**Combined Waitakere Ranges R&R Group**

**WR Local Board Office, Glen Eden**

**Monday 6 July, 7pm**

1. Present: Susie Vincent (Laingholm) Peter Millington (Henderson Valley) Phillipa Gregory (Parau) Diana Yukich (Titirangi) Denise Yates, Sandra Coney, Steve Tollestrup, Jean Berry, Ken Cowan, Kubi Witten-Hannah (Chair)

1. Apologies: Mels Barton, Valera Koltsov, Jo Quatermass, Greg Presland, Ron Watson, Gary Ertel, Peter Casey.

1. Minutes of 4 May 2015
   1. Amendment to spelling of Valera Koltsov’s name.

Moved, Peter Millington; Seconded, Susie Vincent. Carried.

1. Plans
   1. Unitary Plan. Sandra gave an update. The council will consider submissions and decide if they will change their position. Confidential at this stage but indication that council has responded in some areas. Watered down SEA (Significant Ecological Areas) – so next step is interactions with submitters.
   2. Waitakere Ranges Local Board Plan. No updates
   3. Long term Plan. All passed. The Local Board put in a request for money to support biological control of pest plants. This was agreed but money had to be found from within budgets. Money for sustainable neighbourhoods has been given for one year. Fixed charge for public transport has been applied to ratepayers.
   4. Visitor Management Strategy. Bought to a halt by the Local Board. Sandra noted that there had been a plan to consult on event strategy – but the person in the council has a new role so hasn’t been picked up again by council. When we do get the event strategy, please give lots of feedback.
   5. Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Forum. Meeting was postponed and new date not set yet. It will now be half a day (was booked for a whole day). Looking at Sunday the 18th October.
   6. Signs bylaw review. Main issue is around real estate signs – all sorted and comes into force in October. Will be restricted to very close proximity to house for sale.
   7. Unformed roads policy. Local Board made a submission but haven’t heard back from Auckland Transport.
2. WRHA issues
   1. Welcome to the WRHA signs. Can start working on this (new financial year). Step 1 is to consult with people – Waitakere heritage area programme team are in charge.
   2. Foothills walkway. Some discussion about a walkway near Candia road (Swanson)
   3. Auckland Transport design guide for WRHA. In progress – will be going out for consultation at some stage. Sandra noted she has been aiming to get vegetation covered in it.
   4. AT consultation . General discussion as to whether AT was consulting before they commence work. Something to keep an eye on as it is supposed to be happening. Please let Local Board know if works are happening without community consultation.
   5. Fireworks. Pending – but does this need to be on the agenda every month? What do we really want? Do we want a ban apart from Guy Fawkes? Maybe a ban on rockets/things that shoot flaming balls? Can we restrict in areas where it is a risk to bush? Risk is with respect to fire, stock etc. The issue is not about rules – it is about policing. Pretty much impossible to control unless there is a total ban. Sandra will draft something to maybe send to John Key (our local MP). She will circulate.
   6. Kakamatua fire. Weedfree trust have had 2 volunteer weeding days. Still haven’t seen the written plan – but no plan for replanting.
3. Weeds & Pests
   1. Weed Plan update Has been passed and adopted – EcoMatters doing some climbing asparagus work in Piha and Huia. Next step is to work out implementation. Seminar coming up. Idea of heritage area being a special zone with extra rules. The **Pest Management Plan** – are putting out a discussion document in the near future.
4. Kauri Dieback update
   1. Public meeting roll out to other communities?.
   2. Next public meeting will be in Laingholm in August.
   3. Christine Rose is the guest speaker at the Huia R & R AGM & at Karekare as well.
   4. Softer brushes for dog paws needed.
5. Water Quality and Wastewater
   1. Lagoon water quality project update. Local Board grants are being made available– can apply for up to $2500 + waiving of resource consent to contribute to upgrade of septic tanks. This will be advertised soon. It sounds like it applies to people near lagoons.
   2. Pump out contractors had not been thorough, but new inspector seems more thorough picking up issues previously missed.
   3. Waitakere Local Board is doing a pack for new residents, LB has old pack from previous council to work with, which was excellent.
6. General Business

* A design guide to building in the bush is under development (Sandra Coney)
* Redesigning the tsunami warning system as original not fit for purpose. (Piha)
* Burton Drive, houses on sections illegally. Steve Tollestrup to follow up.