

The Communities Presentation fronted by Jim the other day was very timely. It certainly points the way forward as to how we should be planning for the new Central office and cultural centre building in Kaikohe. It has to be fit for purpose for the next 50 -80 years. Likewise the future of Lindvaart Park and Management needs a similar assessment as it is an integral feature in the lives and futures of not only Kaikohe people but also of the surrounding Districts. Probably we should rearrange the management to include the Hokianga in the greater scheme of things.

I attended a Conference in Wellington on the 15th on the subject of Alcoholic generated harms. This was attended by 180 people from all over New Zealand and while the heading "Who should pay for the harms generated by alcohol" did not properly address the issues and really did not learn anything new, the exercise was worthwhile in the exchange of ideas when talking to others. It is too simplistic to say, as some did, that it is the Government that should pick up the tab. One statistic stood out, over 20 years \$2.2m has been paid out in Treaty Settlements compare this with \$7.89m cost in harms attributed to alcohol harms last year, 3% of GDP. There was a general consensus that Local Alcohol Policies aren't working and that Central Government by endeavouring to "pass the buck" is not serving the people's interests as it should. The assembly was exhorted to each speak to, at least one MP, maybe then something could be done.

Some time ago I raised the idea of a Tidy Street competition, it is a concept that does generate pride in the Community and the wellbeing spreads and in order to capitalise on the undoubted benefits that will follow on from the development of the Industrial/Commercial Park when triggered off by the joint Council – Ngapuhi investment in the middle of the town. In conjunction with the Business Association it is an idea that I believe should be promoted into a reality.

Some time ago we had a person assigned to the role of "Town Promoter", can we in conjunction with the Business Association reinstate this position? It would have measureable benefits and would assist with any time and money spent in Placemaking, eg updating planter boxes, Monument gardens etc.

The Anglican Church "Op Shop" has relocated to the Church Hall in Clifford Street, is it possible to have a Street Sign placed on the corner of Broadway and Clifford Street to indicate the new site? This would be of benefit to everybody in finding their way around town.

The Smiley Wall has generated some positive feedback so the question has to be asked, is it appropriate to re-activate the Mural project that stalled a year or two ago? The concept had merit then and it would most certainly add to the appearance of the town and generally create goodwill and attract visitors. Particularly so, if each mural had a story to tell about the town and its history.

S Reilly

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