

Community Led Development Programme Report to Otematata Residents Association Inc. June 6, 2020

The CLDP Working Group is pleased to report on the significant progress since the previous report.

This progress is itemised as follows.

1. The Working group maintained a business as usual approach throughout the lock down period with two ZOOM meetings keeping communication channels open.

Zooming was a new experience for many however after the normal operational challenges our levels of expertise developed and good discussion and decision making followed.

2. At a request of the DIA a brief answer to the question "What is Otematata's Approach to CLDP" the following was submitted for inclusion in the DIA Community Matters Website:

What is Otematata's Community Led Development Approach?

Otematata

Location:

- *Waitaki Valley-North Otago*

Population:

- *Approximately 850 residents 80 % of whom are absentee owners.*
- *As a holiday destination the summer population rises to approximately 5000 with several thousand more caravanning and tenting in designated lakeside areas.*

Located in the picturesque Waitaki Valley, Otematata lies near the extensive hydro lakes of Lake Benmore and Lake Aviemore. An ex hydro town, Otematata has undergone extreme change as it has become recognised as a mecca for water sports, recreation, adventure or simply for its tranquillity and beauty.

Created in the early 1960's as a village to house the workers of the mighty hydro schemes, the township declined as rapidly as it was built when in the late 1970s the vast majority of the 6000 inhabitants followed the work schemes to Twizel and the McKenzie Country.

For the next decades this once thriving township lay quiet, playing host to a few hardy inhabitants and those who visited occasionally to enjoy all the outdoors offered, or to simply relax in the uniqueness of the dramatic scenery. However, all this changed rapidly as Otematata's capability as a holiday and retirement town along with the growing diversity of the Waitaki Valley started to become fully realised.

As a village Otematata lies in the Ahuriri Ward within the Waitaki District Council. The Community is well represented through the Otematata Residents Association and equally well supported through the Community Services and Clubs that serve the town and surrounding area. Like much of New

Zealand's heartland, Otematata is rich in history paved by a community spirit that is as strong and evident today as it was in times gone by. And it is on this base that the CLDP is working to support the needs and opportunities that are being identified by all stakeholders in this changing time.

Since signing the MoU and being formally accepted to the Community Led Development Programme in November 2019, Otematata has moved progressively to define its pathway and to maximise the benefits the programme affords.

A CLDP Working Group was established under the umbrella of the Otematata Residents Association who also serve as the Governance Group, and capitalising on the large numbers of people visiting or staying over the summer period two researchers were engaged to systematically determine the needs and aspirations of defined stake holders. Complimenting significant information already held by the Waitaki District Council as part of the ten-year master planning programme, the CLDP survey provided direct information and feedback from this large and diverse group.

With a vision to "develop collaborative partnerships that will enable creation and implementation of a strategic plan that is representative of the wider community, that reflects our cultural heritage, that respects the environment, that allows for positive and structured growth, and allows those who pass through or stay, the opportunity to be part of this unique place" four domains then became the context for development.

***Communication** would become a development priority. **Relationships** would be emphasised within collaborative partnerships. **Engagement** would ensure the voices of all are heard. **Review** would ensure currency of community needs and aspirations.*

And so, five months on from signing the MoU the Community Plan has been completed , initial projects within four areas of strategic focus have been identified and agreed on ,and teams are now being established to develop scopes of work that will take each these one step closer to becoming reality.

In summary the Otematata approach remains one of carefully considered process where the CLDP Principles are upheld as a priority and where opportunity is gratefully acknowledged.

3.The Community Plan

A significant milestone has been accomplished with the completion, and DIA approval, of the Community Plan. This significant piece of work now enables direct focus on identified projects as follows.

Ratified projects:

- Playground/Community Recreation Area (Coordinator TBC)
- Wetlands Development (Stephen Loach Coordinator)
- Beautification /Town Development in conjunction with WDC (Steve Dalley Coordinator)

Next steps will be to develop a workable document that clearly defines processes for reporting and accountability. This will then allow us to:

- Engage in professional discussions
- Determine scope of work
- Form partnerships as required
- Determine financial needs and secure funding
- Commence planning and approval stages.

It is also suggested that all project leaders become members of the CLDP Working Group for the duration of the project.

4. Communication

A communication proposal has been received and there are ongoing discussions around the scope of this work. This will be further elaborated on as the proposal is further refined and tailored to suit specific needs.

This may be available at the meeting.

5.An application has been submitted to DIA for \$10 000 for the purchase of audio-visual technology for the Conference Room and Function Centre. Initial investigations have been made as to what may be fit for purpose however clearly nothing further can happen until funding is approved.

For discussion and suggestion

- That a formal letter be sent to WDC requesting an update on what has been done with the information provided from stakeholders via the CLDP Survey
- That the CLDP Lead requests a meeting with the Mayor and relevant people to update them on the Community Plan
- That processes for project leads are agreed on
- That appropriate meetings are held to enable early thinking around project development
- That stakeholders are informed via a CLDP Update
- That the Communication proposal is finalised

Finally

As always, thanks are extended to everyone involved in the CLDP programme and in particular to DIA for their ongoing support and guidance.

Richard Paton

CLDP Lead

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