

**MINUTES OF THE RECONVENED ORDINARY MEETING OF THE HOROWHENUA DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 126-148 OXFORD STREET, LEVIN, ON THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2009 COMMENCING AT 1.00 PM**

**PRESENT**

His Worship the Mayor, Mr B J Duffy (Chair)  
Cr D A Allan (from 1.40 pm)  
Cr D J Colling  
Cr G G Good  
Cr L E McMeeken  
Cr A M Hunt  
Cr B F Judd (from 1.12 pm)  
Cr P K Keenan  
Cr N D H Murray  
Cr A D Rush  
Cr R N Shaw (from 3.00 pm)

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr D G Ward (Chief Executive Officer)  
Mr D M Clapperton (Strategic & Corporate Services Manager)  
Mr D Law (Finance Manager)  
Mr W D Crockett (Operations Manager)  
Mr P D Stroud (Facilities Assets Manager)  
Mr D Tate (Parks Assets Officer)  
Mrs K J Corkill (Meeting Secretary)

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

Ms C Carlyle (Support Officer) (to 5.00 pm)

**MEDIA IN ATTENDANCE**

Ms B Torrie ("Manawatu Standard") (from 2.20 pm)  
Ms S Gillies ("Horowhenua Mail") (to 5.55 pm)

**PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE**

There were 3 members of the public in attendance at the commencement of the meeting.

**APOLOGIES**

No formal apologies were recorded, but the Chair noted that some Councillors would arrive and leave at various times over the course of the meeting due to other commitments, as would Council staff.

The Chief Executive Officer continued working through the submissions received.

*Submission 60 - Ecofest Trust/Malcolm Hadlum (The waste minimisation strategy needs clarity)*  
*Submission 117 - Te Arahanga O Nga Iwi/Daphne Luke (Requesting Council to make provision for funding further research into the contribution of the Māori economy to the regional economy)*  
*Submission 118 - Te Ropu Pakihi/Christine Warren (Requesting that Council considers formalising support for the local Māori Business Network)*

- Submission 181 - Mr R W & Mrs R M Tate (Removal of the UAGC and targeted rates; Rating proposals)*  
Mr & Mrs Tate did not attend to speak to their submission.
- Submission 220 - P A & V M Wright (Objecting to rate increases; prepared to accept realistic inflation based increases)*  
Mr & Mrs Wright did not attend to speak to their submission.
- Submission 251- I W S Macdonald (Rates should only be increased by the annual rate of inflation; land value should not be used to calculate roading rate)*
- Submission 334 - Foxton Swimming Club/Christine Willis (Against any price increases for pool entry)*  
Mrs Willis joined the table to speak to the submission from the Foxton Swimming Club. During her verbal submission, Mrs Willis emphasised:
- the use of the Foxton Pool had changed since it had been upgraded;
  - they were inundated with children who could not swim or who were very poor swimmers;
  - in coastal communities children needed to learn to swim;
  - the Swimming Club was concerned that price rises would deter those who needed to learn to swim;
  - the spectator charge would encourage more people to use the pool as a baby sitting service rather than being there to supervise their children.
- Submission 260 - Captain J A Brown (Rating proposals; proposed water reticulation for Waikawa Beach)*
- Submission 261 - Heather Easton (Library matters, suggesting that the Library upgrade should go ahead and not delayed)*
- Submission 262 - Todd & Pauline McGuigan (Expressing dismay at rate increases)*
- Submission 263 - Horowhenua Principals' Association/Julie Hepburn (Please review charges for Aquatic Centre as too expensive for schools to use)*  
Mr Ward said that officers would be made aware of this submission and to discuss the matters raised with representatives of the Principals' Association. In response to a query about Council continuing to run the district's pools, Mr Ward said he anticipated that a contract for the running of the pools would be put out by the end of the year.
- Submission 264 - Rotary Club of Levin/Geoff Kane (Supporting the implementation of a policy that means people can benefit by more exercise, safer walking and cycling)*
- Submission 265 - Murray Horn (Whilst agreeing with land value rating, suggests introduction over a ten year rather than a five year period; not supporting proposed water reticulation for Waitarere Beach)*
- Submission 266 - Fiona Moran (Requesting referendum on water supply to Waitarere; suggesting extension of rates increase over a longer period)*
- Submission 267 - Richard F Katon (Objecting to proposed restructure of rates revenue)*
- Submission 268 - Emma Woods (Proposed rating system is unfair)*
- Submission 269 - Liz & Peter Duncan (Rating proposals; opposing development of water reticulation for Waikawa Beach)*
- Submission 270 - Alison Wallbutton & Simon George (Library revenue)*
- Submission 271 - Sara Clarke & Charles England (Population at Waikawa Beach does not warrant a reticulated water supply)*
- Submission 273 - P Cameron (Development Contribution issues)*
- Submission 274 - John Morris (Waikawa Beach: Development Contribution Policy; Rating proposal; Regulatory Services; Roading; Water Reticulation for Waikawa Beach)*
- Submission 276 - Yvonne Osborne (Querying rate increase for Foxton Beach)*
- Submission 277 - Jenny Foreman (Expressing approval for targeted Library rate)*
- Submission 279 - Cath Bennet (Objection to Council reducing annual funding to the Horowhenua Library Trust)*
- Submission 281 - Sharyn Williamson (Ratepayers money being wasted on road works being redone, court cases, brochures/booklets/presentations; not in favour of*

