number of burglaries at Point Howard recently. She asked Council to install a camera to record vehicles leaving the area.

The Traffic Engineering Manager responded that there were issues with installing Council managed security cameras. He advised several communities had installed their own cameras.

The Head of Transport advised Council was investigating the possibility of installing cameras in areas where illegal street racers gathered. He added discussions with New Zealand Police were ongoing on the matter.

Ms Moss believed cameras managed by individuals could be registered with the New Zealand Police and might be an effective solution.

Speaking under public comment, **Mr Owen Spearpoint** advised the section of fence on Marine Parade between Rata Street and Makaro Street was in danger of falling over and action on the fence was needed. He said he had developed a proposal to address the problem which he agreed to email to Board members.

MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Mayor Barry provided a verbal address attached as pages 9-10 to the minutes.

4. PRESENTATIONS

a) Presentation by a representative of OSPRI NZ Ltd

Ms Tracey Beauchamp and Mr Sam O'Donnell, representatives of OSPRI NZ advised an aerial drop of 1080 would commence in May 2022. They noted the number of possums in the East Harbour Regional Park had been increasing and had reached a level where control was required. The first drop would be non-toxic bait followed by toxic bait the subsequent week. They added there would be a flyer drop to Eastern Bays residents and community meetings on the matter would be held online.

In response to questions from members, Ms Beauchamp advised the Mainland Island Restoration Operation (MIRO) group would be walking the tracks to remove 1080 pellets from the path. She said it was important dog walkers were aware of the risks to dogs.

Ms Jo Greenman, Park Ranger for the East Harbour Regional Park, highlighted the aerial drop would not take place over official tracks. She added it was still important to be aware carcasses were toxic for six months and that muzzles were recommended for dogs.

The Chair agreed to publicise the 1080 aerial drop via the Board's networks and include it in the Board's Eastbourne Herald public notice.

b) Presentation by a Councillor of Greater Wellington Regional Council (GWRC)

Cr Prue Lamason provided an update:

- The Seaview outfall pipe began leaking in January 2022 and beaches in Days Bay and Eastbourne were affected while the repair was completed. All the wastewater discharged had been treated to a high standard.
- The Airport Flyer was expected to resume services from 1 July 2022 from

Wellington Railway Station.

- GWRC had subsidised wage increases to retain drivers and maintain bus timetables. There had been several safety incidents on buses including one attack on a driver. A Snapper trial on the Johnsonville railway line had been successful and was expected to be extended to all train services.
- A trial of on-demand mini-bus services was taking place in Tawa from March 2022. If successful the service might be extended around the region.
- The RiverLink resource consent application was now with the Environment Court. Cr Lamason was hopeful work could commence by the end of 2022 or the beginning of 2023.

In response questions from a member, Cr Lamason agreed to find out if GWRC would be assisting those not familiar with technology to purchase and use Snapper cards. She also agreed to ask if Snapper would be extended to the East by West Ferry service.

c) **Presentation by Park Ranger from Greater Wellington Regional Council**

Ms Jo Greenman, Park Ranger for the East Harbour Regional Park provided an update:

- Consent for the OSPRI aerial drop had not yet been finalised but was likely to be approved. She asked residents to contact her if they had any concerns.
- Over the next fortnight MacKenzie Road would be closed from 9am to 3pm each day to allow workers to re-construct the steps to the MacKenzie Road track and stabilise the bank. She expected the work to be complete by 4 March 2022 provided weather conditions remained favourable.

5. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATIONS**

There were no conflict of interest declarations.

6. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: (Ms Horrocks/Ms Moss)

Minute No. ECB 22101

"That the minutes of the meeting of the Eastbourne Community Board held on Tuesday, 2 November 2021, be confirmed as a true and correct record."

7. **APPOINTMENT OF THE DEPUTY CHAIR** (21/2216)

Memorandum dated 19 January 2022 by the Democracy Advisor

RESOLVED: (Ms Horrocks/Mr Spedding)

Minute No. ECB 22102

"That the Board:

- (1) *notes that the Deputy Chair for the 2019-2022 triennium is selected on a rotational basis; and*
- (2) *appoints Mr Frank Vickers to the position of Deputy Chair from 8 February 2022 until the end of the triennium (8 October 2022)."*

8. **CHAIR'S REPORT** (22/65)

Report No. ECB2022/1/6 by the Chair

The Chair elaborated on the report.

