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Waikato District Council

Draft Annual Plan 2011/2012 [DAP] - Submission

▶ My Information

Submitter

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Organisation

Name Tamahere Community Committee ("**TCC**")

Hearing

Do you wish to present your submission at the Draft Annual Plan Hearings? Yes

▶ My submission

Part A : The former Waikato District Council area

Our committee is elected to represent the Tamahere Community (approx. 5,500 people) and liaise with the Council and our local Councillor, Wally Hayes. The elected committee members freely volunteer their time. Over recent years this committee has spent many hours in its duties, including assisting the Council with various statutory requirements.

General Rates and Targeted Rates

1. As a general philosophy Council should charge General Rates, across the entire region to fund the costs incurred for the benefit of the entire community.

Funding of Community Boards

2. Community Boards are funded out of general rates. This is an error as they exist for a specific region/community so should be funded from a targeted rate.
3. The Onewhero-Tuakau Community Board is funded by a targeted rate.
4. But \$510,121 is funded by general rates to fund 4 Community Boards – with (by way of example only) \$131,535 proposed for Raglan. This is an inappropriate allocation of general rate funds and should be the subject of a targeted rate for that community.

Funding for Tamahere Community Committee

5. The WDC Draft Annual Plan proposes \$2,000 to fund the activities of TCC. This is grossly insufficient.
6. **TCC requests \$4,000** for the activities of TCC for the 2011/2012 year.
7. Council staff will be aware of the time and contributions TCC has made, especially recently, and its effectiveness for community liaison, including:
 - a. Tamahere Structure Plan review
 - b. Tamahere Community Plan,
 - c. Future Proof issues for EW, Hamilton City Council and WDC,
 - d. Waikato Community Outcomes,
 - e. Waikato Expressway,
 - f. Southern Links roading issues and options,
 - g. Industrial & commercial development in the Tamahere Ward including reconciliation with the overriding “Country Lifestyle” and the proposed Tamahere Structure Plan
 - h. Airport development and runway extensions
 - i. NZ Agricultural Fieldays Society Inc activities and its impact on the Tamahere Community
 - j. Issues arising from the “Ice Pack” fire and heavy trucks operating in the immediate vicinity of the Tamahere Model Country School (roll approx 500 pupils) for Regal Haulage, Johnsons House Removals and the proposed Titoki Sands quarry
 - k. Road safety issues and concerns
 - l. Walkways and gullies.
8. The most significant cost for TCC, to carry out its Community responsibilities, is consultation with those living in the Tamahere Community. Council assists with communications to ratepayers.

9. The most cost effective means of communication is targeted emails and a specific community web site which is updated regularly to maintain community members interest. Recently TCC has combined its resources with the Tamahere Forum to maintain 1 effective web site with emails “pushed” to interested parties whenever a “news item” is posted to the site – www.tamahereforum.co.nz
10. The cost to TCC for its contribution to this web site is \$2,400 for 2011.
11. To be consistent, TCC considers that this funding should come from a targeted rate for the Tamahere Ward. As the Tamahere ratepayers pay a targeted rate for Tamahere Community Hall, a small increase to this will avoid “administration costs”.

Walkways – Tamahere Structure Plan \$365,720 [DAP 55 DAP]

12. TCC requests that the allocated funds (LTCCP \$365,720, AP \$363,946) for walkways in the Tamahere Ward be used for walkway projects NOT carried forward from one Annual Plan to the next.
13. These funds are available but no projects are proposed.
14. As walkway funding comes from subdivision contributions, and cannot be used for other purposes (e.g. road side footpaths)
15. TCC would like the Council to begin its first project, as agreed in consultation with Cr Wally Hayes and TCC.

Water Rates [Page 9 DAP]

16. TCC objects to \$300,000 being funded from general rates for “urban areas”.
17. Tamahere ratepayers must pay for all water, either from bore water or the Council trickle feed delivery – all self-funded with no contributions from rates.

Waikato District Office refurbishment - \$2 million [Page 57 DAP]

18. TCC is concerned that an unfair burden is being thrust on the “old” Waikato ratepayers for the expansion of the district office to accommodate the staff resulting from the amalgamation with the ex-Franklin District Council.

19. What contribution is coming from central Government?
20. What contribution is coming from Auckland City Council?
21. Where are the funds coming from if the funds are not included in LTCCP?
22. Why “refurbishment”? Does this mean additional floor space?

Passenger Transport [Pages 47-48 DAP]

23. Why are general rates being used to fund Hamilton/Huntly passenger transport (\$205,198)? And other passenger transport costs? This totals approx. \$341,000.
24. TCC submits that all Passenger Transport costs should be funded through Environment Waikato.

Transparency of rates revenue and expenditure

25. TCC is concerned that the Draft Annual Plan does not disclose the rate income by Ward, nor does it disclose the expenditure by Ward.
26. Tamahere is one of the top revenue earners for the Council (by general rate and develop contributions), but does not benefit from that taxation!
27. As Tamahere is at the bottom (South end) of the Waikato District, and borders Hamilton City Council and Waipa District Council, the Tamahere Ward is in the unique position of having a “choice” of Council to “join” in the future.
28. If Waikato District Council wants to take advantage of Tamahere ratepayers, without a strong focus on investment back in the community, TCC may need to canvas local ratepayers to determine if on-going association with Waikato District Council is appropriate long term.
29. TCC seeks transparency and a strong commitment to the development of the Tamahere Ward with equitable expenditure.
30. The Tamahere Community is pleased to see the Councils commitment to the Tamahere Village and the plans for development of the Village hub.