

Strategic Review Hui Summary and notes – 7 September 2002

Summary of issues

The major issue that arose was that of partnership and representation. At times the viewpoints of participants on certain issues in particular governance differed, though what was expressed largely was greater say in the decision-making. Most people felt that the current setup was not good enough. It was stated that Te Taumata Runanga unable to make decisions; were not equal or of the same status as other committees of Council. Concern was also raised as to the level of Te Taumata Runanga's linkages into the community and its representativeness. There was a need expressed for the recognition of different Maori groups and concern was noted over the lack of recognition of Maori in the area including artwork, naming of roads, parks and buildings. Concern was also raised regarding the Treaty of Waitangi and the lack of any formal Council policy.

Education was also an area of importance. Concern was raised regarding the disparity of funding for kohanga reo, the lack of Maoritanga in mainstream schools, and the insufficient support/resources for kura kaupapa. Support from Council to address the specific needs of child and youth was expressed, as well as the importance of integrating the services of other organisations. From the youth workshop a need for youth events and a centre or facility was clearly identified.

Other areas of note were safety, transport and rates. What was clearly expressed during the day was that not enough time was allowed to fully explore the issues raised and that more hui were need to fully represent peoples views.

SUMMARY OF NOTES AND COMMENTS

The notes are separated into three sections. Section one is the summarised notes from the Kaumatua workshop, section two includes comments from the other workshops and questionnaires and the third section is a summary of the notes from the youth workshop.

SECTION ONE

Summarised notes from Kaumatua workshop

Abstract

“Ko te tumanako, ma te tautoko o te whakaminenga nei e arahina mai I te Kaunihera o Waitakere I tona kaupapatia mo te kotahi tekau o nga tau kei te haere mai. Me maumahara tatou, he tino whakahirahira tenei kaupapa mo te hunga Maori ki Waitakere, ara atu te iwi whakatupuranga katoa o tenei rohe”.

Background

The workgroup consisted mainly of “kaumatua” members of the Maori community. Facilitation of the workshop involved open discussion to the questionnaire sheets provided for the open day.

I have broken down the discussion into the main areas that were covered during the course of the workshop, in doing so these areas were clarified towards the end of the hui by participants as being part of the discussions.

Analysis

Treaty of Waitangi:

A clear definition of policy and procedure of Councils commitment in this area was signalled as being a basis to create and further develop the Council/Maori relationship/partnership. The Treaty was also seen to provide for non-Maori relationship with Council as well.

Maori representation as elected members on Council:

Wanted Maori in positions to make decisions for Council and basically asked for greater political influence in Council.

Recognition of Maori in the area:

Naming of roads, parks and buildings to incorporate Maori values and acknowledge those leaders who held and maintained these values was seen as important to bringing a sense of Maori identity to the area.

Upbringing of children:

The problems that children face needs to be acknowledged by Council and the group requested that there is some integration with other community organisations to address social problems affecting the youth. Identity for young Maori was seen as a key area for Council to assist the local Maori Community.

Education of children:

Council involvement with schools is supported and also expressed was staff visiting schools on a regular basis.

Jobs:

Staff with the skills and expertise to deal with Maori was highlighted, as a need to create jobs whereby the Maori community could feel comfortable working with.

Support Kaumatua:

A suggestion for Council to support Kaumatua was assistance in producing a submission to the Annual Plan. Also having more involvement with Rangatahi in providing guidance and support to them was expressed. The staff member in the field idea was supported to deal with house-bound kaumatua and those not confident in attending Council and getting too involved in Council processes.

Information sharing:

Discussed participation methods for Maori once they have been informed. In situations where Council had informed Maori there was no follow-up on any of the information to check if it had been received and understood. Some information that Maori shared was not valued and taken on board by Council.

Maori ratepayers in the community:

There was a need to cater for Maori as ratepayers in the City and further develop a relationship at this level also.

Field Officer:

Requests to deal with Maori issues face to face were highlighted. Many Maori found that Council and it's processes seemed too foreign to them and felt comfortable in addressing issues and receiving information in their own familiar surroundings and forums.