*equalisation of water and wastewater rates or more money being spent on libraries and pools)*

Mrs Williamson, in speaking to her submission, commented:

- she was against the equalisation of rates;
- the proposed huge increase in rates was unacceptable, particularly in a recession;
- beach communities did not have the same benefits as the towns;
- whilst expecting to pay rates, she had not expected to pay such a huge increase;
- in relation to water, if beaches were to be metered then the towns should also be metered;
- the Hokio Beach community had worked very hard to obtain the 95% Government subsidy to provide water to Hokio;
- with harmonisation, if water was provided to other beach communities, a lot of the hard work done by the Hokio community would be nullified;
- Council should be working for the benefit of the community;
- the road to Hokio had flooding problems, drains needed clearing and the road was being broken down by forestry trucks and they also made the road dangerous;
- the Hokio community had received some things it did not want, but the things they did want were not being done;
- some Māori out at Hokio were also not paying rates.

Mayor Duffy clarified that if a metered system was in place, that would not be part of harmonisation. If harmonisation was in place and Council decided to introduce a water scheme that did not have a Government subsidy, then that would be paid for by all.

*Submission 284 - Rob & Heather Gaskin (Council is moving in the right direction regarding targeted rates; would like to see rates for roading reduced for rural businesses)*

*Submission 293 - Colin Easton (Foxton Library; library and swimming pool rates charged to Moutoa and other halls; Rating; mowing of road sides)*

*Submission 294 - Anthony Beach (Raising rates by significant percentage is a breach of faith)*

*Submission 295 - P A Chandler (Objecting to rate increase at Foxton Beach)*

*Submission 296 - M L Lewis (Rating proposals)*

Mayor Duffy requested that the submitter receive a response to the comment on the final cost of the Council Building.

*Submission 303 - G G Sinclair (Opposing removing the rating differential and commenting on rating proposal, particularly with regard to Waitarere Beach; querying time for consultation)*

*Submission 304 - Doreen Briggs (Suggesting rolling over present rating system for one more year, or at least until the economic climate has changed)*

*Submission 310 - M Liddell (Climate change ignored in the LTCCP)*

*Submission 312 - G L Lucinsky (Waikawa Beach residents happy to provide own water)*

*Submission 313 - P A Lucinsky (Opposing water reticulation for Waikawa Beach)*

*Submission 315 - Susan Ferguson & Desmond Coombes (Water reticulation; User Pays and Rates Increases; Land Value Rating; suggesting Council abandon implementation of proposed rating changes and retain existing method)*

*Submission 316 - Sheree Bishop (Lack of credible consultation; no fairness in the rate increases; lack of services for Manakau/Waikawa residents; opposing proposed water reticulation)*

*Submission 318 - L Stratton (Objecting to paying for services not received)*

*Submission 328 - Neighbourhood Support/Mike Smith (Funding for Neighbourhood Support)*

Mr Smith thanked Council for its ongoing commitment to support Neighbourhood Support; however he raised concerns about the levels forecast over the ten year life of the plan which were not inflated adjusted. He reiterated that community groups were extremely vulnerable when it came to funding

support. They had to enter into employment contracts which meant an ongoing commitment to fund wages and unfortunately lottery grants did not cover wages.

Mr Ward noted that community grants had not been inflation adjusted and requested staff to provide information on the financial impact of doing that.

*Submission 375 - Horizons Regional Council/Garrick Murfitt (Wastewater; Civil Defence Emergency Management; Land Transport)*

Garrick Murfitt and Greg Carlyon were welcomed to the table, extending an apology on behalf of Michael McCartney.

Mr Murfitt reaffirmed the recent commitment made to focus on resolving any tensions that had arisen over the past few years between Horizons and HDC. A Memorandum of Understanding had been signed between the two organisations to ensure that communities in our region received the best result and any issues that arose were dealt with at the highest level to reach a satisfactory conclusion.

Mr Carlyon noted a correction on page 2 of Horizons' submission, 8. "Manawatu" should read "Horowhenua" and further commented:

- Horizons had made a significant commitment to improving its performance;
- the Horowhenua district added significantly to the Regional Council's workload, having 71 active consents for the region, while Palmerston North had approximately 20;
- Horizons, in next year's business plan, had a major workload in the resource management sphere, with large scale projects coming up for review and Horizons would need to look at what were priorities and what were not.

Mr Ward endorsed the positive comments made with regard to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding. Officers from both organisations would be meeting in early July to look at a number of the issues referred to, particularly with regard to prioritisation and to try and rationalise projects and processes.

Mayor Duffy also commented on the very powerful message brought to the table that both Councils were prepared to work together for their mutual advantage.

*Submission 298 - Malcolm Willoughby (Querying consultation process; rate increase will negatively affect real estate market; equality and targeting of rates; Kuku Piped Water Race)*

Mr Willoughby reiterated the concerns raised in his submission, also noting that three pages of his submission had not been included with the documentation distributed, having only been included at the last minute. He stated that the rating system should be fair across the district. With regard to the Kuku Piped Water Race, he had been endeavouring to get information on this scheme. This was not included in the LTCCP and the huge increase in charges had come without any explanation.

