

22 FEBRUARY 2009 DETERMINING WAIATARUA'S FUTURE

SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK FROM WAIATAURA COMMUNITY WORKSHOP SESSIONS

WAITAKERE CITY COUNCIL

Q1: WHAT DO YOU LIKE AND VALUE ABOUT THE AREA?

Q2: WHAT DO YOU DISLIKE ABOUT THE AREA?

Q3: WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE CHANGE?

Q4: WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE THE AREA TO BE, LOOK AND FEEL
LIKE IN 50 YEARS TIME?

(We have also collated the feedback on the Waiaatarua boundary which will be discussed at the march Community Enquiry Workshop).

Q1: WHAT DO YOU LIKE AND VALUE ABOUT THE AREA?

Natural environment

- Native birds
- Native bush
- Drink rainwater from tank – low water rates, good for you, no fluoride
- Views
- Peace and tranquillity
- Quiet
- Views - sea, bush, city at night

Social values

- Good gathering place – country atmosphere
- Community spirit
- Privacy from neighbours
- Neighbourhood support
- Diverse population
- Volunteers

Community and recreation

- Public Amenities/Services - Fire Station, Community Hall, Library, Drama Group
- Restaurants (Elevations Restaurant and Auckland's Waitakere Estate)
- Local newsletter
- Quiz nights
- Walking tracks
- Crafts, potters, artists and galleries
- Space to garden

History

- History of the district
- Cottage industry

Development

- Rural style of services
- Low traffic

Other

- Accessibility to Henderson, Glen Eden, West Coast beaches, proximity to CBD
- Great working from home environment
- Great after work retreat

Q2: WHAT DO YOU DISLIKE ABOUT THE AREA?

Natural values

- Pest Control – Plants, Animals
- Cutback bush near road verges more – rules changed so contractors come more frequently and don't clear as much. Can be dangerous.
- Weed management on Council owned land and absentee landlords
- One rule for landowners and another for council. Weed control on private land is should be a public good

Transport/Mobility

- No facility for cyclists
- Easily accessible recreation – flat areas for walking the dog
- Broken/no footpaths, potholed roads
- Traffic in roads – race track at scenic drive and others in area
- Speed concerns on Piha Road – need speed bumps and enforcement, most don't stop at compulsory stop (Piha/Quinns Road and Scenic Drive)
- Don't like walking in the area due to traffic and lack of footpath
- Concealed driveways - need good visibility

Planning

- The design of some of the new developments – don't fit surroundings
- Not being able to cut down trees (controls that prevent)
- Signage – commercial, road signs confusing/size/style
- Building consents (for small things e.g. sheds) – cost, over regulation, process
- No more development

Community

- No recognised identity (define where it starts and finishes) – Council doesn't identify Waitatarua as a separate area
- No village centre, café, shops etc...

Other

- Untidy, unnecessary white reflective posts – need maintenance done regularly
- Drugs – P Labs (wider issue, not unique to area)
- Crime, Burglaries – lack of policing
- Rubbish dumping, cars, general
- Lack of sewerage main system – pollution, older sewerage septic tank systems, new systems not effective and smelly, \$ paid for wastewater system

Q3: WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE CHANGE?

No change to community spirit

Environment

- More culling of possums and rodents – bigger budgets for council or traps for residents to help in their area, training and information to reduce roadkill
- Sewerage
- Pest control needs to be on-going
- Weed management – much more control over Council properties and absentee landlords
- More funding for individual weed management on an ongoing basis

Community and recreation

- Better police patrols
- Village centre (Elevation?) Convenience store – near hall, small scale e.g. huia, drop in meeting place.
- Bike tracks and walking tracks
- Footpaths – walk safely by the side of the road, rural style footpath, boardwalk/gravel - on Main roads e.g. Scenic Drive, West Coast Road, Forest Hill Road. Need a way to get off road - simple one-side footpath required
- Area for outside gatherings – do have a spot near fire station, but is it the best?
- Cycleways along Scenic Drive as its too dangerous – a lot of car and bike off road, wider verges – suitable for cyclists
- Public Transport (particularly older people) – ‘on demand’ system
- Need more alerts for cars going over centreline
- Collisions, fatal pedestrian accident near Elevations – speed, danger
- Park n Rides in Glen Eden, Henderson, Sunnyvale. At capacity, more facilities needed as most commute by car to nearest station
- Proper sewerage system to avoid stream pollution
- General Store

Planning

- Ability to cut down trees when required
- Rules/Guidelines on what type of trees to plant (more information)
- Fairer rules re: development
- Don't like consent process
- Consent issues policing illegal works. More proactive – phone perpetrator early on

Other

- Underground overhead wires
- Area boundary defined by the community and recognised by the Council and ARC, post office and police
- Fix up Rose Hellabys footpath to her old house (1 km approx) – Corner of Piha Road

Q4: WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE THE AREA TO BE, LOOK AND FEEL LIKE IN 50 YEARS TIME?

Environment

- Keep the bush, Kauri trees – other natives
- Semi-rural (as now)
- Bush environment – pets restricted in favour of local bird life, pests eradicated, possums culled
- Cycle trips to cover ranges
- Walks
- Camps
- Horse Trails
- Maintain remoteness
- Outdoor recreation/open space

Community

- Stay the same – sense of community, more people friendly facilities
- Younger families to maintain community mix
- Similar population numbers as now
- More multicultural
- Maintain community hall, library, play centre, drama group

Transport

- Footpaths on three main roads, boardwalk, safe pedestrian access ways
- Cheap, reliable, fast public transport. As well serviced by Public transport as the rest of the urban area.
- Facilities for older residents created so they can stay. Some have to leave due to mobility/public transport issues
- Network of smaller buses in networks that includes Piha, Oratia etc.
- Better pedestrian and cycle access

Economic

- B&B's (small)
- Small Cottage Industries – tourists
- Roadside stalls
- Small groups growing produce collectively (co-ops). Export/Local
- Local business benefits - education/knowledge increases
- Tourism \$\$ increase – but without environmental impact

Planning

- Mix of housing types
- Small group 'rest homes' – so older people can remain
- Ability to work from home preserved – regulations flexible regarding traffic flows
- Ability to upgrade homes – older baches to executive larger homes, 3-4 bedrooms

Other

- Overhead wires gone
- Museum of local past e.g. Huia Settlers Museum
- Historical Register – a way to experience Waitatarua history. Library project to preserve story for future
- Coverage drainage – no ditches
- Telecommunications access improved
- Safer