

**MEETING OF THE
GREYMOUTH TOWN DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY GROUP**

Held at the Grey District Council

28 June 2011 @ 5.30pm

PRESENT:

Ian Davidson-Watts (GDC), Karen Jury (GDC), Kevin Beams (GDC), Mel Sutherland (GDC), Rosie McGrath (Community Public Health CPH), Stewart Nimmo (Grey Heritage Trust GHT), Kerri Miedema (Grey Business & Promotions Association GBPA), Adam Stanford (KiwiRail), Peter Walls (Development West Coast DWC), Mayor Tony Kokshoorn, Cr Truman, Cr Karen Hamilton, Cr Peter Haddock.

APOLOGIES:

Gary Hopkinson, Cr Anna Osbourne, Cr Berry, Steve Higgs (NZTA), Phillip Barnett (Railway station and i-Site), Gina (Railway Station and i-Site), Tourism West Coast representative (position currently empty, apology put in by Anita), Tony Bowe (Greymouth Opus representing NZTA)

Meeting co-chaired by Ian Davidson-Watts (GDC) and Kerri Miedema (GBPA)

1. Introductions

2. Meeting rules

- Ian Davidson-Watts explained that the Advisory Group is a forum to discuss projects and for attendees to provide advice to other agencies. It is hoped that opportunities will be identified for other agencies to become involved in projects and cost and resource sharing can be discussed. However decisions about agencies undertaking and funding their own projects will continue to be made by the agencies themselves. For example; GDC projects listed in the Strategy will be taken to the GDC Council for final approval as per the Council's usual decision making process.
- Written reports from each lead agency should be lodged at the Advisory Group meeting – these will then be added to the minutes (and can be added to the Council website if each agency agrees).
- Mayor Tony Kokshoorn: The Council will take advice from this group when it makes its decisions as the Advisory Group members represent key decision making agencies.

3. Update about the new GDC contact person for the Town Development Strategy and the budget assigned to the TDS actions

- Ian Davidson-Watts explained that the TDS project management role that is currently being undertaken by Karen Jury (GDC's Planning Services Team Leader & Policy Planner) will transfer to a new person soon. The Council is still defining the job description for the new person but it will include economic development for the District and project management of the Town Development Strategy.

- Kerri Miedema explained that the GBPA are keeping the Council informed as they shape the marketing officer role that they are establishing, primarily to ensure that there isn't an unnecessary overlap with the new position that the Council is establishing. Previously the Council employed an "Events and Marketing Officer" so it is this one job that is effectively being split between the two agencies.
- Mayor Tony Kokshoorn announced that the Council has assigned \$50,000 to the GDC Town Development Strategy budget for the 2011/12 year.

4. Reports from Lead Agencies

Grey District Council

A report was tabled and spoken to by Karen Jury (as attached) about progress with the *Pedestrian Linkages project* and the next intended projects to be actioned (options put forward in the report included *Vibrancy and Points of Difference, Parking/Vehicle Management or Trees, Open Space & Green Space*).

Discussion

Mayor Tony Kokshoorn stated that the next TDS project needed to be appealing to people so as to keep the community satisfied that improvements are being made. Too much planning could end up with nothing being done.

Kerri noted that the key matter she had received feedback about from customers and visitors in relation to pedestrian linkages was safe access to the floodwall i.e. there currently isn't any! She also feels that it will be a matter of addressing both traffic management as well as pedestrian linkages in order to get good results around town.

Stewart Nimmo discussed the idea of Lead Agencies undertaking a number of linked at the planning level prior to undertaking the final physical works – so that we don't miss the opportunity to combine findings and get the best solutions. A good example is the obvious connections between managing vehicle movement and managing people movement.

A report was tabled and spoken to by Kevin Beams (as attached) about progress with the *Parking Strategy* priority action.

Discussion

Kevin will be establishing a small working group with the intention of looking at existing examples of parking strategies and other resources and then circulating a draft plan of action to the Town Development Strategy group for feedback prior to wider consultation. A number of parties around the table signalled their interest in participating:

- GDC Assets (Mel)
- Councillors Haddock and Hamilton
- Community Public Health (Rosie)
- Greymouth Business and Promotions Association (Kerrie)

- NZTA (Although absent from the meeting Tony Bowe from Opus has already made comments at the Pedestrian Linkages workshop about the need to look at parking format on the SH, as NZTA wish to avoid people backing out of angle parking onto the SH...he is interested in traffic movement to and from the town, etc)

Community Public Health

Verbal report: Community Public Health has been helping with the Pedestrian Linkages project, including supplying a meeting room, food for the public meeting, attending the Workshop and public meeting, providing technical input to John Lieswyn, and undertaking a pedestrian count survey.

