

Name: Kōwhai | Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford

Ward: Bay of Islands – Whangaroa

Date: 31 Oct 2024

Meetings/Events Attended

| Date | Meeting Topic | Comment |
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| 4 Oct 2024 | Northland Inc | Opportunity for councillors to hear what Northland Inc have been doing in the areas of destination management and economic development. The first round of funding allocations from central government's Regional Events Promotion Fund included: Bay of Islands Music Festival, Bay of Islands Walking Weekend, OKTOBERFEST, the Great NZ BBQ. The MBIE Northland Events Fund is funding the following also: Savour Northland, Kerikeri Street Party, Bay of Islands Show. |
| 7 Oct 2024 | Council agenda preview | Preview of agenda |
| 8 Oct 2024 | Annual Plan 2025 Workshop | Staff presented where they have been able to make further operational savings, and where there may be increased costs. The reality is we still are set to have a projected rates increase of 11. 3% rates increase as estimated in the LTP. Still work to do. Elected members want to see line by line opex. |
| | Te Tai Tokerau MP | Hui with our Te Tai Tokerau MP Mariameno Kapa-Kingi and Māori elected members across the region on concerns around the local electoral act changes. |
| 9 Oct 2024 | Procurement & Tender Panel reset | The workshop covered procurement activities over the last two years, including social procurement, and the proposal to re-establish the Tender Panel. We focused on best practices for Local Government procurement and governance, and shared our insights to shape future direction of procurement. |
| | Te Miromiro – Assurance, Risk and Finance | Hui to review the draft Annual Report |
| | Green Party Co-leader visit | Brief meet and greet with MP Huhana Lyndon and co-leader Chloe Swarbrick. We discussed a range of topics including emergency management and climate adaptation. |

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| | Temu Taupua | Mayoral office:CE catchup, general catchup on top of mind issues. |
| 10 Oct 2024 | Phone appointment | Concerns over the consent for the tree removal on the property next to Kerikeri Bypass, and it's impact when the houses are built on the transport, wastewater and drinking water networks. |
| | Business Call | Business association representatives sharing top of mind good, bad and the ugly. Graffiti and poor maintenance of state highways the most common topic this week. As it warms up everyone will see works underway on the state highway network. |
| | LGZ Akona: Physical Safety & Security | Webinar on staying safe, in light of increased aggression and threats to safety. Discussed precautions around social media, basic security – improving lighting and security cameras. Also, methods to deescalate and non-violent communication techniques. |
| 11 Oct 2024 | Kāeo River Management Working Group | Seeking FNDC include remedy towards Omaunu Road/Dip Road to address the “choke” and improve route resilience on our roading network. |
| 14 Oct 2024 | Ngati Hine Health Trust | Pōwhiri for new CE Tamati Shepard-Wipiiti at Otiria Marae. To the opportunity to connect on housing Kaupapa. |
| 14 – 15 th Oct | Te Toi Mahara | Toi Ngāpuhi symposium, where <i>toi</i> —the arts—was a powerful vessel for connecting us with the richness of mātauranga Māori. Through visual arts, storytelling, and performance, we could feel the ancestral values, resilience, and identity of our people in a way that went beyond words. This artistic approach made complex cultural ideas tangible and accessible, bringing the symposium’s teachings to life. Experiencing <i>toi</i> like this reinforced for me just how essential it is to integrate these insights into governance and community practices, creating work that’s more inclusive, culturally grounded, and reflective of who we are. |
| | Housing for the Elderly Steering Group | Steering group working through the mahi to get to a recommendation to council for the divestment of the Housing for the Elderly portfolio. |
| | Extraordinary Te Huia: Executive Review Committee | |

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| 15 Oct 2024 | Preparation for upcoming workshop | With staff preparing for a check in on the councillor strategic priorities mahi. |
| 15 Oct 2024 | Developing a Local Alcohol Policy | A great staff led workshop, detailing the benefits of alcohol to our district and the negative impacts, with manuhiri from Te Whiri te Muka and Te Whatu Ora presenting statistics on harm from alcohol. A report will come to council with a decision on whether to proceed. |
| 17 Oct 2024 | Council hui | |
| 18 Oct 2024 | Cyclone Gabrielle Recovery review | Hui with independent reviewer doing report on the Northland CDEM recovery mahi. Speaking with council CEs, and civil defence staff, and civil defence governance representatives across the four councils. |
| | Haruru footpath connection | Site visit with contractors to the Haruru – Watea footpath. |
| 21 Oct 2024 | Accessibility Group wananga | <p>Had report back from staff on the implementation of the Te Tai Tokerau Accessibility Strategy. Operationally ironing out how the organisation will report back on the desired outcomes.</p> <p>For the implementation plan, it is ideal that all depts are talking about how they can incorporate into their business. We see some opportunities in the Kaikohe Library Civic Hub and the Sports centre in Waipapa. Doing barrier free assessments is ideal.</p> <p>It would be good if one of the members of the Accessibility Group were on these working group.</p> <p>Staff will look at whether we can implement awards for within the organisation to recognise We may look at incentivising with an annual award for businesses. There is a handy toolkit here Be. Accessible Business Toolkit - Office for Disability Issues</p> <p>On the 12th on November The Accessibility Group are hosting a workshop to raise staff and elected member awareness about the barriers to accessibility.</p> <p>Accessibility Group say, “No more warnings”, for parking in accessible parking spaces. The fine is \$750 if you end up in court it is much higher than that. There needs to be an attitudinal shift.</p> |

