

CLDP Report to ORAI, 2 October 2021

This update follows the CLDP Working Group meeting on Saturday 25th September.

1. DIA Liaison

Close liaison continues with the Department of Internal Affairs with Ms Leonie Matoe now assuming the role of support and guidance to the Otematata Group.

2. Hui Invitation

At the invitation of the DIA it was agreed to accept the opportunity for four people to attend the CLDP National hui scheduled to be held in Wellington early next year.

Attendees will be decided at the next meeting, with the funding from DIA to enable attendance gratefully acknowledged.

3. Project Updates

With funding now received as per the CLDP Update of September 11, Baxter Design are now redefining the Community Park plans as agreed, following stakeholder feedback, and as previously reported.

Although COVID has delayed this process the CLDP Working group is assured that Otematata is being prioritised with urgency.

Readers of this report are reminded that the brief for Baxter Design includes the Community Park, the Wetlands Development, and Beautification and Enhancement of the area outside the shop.

This concept planning incorporates all aspects of the development and is based on the stakeholder feedback from extensive consultation. It will also include proposals for children's play equipment, fencing, planting, shade areas and recreation and relaxation, which following further community input will hopefully allow for final decisions to be made.

At the same time consideration is being given as to how the CLDP may work with the Golf Club to enhance beautification on the Eastern side of the highway. This being done in a way to support Golf Club goals as well as linking to and complimenting the programme of enhancement on the Western side of the road.

4. So what happens next...?? As a guideline.....

- All funding for planning has now been received by the ORAI as the governance fund holder. (Ref ORAI Treasurer's report.)
- The Working Group is currently waiting for a timeline of planning completion from Baxter Design, which when plans are complete, will lead to the next opportunity for community input.
- Formal discussions will then ensure stakeholders and collaborative partners agree and all requirements met.
- Funding from DIA and other funders will be applied for and hopefully secured.
- Construction through normal processes can begin.

Conclusion

As we move towards the two-year anniversary since signing the Memorandum of Understanding it is understandable that some people may be wondering when they will see something tangible happening.

The reality is that this is not a fast process, and these are not small projects.

We understood from the start that working and navigating through community decision making can be time consuming and at times challenging, that government departments have their own timelines for decision making and processes of accountability, and that the importance of building strong foundations based on stakeholder feedback and involvement is central to success.

So, behind the scenes, process and procedure as detailed on the website and the MoU have been followed, and believe it or not, we are informed by the DIA that our progress compared to most is an acknowledged achievement.

As a project, perhaps progress could be summarised by acknowledging the huge community input into providing direction for improvement and enhancement, the effort of a significant number of people and groups behind the project planning, the funding applications, the accountability reporting, and the fact that the CLDP is now well through planning and design phases that directly reflect very significant community feedback and suggestions.

So, coming back to seeing something tangible, it is considered that once the planning timeline is received and plans accepted it will provide a much clearer pathway for moving through the next stages.

Suggestions and feedback around any aspect of this programme are always appreciated as is the ongoing support and encouragement to those who are giving tirelessly of their time to maximise this opportunity.

In the meantime, through all normal channels, we will continue to do our best to keep you fully informed.

With best wishes

Richard Paton

CLDP Working Group Coordinator.