

Chairpersons report August – September 2021

Some wins:

- Contractors will be concreting the mud puddle outside bridge street shop when weather permits. Even better, systems / personal changes have been made so that hopefully next time the delay between commitment to do the job, and job completion will be reasonable.
- Council have agreed to shut the alley way on Stemple / Webb Street.
- Huntly to have its own ward instead of being in with Ngaruawahia
 - Discovered post presentation that HCB ward boundaries have to align with ‘mesh blocks’ the basic unit of population that are used to set ward boundaries. Thus all our hard work was a waste of time as the boundaries didn’t align. In response to finding this critical piece of information, the email attached at the end was sent to the executive leadership team and all councillors.

Attached is copy of verbal submission for the record

Things raised with council

- Proper fix of the pot hole on Tainui Bridge (opp KFC entrance). This is constantly opening up and requires a proper fix, since it is more often a hazard than not, in winter weather
- Connected with Watercare about Willow drive pond issues

Gleeson and Cox

Multiple members of the public raised concerns about the volume of G & C truck movements under lvl 4 lock down. Was aware they were an essential business due to work for kiwirail and genesis. Wanted to verify that the volume of truck movements was in line with these companies requirements.

- Genesis came back to me very quickly about the truck movements. They were receiving ~150 truck and trailer deliveries a day from the second week of lock down on. Delivering coal to the power station from Auckland. Thus truck movements into town were of the magnitude expected.
- Kiwirail, although taking longer did get back to me. However they were unable to give daily truck movements / amount of aggregate ordered for delivery daily over lockdown. But “ Auckland Metro network and continuation of activities to address Rail Contact Fatigue works which have caused network delays over recent months. The work underway includes destressing work south of Papakura, mud-spot repairs on the Southern Line between Newmarket and Penrose, turnout replacement and daytime track inspection. It is very likely the metal will be used in these works – we also have underway critical work to replace turnouts across the network. This is taking place at three sites, two in Wiri and one near Sylvia Park.” thus the large number of truck movements in and out of the quarry can be accounted for.

However there were also concerns raised by the public about the lack of PPE and social distancing occurring at the quarry. With an out of focus photo supplied showing what appears to be truck drivers from Auckland congregating outside the quarry, in close proximity to each other and not wearing masks. Attempted to raise this with WDC (who quickly responded that not their sphere of control) Police, media and didn’t get any response. Fortunately a member of the public raised this with the Mayor and the Mayor contacted G & C and explained that PPE and social distancing was very important. So thank you to Mayor Sanson for doing this. Should have asked for help from the Mayor earlier.



Photo taken in level 4, showing what appears to be works not wearing PPE or social distancing. Unfortunately due to level 4 lockdown restrictions I was unable to visit the site and obtain better photographs / record what was occurring.

DRAFT for discussion: proposed pre consultation to the dog control areas in Huntly. This information was supplied by email at the end of August.

It is HCB understanding that there is a dog exclusion zone in the mainstreet / CBD shopping area to allow shoppers of all ethnicities, ages and backgrounds to feel safe and secure while shopping. This is important to maximize the cash spent locally, and create an appropriate atmosphere in the CBD.

This that is the principle, then the following issues spring to mind:

- Extension of the CBD exclusion zone north to include all the CBD shops and carpark. Thus including Kbeez (a small supermarket), the BottleO and the council carpark.
- Extension south to include the southern parts of the CBD. Up to, but not to include the pedestrian rail bridge on/off ramps, nor the veterinarians, Anexa Vets Huntly at 185 Mainstreet. This is because the rail bridge is used as a pedestrian access over the bridge and up into Huntly East. If the on/off ramps were included in the ban, then this pedestrian route would be cut off. Hopefully it is obvious why the vets should not be included.
- Possible bypass and train overpass and train station. Given that the overpass ends in the mainstreet where dogs are banned, it would seem logical to ban dogs on the overpass. And if that is going to occur, then thought should be given to if dogs should be banned on the trains station. We suspect kiwirail has a policy, and that the bylaw should reflect kiwirails policy on train stations. If kiwirail bans dogs on train station platforms then we would support the inclusion of the overpass and train station in the ban.

We don't have other feedback on the Huntly dog maps / by law.

End of Draft

Other

- Had productive meeting around speed limits. An option for Huntly going forward will be residential streets at 40 km/hr, this among other changes will go out for consultation later in the year. Have asked for data on trial in Tuakau and pre-post change speed measurements (if available, Raglan info is available) to help with decision making. A large drop off in speed complaints has occurred, indicating success.

Next meeting

Would formally request the following reports from WDC for the next meeting. These requests are not undertaken lightly as I am aware of the work load this creates for the council. However other

means have been attempted, and been unsatisfactory. So hence things have had to be escalated to this more formal level.

