

Pacific Island Fono with Council

Wednesday 22 June 2005
Saint Lukes Presbyterian Pacific Island
Church

The following are the notes taken from the fono.

The "community outcome" statements below are drafted to reflect the aspirations being communicated.

Please check these community outcome statements to see whether you feel they are a fair reflection of the aspirations shared.

Feedback can be given directly to Risheen Morgan on (07)885 0776

Environmental Outcome Statements

1. The high quality of the District's environment is strongly protected.
2. The Districts population grow in respect for their environment and this is demonstrated in improvement to its cleanliness and tidiness, including the urban environment.
3. More resources are committed to education to improve quality of air, water and land.

Social Outcome Statements

1. Social services access is improved to counter issues of crime, poor health and equip youth for more meaningful futures.
2. Young people have access to good facilities and constructive activities outside of school.
3. Urban design caters for the elderly and mobility impaired.

Economic Outcome Statements

1. Pacific Island Community capacity to develop their economic potential, including small businesses, increases and coordinated.
2. Retention of community youth by improving training and employment options and opportunities.

Cultural Outcome Statements

1. The cultural diversity and richness of the community's population is supported and strengthened.
2. Polynesian values, culture and products are celebrated and more visibility promoted.
3. Communication and consultation techniques between Polynesian people and community service providers have improved, and become regular.

Environment

What is District doing well?

- Clean water- best in NZ
- Environmental education
- Clean
- Not much factory/industry here

Environmental concerns

- Air quality
- Water quality
- Lack of respect for environment
- Lake Moananui- walkway is incomplete, like to establish a walking route around entire lake
- Plastic rubbish bags- use paper, recycle?
- Waste Management- old cars, disposable nappies
- Specific sites where cars are accumulating
- Entry to Tokoroa unsightly
- Slippery paths in CBD
- Drainage- blocked/ surface flooding in winter
- Reduce SH1 speed through town (Tokoroa)
- Mobility- access improve- prams, mobility scooters
- Paths around town
- Trees removed from paths- routes- blocking light- not safe (don't remove trees- just manage/maintain foliage)

- Civil Defence concerns re major events

Priorities- What we should work on first?

- Walking track around lake Moana-Nui
- Security- trees cleared (Capped), grown too low, overgrown in general
- Weed on Maraetai road bridge
- Air quality (education around air quality)
- Water quality (education around water quality)
- Crossing State Highway One for old people/access for mobility scooters/elderly
- Signage- Leith Place & Rosebery- improve, people coming in the wrong way
- Cost of disposing of green waste- inorganic days
- Dog control!!!
- Provide bins for open rubbish and recycle bins (?Wheel bins)

Social

What have we done well?

- Paved way for pre-school education
- Good public toilets
- Safe schools
- Friendly +++
- Cheap to live
- Good primary health
- Good Pacific specific health
- Clean
- Free parking
- Innovative people
- People have returned to retire
- Strong family/ Christian values

- Rest home facilities

Social concerns

- Student loans
- Safety Lights on alleyways
- Tertiary education
- PI police
- Flea market
- Have to leave for second degree health services
- More communication with Council
- Facilities- sports, cultural activities, sports centre, stage
- State Highway One- issue, safety
- Youth and high rate crime
- Wider concerns- suicide and mental & sexual health
- Graffiti
- Substance abuse
- Price of food increases- difficult for some
- Gambling- stop it- policy!
- Penalty on rates
- Rugby changing rooms "worst in NZ"
- WINZ benefit for older people "very low"
- Ageing population, crossing State Highway One

Priorities- What we should work on first?

- Price of wood
- Graffiti
- Improving programmes for youth
- Education and youth development (culture of realising potential)
- Sports/ Events centre (communication of progress)

- Collaboration/ communication between PI groups and Council
- Student loan-effect on children and parents (issue?)

Economy

What is district doing well?

- CBD is attractive/ appealing
- \$ off trees
- Accessible approachable local government

Economic concerns

- Brain drain- school leavers
- More jobs
- Recognition of our small industry
- More training in area so youth can find jobs (free of charge)
- More PI leaders in South Waikato schools
- More cadetship/apprenticeship
- Scholarships for students from South Waikato District
- Support and assistance from small business- set up, capacity building
- Industrial park!!

Priorities- what should we work on first?

- Rate relief for churches (increase)- remissions
- Support small businesses (sewing factory)

Cultural

What is district doing well?

- Cultural diversity groups are strong and being supported

- Strong sense of culture
- Strong sporting facilities
- Paved the way for ECE- Punanga
- Talented sports/artistic community

Cultural Concerns

- Better communication with PI groups
- Representation for PI community
- Communication in PI language
- Culturally appropriate communication!
- Radio station in Tokoroa
- PI person in Council to liaise with community
- Stage for cultural activities
- "Explain the words" "Not all Pakeha"
- Samoan kilikiti – transfer of traditional/ cultural activities to younger age group

Priorities- what should we work on first?

- Culture
- Cultural village
- SINTOS- festival community wide
- Radio station
- More contact with rest of District
- Develop existing events PolyFest

How should Council talk to the Pacific Island Community in future

- No rate increases
- PI advisor on committees

- Youth development- facilities/ activities/ work together across organisations- better use of YMCA building
- Resource centre for NGO/voluntary centre/community organisations
- PI advisory group/ committee to advise Council- different communities represented on committee
- Council work with churches- input/help churches look after older people, look at how well we are catering for our older people
- Longer library hours- Friday night, Saturday afternoon
- Improve access on Kelso Street- congestion/ speeding- voluntary speed signs
- Recognition of Christmas lights/ house decorations
- Toilets at graveyard- no toilet paper (David Hammond)
- Promote beautiful Tokoroa- street beautification- paint houses, plant trees
- PI representative on selection of youth coordinator committee
- Meet more frequently, collaboratively, transparently
- Give feedback
- Maintain access to Council at personnel level
- Hold an open day/ an open house at Council to develop connection with community
- Council represent community- PI staff
- Council directory
- PI youth fono- specific PI cultural fono for youth
- Separate- individual fono for Cook Island, Samoan, Fijian etc.
- Continue to communicate via translation of important documents & ideas into languages for all community i.e. Like Fono notice
- Annual fono explaining to community issues & discuss interpreters
- Provide space within Council to display Cook Island art work.
- Local provider of confectionery- has access to Taupo/ Rotorua NOT local pools, Council, information centres
- Consistency with Council's values- throughout organisation and community
- Role model to embody values- support local initiative
- Link South Waikato Economic Development Trust/ Council plus Pacific Island

- Economic Development Trust (National body)
- Retain people (spouses of employees) in community (e.g. training spouses)
- Parking for buses- Westpac, Chemist Bridge Street
- Use of abandoned sections – Council land- Pacific Island, grow flax for weaving, men plant flax (women teach weaving) businesses develop

Remember- translate back to community in their language.