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# Community Wellbeing Committee

## OPEN MINUTES

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Minutes of a meeting of the Community Wellbeing Committee held via Audio Visual Link on Tuesday 12 May 2020 at 1.00 pm.

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### PRESENT

<b>Chairperson</b>	Cr Victoria Kaye-Simmons	
<b>Deputy Chairperson</b>	Cr Jo Mason	
<b>Members</b>	Mr James Etuale	(Department of Internal Affairs)
	Mr Mike Fletcher	(Ministry Social Development)
	Ms Eve Fone	(Oranga Tamariki)
	Ms Chiquita Hansen	(THINK Hauora)
	Ms Jo McCabe for Mr Keith Hilson	(Kainga Ora)
	Ms Alice Mose-Tuialii	(Horowhenua-Ōtaki Children's Team)
	Ms Angela Rainham	(MidCentral DHB)
	Ms Di Rump	(Muaūpoko Tribal Authority)
	Mayor Bernie Wanden	(Ex-Officio)

### IN ATTENDANCE

<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Mrs Lacey Winiata	(Community Wellbeing & Engagement Manager)
	Mrs Cathryn Pollock	(Community & Social Development Manager)
	Mrs Nicki Brady	(Deputy Chief Executive)
	Mr David McCorkindale	(Group Manager – Customer & Strategy)
<b>Meeting Secretary</b>	Miss Sharon Bowling	

### ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

	Ms Jayne McNeilage	(Psychosocial Welfare Response, MidCentral Health Board)
	Mr Robert Ketu	(Elected Member)

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The Chair opened meeting by thanking members for their time given over the phone and/or emails with herself and Deputy Mayor Jo Mason; and thanked those who were able to participate today acknowledging that technical limitations meant some members were unable to do the same.

## 1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Michelle Bussey, Sr Sosefina, Tracy Merson, Jim Greening, Sgt Beth Purcell, Margaret Williams, Pauline Holland, Keith Hilson, Mark Robinson, and Patrick Rennell.

Mike Fletcher advised the Chair that he would need to leave the meeting early.

## 2 Public Participation

No requests for public participation had been received.

## 3 Confirmation of Minutes

MOVED by Ms Angela Rainham, seconded Mr Mike Fletcher:

*THAT the minutes of the meeting of the Community Wellbeing Committee held on Tuesday, 11 February 2020, be confirmed as a true and correct record.*

**CARRIED**

## 4 Reports

### 4.1 Community Wellbeing Committee Officer Report

#### Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide the Community Wellbeing Committee with an update on Council intertwined community development and COVID-19 pandemic response.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Jo Mason, seconded Mayor Bernie Wanden:

*THAT Report 20/155 Community Wellbeing Committee Officer Report be received.*

*THAT this matter or decision be recognised as not significant in terms of s76 of the Local Government Act 2002.*

**CARRIED**

Reporting Officer Lacey Winiata requested that the report be taken as read, with the following updates:

#### Grants & Funding

At the 06 May 2020 meeting, Council decided to support the proposal that next year's grants and funding round that Council owned be amalgamated into one, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, to support community recovery (an amount of \$140k). The new grant will have different criteria which the Community Development team are currently reviewing, before taking the recommendation to the Funding and Recognition Committee.

### **Council Welfare Response**

Updated figures provided to those in the Report. As at 08 May 2020, the welfare team has received 217 requests for welfare support and 424 requests for food parcels (distributed by Horowhenua Foodbanks).

The role of Council's welfare response was clarified – welfare support being coordinated via Council's Incident Management Team (IMT), and being just one of many of the services provided within the Horowhenua community. It was noted that this arm has undertaken quite amazing mahi, with feedback that it has been mana enhancing to support and provide for their community, whānau and friends.

### **Youth Week – 10-15 May 2020**

Youth Week is presenting a variety of competitions and themed activities mainly via social media channels. Youth Space has been active in the last 7 weeks with our youth coordinators providing support for our young people; with activities continuing or ramping up during Youth Week.

The Committee was advised that with the move into Alert Level 2 on Thursday, that changes will be occurring with the detail of those still being considered re health & safety. The HDC Main office will open to customers from Monday 18 May, as will libraries. The holding of community network meetings is yet to be decided.

### **Discussion**

The Youth Week programme for Horowhenua's young people (12-24) is being led by Council's youth voice network, Youth Empowerment Project (yEP) in collaboration with Raukawa Whānau Ora, Muaūpoko Tribal Authority, and Māori youth support group Rangitahi 4 Waiora. Youth Space, Aquatics and Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō have also partnered to provide many activities. For example, local rangatahi expressing and sharing their story ('My Story') through Facebook Messenger which can be shared on yEP's Facebook page; online 'Fitness Challenge' for body and spirit; video challenge 'Trick Shot Challenge'.

To encourage rangatahi to get involved, the challenge was put out to Mayor Bernie Wanden, Deputy Mayor Jo Mason and Cr Victoria Kaye-Simmons to post their own Tik Tok's up from their own work spaces – to let rangatahi know that Youth Week is recognised and acknowledged.