Resourcing:

Maori community groups required assistance in establishing an economic base to engage in activities with local government and the wider community. Project funding for participation would allow the implementation of Maori initiatives in various Council/Maori community projects. Personnel experienced and skilled in liaising with the Maori community is sought to provide mutual benefit to Council and Maori.

Conclusion

The discussion touched upon many Maori community issues, especially the impact and development of Waitakere for future generations. Education and well-being seemed priorities, namely identity. At times the viewpoints of participants on certain issues in particular governance differed, though what was expressed largely was greater say in the decision-making.

The discussion was constrained by time. There was a need expressed to further conduct this exercise or some method that would seek to attain further views on the Ten Year Council Plan.

SECTION TWO

Summary of the comments from the other workshops and the questionnaires

Partnership/Representation

- Council's accountability to Maori
- Understanding kawa – is it good for Maori
- Trust
- Councillors must have appropriate skill base to accommodate Maori
- Bicultural awareness programmes – Council funded venue
- Equity
- Partnership
- Numbers disadvantage us in some areas
- Community elected Maori monitors (non Council)
- Sovereignty
- Practising framework clarification – 3 yr policy statement
- STV voting system
- Minority representation
- Cultural safety to be Council led – modelled
- Walk the talk
- Comparative to other Council
- Memorandum of understanding re. Treaty
- Electoral reform Maori run process for Maori
- Legislative change
- Communication of info sharing/dissemination
- Maori liaison personnel
- Leaders/monitor from community
- Laws that protect our people at all levels – local/national
- Treaty redress 50%
- Right to Council seat
- Directly proportional to Maori population on boards
- Maori representation
- Support (“collective body”)

- The Taumata Runanga has been given a name but has no teeth. It's almost as if they have been given this just to make it look as though they have been recognised but that is all. The Treaty is supposed to be 50/50 but even in this day and age it still does not stand.
- More Maori need to be heard
- West Aucklanders have developed a 'mindset' within its own 'local government of dangerous precedents in that it has a small or nil Maori presence on its own local body Council – which is sad – as this mindset has been around this community for a very long time. Even though a Maori advisory group called the Taumata Runanga has been formed it has no teeth, unlike its other called wards or standing committees – which is the result of 'red-necked policies, ie give them (Maori a committee but make it toothless) kia ora
- That Maori be recognised as a joint partnership with the rights and authority to the same powers as those who act on behalf of crown for the benefit of their people. And also be entitled to have their needs met regarding the Marae in Te Atatu Peninsula. If Council is willing to spend 30 million to move why can't the funding for a marae on the Peninsula be met
- Change the 'mindset' and give Te Taumata Runanga the same status, as your standing committees or wards and equate the power together and therefore honour the treaty as equal partners together – not patronise Maori then give them nothing. Then I believe you will see positive changes of equality that has been long overdue – why keep us the tangata whenua at arms length continuously – isn't 162 years of waiting for this partnership to materialise long enough – no more waiting – do it now.
- TTR to be an 'as of right committee' for every new term
- TTR to workshop with communities in their own areas and discuss what they do/can do
- Give Maori more people power on Council
- Support Maori Community initiatives with financial support
- There still seems to be 'red necked' and personality egos that seem to continue to dominate the WCC which means they need to do a 'total Maori – orientation programme with us called 'Back to our future'. An educational Maori trip back to our future which has been successfully produced for our community. Give it a go.
- 2 Council seats for Maori
- Question about TTR and their accountability
- TTR could workshop with the community
- Redesign the crest to represent Maori
- Council seats for Maori – by right
- Also for Te Kawerau a Maki and Ngati Whatua
- TTR to be decision makers
- Financial support for Maori community initiatives – how to get it
- Save \$30m by Council staying put
- Need Maori ratepayer group
- I feel, for Maori, the day has come that the Council would recognise the efforts the various Maori Groups like the Maori Wardens etc and pay them for the work they do. There is a need amongst the Business community for Maori Wardens on the beat. But it would be appreciated that the Council come to the party to help with funding and even encourage National Government to help.
- Our Maori Women's Welfare League is a non-funding organisation, which should be funded because we need them out there.
- More involvement with Maori Women's Welfare League
- More involvement with the community
- More interaction with Maori organisations/communities

