

18.06.19

Puhoi Community Forum Inc.



Chairman's Report for the year of June 2018- June 2019

Introduction

The co-chairs would both like to thank all those who have attended Forum meetings this year, given up their time to pursue Forum matters and/or have attended working bees or planting days. Without all of us together nothing would ever get done. We also give special thanks to our volunteer officers who carry out the administration of the Forum in their own time and make the continued running of this group possible.

Puhoi Pioneers Memorial Park update and Dreams

Completed

- Second phase of formation of the riverside walkway. Two park benches placed strategically for maximum view and comfort of walkway users. UMS is mowing the track as part of the general park maintenance.
- Ongoing works include tidying up the park, removal of A&P sheep pens (thus making way for a community orchard) and planting along the riverbank to the end of the park boundary.
- Removal of the old shed is now complete, and all materials have been recycled.

Dreams and Aspirations - This next year in the Park will hopefully include;

- Renovation of the Sports Pavilion, construction and planting of our community Orchard and completion of the main entrance to the riverside walkway including culvert works and signage.
- The planning of the third phase of the walkway to link with Te Aroroa trail for the completion of the greater loop track.
- The biggest goal for 2019/2020, that has already taken 3 years, is the issuing of the community lease which the Forum have been working with the local board on. This was a renewal of a lease we had under the Rodney. We must confess this has been a long-winded process full of bureaucratic red tape and has highlighted the inefficient multi level conglomerate that is Auckland Council. We live in Hope!

Traffic

We have been advocating, through our working groups, to try and reduce traffic speeds through the village and look at potential traffic calming initiatives. This has accumulated endless emails and meetings with Auckland Transport (AT) and Local board representatives (Beth and Tessa), with little headway but some actions in the pipeline. We have been attending Motorway NX2 liaison meetings to discuss the impact of the motorway, potential developments following the construction period and ongoing safety issues etc. This has included trying to get confirmation and a commitment for a park and ride option for Puhoi, we will continue to push this agenda so Puhoi does not get missed out of the public transport network. We have been also trying to hold AT to account for the capital works in sealing Ahuroa Rd, from Puhoi to Ahuroa over the Hill, this being the major detour when there is an accident. The work continues and we will not give up!

Walking tracks to the world

The forum has a regular seat at the Matakana Coast Trail Trust with a goal to have walkways, bridle ways and cycle ways from Waiwera, via Puhoi through to Pakiri. We have been planning, again through the working groups, to link Puhoi to Te Muri and beyond. Some of these aspirations have been included in the Greenways Plan and we will continue to push the shared trail agenda for Puhoi. There has been a large increase in visitors walking our tracks, driven in part by closure of other Auckland tracks, so we lobbied Council for increased Maintenance to address the impact of this increased traffic on our walkways. To which we received some assistance, but we need to keep the momentum going.

Membership & Communication

Numbers for Forum membership and meetings have been a low this year in comparison to the previous year 2017-2018. Reasons for this could include people's tendency to attend only if something on the agenda directly affects them, a lack of interesting and controversial items on the regular agenda and the simple business of people's lives. It must also be acknowledged that some community members have had poor experiences with the Forum in the past and therefore we must make every effort to ensure ALL attending have the chance to have their say should they wish to.

The Forum has done a membership drive prior to the AGM to invigorate both old members to return and encourage new sign ups. Action has also been taken to more widely distribute information from the Forum to community members, in the hope that increased visibility and transparency will encourage a higher level of participation.

Dustyn O'Leary & Paul Manton

PCF Co-Chairs