Despite daily meetings with various Horowhenua/Ōtaki regional leaders and key partners, Di Rump was surprised to learn that the Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Civil Defence group included Horowhenua. This aside, as part of a local iwi health alliance for the Whānau Ora Covid-19 Response, Muaūpoko Tribal Authority (MTA) have also supported regional emergency response teams at HDC and other organisations. As at this week, over 2000 Hauora care packages have been delivered to support whānau across the Horowhenua and Ōtaki regions, which will continue over the next few weeks. In addition, \$8k worth of mobile and/or food vouchers have been distributed. Overall there has been a great collaborative effort from the community – it had been taken to another level.

To clarify, the role of the Manawatū-Whanganui Regional Civil Defence group was explained, and how Horowhenua fits into that. As part of the response to Covid-19, HDC established an Incident Management Team (IMT), which worked within the Civil Defence Emergency Management framework with decisions guided by the National response. The IMT comprised a welfare function, which has been coordinating and supporting welfare services within the District. This function operating via a welfare support freephone landline. The HDC welfare support team continues to operate, and there has been a reduction in calls.

Muaūpoko Tribal Authority (MTA) also ran a number of successful Māori and Pacific Peoples flu vaccination 'drive-throughs' which had incredible turn out, with approximately 400-500 people vaccinated across the Horowhenua/Ōtaki regions. No one was turned away.

Comment was made that the communications around the flu vaccination 'event' and the information shared around people/families was significant. As a result, families who have never needed welfare have come to light – families from all ethnicities and backgrounds. It became a beehive of information sharing, and was especially pleased to see this in the Horowhenua District.

Chiquita Hansen was really proud of the collaboration around the flu vaccination initiative for the regions Māori and Pacific Peoples. She added that 1039 over 65s and 163 Pacific Peoples remained unvaccinated, which would be captured in the next round, with the Horowhenua next on the list for further vaccination supplies. She thanked the efforts of those involved in the vaccination drive.

Jayne McNeilage explained the DHB space to welfare response, whereby Horizons oversee the DHB and has the responsibility to reporting up to the Manawatū-Whanganui Civil Defence group on psychosocial aspects. She also was impressed with the mahi of all agencies and associated people. Explaining her role as that of picking up on any emerging trends, she added that whilst people are being feed, watered, and accommodated, it is from now on trends will emerge and the change people are going through. With this regard, her attendance to the CWC meeting is to observe and listen, and ascertain if there is any place that DHB can support the agencies around the table further.

Di Rump wanted her thanks noted for the contact/provision of resources by Elizabeth Dempster, which were of good quality and used a lot collectively, shared with whānau, and outbound programmes within her networks. It was mentioned that the DHB website also has Covid-19 resources available.

As IMT welfare manager, Cathryn Pollock thanked everyone and agencies for their great mahi. The welfare response has been second to none in the Horowhenua, particularly in the Māori and Pacific Peoples space. The volume of calls has reduced because of agency linkages and collaborations. Community wellbeing now has another meaning for the Horowhenua, and our whānau and community will need us a lot more in the coming months; and she looked forward to continuing to work together for this purpose.

Mike Fletcher said a discretionary fund had enabled assistance with (e.g. IT) mahi under restrictive conditions in the Horowhenua. Family violence/harm received additional funding, and communication with some providers indicated that funding will be received now for the next 3 years to support costs pressures and increased work that will present (e.g. PPE delivery, more masks etc.).

## 5 General Discussion

In opening the discussion the Chair said the purpose is to explore a recovery plan and Council's role in how it can support the community and key partners going forward. Members were invited to consider what they envisage Council to be part of in the recovery space, and provide those thoughts/ideas via email or speak to it today.

Deputy Mayor Jo Mason had observed amazing work across the District and received positive feedback via many groups, and expressed congratulations to all for this. Speaking on behalf of Margaret Williams who wished to have it noted at the meeting today, that she would not like us to continue all our meetings via zoom.

Despite what some media had reported, Jo Mason believed the housing shortage has not entirely gone away, anticipating there will be those without homes; and that the HDC Housing Action Plan would provide a foundation in that arena.

Reiterating the Chair, for the long term she questioned what do we need to be advocating for going forward in the wellbeing resilience area; and how Council could utilise the experience and wisdom from this group.

Mayor Bernie Wanden also acknowledged all the work that has been done in response to the community, including HDC Officers who have gone above and beyond any expectation in many circumstances. He believed the medium-long term is the concern now, and how we position ourselves to respond or facilitate that, along with the CWC assistance. The ongoing effect – housing, unemployment and other social issues – the greater concern.

In their absence, the Chair shared updates on behalf of the following members:

*Tracy Merson, HALT*

'HALT as part of the Horowhenua Family Harm Team has been monitoring family harm reports over lockdown. Our local numbers have not been higher (as might be anticipated) during lockdown. In fact during the first two weeks of Level 4, reporting numbers were lower. This may indicate that family harm is occurring but was not being reported as frequently or that our whānau were 'on good behaviour' in reaction to lockdown conditions. The Police representative attending the Zoom today may have more context.

