

Report prepared for Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board Meeting 13th February 2019

There is a widespread and deep resentment to the article in the NZ Herald Of 20th December "Desolation of Kaikohe". This was biased, badly researched, almost libellous and most certainly substandard reporting. A contrary point of view has been submitted to the NZ Herald by myself (copy enclosed). Although the Herald will not print it (being mildly critical of its reporter) the Northern Age printed it uncut. At least one other person also submitted in similar vein to the Herald also. Power of the Press or censorship?

I am concerned as to what appears to be prolonged neglect of the metal roading network in the Hokianga. In many instances metal surfaces are completely devoid of any gravel, Duddy's Road and Koutu Loop Road are good? examples of this. Can there be some assurance that this situation can be rectified this summer?

The proposal to do something worthy of the site on the old Kaikohe Landfill is appearing to be deliberately obstructed. This is not to be tolerated and it is "unfinished business" left over from the Lindvaart Park Management Plan process. It is an issue that needs enlightened, serious consideration, and quickly.

In like manner, the concept of a Festival on the airfield is encountering stumbling blocks. While personalities may be a factor, it is not good enough to allow this type of impediment to hold up or prevent activities such as this, as it is this type of active promotion that the Town needs for it to thrive and prosper on.

The Christmas Parade staged at the Pioneer Village was spoilt by untimely showers, but it has opened up the possibility of this being an appropriate venue for future Christmas Parades being staged at the Village with obvious logistic and administrative advantages. This leads on to the possibility of creating a small Soundshell stage that could serve the public interest both in the Village and the recreation ground through the fence. This space has been a popular venue for other occasions in the past, accommodating very large numbers of spectators and participants.

My attention has been drawn to the growing practice of using Hillcrest Road as a drag strip despite a police presence (residents). Possibly this a good enough reason for the installation of a speed camera sometime.

If, as I am led to believe, our sewage disposal system is facing an expensive desludging or is struggling to cope with the demands placed on it, then it is time to prohibit any drop offs from outside of the town precincts. The availability of this essential resource facility is there for the benefit of our community when it has to provide the infrastructural needs of burgeoning urban growth when this occurs in the not too distant future. It is respectfully suggested that straight after the first sod is turned on the new civic centre the long awaited commercial and industrial development will begin. Kaikohe, alone as an urban centre has the capacity to absorb at least another 1500 increase in population without big major expenses in its vital infrastructure.

Lime scooters are creating problems further south, how long before it is a problem here? The by law which is supposed to prevent riding bikes, scooters and skateboards on footpaths is being flouted more than it is observed. Being abused by young offenders when the by-law is pointed out to them, is simply not good enough. Should this by law be quietly rescinded, or what can be done to enforce it?

A recent article on the threat to Kaikohe water resources is timely and it is suggested that an up to date survey should be taken to accurately assess the true situation as it exists today in order to properly prepare for the anticipated increase in population once the Industrial/Commercial Park development commences. This will follow hard on the heels of the new Centre once the first sod has been turned. This then begs the question, has anybody seen a final blueprint of what actually is going to be built on the main street site? This would, one would have thought, benefited from the collective wisdom of a community "brains trust" think tank workshop, even now if it is not too late.

It is good to see a small growth in the number of people who are recipients of the Meals on Wheels service. This is a great Community service where those who partipate are provided with a hot mid-day meal prepared by the Kaikohe Aged Care and delivered by volunteers. It is a delightful community service and a genuine pleasure to be involved in.

S Reilly
14.1.19