A copy of correspondence requesting information in relation to the Kuku Piped Water Scheme was provided to Mr Ward for his follow up.

*Submission 317 - Carolyn Leslie (Expressing disapproval of parts of Council's 10 year plan and having to contribute to services and amenities that did not receive)*

Ms Leslie said she did not believe Council was aware of what rural ratepayers would expect in the future if rates continued to rise. Manakau currently had no rubbish collection, no footpaths, no street-lighting, etc. If rates rose people in smaller communities would expect these amenities.

Mayor Duffy advised that Council was endeavouring to get a kerbside collection system instituted across the district, which would allow both urban and rural residents to enjoy the same level of service when it came to rubbish disposal.

*Submission 319 - Brandon Gallagher (The proposed rate increase is not fair and equitable)*

*Submission 320 - New Zealand Historic Places Trust/Ann Neill, General Manager, Central Region (Archaeological sites and Māori Heritage)*

The cost of subscribing to the NZAA site was queried, as were the costs of proceeding with the Foxton Multi-Purpose facility on the site currently proposed.

*Submission 322 - Donna Annett-Bright & Paul John Bright (Water reticulation for Waikawa Beach - happy with tank water; 65% rate increase in one year too large, a gradual process would be better)*

*Submission 323 - Mojo Developments Limited/Ray Di Leva (Water reticulation for Waitarere Beach not supported)*

*Submission 324 - Hayden Smith (Opposing water reticulation proposal for Manakau)*

*Submission 325 - Nicolina Jefferies (Objecting to water reticulation proposal for Waitarere Beach)*

*Submission 326 - Hayden Smith (Opposed to proposed changes in rating system; outraged at level of proposed spending and borrowing by Council)*

*Submission 327 - Gary & Donna Aitchison (No to Waitarere Beach water supply upgrade)*

*Submission 329 - Allan Cole (Development Contributions)*

*Submission 332 - Mel Douglas (Concern at Library Funding proposal)*

*Submission 333 - Geoff Kane (Rating proposal; policy of sealing 1 km of road each year should be continued to make the most of Government subsidies)*

*Submission 335 - Wellington Conservation Board/Helen Algar (Various)*

A representative from the Wellington Conservation Board did not attend to speak to this submission.

*Submission 336 - Jane Ellison (More information with regard to the long term impact of rates changes needed; there needs to be a differential rating system to reflect the amenities provided for in each community)*

*Submission 338 - Joanne Calder (Objecting to large increase in her rates at Waitarere Beach for this and projected years; present arrangements should be rolled over to give more consultation time)*

*Submission 339 - Louise Lahmert (Requesting funding for local playground in Tokomaru)*

*Submission 314 - Foxton Community Board/Basil Vertongen, Chair (Various)*

Mr Vertongen joined the table to speak to this submission, commenting on the issues raised, particularly noting:

- the Board believed that the proposed beach rates were too high, with a too bigger jump, too soon;
- the need to have a clear definition of "rural residential";
- the \$40,000 set aside for 2016 for dredging of the River Loop, requesting this be brought forward to work in with the proposed Foxton Multi-Purpose Facility should that proceed. Resource consent for the dredging had already been obtained;
- the Board would like a breakdown of the costs that Central Government has loaded on to TLAs over the last few years;
- the cost of responding to people who continually made enquires was also requested.

The meeting adjourned from 3.10 - 3.25 pm.

Mr Clapperton assumed the Reporting Officer's role when the meeting resumed.

*Submission 309 - Landcorp Farming Ltd/Brian Wilkinson (Requesting the completion of the sealing of Whirokino Road)*

Mr Wilkinson reiterated the request that the sealing of Whirokino Road be completed this year, as was agreed following his submission to Council's last year's Annual Plan process. The road was badly maintained and was having a negative impact on Landcorp's farming operation.

*Submission 308 - D A & L C Burdan (Opposing any subdivision of land sited north of Kawiu Road between Claremont Rise and Tiro Tiro Road)*

Mr & Mrs Burdan raised issues with regard to the proposed subdivision and rezoning of the land area north of Kawi Road from Claremont Rise, west. The area consisted of highly productive, free draining, non-flooding cropping land and a multiple spring fed wetland area and it was suggested that the Horowhenua had other areas of far less arable and productive land that would be suitable for subdivision rather than this area. It was queried if the area of wetland covered by their submission had been designated as a significant natural area, as their privately owned spring-fed wetland had been. A copy of Mr & Mrs Burdan's verbal submission is **attached** to the official minutes. His Worship the Mayor suggested this was a Plan Change rather than an LTCCP matter, and it was:

**Resolved**

(Allan / Good)

*"THAT Submission 308 from Mr & Mrs Burdan be moved through to the officers responsible for Plan Changes 20 and 21."*

Mr Ward resumed the Reporting Officer's chair (3.26 pm).

