

Notes of the Sounds Advisory Group Public Meeting, held at Okiwi Bay on Monday 23 November 2015 commencing at 1.30 pm

Present: Janie Granger, Jill Friend, Sandy Findlay, David Oldham, Jim Findlay, Don Loffhagen, Steve Clarke, Chris Simpson, David & Karen Leadbetter, George & Anne Sim, Marian Ganzeveld, Andrew Packer, Councillor Trevor Hook (Chairperson), Councillor David Oddie, Councillor Graeme Barsanti, Eric Jorgensen, Graeme Coates, Ken Roush, Linda Booth, Monyeen Wedge, Rachel Drake, Robin Cox, Aaron Robinson, Ross Withell, Tim Greenhough and Vic Koller.

MDC Staff: Steve Urlich, Nicky Eade and Yvette Johnson (Secretary)

Apologies: Alan Johnson, David Hayes, Judy Hellstrom, Kristen Gerard, Councillor Jenny Andrews, Councillor Cynthia Brooks, Councillor Brian Dawson and Councillor Peter Jerram.

Welcome

Clr Trevor Hook introduced himself as Chairman of the Sounds Advisory Group and spoke on the role of the Group. "The Sounds Advisory Group has been going for a very long time and was set up as a conduit into Council from the Sounds communities and has been used a lot especially for environmental matters and policies. It has a wide variety of people representing the Sounds, from D'Urville Island through to Arapawa including Queen Charlotte, Kenepuru and Pelorus".

Members of the Group, Council and the Okiwi Bay community introduced themselves.

Trevor Hook then opened the floor to the public in attendance (*shown in italics*).

Marine Farm Rubbish

A long-time resident of 52 years expressed her concern with the amount of marine farm rubbish that washes up onto the beach, from the west end and along to the creek at the east end, of the foreshore. This issue was brought to the Council's attention, via letters, a year ago and is still ongoing. She produced three large bags of rubbish which had been collected over a period of four weekends. The rubbish consisted of general waste, tufts of string and plastic tubes.

Graeme spoke on behalf of MDC stating that Council staff was aware of this issue and the Environment Protection group had been out to inspect. The letters have been followed up and he assured the group that this was being attended to.

Marine Farming Association employs three different firms to keep the beaches clean in the Pelorus Sound. Graeme was unsure why Okiwi Bay had been missed and Graeme Coates from Marine Farming would be informed of this. Trevor commented that the Kenepuru Sound, a few years ago, had the same issues and is now rubbish free. This is due to the initiative that the Marine Farming Association had carried out.

Dog Control

There are a large amount of dogs in the recreation area, at the end of the bay, that are allowed to roam free and this is more prevalent over the Christmas period. The mud flat at the west end is a perfect location for dogs to be let off to exercise, therefore there is no need for this in a recreational area where small children play. There are no signs down on the foreshore stating that dogs are to be on a leash.

Graeme, who sits on the dog committee at Council, confirmed dogs must be on a leash in the Okiwi Bay area. He stated that he had brought four signs down to the bay 6 months ago. Graeme will follow this through and arrange for extra signs.

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There are two signs had been erected in the barked playground, which excluded all dogs from this area. The two signs are very ineffective and small and hard to see. He suggested that a larger sign is required.

If dogs are not under control, ring the Council and the ranger will be sent out straight away. The dog control is under a company that covers the area with two rangers, 24 hours a day. They will be monitoring the bay over the Christmas period.

Paradise Ducks

A resident witnessed a dog attack on a paradise duck, and when she confronted the dog's owner; she was blamed, as she feeds the ducks.

Robin from DOC stated that the paradise duck is a protected species and is a game bird under the Fishing Games law. She was advised to write a letter with the person's name and address to the Department of Conservation and DOC will decide what steps to take upon the evidence.

Road Seal

The road seal on the bay side of the saddle coming down the hill and another patch of seal further up coming round the sharp corner, is badly damaged duly by trucks. The tar seal had been patched and is badly in need of repair.

Graeme stated that there are two committee members who keep Marlborough Roads informed and he confirmed that there was slumping on the road and it did need to be sealed. Marlborough Roads is meant to repair the road before Christmas and this will be followed through.

Logging trucks are coming back mid-January for 6-8 weeks and the road will be reduced to heavy road use.

Nelson Pine Industries is the logging company and Aaron will talk to the Manager with regard to this.

Scallop Bed

The scallop bed in the bay is being overused and exploited, as this is the only bed in the area right through to Tasman/Golden Bay. It was suggested if the season could be made shorter in order to preserve the bed and to begin 1 September instead of July as the scallops are in very poor condition at this time of year.

MDC stated that the setting of seasonal closures is a matter for the Ministry for Primary Industries.

MDC advised that the ecological condition of this site as well as others out toward D'Urville, will be monitored as part of the significant marine sites programme and the results will be in by June 2016.

Enquiries will be made on the behalf of the community, to have someone contact the group by a representative from the Scallop Enhancement Group.

Whangarae Lookout (known as Croisilles Lookout)

Who is responsible to maintain the lookout and keep it presentable? This is a popular lookout and is currently on the GPS, though named the Croisilles Harbour Lookout and it is also on the Pelorus promotions map. There are two issues: Firstly, the trees are overgrown and secondly, it has being used as a rubbish dump, since the removal of the rubbish collection. Cyclists and walkers comment on the rubbish on the side of the road.

Marlborough Roads will be in charge of areas on the edge. Graeme will follow this up.