- Access of services/info to Council through Maori komitis
- I would like to add a comment – Maori Women’s Welfare league needs to have financial support from this Council. Tau iwi is well supported/support Maori
- People not listening – marae went on many ears – not sure who is playing a game here but these games area a bad thing. Need it for tamariki.
- Road names – nobody asks people of Te Atatu what they want.
- More Maori invitations
- Historical Maori names for Waitakeres
- District plan processes – how would we know and what would we do.
- Got to have our people delivering to our people. Need a strategic plan for this.
- Nurture Te Wairua.
- Representation – start from our taonga – our people especially our tamariki.
- Council – do something about empowering
- Need Maori in the positive development of tu tangaika – Council has the puhea.
- More Maori personnel and at management level – need our people’s face.
- Council could visit schools (Maori staff) – good liaison staff.
- There have been lots of changes that affect whenua and tangata whenua without representation.
- Maori representation on Council (by legislation?)
- Could have meeting cut down by feeding back what do know.
- Need to resource the work done by Maori – can’t exist on aroha.
- Iwi registration – for Maori input to issues – send out with other Council mailouts.
- Speaking rights – have to have some say in how we live.
- Maori and Crown – Council is little brother of the Crown – need to understand the partnership including consultation with the other partner. What is Council doing about getting out there to grass roots groups – build the relationship first – culture programmes for staff.
- Always get disappointed.
- Community may not understand their rights in law
- More communication from Te Taumata Runanga
- Make it council law to have 2 or more Maori Councillors by right.

Education

- More Maori classes at schools
- That our Maori teenagers be educated, see too many of our young children hanging around malls
- A better system for youth offenders and more input into teenagers leaving or being made to leave school
- Budget set aside for Maori organisations to take care of Rangatahi (not funded by the ministry)
- Matairanga Maori – should be there much better in the primary schools – tamariki have been kidnapped – need to know all of this – mainstream need this as well – need to be done before secondary school.
- \$70/wk for kohunga c.f. \$6 for kindergarten.
- Marae attached to schools should have separate funding
- Find land for kotuku kaupapa Maori next to marae on Te Atatu Peninsula
- \$30m to go towards Te Atatu Pen Marae and kura and the youth facilities
- Education for our people
- Treat training from a Maori perspective
- Instead of schools they have built car shops, or supermarkets
- Where are the other kura kaupapa

- People and training important = Council cops/Maori wardens

Youth

- Need more control at shopping malls – too many kids staying out later
- Problem teenagers
- Youth suicide rate – very high
- Lack of youth facilities
- Cultural youth centre (12-25)

Safety

- More Maori wardens out and about with the police
- Need sheriffs office, trained people given power to arrest etc empowered by police/ council/ community
- Crime – lack of resources given to Police
- Games World young teenagers intimidating people
- Negative views from other about West Auckland being a drug and crime city
- Streets not safe at night
- To be able to play late at night without worrying about danger or fear
- Cut crime rate
- Security video in down town Henderson
- Get away from the ‘bureaucracy of local government policies and instil a clearer pathway for Maori wardens to be more involved with reducing street crime, by supporting a resources requirement in the form of financial needs analysis which would be strategised to include not exclude a set number of Maori wardens for Henderson. In this instance a team of Maori wardens can be allocated – to help alleviate this situation – in relevant terms – we envisage, say, 8 wardens in Henderson.
- Crime in shopping centres – downtown Henderson – want video surveillance acts as deterrent
- Lack of police presence
- Get more Maori wardens
- Losing our community policeman (fund Maori wardens to carry on)
- Dangerous driving especially young hoons Friday/Saturday nights
- Better control of drivers around City ie. dangerous driving.

