

OPEN

MINUTE ITEM

ATTACHMENTS

Ordinary meeting of the

Nelson City Council

Thursday 11 March 2021
Commencing at 9.00a.m.
Council Chamber

Civic House

110 Trafalgar Street, Nelson

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Barbara Bowen - Principal Tahunanui School
Public Forum

A2591411

Council 11 March 2021

To all Councillors and Mayor.

The TBCA are delighted to be presenting to you today

We would like to suggest that council review its communications strategy with a view to improving its community communication and engagement processes, particularly on plans and documents requiring public submissions and input.

We have a number of examples that highlight a communication problem.

Back in November 2020 councillors visited Tahunanui and this meeting was poorly communicated and as a result poorly attended by community members.

Currently Council has out for submission the Regional Public Transport plan. To be notified of this plan and to actually find this plan requires quite some skill as it is buried not in the submissions section of the council website but in the shape Nelson section, with no links from/to either section of councils site!

Having searched and finally found the plan we note that the survey which this document refers to was carried out during covid lockdown and the total sample was 490.

From a skim read there was no obvious sign that Tahunanui would be impacted until we discovered hidden in the proposed routes, that there were some major plans for changes within the Tahunanui community. These would have major impacts on the vulnerable members of our community.

When we contacted a number of key stakeholders in Tahunanui including the community centre, the school and the holiday park, they were totally unaware of the planned changes in the Regional Public Transport plan.

The most noticeable change is that it removes the current Bus route from Muritai street and places it in Tahunanui Drive. This area is already congested, dangerous and difficult to negotiate particularly for the young and elderly. Reading further we note there is also a proposal to "introduce clearways for buses" should these occur on Tahunanui Drive they would impact our wider community.

It seems that although TBCA is considered a "stakeholder" in some matters in others we are not.

Council staff have now acknowledged *"the Tahunanui community has potential changes to the bus routes running through and along side it"* . They have advised us that NCC

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(and TDC - as it is a joint RPTP) will accept a late submission from the Tahunanui business association and any others from Tahunanui.

The problem is that this means by the time we mount a public meeting so that council staff can present the draft Plan and the changes for Tahunanui, any submission from the results of this meeting will need to be prepared under pressure and rushed.

So what do we want?

We would really like to see a review of your communications process.

Our suggestions are the following:

- > In any future media/article include a list of key words/suburbs effected.
Perhaps this might make it easier for the reader to isolate matters relevant to them.
- > update the database of key stakeholders in each of the cities suburbs so that their contact people can be directly alerted.
- > mount more public meetings in the suburbs that bring staff/councillors to meet with residents, and publicise these widely.
- > Realise there are a large number of the community that do not use social media and the web. Therefore make obtaining the documents easier. (Some of our community members were told by the staff "We don't give them out anymore" and that they would "have to get permission to give them a copy"

TBCA are now organising a public meeting for 23rd March at 7pm at the Tahunanui School Muritai Centre.

At which council staff will present the plan. Councillors are of course welcome to attend.

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Proposed New Bus Services

I live in Richmond, work in Tahunanui and use the bus service but knew nothing of the proposed changes

I am wondering how widespread the consultation was - were the key people identified or was it just anyone who came across the link? Did these people understand what they were commenting on or have any idea of the changes proposed.

The answers to survey questions do not seem to actually relate to the outcomes proposed
What is the real intention here and why is it being rushed through without authentic communication?

As principal of Tahunanui School....

- Children from Tahunanui School catch the bus into Nelson due to housing issues.... The bus-stop is just outside the school and I can see them outside my office window. I would not allow children to wait unattended at a bus stop on Tahunanui Drive
- By putting buses on Tahunanui Drive, we are increasing the traffic here, again a danger for motorists and pedestrians trying to cross the road to get to bus stops. This seems illogical....unless someone is pushing for bus lanes???!!!
- Public transport is compatible with cycle lanes and work has been done beautifully to marry the 2 on Muritai Street. Why undo this?
- Why are the Stoke Schools being considered in the change to Nayland Road but not Tahunanui School?
- I don't even know how a bus will get down Pascoe Street in peak times, let alone park. Pascoe Street is a ghost town on weekends. This does not cater for a difference between the 2
- Nayland Road is already congested at peak times and increasingly so at off-peak due to being used as an alternative to the congested motorway. Main Road Stoke is ideal for bus pick up and flow at present.
- I feel this is driven by Tasman District Council wanting to get their rate payers to Nelson quickly and does not take Tahunanui, Annesbrook and Stoke residents into consideration - especially the low socio-economic sides of Tahunanui Drive and Main Road Stoke. There seems to be more consideration for Port Hills, Washington and Victory areas.