MDC Resource Consent

The Council will be receiving a resource consent application from a company called Skretting, who want to place a salmon study station in Okiwi Bay. They would like to use this area as there is an existing water pipe running under the road and out into the Bay. Their plan is to test different feeds for salmon in NZ and as part of this; they want to take water out of the Bay and pump their waste water back into the Bay. Two community

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meetings have been held with the representative from Skretting and he has been quite forward in talking with the community and listening to the concerns of the residents.

The community however, is still very concerned about this application. The company admits to putting nitrates back into the Bay and the figures for the current levels of nitrates are 20 years old. They represent mainly Tasman Bay and a small area of Croisilles Harbour but not Okiwi Bay. The Bay is relatively shallow and it would take one algae bloom to shut down oyster and mussel farms, scallop beds, recreational fishing and swimming.

The representative of Skretting is funding this research himself and is going out and placing markers and buoys in the Bay. The community is aware that the project needs a resource consent and as yet have not been notified of this. The community is very concerned about this project and requests that MDC remain vigilant on their behalf.

There has been no measure of the tidal flow in the Bay, and in the last few months when the tide has been low, the pipes that are already in-situ from the previous resource consent which this company is planning to use, have been high and dry out of the water. The existing pipe does not go out very far and there is no evidence of tidal flow.

David confirmed that the company taking water out of the Bay and pumping it through the system is going to require a notifiable consent for utilisation of that water, therefore, the community will be contacted as an affected party, and will have an opportunity to oppose this consent.

A resident wanted it qualified or discounted that Okiwi Bay is a residential recreational zoned area. If this is correct, having the salmon study in this area would make it industrial and this would be a conflict. Can this company do this study under the current zoning?

Graeme advised that he wasn't 100% sure, but this area is parks and reserves and it is recreational. There is no industry site in this bay but there is a plan of the Sounds which would give an idea of what is there. Graeme will send a current plan of the area to the group.

A resident wanted the definition of notifiable resource consent. Would this be sent to the community of Okiwi Bay or would it be placed in the newspapers, as a lot of owners in the Bay are not full time residents.

David confirmed that it would be publically notified and would be done through the local newspapers and on the Council website.

Monyeen also confirmed that once the letter was received there would be a website address of where the resource consent can be looked at. There is quite a period of time before a submission needs to be made.

Steve advised when the application is submitted to Council, this will be referred to himself to review the technical information. If there is any doubt about completeness of the technical information, Council has the option of having this independently reviewed.

Trevor advised the group to be involved in the process the whole way through, so all thoughts and fears are put into that process, as this is part of the decision making.

Steve encouraged the group to read Section 5 of the RMA
<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1991/0069/latest/DLM230265.html>

Rubbish Removal

Residents now have to take their rubbish out to Rai Valley which is only open 3 half days a week. Is there any way this can be improved? It is not uncommon to see rubbish left lying there.

Graeme commented that there was a trailer here that would go around and collect rubbish which was done by a local.

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A resident replied that the main reason it no longer operated, was that it only broke even but the main issue was the shed, where the trailer was stored, could be used no longer as it was causing a rat problem in the hall.

Trevor advised that Alec McNeil at MDC would be able to analyse the refuse and he was very proactive in situations such as this. The community agreed that they would like to meet with Alec and that he could attend the next Okiwi Bay Settlers Meeting. Alec will also be asked to look at the contract for Rai Valley and see if the refuse centre could be kept open longer.

The meeting closed at 2.00 pm

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Action	Responsibility
<p>Marine Farming Association to be contacted regarding clean up in the bay. MFA have been informed and will address the barges in the area.</p>	Graeme Barsanti
<p>To have signs erected on the foreshore at Okiwi Bay stating that 'dogs must be on a leash at all times'. New dog signs ordered and Council will do a flyer to the residents.</p>	Graeme Barsanti
<p>To investigate larger 'dog' signs for the playground area. New dog signs ordered and Council will do a flyer to the residents.</p>	Graeme Barsanti
<p>Road seal badly damaged and Marlborough Roads to be spoken to regarding timeframe to get this completed prior to Christmas. Steve Murran will endeavour to have HEBS repair by Christmas.</p>	Graeme Barsanti
<p>Aaron to contact Nelson Pine Industries regarding January logging. He will inform Sue via email verifying this which will be forwarded to the rest of the committee. Aaron sent Sue from Okiwi Bay an email stating that he had been in contact with NPI and the logging will start in Feb 2016 for two months. There will be approximately 6 truckloads per working day travelling through Okiwi Bay over this period.</p>	Aaron Robinson
<p>Scallop Enhancement Group to be contacted in order for someone to ring the committee with regard to the issue of exploitation of the scallop beds. Eric had a contact from SEG emailing the Okiwi Bay Resident Group direct.</p>	Eric Jorgensen
<p>Graeme to contact Marlborough Roads with regard to the rubbish at Whangarae Lookout. Has been reported to Marlborough Roads.</p>	Graeme Barsanti
<p>Send a current plan of the area to Okiwi Bay for their notice board. Plans will be posted today to Lionel Roughton (7/12/15).</p>	Graeme Barsanti
<p>Invite Alec McNeil to talk to the residents about the local refuse situation at the next Okiwi Bay Settlers Meeting. Alec has spoken to the representative who he has dealt with in the past. To be followed up.</p>	Graeme Barsanti
<p>Salmon farm study by Skretting – this is cause of concern to the residents and which to oppose this from happening in the area. The objection for the salmon farm study has been passed on to management.</p>	Graeme Barsanti

Record No: 15235629