

ORATIA & WAIATARUA LAP PUBLIC MEETING

THURSDAY 26TH MARCH

The discussions between the meeting participants is summarised below.

Clustering houses versus ‘checkerboard’ approach

- Participants discussed the merits of ‘checkerboard’ development under the Oratia Structure Plan versus the alternative of clustering development. The checkerboard approach would result in landowners working elsewhere, not on their land, as the resulting large gardens would have no potential for crop production. One example of clustered housing raised was in Bendalls Lane.
- Most people derive only part of their income from their land, apart from owners of large blocks.
- There was a suggestion that Oratia might be home to a co-housing development like Earthsong in Ranui.
- Retain viewshafts between the buildings on West Coast Rd and use existing buildings. Buildings should be sympathetic to the views and to the people of Oratia
- In Remuera some houses have not fenced their backyards and have created communal private park where properties intersect.
- Some years ago Oratia School was in danger of being outside its zone a few years ago. There is a need for more land for the school.

Village Centre and walkways

- The idea of a walking track along Kaurimu Stream to Artisans Wines and a link to the Folk Museum was raised. Walkways should promote natural, human and cultural experiences
- Discussion of the extent of the village centre – some participants saw it as a ‘golden mile’, while others saw it as clustered development
- The ‘gateway’ to the village should be at the roundabout at Parrs Cross rather than at the Kaurimu Stream. Kaitaia has a gateway with Dalmatian greetings and the gateway to Oratia could take inspiration from this.
- Don’t focus on the village centre (as mapped) to the exclusion of the area around Artisan Wines The village centre should include Parrs Cross Rd
- Use the idea of art deco buildings in Swanson (Yozins)

Rural economic development

- Queries about whether Council could offer financial assistance to those starting a business. It cannot but can offer advice and expertise.
- The packing shed on Shaw Rd has hosted several unsuccessful businesses
- Oratia is already popular with joggers, cyclists. People come here to exerciser, including the running club in Glen Eden. Make it safe for them – reduce the speed limit.
- There is a resurgence of interest in food production. The former food cooperative should be resurrected.
- What about a small tourist train to transport pedestrians to Artisans and the Settlers Museum as a tourist attraction on weekends and as transport for the elderly and disabled.?

Heritage

- In the valleys between Shaw, Carter and Parker roads there are remnants of timber milling including old machinery. It is also very scenic, with waterfalls

and great potential for walks.

Traffic

- There is a traffic bottleneck in Titirangi. How will Oratia avoid this problem if development of businesses is concentrated in the centre?
- Ribbon development can create bottlenecks – is it the best solution?

LAP generally

- Keep the LAP flexible. Protect against the worst ideas
- Call the area “Oratia Valley”
- One participant spoke of conversations with young people in the last couple of weeks and their responses: “keep it beautiful, keep it green and keep it the same”.

Waitakere City Council’s consultation process

- Participants thanked WCC for its inclusive process and all the staff time devoted to listening to residents’ ideas.