Transport

- Why are we doing our roads that are not damaged, but we seem to do that a lot instead of the areas that need our roads done
- Traffic – no answers here
- Traffic on motorway
- Motorway heading in from town
- Train transport should be free.
- Lack of ferry facility
- Traffic congestion needs fixing
- Lack of public transport
- Lack of public transportation for those who can drive or for the elderly. There is a need for a more efficient public transport service
- Traffic congestion
- I like to see more Maori wardens get paid 4 their work than have been doing
- Regular transport to the City
- Transport (public) to the North Shore Hospital rather than City then Shore

- Buses that come real close to home
- Perhaps something can be done to make traffic flow move a lot easier at the Foodtown, Te Atatu South roundabout and onto motorway during peak times (8 and 3 especially)
- Buses that come real close to home
- Transport – roading, more access to motorways, more motorway lanes
- More public transport
- Easy public transport – not limited time running
- Rail access for Te Atatu to the City
 - Better access to motorway
 - Ferry service Hob/Te Atatu/CBD
- Monorail along motorway off at Pt Chevelier → Auckland
- Better traffic flow organised needed, ie motorway on ramps from main roads.
- Need more focus on traffic problems.
- Increasing traffic congestion – especially
- Unreliable public transport
- Improve traffic flow in some areas especially Edmonton/Alderman Drive/Great North Road junction.

Rates/finance

- Very expensive
- Money – I am doing a course at the moment to help improve my situation so as to cover the monetary situation, so as to clear my debts. Other than that my husband and I have a very good relationship with wonderful children and grand children. We also do volunteer work
- What financial support does this Council give to Maori communities
- Issue is (financial). This is the issue
- Rates
- Rates too high
- Need a rates watch group
- Discount off business rates would support Maori wardens
- Too little notice for rates payments and no response to complaints
- Water costs too much/water rates too high
- Discounted rates for Maori as they have been here 1200 years
- Save money on the proposed council resiting.

Other

- No supermarket in Glen Eden
- Have to travel to Foodtown
- No supermarket in Glen Eden
- More care on the parks
- No money for land for new schools and kura
- Fast growing city – needs more schools and land
- TAP – Marae to be built – plenty of resources needed
- Racism against the marae
- More jetties/boat ramps etc
- At present no local hospital, substandard A&E
- Whanau is important
- Ownership
- Not enough community events (free) like Auckland and Manukau
- Free community events (big events)
- Some things

- That our Maori women need to be talked about sex, reason being too many pregnancies in our communities
- People tagging on the skate parks
- Rubbish bags (having to pay \$1) should have wheelie bins
- Cheaper rubbish bags
- More inorganic collections
- Not able to put out organic rubbish with collection every week
- Not being able to put organic rubbish out with normal rubbish day collection
- Need more road sweepers
- Moth spraying
- Apple moth spraying
- Park wardens – don't know your rights
- Gestapo parking wardens – pick on boy racers not on hard-working Maori. Wardens are pathetic. Wardens must work within their constraints
- Crossing 4 people need to be more clear
- Need more public toilets
- There should be more Maori shop owners
- Helping out your local business
- Council should get behind local business
- Rebuild by place of work (Police Station) and do it right
- As a Maori warden, my daily life is full of surprises – not only have I resided in Te Atatu North for over 25 years but the residential changes and the influx of new people has had its problems. It is a positive environment in the development strategies that are currently taking place and I am mindful that more and more newcomers to the West will enjoy this paradise. As much as we have – go West Auckland – new development, new people, new horizons – my daily life is a positive one.
- Anything they want (*in response to question what could Council do better?*)
- They have done all that they have to do
- Keep going the way you are but a bit faster
- Think about how ideas affect people differently
- Our roads and footpaths = need to rethink about what you are doing out there
- Instead of planting trees, plant fruit trees so as to help feed the community and stop thieves around houses
- Housing development – small apartment that will become slum areas
- More housing
- More fruit trees to be planted
- Want more fruit trees in streets for children, also in parks
- Fake pedestrian crossings
- Council more concerned about running their business than about their customers
- Council to lobby government to raise drinking age to 21
- Naming of new streets in Te Atatu Peninsula
- Historical Maori names for all streets in Waitakere – go thru TTR
- How do Maori know when new streets are to be named for their input
- Invitations are important
- Street concerns – lighting
- Lack of Maori profile – artworks, carvings. Lack of Maori arts in all town centres
- Natural gas pipeline to Te Atatu Peninsula
- Underground cables – now
- Street lighting times – needs adjusting
- Shops to be lit up at night – fancy lights
- Landscaping and Maori art works