Grey Heritage Trust

Verbal report: The Trust was involved in creating the Strategy, providing feedback throughout the process and also submitting on the Strategy. The Trust was invited by KiwiRail to provide input to the Cobden Rail Bridge Heritage Park project. A key achievement in regards to raising the profile of heritage in the town and “telling our stories” has been the restoration of the Signal Box. Interpretation panels are being produced for town (working with the Polytechnic) and this will add to the storytelling action. Plaques are being produced to go on heritage buildings around town (these match the walking map that has been produced by the Railway Station). The projects that the Trust is looking forward to doing now are the South Breakwater, the Port Area and retention of the cranes, reinstatement of the Pill Box.

Discussion

Mayor Tony Kokshoorn suggested that the Trust apply to the Pike River Trust for funding to retain and upgrade the cranes and to revitalise the Coal River Heritage Trust. The coal theme would be a good connection for Pike.

KiwiRail

Verbal report: The Cobden bridge span at the Rail Park is being finished and the Pou that will be erected there are being repainted. The Railway Station is bringing in new carriages and planning is underway to extend the platform. The Tainui (Revington's) rail crossing is being revamped in October this year, possibly a rubber material type of crossing which is user friendly for pedestrians and cyclists and easier to remove for repairs. Plans have been initiated for the Mawhera Quay rail crossing to be upgraded and this crossing will likely be upgraded in 1 - 2 years time.

Discussion

Cr Truman asked Adam if a monetary donation would accelerate the improvements to the crossings. Adam replied that he believed the funding is secured for the work and that it is a combined KiwiRail and NZTA projects. He also asked about the criteria involved for introducing new pedestrian crossings across rail lines. Adam responded that it is about view lines, the designated speed of the track (rather than the train) and any obstacles or obstructions.

Kerri asked if there are plans to create a defined footpath/pedestrian link from the proposed extended platform behind the stores and out onto Tainui Street. Adam did know of any definite plans. Karen Jury commented that this idea was given to John Lieswyn during one of the Pedestrian Linkages group discussions.

Mayor Tony Kokshoorn suggested that the entire railway reserve that runs through town should be tidied up as it is an eyesore in many areas. If gravelled and grassed it could look great. Adam responded that he would talk to a KiwRail contractor about it.

Stewart asked whether KiwiRail are considering whether to put back or introduce new overhead access to the Warehouse complex. The GHT have access to the original footbridge truss. He asked that KiwiRail consider this option as a part of any extension of the platform. He also commented that perhaps the GHT could bring the truss into town now, as a type of display, and then it would be nearby and could be used again.

Cr Haddock commented that the KiwiExperience bus parks near to the Rail Station or even in the Countdown carpark and this encourages the travellers to only shop at the Warehouse.

Development West Coast

Peter Walls had nothing to specifically add to the topics that had been discussed. Stewart Nimmo asked him whether DWC would consider loaning business owners money to upgrade their buildings because of the earthquake prone buildings policy requirements – as banks may not do this.

Mayor Tony Kokshoorn commented that the Earthquake Policy that applies from 1 July 2011 will have repercussions for this town.

Karen Jury advised that the New Zealand Heritage Trust has offered to hold a forum on the Coast to discuss what the earthquake prone buildings policy could mean to our town and other buildings in the District. She will advise when further arrangements have been made about a date for the forum.

Greymouth Business and Promotions Association

Verbal report: The BPA has relinquished running the i-SITE; it is now going to be at the Rail Station.

The BPA is supporting the development of a Marketing and Events Office, based at the Regent Theatre. They are shaping the idea now and it is likely that they will employ someone to do this role.

Whitebait panels (various photos and artworks) are being borrowed to use in Greymouth as a feature to support the whitebait festival / World Cup celebrations.

5. Other business

- Cr Hamilton commented that she has observed that lots is going on in the town and there is a positive feel

- Adam Stanford stressed that 'momentum' will be important to ensure successful results in Town Development. We need to select some simple tasks and see them through and then advertise our successes.
- Cr Truman advised that he has had discussions with Mawhera Incorporation about his own business/ lease and found the person very good to deal with. He hopes this bodes well for future town development discussions.
- Cr Haddock commented that heritage aspects in the Grey District, and in the town itself, are amazing. "Heritage" is clearly the point of difference that we need to capture and shape as a theme for the town.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD: End November 2011

Note that a review of the Strategy will take place in February 2012

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 7pm.