*Submission 307 - Suzanne Ellis (Concerned at proposed rates rises for Waitarere Beach and objecting to the removal of rating differentials; concerned at the lack of adequate consultation)*

Ms Ellis commented:

- she had left last night's submission hearing feeling angry;
- there was a human face to what these proposals were doing and at Waitarere Beach she had meet and spoken to a number of elderly people and had seen their distress about rates being put up to a level that they would not be able to pay;
- people were now of the view that they would not be able to afford to live there any more;
- she had been resident and enjoying the lifestyle at Waitarere Beach for 10 years and had considered retiring there;
- she loved the Beach and Levin and came into town regularly and supported local businesses;
- the increases proposed would mean she would be forced to sell;
- she did understand that Council needed money to pay for infrastructure and amenities, but putting rates up at Waitarere Beach was not the best way to provide funding/
- she recommended that Council hold off increasing rates until the economy picked up and then have an increase of 4% rather than 66% or more.

Mayor Duffy responded by acknowledging the challenges for Council, noting that Ms Ellis' response was no different from others across the district. He reinforced that Council had not yet made a decision and Councillors were listening to submitters and considering submissions with an open mind.

*Submission 305 - Bernard M Salmon (Opposed to rates increase for Waitarere Beach)*

In his verbal submission Mr Salmon gave a comparison of the rates he had paid since his move to Waitarere in 1998. He suggested that an increase in the relative rates share paid by the Waitarere community based on increased land values ignored the economic reality that an increase in land value did not relate to a corresponding increase in personal wealth, income or ability to pay. His land value had risen from \$14,000 to \$89,000 but the land was the same; no bigger or smaller; and no more or less useful.

Mr Salmon referred to a research report from Otago University's Geography Department "The impact of rising property prices on coastal settlement communities", published in 2005, which looked at three South Island and three North Island coastal communities, one of which was Waitarere Beach. It noted, amongst other things, that in the 2001 census, the annual income of Waitarere residents overall was below the national average.

Mr Salmon concluded his comments by reiterating that he believed the proposed rates increase was thoroughly unjustified and utterly unacceptable. A copy of Mr Salmon's verbal submission is **attached** to the official minutes)

In response to Mr Salmon's comments, Councillors responded:

- Mr Salmon's submission was well argued, but was based on a false premise;
- the Otago University's Report was of interest and did the report comment on the high proportion of discretionary owners at the Beach?
- in response to the comment about low annual incomes at Waitarere Beach, this also applied to the whole of the district which was below the national average.

*Submission 340 - K C Swensson (Government has stated it wants Councils to have nil rates increases for the next year to two; all water supplies should be metered; the libraries, swimming pools, solid waste should be self funded not targeted; roads should be targeted; all houses from the end of 2009 should supply their own water; Council water should not be provided to any new subdivisions from 2009; all parks and reserves mowing should be attended to by local contractors only; the new library community centre should not proceed)*

*Submission 341 - A L & J B Hanlon (Strongly oppose the LTCCP document)*

*Submission 342 - David & Hannah Ross (Objecting to paying extras for an uninhabited section; supporting submission from the WBPRA do not want town water at Waitarere Beach)*

*Submission 343 - Saalbrey Sands (Empty sections; objecting to paying rates for solid waste, library, swimming pool and wastewater)*

*Submission 344 - John & Robyn Saalbrey (Opposing water reticulation for Waitarere Beach; Council should put more scrutiny into what contractors are charging for services; objecting to uninhabited sections being charged other than a general township rate; supporting WBPRA)*

*Submission 346 - G R & J Stanyon (UAGC should be retained in its current form; opposing rates increase)*

*Submission 350 - Denis Kelly & Karen Hutchins (Against targeted rates and for retaining existing differential rates; not Kuku Piped Scheme users and do not want to be charged for this)*

*Submission 352 - Whiripo Land Co Ltd/B J Kilsby, D B Kilsby (Rural rating; subdivision of rural land; rural roading; general rates; rural differential should be brought down from 31% to 25%; look at capital value rating)*

*Submission 353 - Suzie Johnson (Signed petition supporting various projects at Shannon)*

*Submission 357 - D Hayes (Objecting to rate increases; issues with rural rates)*

*Submission 358 - Pauline Watson (Objecting to changes in rating system, leave differentials in place; consultation period too short; objecting to Council borrowing)*

The comment in the submission about the use of 'jargon' in the documentation was noted, with a suggestion that Council review the way it communicated with its communities.

*Submission 302 - Sally Newman (Rating proposals)*

Ms Newman spoke to her submission noting the impact she felt the proposed rates rise would have on her as a single income homeowner at Waitarere Beach, with her ultimately having no option but to sell her home because of unaffordability. A copy of Ms Newman's verbal submission is **attached** to the official minutes.

Mayor Duffy assured Ms Newman that what was proposed was not cast in stone, but Council had a challenge to find a system that was best for the whole district.

*Submission 79 - Dennis M Hunt (Supporting reticulated water at Waitarere Beach)*

Mr Hunt spoke in support of providing a pipeline from Levin to serve Waitarere:

- this would be better for the community and he would like the convenience;
- life expectancy had gone up due to the availability of potable water and sewerage systems;
- any scheme would need to be designed to minimise the cost and maintained as economically as possible;
- the design base on which the supply could be based could be done in stages, with Stage 1 providing enough infrastructure to service immediate need;
- done properly Waitarere Beach could get a long term potable water supply at reasonable cost.