RESOLVED: (Mr Gibbons/Mr Vickers)

Minute No. ECB 22103

"That the Board:

- (1) *notes and receives the report; and*
- (2) *asks officers to work actively with Greater Wellington Regional Council on a campaign to reduce the number of deer in the East Harbour Regional Forest Park."*

9. **DEMOCRACY ADVISOR'S REPORT** (21/2220)

Report No. ECB2022/1/7 by the Democracy Advisor

The Chair advised that due to the Red Traffic Light system, the Board's annual Walkaround Tour would take place virtually. She said residents associations would be asked to gather concerns and a Council officer would respond. She confirmed an online meeting could be arranged with some residents if needed.

RESOLVED: (Ms Horrocks/Deputy Mayor Lewis)

Minute No. ECB 22104

"That the Board:

- (1) *receives and notes the report; and*
- (2) *agrees that the Walkaround Tour be held online for consultation and discussion with the community rather than meeting in person."*

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

a) Williams Park Update (22/3)

Memorandum dated 7 January 2022 by the Parks, Reserves and Recreation Planner

The Chair requested that officers advise the relevant residents of the removal date of the caretaker's house.

RESOLVED: (Ms Horrocks/Mr Vickers)

Minute No. ECB 22105

"That the Board notes and receives the information."

b) Maire Street Shared Path - Update (22/50)

Report No. ECB2022/1/9 by the Transport Asset and Planning Lead

The Traffic Engineering Manager elaborated on the report. He noted it contained a draft design that would be updated taking into account feedback from members.

Members provided feedback on a number of aspects of the design and the images.

The Head of Transport agreed to provide the Board with updated images along with design options before the design was distributed to residents for feedback.

RESOLVED: (Ms Horrocks/Mr Vickers)

Minute No. ECB 22106

"That the report be noted and received."

c) Eastbourne Community Centre Carpark (22/54)

Report No. ECB2022/1/10 by the Transport Asset and Planning Lead

Members discussed the design and the consultation process.

The Traffic Engineering Manager agreed to create more options for members to consider.

The Head of Transport agreed to report back to the Board on ways the consultation should be publicised.

RESOLVED: (Ms Horrocks/Mr Spedding)

Minute No. ECB 22107

"That the report be noted and received."

11. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

a) Report back from representatives on local organisations (21/2218)

Report No. ECB2022/1/11 by the Democracy Advisor

a) Okiwi Trust

An update was provided by Mr G Tuffin under public comment.

b) Eastbourne Youth Workers Trust

Mr Spedding advised there was nothing to report.

c) Community Emergency Response Group

Mr Spedding advised there was nothing to report.

d) Eastbourne and Bays Community Trust

An update was provided by Mr G Tuffin under public comment.

e) Vibrant Village

The recently appointed Head of Parks and Reserves had agreed to meet with Mr Gibbons and visit the site where the historic police cell block was proposed to be installed. Mr Gibbons advised they would be discussing ways to tidy the base of a Norfolk Pine adjacent to the site.

f) MIRO

Mr Vickers advised the Banded Dotterel population in Eastbourne had produced 17 nests but only two chicks had made it to fledgling. Two domestic cats were caught on camera eating the eggs, but were unable to be identified.

RESOLVED: (Mr Vickers/Ms Horrocks)

Minute No. ECB 22108

"That the Board requests a statement from Council's Chief Legal Officer on the progress of the drafting of proposed cat bylaws, as requested by the Policy, Finance and Strategy Committee in July 2020."

12. QUESTIONS

There were no questions.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.13 pm.

V Horrocks
CHAIR

CONFIRMED as a true and correct record
Dated this 12th day of April 2022

Eastbourne Order of Excellence Award for Gail Abel in recognition of many decades caring for Eastbourne's forest and lakes environment

It is not an exaggeration to say that Gail Abel and the other volunteers at Mainland Island Restoration Operation (MIRO) are responsible for the improving health of the Northern Forest and the increasing bird life we enjoy in Eastbourne. Gail's roles in MIRO have varied over the last two decades, and we have much to thank her for – particularly for her work in establishing and running MIRO's plant nursery.