- No more medium density housing/high density along railway tracks a potential slum
- No more outdoor burning
- Swimming pool for Te Atatu Peninsula
- Provide more free BBQ areas (gas operated) for summer/winter family outings
- Support more family activities/events e.g. Sport Waitakere events
- Judder bars (*in response to a question on what things that have changed that have not impressed them*)
- Down to one inorganic rubbish collections.
- Need new thinking in the workplace in New Zealand. A change of focus from lean mean productivity to quality, manageability and people focus on job satisfaction – valuing and inspiring people in the workplace – eliminating negative stress.
- Increase vigilance on lettering and graffiti (already good initiatives happening).
- Forward scheme to control supermarket trolley theft.

What things have changed in the City in the last few years that have impressed you?

- It is safer to walk around at night
- That Maori Women's Welfare league is very supportive in what decisions our people decide to do
- Development of Westgate and redevelopment of Henderson Square
- There's more police out on duty stopping violence
- Conservation of the Waitakeres
- More awareness of things Maori
- Not taking any notice of Red Necks
- More Maori komitis within Council
- The WCC has acknowledged the Maori wardens
- The WCC has given us an office space at Ratanui Street and will accommodate us in the future
- More Trust, in us to perform
- WCC has totally supported us as we have them
- Recycling
- Water stand against Waikato
- Upgrade of Aquatic Centre
- The placement of shrubbery and trees in/around the place
- Intro of recycling bins
- The clean up of the river and creeks
- Gardens popping up all over the place
- Upgrading our community parks
- The new Council
- Mayor Bob
- Redevelopment of Henderson Square/Westfields West City
- Westgate – lots of parking, shops in one place
- Upgrading of the community parks – great – want a Maori park
- Filming industry in Waitakere
- Aquatic centre
- New library – Massey
- Stadium
- Waimanu Bay and Harbour View Estate – upgraded value of surrounding land
- West City
- Westgate
- Road markings on Te Atatu Road – more user friendly/safe

- Japanese garden
- Street wardens
- Park in Tirimoana Road
- Coastal walk Te Atatu Peninsula
- Bullocks statue and creek development, Taniwha Park
- Aquatic Centre revamp

What are the good things about living in Waitakere City?

- Everything
- Nice environment
- It's a beautiful place
- Love Maori Women's Welfare League – it is a big part of my life. Their work display was excellent
- Totally agree with the placing of our most important document overlooking our main chambers – the Treaty of Waitangi, so whoever decided upon doing this act of partnership brought our country up to is progressive standard. I salute you although I know that the Treaty was taken around from iwi to iwi or hapu to hapu. I am so pleased to see at long last that the honouring is taking place. Waitakere – you are a progress mob of people. This treaty alliance is good for NZ and we your Maori people
- It's a beautiful place especially the bush area.
- Close to rural areas
- It's a good place to live
- Schools
- Parks
- Bush
- Work
- Many Maori and Pacific Island community organisations
- Arts and culture
- Free education systems
- concentration on youths
- eco city
- Maori networks are organised and supportive of each other
- West Auckland have a phenomenal competitive edge in both cultural and ethnic development. That it is easy to see why mixed cultural identities can work very comfortably with each other regardless of ethnicity
- Shopping centres with cinemas are great
- Schools are very good
- Not having Waikato water
- Bush and beaches
- Still enjoy seeing the horses in Te Atatu Peninsula
- Waitakere Licensing Trust
- The Waitakere Ranges
- Access to the beaches
- Still relatively a lot of land untouched
- We don't get Waikato water
- The land with all the horses in Te Atatu North – a country feel it blends to our City
- Westfield shopping, cinemas, foodmarts everything there. Also the smaller shopping areas like Glen Eden more personal and the old railway station restored
- You don't have to go far for green recreation areas,
- Love the bush and beaches
- West Auckland pride