Mr Hunt was advised of the group at Waitarere Beach that was interested in exploring the establishment of a water scheme, with it ultimately being the community's decision.

*Submission 82 - Levin Women's Bowling Club Inc/Carrell Knight (Requesting continuation of the Bowling Club's lease and \$3000 grant)*

17 members of the Levin Women's Bowling Club joined the meeting to support Mrs Knight when she spoke to this submission.

Mrs Knight spoke in support of Council continuing the lease and providing the \$3,000 grant to the Bowling Club. She noted the many compliments received on the surroundings which she suggested was to the Council's advantage. \$788.00 came back to Council for the lease and she suggested the balance was not a considerable amount to ask for the Club to keep running. The Club was keen to stay in its present location, until natural attrition caused its closure, and whilst they raised funds themselves, they did need some financial assistance. A copy of Mrs Knight's verbal submission is **attached** to the official minutes.

His Worship the Mayor indicated he felt that Council would come up with an appropriate solution to this submission.

*Submission 217 - Billy McKee (Solid Waste Management)*

Mr McKee in speaking further to his submission on solid waste management, advised:

- he was involved in the setting up of a Trust for resource recovery;
- he had a suitable location lined up;
- the proposal was to remove about 5,000 tonnes per year from the waste stream with the potential to turn reusable material such as green waste into high quality compost;
- the Trust, which would be a small operation in the first instance, would be paid to receive waste and would be paid for the end product;
- his request was for Council to provide funding towards a resource management centre and to support this proposal;
- because the Trust would begin with a green waste recovery there would be a funding stream.

Cr Rush raised the fact that Environua Trust had failed because of governance and management issues and Council would need a great deal of confidence in the governance and management of a further enterprise.

Mr McKee advised that the Trustee's would be Peter Cameron (from Wellington who had appropriate expertise), Jack Gibson (a local farmer) and Duncan Hill (a teacher from Foxton).

Mr McKee said he had had discussions with Council's CEO and Solid Waste Officer who had indicated that Council was more likely to come on board if there was an enterprise that was up and running.

- Submission 359 - Manakau Village Nurseries Ltd/G L & S R Stent (Public consultation too short; removal of differentials too rapid and difficult to understand; timing bad)*
- Submission 360 - H Timmins & E Glasson (Objecting to level of borrowing and increase in rates)*
- Submission 361 - Louise & Neil Robbie/Awahou Place Subdivision, Joan & Tony Murdoch/Target Development Ltd Subdivision, Stuart & Margaret Laurie/Bergin Park Subdivision (Requesting consideration of exclusion of targeted rates on unused services for sections in subdivisions that have not been sold and are not utilising services)*
- Submission 364 - Mr & Mrs P Dallinger (Proposed rates increases unacceptable and unaffordable)*
- Submission 365 - Derek Ingram (Inadequate time for consultation; rating policy needs modifying)*
- Submission 366 - Mr M & Mrs W Rolston (Rating proposals)*
- Submission 368 - Opiki Hall Society/M L Free (Should only be paying for the services used by the Hall, not solid waste, libraries, presentation & governance and swimming pools)*
- Submission 369 - Lesley-Anne & Richard Walker (Objecting to targeted rating and rates increases; opposing water or sewerage scheme for Waikawa Beach)*
- Submission 371 - Vector/Lindsay Cowley (Supports land value rating system; requesting specific consideration by Council of Utility Operators in any rating system; timing)*
- Submission 372 - Peter & Russell Ferrier (refer to Summary of Yes/No questionnaire)*
- Submission 373 - Des Mead & Vicki Krivan (Disagree with proposed rate changes for rural areas; maintenance of Ohau domain and underpass; Muhunoa Road intersection safety issues)*
- Submission 377 - G J & V M H Gilpin (Objecting to removal of rating differential)*
- Submission 379 - Marion Fletcher (Objecting to removal of township differential)*
- Submission 380 - C I Rossiter & A C Holloway (Objecting to proposed rate changes)*
- Submission 381 - Simon Burgess (Proposing that Council acknowledge the changed economic circumstances and place a moratorium on rate rises for the next two years; Council needs to focus on core issues of utility service, governance and representation; discourage speculative rural development)*
- Submission 382 - Robert Harper (Live within means and do not create debt)*
- Submission 383 - Shirley Bartosh (Rates should not increase)*
- Submission 384 - Yvonne Driesen (Rates increase too high in today's economic times)*
- Submission 385 - Jeffrey D Edhouse, Donald & Patricia Edhouse (Objecting to level of rates on bare land, objecting to rate increase)*
- Submission 386 - Owen Roughton (refer to Summary of Yes/No questionnaire)*
- Submission 388 - T Fletcher (Differential rating should remain; all targeted rates should have differential rating that better reflects the item and area within the Council area; all borrowing should be suspended for the next 2-5 years)*
- Submission 389 - Sandi Beattie & Penny Fenwick/Fenwick Beattie Family Trust (Rationalisation of rating charges should be phased in over several years)*
- Submission 122 - Suzie Valentine (Development Contributions)*

Ms Valentine acknowledged the work and effort put in by Council in undertaking a thorough review of the Development Contributions Policy and expressed support for the proposed changes.

