

# Town Meeting

## Mangonui Memorial Hall

### Wednesday 23 November

**Chair:** Justin Maxwell

**Minute Taker:** Pat Millar

#### **Invited Guest Speakers:**

NZ Police: Sgt Michelle Row, John Walters (local Mangonui Police)

Far North District Council: Felicity Foy, Hilda Halkyard Harawira

Te Hiku Community Board: Sheryl Bainbridge

Mangonui Lions Club: Gerry Casey, Dave Wase

#### **Attendees: 85**

**Hone Bassett opened the meeting opened at 6pm with a karakia.**

Justin outlined the **problems** currently being experienced in the area including dangerous driving, car and property theft, loutish behaviour (drifting/skids) in various places throughout the area. Only 2 days before a car had been driven on to the new jetty off the walkway. Maori Point was used as an example. It is openly accessible 24/7 and was being used as a 'racetrack', skid pad, and a venue for gatherings and playing of loud music – at all hours of the day and night. This behaviour is seen throughout the area from Mangonui to Taipa.

The **purpose of the meeting** was to discuss ways the community could work together to address the issues, and to hear what the organisations such as council and police were doing to keep our communities safe. Consideration of restricted access to certain areas, engineering, cameras, and lighting were all known responses to be used in other areas and the meeting is an opportunity to share ideas.

#### **NZ Police:**

In the event of any criminal behaviours the advice from Michelle and John was:

- **CALL IT IN**
- **Call 111 if urgent/emergency** (for a crime happening now or imminent danger to person or property)
- **Call 105 if non-emergency** (for offender has left and there is no danger to person or property)
- **Take photos or video for evidence**

The Police cannot always be there/everywhere, so it is very helpful if reporting and evidence is provided so they are able to act effectively afterwards.

An application for CCTV for this area has been made and currently is sitting with Police.

Arrests are being made and cars are being impounded in this area.

# Town Meeting

## Mangonui Memorial Hall

### Wednesday 23 November

#### Te Hiku Community Board:

Shery Bainbridge:

- The community board were looking at problems at Maori Point and consideration was being given to additional lighting and judder bars.
- If there are several requests the Te Hiku Community Board can include them in its strategic plan and apply for funding (although streetlights are very expensive).
- **In response to discussion about poor street lighting, Sheryl asked that people lodge a Request for Service. This can be done either: 0800 920029 or [ask.us@fndc.govt.nz](mailto:ask.us@fndc.govt.nz) (please copy [sheryl.bainbridge@fndc.govt.nz](mailto:sheryl.bainbridge@fndc.govt.nz) )**

#### Far North District Council:

Felicity Foy:

- The council was working with the Police on CCTV installations in the Far North.
- Many of the reserves in the area were similarly affected by the behaviours and they were looking at chains, retractable bollards, and judder bars (which she noted were very expensive)
- Consideration had to also be given to the public to ensure these measures don't interfere with the enjoyment of the spaces
- Local patrols work well
- The Kaitiaki Rangers were an initiative that would be starting up again in the summer months and they can help with their regular presence at local public reserves and beaches (note: they currently only come as far as Cable Bay)

Hilda Halkyard Harawira:

- At the last council meeting she attended 3 cars had been broken into in the carpark
- Hilda felt the bollards at Lake Ngatu are not too intrusive.

Comments from the floor:

- **Jack Sutton**, who is currently developing a property, said he has a spare judder bar that he would willingly donate for use in an affected area/Maori Point
- If nothing is done soon, we may get vigilante behaviour and there is the risk that someone is either hurt or killed
- Reserves are not the problem, it is the people, and making reserves unattractive to them will just move their behaviour on to somewhere else
- The problem extends across the whole community, not just Maori Point
- Consider setting up a fund to raise money to get solutions quickly

# Town Meeting

## Mangonui Memorial Hall

### Wednesday 23 November

#### Mangonui Lions Club:

Gerry Casey and Dave Wase:

