

Wakefield community meeting - Monday 27 March 2023

Existing local issues:

- **New bus services to Wakefield/Brightwater and Motueka/Māpua and transitioning to an electric bus fleet (commences in July mid 2023).**

Supported. Conversations around when it will begin and if there are opportunities to extend its range of services in the future. The cost was discussed and 'two zones' at \$2 per zone was seen as good value. Bus clearways to make the service more efficient were suggested. Public transport in general is seen as a need to help combat road congestion.

Suggestion to charge for parking in Richmond to help offset the cost of public transport provision. Paid parking would also remove the 'time pressure' of the limited free parking, which was seen as a negative when parking in Richmond.

- **Adopted the Walking and Cycling Strategy – with new walking and cycling paths in Wakefield (including footpath at 88 Valley)**

Supported. Discussions around how they could be extended (currently end abruptly) and how more 'on road' but separated cycling infrastructure could be created for commuter cycling, which has a focus on speed and shortest possible distance to destination. Improved cycling infrastructure supported as a way of combating increasing congestion.

- **Supported Wakefield Community Bus**

Neutral. Some confusion around if the bus service would continue with the new bus service. The existing community bus was seen as a positive and general feeling that it would be a shame to lose it.

- **Upgraded Wakefield water treatment plants**

Supported - though some uncertainty around how 3 waters would affect it. Expected growth in Wakefield will put pressure on the system and some discussion around if this would negatively impact service or if it would ultimately lead to a higher quality service.

- **Wakefield growth plan change - expected growth over the next decade**

Neutral - uncertainty on the pressure growth would put on Wakefield - transport, community, 'character', shops, community facilities. Lack of clarity on, or confidence in, the big picture around growth.

- **Working on plans for a new Brightwater/Wakefield Community facility**

Supported. Some frustration at speed of engagement/progress. A strong desire to see the project moved into years 1-3 and progress to be made in planning. Seen as a vital part of the community.

Workshop discussions:

Group 1:

- A strong theme throughout discussions was a lack of clarity/big picture/vision for how growth would be handled in Wakefield to ensure services improved at the same time. This ranged from the community facility and shops to accommodating school transition to intermediate to retaining the character of Wakefield. It was generally felt that there was no holistic plan and there was a lack of high-level planning/vision, or at least one that the community was involved in and supported.
- Does a catchment board exist? What is happening with riparian strip management/invasive weed control?
- Flooding concerns. Would like to see active management of gravel in the river near the town. Simply moving the gravel to the bank would help protect from flooding.
- Would like to see TDC push Waka Kotahi to make 80kmh speed limit district wide. Initial focus on Wakefield to Spooners. Current variations of the speed limit along the road are confusing and 100kmh is seen as excessive for that stretch of road.
- Is the Higgins Heritage Park important to TDC or not - would like to see that relationship clarified
- Why is coal burning allowed in Tasman - should be banned
- Can the new recreation centre include the toy library? Seen as an important part of the community.

Group 2:

- Pitfure road issues - parking, trucks
- The roof on the swimming pool doesn't meet MFE standards
- Car parking and bike parking at the bus stop need improving
- Waste - can't recycle soft plastics, green waste bin pricing needs reviewing, not easy to get rid of green waste
- Small road maintenance is forgotten - potholes, poor quality
- Road maintenance in general is not up to standard
- Bush restoration needs supporting with resources
- Wakefield library opening hours need reviewing

Group 3:

- Old infrastructure needs replacing - water, sewerage etc
- More thought to where subdivisions are being allowed
- Community facility discussions - make it more of a priority
- Need for a separate footpath up Totara View Road
- River needs 'cleaning' to help avoid flooding - forest slash is a concern
- What's the plan with cell phone towers?

Group 4:

- We should 'live within our means' and focus on core services
- Some clarity on future roading - Southern Link or bypass
- Ensure more packaging is recyclable
- Ensure the new bus services goes to the airport
- Reduce light pollution - support the 'dark sky' concept
- Clarity on the burden for climate change on the rate payer and what is central govt funded.
- Growth concerns - can't 'grow' forever. What is the plan? What is the limit? Get the infrastructure right first not as an afterthought
- Retain Wakefield's village character - don't lose it during growth
- What are the council's plans for its offices? Try to minimise costs.

Group 5:

- Creating community: attractive community infrastructure, give people a reason to stay
- Climate change needs a response at a local level
- Improve sports, recreation, and community facilities
- Create streets for people before they are needed (growth infrastructure a priority before housing)
- Consider river management as part of climate change adaptation
- Be forward thinking for growth - access, community cohesion, improve family life

Summary:

A positive and well attended meeting. 30+ residents. 2+hrs.

Key themes were:

- Planned growth. Uncertainty around how the infrastructure will keep pace with housing growth.
- Concern over keeping the character of the village during growth
- Support for alternative transport choices (modal shift) and changes that are needed to cycling/walking infrastructure, bus service and speed limits
- Speed up the community centre project and be more transparent with engagement around it