Ms Valentine requested that all people purchasing property be made aware of any liability for development contributions and suggested that this should be included on LIMs.

Mayor Duffy acknowledged the work done by Ms Valentine and the group that had been involved in reviewing this policy, which he said was a brilliant example of a community partnership.

- Submission 123 - E L S Jones (Mowing and maintenance of reserves)*

Mr Jones spoke in particular about the benchmark set by Council with regard to the Flagstaff Reserve at Foxton Beach, where mowing had happened only once in 11 months. He suggested the benchmark needed to be set higher.

Mr Jones said that Flagstaff was used from dawn to dusk and he felt that the current state was an insult to those volunteers who had raised approximately \$13,000 for the playground. The area where the lookout was located had also not been tidied up in 18 months.

Cr Allan supported Mr Jones' comments, with his view being that the reserve deserved a higher standard of maintenance than had been occurring.

*Submission 390 - L M Kimber (Querying affordability of the increased rates)*

*Submission 393 - R Culver (refer to Summary of Yes/No questionnaire)*

*Submission 394 - Tom & Wendy Lancaster (Development Contributions)*

*Submission 396 - D & S Mead (Objecting to increase in rates; Ohau Domain maintenance; Ohau intersection safety issues)*

*Submission 397 - Barry & Bronwyn Smith (Opposing water reticulation for Waikawa Beach)*

*Submission 399 - David MacKay (Rate increase unacceptable)*

*Submission 403 - Rosalie Blake & others (Library rates)*

*Submission 404 - Horowhenua Historical Society Inc/Graeme Thompson (District's culture)*

*Submission 405 - Joann Ransom (Library services)*

*Submission 406 - Mark Rankin (Rural residential differential; fixed sum water levy)*

*Submission 407 - Tom & Naumai Robinson (Rural rates; concerned about proposed rates at Foxton Beach)*

*Submission 408 - J Grant (Council's spending should be curtailed in the current economic conditions; raising rates will depress property values)*

*Submission 409 - John Haverkamp (Rating proposal)*

*Submission 410 - G Williams*

*Submission 138 - Dr Lone Jorgensen (That water/sewage be paid district wide; that Council becomes proactive in terms of environmental sustainability; continues involvement with the education sector; becomes proactive with tree planting to mitigate erosion, etc)*

Dr Jorgensen commented:

- the environment and education were very close to her heart;
- in the past there had been a public/private percentage for these sorts of services;
- people do tend to see these things from a very narrow perspective, but that was not how we function as a country;
- people should not be encouraged to overuse our resources;
- it should not be entirely user pays, but abuser pays;
- in relation to education, HDC had been very supportive of education in the district, which was important,
- an uneducated population did not enjoy good health and did not make good decisions;
- our public library was also important and was well used, and she would hate to see it run down because of lack of funding;
- on a positive note, her daughter, who was an architect, had travelled through Levin and had made some positive comments about how Levin had got the Town Centre right.

His Worship the Mayor acknowledged Dr Jorgensen's contribution to Tokomaru and to the wider community.

It was noted that not many submissions had been received from Tokomaru. Dr Jorgensen said those who had received and read the information were not unhappy, but were very positive.

*Submission 154 - Warren Montgomery (Proposed rating changes)*

Mr Montgomery, in addressing the issues raised in his submission, further observed:

- there was a huge difference in the valuation for sections in the various areas within the district;
- these would have a major impact on beach settlements;

- there should be a district wide general rate that recognised the huge difference in average land values and that recognised the amount of community facilities available in the different areas;
- there should be a district wide roading rate that was fair and equitable.

Mr Montgomery concluded by asking Council to look very carefully at what it was proposing. A copy of Mr Montgomery's verbal submission is **attached** to the official minutes.

*Submission 161 - Mr Ross Nicholson (Incidence of Rating - wrong in principle, effects on local economy; Projects to be funded - not required; Project funding - loans; Price Harmonisation - wastewater, water supply)*

Mr Nicholson spoke to his six submissions, expressing his concerns as a ratepayer with regard to the issues raised. A copy of Mr Nicholson's verbal submission is **attached** to the official minutes.

*Submission 449 - Sandra Lawrence (Rating Proposals)*

Ms Lawrence expressed her concern that rates were not being fairly divided amongst the landowners of the district, suggesting that the Government had reduced spending because of a lower tax take. It had also gone into debt, but Council was suggesting an immensely greater rate of spending and going into debt. Ms Lawrence suggested Council reduce the budget, lower its expectations and reduce spending. A copy of Ms Lawrence's verbal submission is **attached** to the official minutes.

The meeting adjourned for a meal break and 6.00 pm and reconvened at 6.30 pm.

*Submission 195 - Neil & Julie Harre (Rating proposal)*

Mr Harre reiterated the concerns raised in his submission, saying that he did not want to stop progress, but would like further consultation. He believed differentials could be used to adjust rates.

