

COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER'S REPORT

Report to: Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board
Member Name: Manuela Gmuer-Hornell
Subdivision: Opuia – Russell
Date: 17 May 2021

Meetings

| Date | Meeting |
|------------|---|
| 22/04/2021 | AGM Russell Sports Club - Russell |
| 25/04/2021 | ANZAC Day Services - Russell |
| 06/05/2021 | Community Board Meeting - Waipapa |
| 12/05/2021 | District Plan Consultation – Russell |
| 17/05/2021 | Russell Town Hall Committee Meeting – Russell |

Issues/Feedback

The Draft District Consultation Drop-in Session turned into a community meeting attended by over 100 Russell Community Members. Thanks to Greg Wilson and his team for fronting up and going with the flow. They stood up and answered questions for over 2.5 hours! Also, a big thank you to Cr David Clendon for being the adult in the room. I am looking forward to seeing how FNDC and the Russell Community will plan together to keep the Russell Heritage Zone intact and protected!

Unfortunately, the rubbish bin issue for Russell is still not solved, nor has FNDC made any effort to come up with solutions – the community, on the other hand, has proposed several solutions to FNDC. I have been informed that FNDC has applied for funds from MBIE to supply smart bins for Russell and Paihia.

Projects being put on hold even after they had funding allocated – most recently a concise piece of the footpath by Opuia School. A staff member left, and this project got passed over to FNHL; irresponsible and not transparent.

Jobs getting started (from RFS) and then not finished for weeks or months, been almost a year for some blocked culverts to be cleared!

This is what the FNDC customers – the ratepayers – are after, prompt replies and action to everyday needs. FNDC's average customers – the ratepayers – is not overly interested in how quick the turnaround is for building and resource consents. The average customer – the ratepayers – want their basic needs looked after, rubbish, water, sewage and roads. Time to look at the customers' – the ratepayers – view (not the property developers from out of our region)!

The contract for the Russell Transfer Station has been extended instead of being advertised and renewed. It is disappointing as the community shows strong interest to implement a different model for the Russell transfer station.

The RFS process seems to have stalled since the first lockdown and then again after/during the floods. Hence no RFS lodged! Please sort this process out and, if needed, involve more contractors as soon as possible.

It intrigues me that Community Board Members can't contact FNDC staff. Still, community groups are welcome to meet with staff at Council Meetings.

Roading Issues seem to get the cone treatment and justified as a "fix" – this is totally unacceptable and dangerous as well as very unsightly – we have several of these around my subdivision, and we get zero replies on follow-ups

The too-frequent sewage spills in Russell get the silent treatment from FNDC, more spills happened in Matauwhi Bay in November, and in December, a spill occurred at the Tapeka pump.

Issues with our small-town water supply in Russell, and yet again, staff need time to go through the historic agreements. This is a working system, and FNDC has no idea how and who is drawing water from a council-owned bore?

Time to pull your socks up, FNDC, and face the hard facts! You are letting communities down with their very basic needs of a sound sewage system and freshwater. FNDC needs to stop being risk-averse and start fixing aging assets, AND maybe it would help to allocate funds to EVERY town in your district to keep up with the maintenance. An 80-year plan won't fix our needs today.

The Board needs to make sure that management doesn't forward difficult decisions to the community boards without consulting or informing us in an appropriate timeframe. The no-surprises policy must be both ways!

Resource Consents

NIL received

Requests for Service/Information

| | | |
|------------|-------------|---|
| 22/04/2019 | RFS-3975374 | Oasis Car Park |
| 01/12/2019 | RFS-3988901 | Russell's Rubbish Woes |
| 09/12/2019 | RFS-3996575 | Petition Okiato Boundary for paper road |
| | | Footpath Opuia School Kellet St |
| 21/02/2020 | RFS-3997123 | Footpath Damage York St |
| 11/02/2020 | RFS 4001004 | Mark Car Parks outside of Tennis Club |
| 17/06/2020 | RFS-4010977 | Sign and barrier smashed by a car |
| 17/06/2020 | RFS-4011092 | Drain blocked |
| 17/06/2020 | RFS-4011525 | Collapsed drains etc |
| 10/07/2020 | RFS-4014411 | Peter Sharpe Te Wahapu Slips |
| 01/08/2020 | RFS-4016222 | Terry Greening flooding of drive |
| 24/08/2020 | RFS-4021868 | Errorsion by Matauwhi Bay (tree) |
| 10/09/2020 | RFS-4025200 | Arcadia Lodge Lemon Track eroding |
| 21/09/2020 | RFS-4026086 | Russell Sewage Plant Issues |
| 23/09/2020 | RFS-4026450 | Rubbish bins at wharf overflowing again |
| 05/10/2020 | RFS-4028183 | Russell Museum Sister City |
| 06/10/2020 | RFS-4028271 | Russell township maintenance |

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| 19/10/2020 | RFS-4029293 | Tree to be removed Wellington St |
| 27/10/2020 | RFS-4031104 | Water Mains Breach Russell |
| 20/05/2020 | RFS-4005808 | Please mark the diesel tank intake at Russell Wharf |
| 19/11/2020 | RFS-4034886 | Fire Hydrant Marking RSA Russell |
| 06/01/2021 | RFS-4046814 | Eroded track to Opua Beach – issue first raised July 2017 |
| 07/01/2021 | RFS-4040743 | Okiato footpath overgrown – footpath not usable anymore |
| 21/01/2021 | CE Office | Picnic Table Long Beach |
| 16/02/2021 | RFS-4037894 | No Litter Road Signs - made by Russell School – to be installed |
| 05/04/2021 | RFS-4053917 | Easter Weekend rubbish - awaiting a response on how to move forward |
| 13/04/2021 | RFS-4055188 | Footpath/Drain mowing Prospect St |
| 20/04/2021 | RFS-4056203 | Mowing needed - original RFS-4055188 |

In progress

- Robertson Street Stormwater Project to be completed – Residents are not impressed (maybe the wrong word)
- Opua Resource Consent non-notified for development Franklin St/Kellet St – petition tabled at CB Meeting 3/2/2020 – this has now gone to a full (over 100 attendees) community meeting 8/3/2020 – and we have just been told FNHL has sold the land to a private developer. The land is now occupied by hapu and locals. This is a community being pushed out of their town.
- Carpark for Oasis Community Centre – this has been ongoing since 2018
- Lack of rubbish collection point and recycling collection during peak season around Russell Wharf (owned by FNHL) and this is still NOT solved
- Footpath Kellet Street – Opua School – been approved but not carried out – after been promised to be finished by September, it is now "scheduled" for January 2021 and as per this report, this is now FNHL project – I am opposing this decision.
- Petition Okiato Boundary for paper road RFS-3996575 – tabled at CB meeting 9/12.19 – the cost to be carried by petitioners. Motion passed in November 2020 CB meeting
- Include re-doing the FNHL terms of reference/objective in their comments about what the next annual plan and long term plan should cover. – tabled at CB Meeting 3/2/2020
- Walls Bay, Opua – to be occupied by local hapu
- Speed Limit Review
- The contract for Russell Transfer Station to be officially tendered
- Maintenance in Russell Township to be outsourced to a local community group
- Mark boundaries at the "Walls Bay" Opua reserve clearly with bollards
- Flooding of the upstairs level at Russell Town Hall on Sunday 14/2/2021