Gail's involvement in MIRO began in 1999, soon after it was established. Over the years, she ran several predator trap lines from the McKenzie track to Hawtrey and then later from Hawtrey to Butterfly Creek. She has been active on the MIRO Committee as Secretary, Treasurer and Chair at various times.

In 2004, land around the Parangarahu Lakes was retired from farming and came under the management of Greater Wellington Regional Council as part of East Harbour Regional Park. The Regional Council initially decided to allow the area to regenerate naturally. However, there was no seed source to fuel any regeneration.

The ecologist Geoff Park was commissioned to produce a plan to assist with regeneration. He proposed plantings within fenced rabbit and stock proof plots. MIRO was keen to assist with the plantings and proposed the establishment of a local Nursery to supply eco-sourced trees for the project.

Gail had previously been a regular volunteer on Matiu Somes Island, where there has been a planting programme since 1981. She used the skills and knowledge from the Matiu Somes Island nursery to set up the Eastbourne site. It was initially by the croquet club, then on a site in Lower Hutt and now on land by the GNS campus in Gracefield.

The MIRO nursery produces around 2-3000 plants a year on an area the size of two tennis courts. They are grown from seeds that Gail and other volunteers collect from the Northern Forest tracks. The nursery team works most Fridays, potting, propagating and weeding.

The Regional Council and volunteers have planted trees in the Parangarahu Lakes area in 15 plots. The first eight plots are coming up to 13 years old and have canopy closure, meaning that secondary canopy trees such as Northern rata can be planted there.

Anyone who has been to the wonderful Parangarahu Lakes area will appreciate the difference Gail's work is making to the landscape there. Areas that were once grass or gorse are now healthy native bush providing a home for our native birds and seed dispersal for the trees. It is a lasting legacy that we are all lucky to share.

February 2022 Community Board Statement

Mayor's Address

Kia ora tatou,

Firstly, welcome back, I hope you have all had a refreshing summer break and are feeling energised as we get back into work for 2022!

This year we will be heavily focusing on delivering our Long Term Plan. As you know, over the next ten years Council will invest \$1.5 billion in projects that aim to build strong foundations for the future of our city.

In particular, we are addressing issues within our Three Waters network and transport infrastructure, both of which continue to affect the communities you represent.

If we want to build a city where everyone can thrive, we need to get the basics right – and that starts with ensuring our water is safe to drink, our systems handling storm events, and our infrastructure having the capacity to support the growth we're experiencing.

And it also means building and improving a transport system that makes it easier for everyone to get around our city. Whether it be on public transport, on bikes, walking, or in private vehicles, we are determined to address the causes of congestion so all modes can move around Lower Hutt efficiently.

Eastbourne

For Eastbourne, that begins with starting work on the Eastern Bays Shared Path. In 2022, we will invest around \$18 million to begin the construction of the first two bays, Sunshine Bay and Windy Point.

We will also finalise the detailed design for the remaining bays, and keep you informed of how we're progressing.

This takes us a step closer to having a safer and more attractive entrance into the Eastern Bays, something that this community has been waiting a long time for.

I'm also excited to say that next week we will be hosting Minister of Transport Hon Michael Wood, Mana Whenua, and Waka Kotahi out here for the official naming of the shared pathway. I'm looking forward to seeing some of you there.

COVID-19

2022 is shaping up to be another busy year, and it's fair to say COVID-19 is going to continue to play a part.

I urge you all to encourage members of your community to get boosted, or vaccinated if they haven't started that journey yet, and continue to scan into places they visit.

With omicron being the dominant variant in New Zealand now, cases are sure to rise. We need to do everything we can to prevent the spread, but in the event that it does, we need to be equipped to track and deal with outbreaks.

And encourage your communities to be prepared for self-isolation. Every family, big or small, needs to have a plan for how they can be supported in the case that a member has to self-isolate.

Conclusion

While 2022 will include a number of challenges, I'm confident that this year will also be full of amazing opportunities.

The work we're doing together in Lower Hutt – getting the basics right to build the foundations needed for our future – will bring our communities closer together, and I'm excited to see what we will collectively achieve this year.