- Parks, people, culture, sports
- Living environment shopping access
- Jobs
- It's alright living all around
- Maori organised
- Parks/clean and green/fields
- Whanau oriented city
- Young population
- Council could do even more to address Maori issues
- Council should work more with the people
- New residents are left to cope – had to adjust to the urban situation
- How can Council help people from rural areas coming to the City
- Safe Waitakere
- Like community feeling
- Large Maori and Islamic populations
- Courtesy on roads
- Parks, people and culture
- Mix of cultures
- Plenty of sports facilities
- Good living environment, shopping access, jobs available
- Western Leader keeps people in touch
- Plenty of Maori facilities in the area/plenty of Maori organisations
- Te Taumata Runanga, Te Roopu Rangatahi
- Community feeling within schools – enhances academic achievement
- Schools help one another
- Waipareira Trust – good role model for children/schools
- Many marae, iwi and other Maori organisations represented on TTR
- Kaumatua respected in Waitakere
- Only 1 organic rubbish collection per annum
- Consensus of group to contribute to TTR make-up
- Council top heavy
- Council expenditure – what do Maori gain
- New Council building but what about Maori needs
- Give the relocation money to Maori groups
- Council wastes money – others could use better
- Massey High School one of the highest achievers for NZ women.
- Learning and become a partnership.
- Can contribute and enjoy a multi-cultural partnership.
- Ahi kaa
- Treaty – Roopu Kaumatua are here because of the Treaty and partnership – don't have to acknowledge the Treaty (under LGA) but WCC does.
- Swimming pool – give free access to schools without pools/those on Community Service cards
- Free access for major Maori events (eg. festival/through Ngati Whatua) eg. kura kaupapa festivals)
- Whanau orientated
- Libraries
- Community paper x 3 per week and information.
- The groups – Te Taumata Runanga, Te Roopu Rangatahi, Waipareira Trust
- Friendly place with a down to earth approach to life
- Good shopping and entertainment at Westfield

- We are spoilt for scenic beaches and native bush
- Excellent library facilities
- Aquatic Centre, Fall hotel, Vineyards, City views
- Good motorway access
- 'People Politicians' – Bob Harvey, Chris Carter
- Eco-city focus
- Good sports facilities – Te Pai courts, new indoor stadium

SECTION THREE

Notes from the youth workshop

Youth Events

- Sports tournament on a monthly basis for girls only
- Netball, top town, homework help programme
- Not enough youth discos
- All night parties
- Sports such as Rugby league, Touch, Swimming
- Have more youth activities in the weekends
- Various of combined/with boys
- More disco
- More socials
- Make things for youth (more)
- Not enough fun things at school a year, like special fun days or something like dress up in weird costumes.
- Equal available sports activities for boys and girls
- Do more youth stuff

Facilities/Centre

- Youth hang out place
- Get tagging mural area, so they have free expression to have mural areas, bombing competitions
- Sports – better sports gear
- Local stadium
- Gymnasium
- Sports/sports area each month for girls only
- Need better playgrounds
- Need new dairy shops
- West Harbour
- Closer pool complex for West Harbour Youth
- Should be for all ages besides adults
- A hangout – aquarium
- More swimming pools – aquatic centres
- More shops, ie clothes, food, hangouts etc
- State parks
- Have a rainbows end

Safety

- Safe environment so I can play outside don't have to worry about crime
- Free transport for drunk people

- Gangs
- Murders
- Kidnappings
- Stealers
- (Need) less robbers and less cars

Other

- More money for our communities such as funding our maraes etc
- Have jobs for children
- Better education for our tamariki
- Give our school more sport equipment
- Need more jobs for young people
- Make schools cool so we can do every day
- No lollies and ice-cream for children (*in response to question what is bad about life in Waitakere*)
- Jogging
- Money, wasted on tagging
- Too much traffic
- Move – lord of the rings
- The tagging Camps
- School
- (Need) more rest homes

What are the good things about living in Waitakere City?

- There are offices to help us to come into Waitakere City
- Everything – shops, parks, beaches
- I like City-life
- They have cool party events and I have lots of friends here
- Its green and clean
- The pools and Henderson
- It's not dirty, nice environment

What things have changed in the City in the last few years that have impressed you?

- Westfield Mall – west city
- Kmart
- West City is bigger and better for youth
- Henderson because there is more stuff to do now
- Way more cleaner than before