Secondly, HALT has been advised by MSD (their main funders) that funding ceases 01 December 2020. This places the ongoing operation of HALT in jeopardy. We are currently reviewing our options. It is a very disappointing development given that HALT's role is a significant one as part of the successful community response to family harm. If HALT is discontinued, then mechanism of providing referrals to whānau experiencing family harm disappears unless another system is put into place. In addition, I have personally since 2019 been able to provide specialised Psychological therapy to clients (particularly couples) experiencing family harm. While this intervention arm has only been in existence for 18 months' evidence indicates it has successful outcomes. Having a Psychologist attached to a family harm team is an innovative and effective development and the evidence-based approach is likely to cease.'

*Sgt Jeff Lvyer, NZ Police*

Number of incidents over the Alert Level(s) period: 161 in February; 176 in March; 156 in April; 25 for the days 01-04 May.

Jayne McNeilage raised concern upon hearing of the cessation of funding for HALT, particularly as it is expected that family harm numbers will increase coupled with continuing and increasing pressures with loss of jobs etc. If Council were open to suggestions of areas to support she encouraged that happening in the family harm/violence sector.

Not knowing the detail around the HALT funding, Eve Fone indicated there is a shift in focus around funding from one of coordinating to direct services. She suggested this korero needs to go through Mike Fletcher; questioning whether HALT were able shift its focus and become eligible for continued funding.

**ACTION: Community Development to follow up with Mike Fletcher to obtain background information regarding the cessation of funding for the HALT team.**

Mayor Bernie Wanden suggested both the Chair and Lacey Winiata collaborate to create a questionnaire for the CWC members to ask how we can assist, help, liaise. The more information provided, the easier it will be to develop a plan and strategy. The Chair confirmed that a 1:1 meeting is already in place for this purpose.

**ACTION: The Chair and Lacey Winiata to create a survey to be sent to CWC members**

Regards economic resilience, it was asked if there were statistics or any predictions available on the extra unemployment resulting from Covid-19. Mayor Bernie Wanden responded that it is hard to obtain such figures, however it was expected that HDC's Financial Resilience Working Group (FRWG) would soon begin to receive weekly statistics from MSD. Di Rump and the Mayor would korero as to the composition of the FRWG.

At both a Horowhenua and iwi level, Di Rump spoke of Muaūpoko Tribal Authority (MTA) already putting in place outwardly focused economic development ideas, particularly around training and employment, with a dedicated youth focus; describing it as a 'work broker on steroids' programme. An application for PGF funding would be submitted for the initiative. Given that pre-Lockdown, in the Horowhenua, Māori and Pacific Peoples unemployment stood at 2.8 vs European 1.0, she could only guess it will become worse.

Mayor Bernie Wanden had recently met with Shane Jones re PGF, citing the 12-week window to get that operative. He believed the Horowhenua New Zealand Trust (HNZT) were undertaking a similar initiative, and suggested Di Rump connect with HNZT and be part of that recovery plan space. Di Rump responded she has previously tried to suggest some diversity in approach as it makes sense not to duplicate; and that any plan needs to include Māori and Pacific Peoples. Adding that we have all we need in our community, but we need to facilitate and make it accessible. Economic development being her space, she is very excited for the opportunity for us to play a different role and how we navigate that.

Cr Robert Ketu commented that he has listened to lots of things happening in our District and supports the work everyone is doing in their spaces; and how iwi are coming together with Council and other agencies to respond to Covid-19. Listening to the korero today, meeting with some of the HDC teams and what Council are doing (taking care of our whānau and communities), and how we are responding to that which all of us are facing, it has been fantastic for us as iwi, connecting as whānau and as a District. To predict what is going to happen in the coming months is going to be huge for us as Council. He is pleased with how things are coming together to meet the recovery head on and looked forward to what strategies develop for the months ahead.

Still wanting to hunt out any lurking Covid-19, Chiquita Hansen asked how Council might assist the MidCentral District Health Board's Public Health Team with encouraging the Horowhenua community to have swabs if they have a sniffle/running nose etc. As part of her role in IMT and as Public Information Manager (PIM), Lacey Winiata said direction had already been given to the HDC Communications teams to urging residents to be Covid-19 tested over the weekend. From a Council perspective she is aware of and happy to support any further messaging going out around that.

Reiterating that the drive for the flu vaccination had a good communications plan, which only took few people to get the word out via key contacts, Alice Mose-Tuialii was happy to assist with getting that communications plan out.

Closing the meeting, the Chair sincerely apologised for not commencing the meeting with a karakia; and ensured the oversight would not occur again.

**Next meeting date: Tuesday 11 August 2020**

2.16 pm

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD  
AT A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY WELLBEING  
COMMITTEE HELD ON

**DATE:**.....

**CHAIRPERSON:**.....