- Lions had been approached by local businesses and asked to be the organisation to apply for and establish a community patrol through Community Patrols of New Zealand
- Once established the CP would be independent of the Lions
- A Land Rover Discovery has already been donated by Avondeep Singh (G.A.S and Thirsty Liquor)
- Fuel is being provided at cost by Avondeep Singh (G.A.S and Thirsty Liquor)
- Vehicle maintenance is being donated by Luke MacDonald at Coopers Beach Garage
- Sponsorship has been obtained from businesses and individuals with regular donations for continued funding
- The application process was time consuming and laborious but is now completed
- Next week, on 30 November at St John Ambulance Hall there will be 2 training sessions for drivers and observers
- The sessions will be led by the CPNZ trainers from Wellington and start at 10am and 6pm
- Sixteen volunteers had signed up for training but ideally, they need 35 for a fulltime roster
- Applications include police vetting which is handled by Dave and is a fairly simple process
- Police could ask patrols to be first responders and appropriate training is included for this
- CPNZ reports to Police will carry more credibility for prioritising
- **Please consider volunteering for community patrol!!**
- Attendees were invited to talk to Gerry and Dave after the meeting if they wanted to join
- **Volunteers to create and maintain rosters were also called for**
- **For information or to register contact Gerry: 027 228 0025 or Dave: 021 0854 1642**
- **Please don't just turn up as they need numbers for each session to plan the day.**

Comments from the floor:

- John, who had previously been a volunteer for Kerikeri CP said they were the eyes and ears for the Police and have emergency buttons to directly contact them (he has now volunteered for our local patrol)

#### Comments and Questions/Answers were invited from the floor:

Air horns available from Hunting & Fishing can be useful in that sounding it can sometimes curtail bad behaviour and move people on. This can be especially useful because by the time you ring 111 it's all over.

Current responses from Police following 111 calls are inadequate and there is no follow-up unless chased. A recent call received no response and after 48 hours a further call mentioning vigilante-type action finally elicited a response. This is not good enough.

A meeting at Oruaiti School may have affected attendance at this meeting as many there may have liked to also attend here.

It would be good to also work with local Marae and it may be useful to have kaumatua and kuia as observers. Youth who are misbehaving can often be successfully called out by the 'Aunties'.

# **Town Meeting Mangonui Memorial Hall Wednesday 23 November**

Some people wondered when the local Police Station is staffed. Often it looks/is closed but when you ring the bell there is someone there. John said they did not have specific hours as they were often out working and very rarely spend much time 'sitting in the station'.

There is a lack of good lighting in all areas from Mangonui to Taipa – the council needs to look at lighting.

A resident encourage people to take photos and videos as he had recently took video evidence to police who turned up and impounded the car.

What makes a difference is: Cameras, Call it in, Community Patrol

A neighbourhood in Cable Bay Block Road has a phone tree whereby if anyone sees suspicious activity they have one neighbour to call, who in turn calls another neighbour until all are informed. They can then agree what action to take. This works well for them and helps them feel safer and is recommended for others to try.

Police can't deal with anything if they don't know about it. Call it in.

Police were asked what happened to repeat offenders and what can people do – report, provide evidence (photo, video). If people continue to offend they can be taken to court however others noted that many of the offenders in our area are young so will not be dealt with by the courts.

Carol from Northern Districts Security said that there was a Facebook group called Kaitaia Crime Watch which was a good way for the community to connect and communicate. They have had some good results. There was an offer for them to extend their patrol until our Community Patrol was up and running.

A resident with experience in the US reiterated the advice to Call It In. Also Neighbourhood Watch worked well and signs indicating it was a NW area did act as a deterrent. Speed bumps work well. Impounding cars hurts, as it costs to get them back, especially after 2 or 3 times. A coordinated response is required, and results will take time. A 3 – 5 year plan was recommended.

Should there be a special group set up to coordinate the community response?

## **Final advice:**

- **CALL IT IN** (111 or 105)
- **RECORD IT** (photo or video)

**Decision makers for resources rely on data, so if it's not in the data it didn't happen.**

- **Volunteer for Community Patrol** (training sessions 30/11, St John Hall, 10am & 6pm)

**Hone Bassett closed at 7.10pm with a karakia.**

**Anyone wishing to contact Justin, who chaired the meeting, please email: [mail@doubtlessbay.co.nz](mailto:mail@doubtlessbay.co.nz)**