- Street gutter cleaning, when and where. Could we please have a report which outlines the following:
 - Map of area contracted to be cleaned or description of area(s).
 - Date range that Huntly gutters were last cleaned.
 - Scheduled date, covid permitting, that the gutters will be cleaned
 - How the cleaning of the gutters is inspected to make sure (a) all areas are cleaned and (b) the quality of the cleaning is up to standard.
- Graffiti overpainting color matching, answer to the following questions
 - Does the contract for graffiti removal / over painting stipulate that the color of the over paint should match, as much as possible?
 - How is the graffiti removal inspected to make sure the contract is being followed?
- 'Pot holes' in pedestrian crossings. Both the council and the contractor are aware of the significant health and safety issues around having 'pot holes' that are very hard to see in the raised pedestrian platforms in the Huntly main street. Most of which have pedestrian crossings on them. These 'pot holes' are areas where the bricks have been depressed into the raised platform. To solve the bricks need to be extracted, repacked and reset. However removal of the bricks is problematic, especially the first brick. Therefore we would like a report on:
 - What method has been determined as the best way to remove the bricks?
 - What approximate date has the work been scheduled to be done?

And for the meeting after the next one (or the next one if that works, just attempting not to overload roading team)

- List of works to be undertaken on the old SH1 corridor in Huntly, and the timing of these works. This to include both the remediation works, eg street repairs to get the streets back up to standard after the thrashing that state highway traffic gave them. And the revocation work where the corridor is being returned to local roads.

If the council and/or contractors would prefer to send someone to the HCB meeting to verbally answer these questions, instead of a formal report, that would be acceptable.

Letter / email sent to executive leadership team and all councillors

Hi all, not sure who to address this to, so taken the shotgun approach.

Representation review - critical information missed at the start.

The significant period of time between the event that triggered this email, and this email was deliberate. It enabled a sane, logical and thoughtful correspondence instead of the first draft which was very passionate but not particularly helpful. Also this issue is one I have noticed a number of times, so the problem isn't a one off.

On the surface it appeared like a simple error. A misunderstanding which cost the council half a verbal submission, which isn't a major in the scheme of things. However the real cost is actually much higher. This email is about unpacking that true cost, and looking for a long term solution.

The issue was that in unpacking information for the representation review, it was never effectively communicated to the Huntly Community Board that their boundaries must follow mesh block boundaries. Thus the following occurred:

Workshop held and things decisions made / lines drawn not using the correct information

Document written up and proofed / checked that used the incorrect information

When the council map went for consultation, HCB members upset as it appeared that the council did not listen / ignored our requests.

Had member of public (and council staff member) attend meeting as the council map didn't align with what we requested. This member of the public was reassured that we would be pressing hard for the properties missed to be included

Presentation collated to argue the case for sections to be included

HCB members upset that once again it appeared that WDC did not listen.

Also since we didn't know we should be aligning with mesh blocks, we didn't check where the next mesh blocks ended. Thus we may have chosen to extend in a particular direction if the positives of including the mesh block were worth including some who wouldn't be core constituents.

This will echo down through time, when the next election occurs and locals who are not in the HCB area, and wanted to be. The story will be told that WDC did not provide the correct information to move the boundary and thus they are not in the boundary. Thus adding more bad public relations about WDC communications skills.

Thus all the work done by HCB came to nought.

The council says they value community boards and committees for their input. But when examples like the above occur, it very effectively communicates that the council does not value community board input at all.

It is said that in relationships for every negative interaction, 7 positives interactions need to occur for that relationship to last. With miss communications creating a cascade of negative interactions, it is easy to see why at times board struggle to see the council in a positive light!

So what seems like a small error has a significant negative impact.

The key issue is that those involved, working hard at the coal face, were not able to step back far enough to list out the key assumptions, and key underpinning bits of knowledge that is required when engaging in a topic.

When I was a scientist this problem was not unusual. Since those highly trained and knowledgeable folk who lived and breathed a subject, struggled to step back and provide wide enough context, when presenting to those who are not familiar with the topic at hand.

Thus the issue isn't one of **who did wrong, but what systems the council have in place to train those who are highly skilled and knowledgeable** to be able to step back and reflect about the key information that is required. This is a training issue. There must be ways to effectively train so those who have to engage with the public can cover the basics, quickly and informatively. The best way I personally experienced in my professional capacity was to practice presenting (or run the document past) someone who had zero background knowledge on the subject, who wasn't afraid to ask questions / say when they got confused. Thus showing up where information was assumed. Though I am sure there are a host of other solutions to this training challenge.

Look forward to the council addressing this systemic issue

Sincerely

David Whyte