

CLDP Report to ORAI April 10th,2021

The CLDP Working Group is pleased to report on progress relating to identified projects.

To recap:

Concept plans for the Community Park have been completed and accepted as the “gateway to discussion” by the ORAI.

Since then, the plans have been presented at a catered stakeholder meeting on Easter Saturday.

The meeting was very well supported with 82 community members in attendance.

Steve Dalley welcomed attendees to the meeting and he and Richard Paton gave a joint explanation of the proposals.

Anna Frost (DIA) spoke of the quality of process and procedure of the Otematata CLDP Working and Governance Groups, and Alan Reilly (The Art of Learning) spoke of the procedure for submitting feedback regarding the proposals.

A time frame of approximately two weeks for feedback followed by another week for analysis of information is suggested as a reasonable time period to work in. This will then provide time to determine a way forward that will lead to a result that will reflect the wishes of the stakeholders.

The plans and an explanatory commentary will be sent to approximately 800 recipients on the CLDP data base to compliment the feedback from the 82 attendees at the community meeting.

It is acknowledged that there was a variety of responses to the proposals however it is also acknowledged that this meeting was about stimulating discussion and requesting feedback. Based on this, the quality of discussion provides a strong platform for considering all views and moving the project forward.

It is now recommended by the CLDP Working Group that a proposal be sought from Baxter Design for the development of the Wetlands and that this project runs parallel to the Community Park using the same process for funding, design and acceptance.

Once this is done the Community Park and Wetlands could run as parallel projects through to their conclusion following previously detailed project management guidelines.

The CLDP Working Group stresses the importance of keeping the projects moving forward and particularly urges Project Teams to firm up the content of their respective projects within the overall design framework. It is acknowledged that stakeholder feedback is a significant part of this.

Next Steps (General) :

1.Community Park/Beautification

- Feedback received and analysed.
- Refine, redesign as required.
- Resubmit/Stakeholder Acceptance.
- Proceed with project.

2.Wetlands

- Proposal requests from Baxter design
- Funding requests to DIA
- Proceed with project.

A review of the process:

CLDP is about a lot more than just funding. It is about Communities being self-managing and sustainable. It is about growing capacity and capability so that communities can achieve what they want to achieve.

To assist this process the Department of Internal Affairs provides financial support within a clearly defined framework where high levels of trust and accountability abound.

Central to all this the Community Led Programmes must reflect the wishes of all stakeholders.

So, behind the scenes, for the last two years (almost), a group of volunteers have met every month, and if they are on the ORAI, every fortnight, to build the processes that will enable the three main identified projects to become a reality. (The Community Park, The Wetlands and Town Beautification)

To assist this process the Working Group has gratefully accepted financial support from DIA that has enabled:

- Assistance with communication, administering surveys, graphics, web design and social media management.
- Assistance with development of concept plans and detailed planning (on going)
- A Smart Television for conferences, meetings, zoom meetings and community use.
- A large Smart television for presentations, community events, weddings, and funerals
- Support for two community functions (1. Signing of the memorandum of Understanding 2. Release of the Concept Plans)
- Printing and communication

To access the DIA financial support the CLDP submits a specific case for funding support and then provides detailed reports to DIA on expenditure. Naturally, these reports are specific to their allocation and are reported accordingly. One can easily see therefore, that if the projects are significant as some of the Otematata projects are, the forward planning and the funding approvals are central and crucial to the whole programme.

At a local level, a full financial report is presented to the ORAI (the governance group) every month and any accounts can only be paid after formal approval. As well as that we are fortunate to have a support person from the Department of Internal Affairs as a member of the CLDP working group, and for her guidance and encouragement we are grateful.

And that just about sums it up:

If you have not had a look for a while, check out the CLDP website and know that all feedback is valued.

Richard Paton

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