*Submission 200 - Margaret Robins (Rating proposal)*

Mrs Robins, in speaking to her submission, commented further:

- her concern was affordability;
- auditing focuses on economic factors, not socio-demographic factors;
- economic performance had not trickled down;
- living in the Horowhenua was hazardous to one's health;
- 80% of those in the Horowhenua were in the top half of the deprivation index;
- the young and the elderly were in a precarious socio-economic situation;
- growth in the district was in the older age group that had passive incomes;
- HDC used a land value rating system, rather than capital value, which was used by Horizons;
- the quantum of rates was exacerbated when Horizons rates were included;
- the LTCCP documentation was pitched at too high a level and should be presented in such a way that was more easily understood.

A copy of Mrs Robins' verbal submission is **attached** to the official minutes.

*Submission 92 - Hugh Moleta (Objecting to Draft LTCCP which was not fair and equitable; Farm owners paying excessive rates for Council services; land value not practical method of rating for Council services; more targeted rates for general rate take to remove double dipping)*

Mr Moleta expressed his concern about paying excessive rates for services he was not using. Whilst he was happy to pay his fair share, he did not understand why farmers were having to pay more than others in the district. He supported targeted rates, but did not believe land value was a practical or appropriate way

to rate for Council services. He objected to paying rates for bare land and suggested the situation with regard to contiguous properties should be looked at.

*Submission 225 - Grey Power/Lew Rohloff (Rating proposal)*

Mr Rohloff, in speaking to Grey Power's submission, said:

- he felt Council's response to a request for further information had been uncooperative;
- the information that had been provided had not been helpful;
- he requested that letters submitted asking for information form part of officer's reports.
- it was suggested that Council search for a rating system that was more appropriate to household income circumstances.

Copies of correspondence was provided which showed Grey Power's calculation of the rating impacts during the period of the full implementation of the scheme, and beyond.

It was noted that Council could not rate on income and for some of Grey Power's members in the urban areas, there would be significant benefit as their rates would reduced over the next five years.

Mr Rohloff said Grey Power had offered to talk with Council about the difference in views. Grey Power was very interested in exploring the option of capital value rating and had mentioned that as one of the ways forward.

*Submission 234 - Sophie Campbell (Development Contributions)*

Mrs Campbell reiterated the support of the Friends of Strathnaver for the staged exemption portion of the Development Contributions Policy which she suggested was fair for those landowners who wish to build but have owned the land and paid rates for several years.

His Worship the Mayor acknowledged Mrs Campbell's role in the review of the Development Contributions Policy.

*Submission 433 - L Hayne (More time needed to absorb information; smallholders should not be targeted by Council; rating increases will affect local businesses because of less money to spend; concern re the cost of court cases; mowing roadsides waste of money)*

Mr Hayne voiced the concerns raised in his submission, again saying that small holders should not be targeted. He also suggested that rates increases would cause less money to be spent in shops and service centres, which could cause businesses to close.

Mayor Duffy suggested that Mr Hayne might like to come and see him with some supporting information to the points raised so he could respond in more detail.

Cr McMeeken noted that there had been no submissions from retailers about the impact the rates proposals would have on them.

*Submission 434 - Cusha Haynes (Objecting to rate increase)*

Mrs Haynes expressed her opposition to rates increasing, particularly as incomes were reducing. There were no services at Hokio Beach and she did not believe she should be paying and subsidising other people's water.

His Worship the Mayor in response to a number of submitters comments noted that this was a small Council and its only source of revenue was rates and charges as it did not have the revenue streams of other, larger, Councils.

*Submission 236 - Bruce & Chris Mitchell (General Rates; targeted rating system; rural roading targeted rates; priority services and projects; water supply)*

Mr & Mrs Mitchell raised a number of points in support of their submission, including the fact they believed farm businesses were rated unfairly compared with town businesses and other rated properties in the district. Farmers also subsidised rural residential ratepayers and the argeted rural business percentage for roading was too high. They suggested that in these hard economic times Council should be concentrating on providing the core services of potable water, environmentally sustainable wastewater treatment and disposal to land, minimisation of solid waste, and roading and stormwater.

A copy of Mr & Mrs Mitchell's verbal submission is **attached** to the official minutes.

*Submission 272 - Nick Spark (Development Contributions Policy)*

Mr Spark reiterated the comments made in his submission, stressing that he believed that any Development Contribution refunds or credits should be made to the person who had paid it as many people who had paid the levy had not had the option to negotiate or include the levy in their due diligence exercise.

*Submission 429 - Michelle Riall (Resource Recovery; Hokio landfill; sewage and wastewater treatment)*

Ms Riall spoke in support of resource recovery and organic waste recovery, which was being done in other communities and should be encouraged here. She said the landfill was a concern for the community, with there being leachate issues because of the type of soils the tip was on.

*Submission 282 - T M Fallon (Objecting to rates for rural sector; querying Council's standards and processes)*

Mr Fallon commented:

- he had heard a lot from many people on the financial implications of the proposed plan;
- he was surprised and disappointed that Council had seen fit in these recessionary times to propose a rate increase of 33% on his property over the next two years, as well as other increases;
- there was a real need for improvements in both productivity and quality, but nothing had been said about that at the town meeting;
- he was concerned about responses to correspondence and requests for further information, providing copies of correspondence which he did not feel had been responded to adequately or in a timely fashion;
- he also had issues with the road maintenance at Joblins Road.

