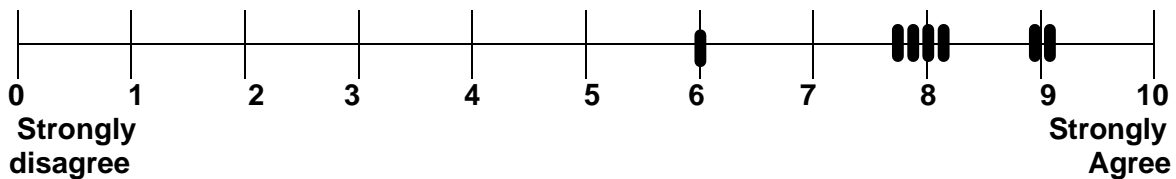


Laingholm Residents and Ratepayers meeting

15 August 2002

Waitakere is a great place to live



Summary

Council was invited to a meeting of the Laingholm Residents and Ratepayers Association. A workshop was undertaken to discuss the Council's 10 year Strategic Review. From the discussion 4 key issues were established:

- Provision of infrastructure – power/IT/environment infrastructure becomes automatic
- Reduce need for transport trip number and length eg: Telework centre work from home ability, local basic health services (health nurse, GP etc)
- Improve accountability and openness of Council
- Vision – look forward to what we don't already know – technologies/blue sky

Negatives

- Swings in Council attitude – failure to live up to Ecocity
- Not enough facilities for youth
- Not enough health provision
- Room for improvement
- Footpaths in Laingholm
- City debt too high
- Rates too high
- Services could be better
- Not getting what paying for
- Transport problems – all roads lead to CBD
- Poor utilities
 - Power phone
 - Streetlights
 - Storm water
- Lack of telecoms infra
- Rundown public spaces in urban areas
- NL depressed
- (key urban centre for Laingholm)
- Deadening suburbs
- Deficient public transport
- Council technocrats stifle creativity
- Internal communications a problem, eg bad response levels)

Positives

- Eco city vision
- Lots of natural beauty
- Dog friendly – accessible beaches and bush tracks
- Great Mayor – profile for city/promoter
- Good access to elected officials
- Call Centre
 - Efficient/responsive

- Well trained
- Perception of clean air – particularly in Ranges
- Clean water – no Waikato
- Willingness to look at new ideas – pilot projects
- Strong sense of community
- Licensing Trusts support for community
- Community accepting of new immigrants
- Not Auckland City – no John Banks
- Proud to be from Waitakere
- Lot of interest and pride in local history and conservation of local buildings
- Good primary schools locally – Laingholm/Woodlands parks
- Slightly better buses
- Community trusts – tag out, weedfree do good work, exceptional work
- Strength and value of volunteer services

Actions -> Forward

(Votes were taken to establish priority – each person given 2 reds worth 3 points each and 1 blue worth 2 points each)

Action	Total Points
Provision of infrastructure – power/IT/environment infrastructure becomes automatic	14
Reduce need for transport trip number and length eg: Telework centre work from home ability, local basic health services (health nurse, GP etc)	13
Improve accountability and openness of Council	13
Vision – look forward to what we don't already know – technologies/blue sky	8
Council should not accept lowest tender – better quality work (false economy)	5
Ask the youth what they want	3
Build a youth facility	2
Better design of public spaces – social and physical safety	0
Develop community 'ownership' of public spaces	0

How are the key issues allowed for in the Council's draft Strategic Plan?

These issues are provided for under the Transport and Communication and Strong Democracy Platforms.