



**Submission to
Waitakere City Council Annual Plan 2008/9
from
Community Waitakere**



14th May 2008

Community Waitakere Submission to the Waitakere City Council's Annual Plan 2008/2009

Community Waitakere submits:

1. That Council be congratulated for maintaining its long term commitment to the Partnering Agreement with our organisation to deliver a range of initiatives building and representing a strong Community Sector
2. That Council continues to support the development of the new Waitakere Community Resource Centre on Tui Glen Reserve
3. That Council be congratulated for its work on neighbourhood development, as exemplified by Massey Matters, Ranui Action Project, McLaren Park Henderson South and others, and ensures ongoing provision for such work in the forthcoming LTCCP
4. That the submission of the Ranui Central Development Network for the commitment to ongoing resources for a Ranui Town Centre Plan is supported
5. That Council continues to take a leadership role together with communities, organisations and individuals to work within the stated Community Outcomes and Strategic Direction for 2006-2016, and in particular the ongoing progression towards a sustainable society
6. That Community Waitakere endorses recent discussions around the establishment of a community development section in Council, and seeks to be involved in such discussions, as a closely interested party, which can and does supply complementary services
7. That the current evaluation, and review of the future of Project Twin Streams, is supported, and Community Waitakere looks forward to playing continuing strategic and operational roles in Project Twin Streams
8. That Council continues to work with its communities to preserve and strengthen local decision making in the Regional Governance Commission deliberation



Commentary on submissions

1. Partnership Agreement

The agreement signed between Community Waitakere (CW) and Council in 2006 was a breakthrough for local government and community relationships, and is commonly cited as an example of best practice nationally. The partnership principles on which it is based are seen as providing models which make for increasing effectiveness in multi agency collaboration. It recognises that the two parties are co dependent to achieve the jointly agreed goals and work programme. While there have been some strains put on the partnership at times, it has held firm and we are determined to continue to play our part in ensuring that continues.

2. Tui Glen Resource Centre

The construction of a purpose built Community Resource centre at Tui Glen remains a central goal for CW. The length of the Resource consent process has held up progress, resulting so far in a delay in construction of a minimum of twelve months, and considerable frustrations for the organisations affected, and funding organisations who have thus far committed a significant portion of the required funds. A decision on the resource consent is expected imminently as this submission is being written. Council's continuing commitment to this project is absolutely critical to its eventual success.

3. Community led Neighbourhood development

Community Waitakere has been very pleased at and supportive of the new models of community development emerging in areas such as Massey, McLaren Park/Henderson South, and now Kelston, in which Council has played a central facilitative role, along with aligning its own facilities and services with the needs of communities as they are identified by their people. CW is hosting a forum bringing those projects together to undertake collaborative learning and planning on 30 May as part of our contribution to their development and the new thinking it requires. It congratulates Council on the commitment to these models, and urges it to maintain this over the long term, when the results will demonstrate its value

4. Ranui Action Project/Ranui Central Development Network- Town Centre Concept Plan



One of the longest standing neighbourhood projects is the Ranui Action Project(RAP), which began as a 'Strong Communities Action Fund' pilot project in 2000. From the outset, Council support was pivotal in accessing and maintaining substantial governmental funding. While that funding has largely ceased, RAP is strong, fully functioning, and is currently exploring ways to achieve sustainability for its own operations and innovative means of strengthening the local economy through community economic development. It has substantially contributed to the Ranui Central Development Network, (RCDN) a coalition of local property owners who are

working together, with Council, to develop the town centre of Ranui. Collaboration with Council has been excellent, with a long term Concept Plan under development.

It is now understood however that the future of the collaboration is in doubt, as there has been no provision for resources for ongoing planning in the draft annual plan.

If this remains the case, it would seriously damage Council's reputation as a reliable partner in communities. Community Waitakere wishes to support the submission of the RCDN to provide resources to continue this vital process.

5. Community Outcomes and Strategic Direction 2006-2016

The Council's stated Community Outcomes and Strategic Direction for 2006 – 2016 align closely with our own strategic direction and embrace similar values:

- leadership
- partnering
- innovation
- teamwork
- excellence

Our shared philosophies and objectives will continue to support a strong partnering relationship, a robust community and voluntary sector in Waitakere and advance city wellbeing.

6. Community Development section

CW understands that there is active consideration underway towards re-establishing a Community Development Section. It applauds this step, which would more accurately represent and consolidate the principles underpinning the work both CW and Council are involved in. CW would like to be involved in any discussions around these issues, as Council's longstanding partner in this work.



7. Project Twin Streams

CW has held a contract for PTS in the Henderson area, which has already had a significant impact in the stream and communities surrounding it. We believe PTS has unlimited potential for true community led development, and have demonstrated this by designating a position to develop our own strategic approach to working across the PTS projects, in line with the current evaluation of progress so far.

8. Regional Governance

CW recognises the critical impact of the potential changes in Regional Governance which may result from the Royal Commission. In particular, it is most concerned at the possibility of a major centralisation of power which may effectively disenfranchise local communities in the name of unproven efficiencies. CW prepared a submission addressing its concerns, and also advocating for the establishment of new ways at a regional level to ensure social/community concerns are treated with the same degree of seriousness and coordination as infrastructural issues.

We assisted council with its own consultation processes for this, and look forward to continuing to work with Council as the next steps unfold, to ensure the voice of the community sector is heard loud and clear

Background

Community Waitakere was established (as WADCOSS) in 1983 as the umbrella organisation for the community and voluntary sector organisations in Waitakere City. The change of name was formally agreed to at the 2006 AGM; a new Trust Deed approved at the 2007 AGM and earlier this year Community Waitakere completed the transition from an Incorporated Society to a Charitable Trust.

Community Waitakere is a community development foundation committed to achieving a vision of a strong, dynamic, sustainable third sector in Waitakere City. We seek to actively uphold principles of partnership, sustainability and community-led development in all our undertakings



Community Waitakere values the partnering agreement between Waitakere City Council and Community, which recognises our organisation as one of the Council's key strategic partners.

Future Direction (ref Strategic Plan Overview 2006-2009 attached)

Our 2006 -2009 strategic plan seeks to advance a revitalised organisation through building capacity, developing organisational strengths through high-calibre board, management and staff. We take a proactive approach to challenges, both internally and externally, and are innovative in identifying and harnessing new opportunities. In particular we seek to match and link obscure opportunities towards forging sustainable communities.

We have identified three key priorities which underpin all of our activities:

- make a positive difference
- strengthen our people
- foster organisational sustainability

We appreciate the opportunity to make this submission.

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Community Waitakere

Tony Mayow
Chair
Community Waitakere