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| | Save Education in Northland, hui with Tertiary Education Union reps in Te Tai Tokerau and across Aotearoa | <p>In our discussion, we acknowledged the steady decline of publicly funded education in Northland over the past few years. NorthTec’s role as a key driver of social, economic, and cultural development was emphasized, highlighting the need for it to remain autonomous to continue serving the community effectively. Concerns were raised about the Minister’s proposal for a federated model led by the Open Polytechnic, which could restrict economic growth, limit educational access for Northland students, and weaken NorthTec’s strong ties with local industries, such as forestry, agriculture, aquaculture, and tourism.</p> <p>The importance of NorthTec’s culturally relevant education for Māori was also discussed, along with its essential role in staying responsive to local Māori communities. Given Northland’s higher unemployment rates and lower average incomes, NorthTec’s programs address skill shortages and create vital employment pathways. The group noted that many Northlanders depend on face-to-face learning due to limited digital access, underlining that online learning cannot fully substitute for the hands-on support and engagement offered in NorthTec’s classroom settings.</p> |
| | Chinese delegations planning hui | |
| 22 Oct 2024 | Mangawhai ki Putataua hui | Issue with a Māori reservation, dealing with on behalf of Kahika. |
| | Northland CDEM | Hui with Chair of CEG (Coordinating Executive Group) |
| 23 Oct 2024 | Te Miromiro – Assurance, Risk and Finance | Full agenda of items including, presentation of the Annual Report for adoption. Not quite ready, so established a sub committee to provide recommendation to council. |
| | Jiangxi Business Visit to New Zealand | Jiangxi businesses, Vice Governor and Arts Minister opened an arts exhibition and then a business expo took place. |
| 24 Oct 2024 | Business Call | |
| | Jiangxi Vice Governor Visit | Vice Governor Mr Ren visit at Council Chambers, where we agreed to investigate working towards a relationship to promote trade. A report with a |

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| | | recommendation will come to council for consideration. |
| | State of the Far North | Videos for housing and emergency management |
| | NZSIS – ensuring safe conduct with international relations | Workshop session on international travel as an elected member, keeping devices safe. Being wary of international delegation visits. And having robust processes around these visits. |
| 25 Oct 2024 | Liaoning Province Delegation Visit | Hosted our Sister City Liaoning governing body. Delegation included agricultural representatives. We have been Sister Cities for over 20 years. |
| 29 Oct 2024 | Te Koukou Transport and Infrastructure Komiti | |
| | Extraordinary Te Miromiro subcommittee | Subcommittee heard where the Annual Report and Audit process is at. |
| | Te Koukou Transport and Infrastructure Komiti | Great updates on all the workstreams progressing. |
| 30 Oct 2024 | Extraordinary Te Miromiro Komiti | Made a recommendation to the Council for an extraordinary hui to be held this week. |
| | Housing for the Elderly steering group | Evaluation of questions and recommendation to council. |
| 31 Oct 2024 | Business Call | |
| | CDEM hui with Green Party Portfolio holder | Shared our experience of Cyclone Gabrielle, the response and recovery. The challenges that occurred, and what we hope for out of the new legislation. |
| | Te Kuaka Komiti | Was there for a couple of items, had been double booked. |
| | Te Kuaka Wananga | Great to hear the proposal around the district wide spatial plan and hapū working group. |
| | Extraordinary Council Hui | Convened for the sole purpose of adopting the Annual Report and receiving the Auditors report. |

Community Matters

| Topic | Comment |
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| Russell WWTP | Public works act inquiry – still work in progress |
| Hihitahi Rise | Investigations for Te Haumi Slip Options assessment were due to finish 27 th September, with 12 month monitoring to start in September. Hihitahi resident advocating for this mahi, needs a contact at council please. |
| Ohaeawai stormwater | Need staff to front up to the community on this issue. |
| Laundromat | Moerewa has no wastewater treatment plant. Community and hapū are concerned that a consent may be granted for discharge into the river for the new laundromat. A consent was erroneously granted. And then cancelled. Currently no consent in place. Applicant working on a new one. Following the deputation, community representatives and hapū are waiting on the CEs investigation findings. |
| Kaitaia Drainage | Ongoing issues concerning poor or lack of management of drainage districts in Te Hiku. The farmers there are having their economic viability impacted by council lack of action on works they have been rating them for, and enforcement of a drainage bylaw. |
| Coopers Beach Playground | RFS4172972 still unresolved. No response from Infrastructure team. |
| Kohukohu Town Hall | Concerns regarding the unsuccessful funding application. What next, for this high-profile historic hall please, ensuring it stays open, and is not degrading. |
| Omaunu Road | Community are seeking confirmation there are plans to address this road in the future. What is the budget and timeline. |
| Rangitane Maritime | Awaiting the decision on consent, then it must come back to the table with a full picture of costs and implications and final decision. |
| Wakelin Road | Fixed the google map error which detailed it as a public road, which it is not. Need to build relationship with the landowners. |

Portfolio Update: (Housing)

- Did a video for the upcoming State of the Far North event on housing
- Been involved in progressing the divestment of the Housing for the Elderly Portfolio
- Connecting private sector with NGOs

Portfolio Update: (Climate Change)

- Await paper for the appointment of our hapū representative to the Joint Committee. Looking forward to our hui next week in Whangarei.

Portfolio Update: (Emergency Management)

- Review underway of our Northland CDEM recovery processes and mahi.