*Submission 61 - Dianne Edyvane (Requesting consideration of proposed decrease in Library funding)*

Mrs Edyvane, as Chair of the Friends of the Library, acknowledged the immense amount of work that had gone in to the Draft LTCCP and the enormous pressure on funds within the community. She felt, however, that the Plan had contained conflicting statements and conflicting figures, which lead to confusion, which lead to suspicion. She also raised concerns with regard to performance measures for the Library and requested that these be clarified. She noted the positive contribution that libraries made to the community and sought Council's continued support.

Cr Good acknowledged the magnificent contribution made by the Friends of the Library by way of volunteer time and fund raising.

*Submission 285 - Bryan TenHave (Rating proposals)*

Mr TenHave commented:

- citizens were hurting;
- the beach areas were half empty, otherwise there would have been more submissions;
- his interest in the process was not for himself as he had found it a soul destroying process;
- he spoke on behalf of those people who were not wealthy and had high mortgages;
- the current economic climate was going to make it harder for people to sustain rates rises.

Mr TenHave concluded by expressing his appreciation for the time Councillors had given to him during the consultation process.

*Submission 411 - Mr Schwamm (Found questionnaire confusing)*

*Submission 412 - P Raikes (refer to Summary of Yes/No questionnaire)*

*Submission 413 - B May (Water Supply; Solid Waste; Library)*

- Submission 414 - M D & C Clark (Council should curb unnecessary expenditure)
- Submission 416 - Michael & Norva Fitzgerald (Differential rating; rates increases should be consistent with inflation)
- Submission 417 - David & Jennifer Allen (Opposing rates increase for Waitare Beach)
- Submission 418 - Jill & Alan Griffiths (Water reticulation; rating proposals)
- Submission 419 - G N Stowell (Shannon: requesting bus shelter be reroofed and painted; more lighting needed in Plimmer Terrace)
- Submission 421 - Janet Studd (Objecting to rate increase at Waikawa Beach; not supporting reduction of the differential between urban and rural/beach settlements)
- Submission 422 - Alister Holden/Alister Holden Trust, Benefisheries Limited (Opposing rates proposal; opposing reticulated water for Waikawa Beach)
- Submission 423 - NZ Transport Agency/Alan Catchpole (Financial provisions in roading section of LTCCP; financial contributions which can be imposed as condition of Resource Consent)
- Submission 424 - MidCentral Health/Dr Robert Holdaway (Water supply; District Plan Review; Roading; Waste Management)
- Submission 426 - Ronald L Grogan (Concerned at increase in rate for Kuku Piped Water)
- Submission 428 - Te Kotahitanga O Te Iwi O Ngati Wehiwehi Trust (Governance and Tangata Whenua; Implications to Councils of Treaty Settlements with Iwi Tangata Whenua; Waste Management; Mapping of Cultural Landscape; Joint Council-Iwi Tangata Projects; Environmental Cultural Health Monitoring; "Te Aho" Kapiti-Horowhenua Regional Maori Economic Development Strategy 2008)
- Submission 430 - T C Brandon (Strongly opposed to the proposed changes to rating system)
- Submission 432 - Marie & Lillian Fearon (Queries with regard to targeted rating)
- Submission 435 - Shallowford Farm/Jane Wood (Concerned by proposed rate increases)
- Submission 436 - Shallowford Farm/Norman Wood (Concerned by proposed rate increases)
- Submission 437 - Dean Stella (Disagreeing with rate change)
- Submission 438 - Rangeview Villas/A J Sheppard (Present rating scheme based on land value is not equitable)
- Submission 439 - J M Ischia (Suggesting water meters be used in Levin for save water)
- Submission 440 - A J & P Sheppard (Concerned at proposed rates increases)
- Submission 441 - Mr E P & Mrs M T Farrell (Objecting to proposed LTCCP)
- Submission 442 - Alan Morgan (Requesting an exemption for bare sections to pool and library charges)
- Submission 443 - Mary Holdershaw & C Holdershaw (New charges for rural residents unfair)
- Submission 444 - K T & G M Rowsell (Objecting to the removal of differentials)
- Submission 445 - T A Kennedy (Council should defer changes to rating system until ratepayers have more time to source and discuss the ramifications)
- Submission 446 - Grahame Bennie (Opposed to the current Draft LTCCP because it is unfair to rural lifestylers)
- Submission 447 - Wayne & Katrina Roebuck (Opposing changes to the LTCCP because of lack of services)
- Submission 448 - Mr & Mrs Pender (Opposing rating changes because of lack of services)
- Submission 450 - Neville Hyde (Development Contributions; Amended Revenue and Financing Policy relative to targeted rates; regulatory services; roading; Waikawa Beach water reticulation options)
- Submission 299 - Muaupoko Tribal Authority/Steve Hirini (Cultural, Environmental; Economic; social)

Mr Hirini was accompanied to the table by Mahanga Williams and Kerehi Wi Warena to speak to the submission from the Muaupoko Tribal Authority. Mr Hirini said he was supportive of the hui to be held on Monday 8 June 2009 and felt this would be a good way forward.

Mr Hirini summarised the points raised in MTAs submission, with supporting comments from Mr Williams and Mr Wi Warena. It was noted that it was important for all to work together so that the whole community would prosper.

