

AGENDA

Meeting of the
Inangahua Community Board

Tuesday 09 April 2024
Commencing at 5:00pm

To be held at the
Ikamatua Hall
304 Ikamatua Highway
Ikamatua

Inangahua Community Board

Reports to: Council

Meeting Frequency: Bi Monthly

Purpose:

1. The purpose of these delegations is to give effect to the local community empowerment model which is a partnership approach to the governance of the District that will primarily be delivered through the Inangahua community board.
2. The intent of these delegations is to delegate authority and, as far as possible, responsibility to the Inangahua community board to allow the community board to effectively govern and provide recommendations to the Buller District Council regarding local issues associated with their areas.
3. In making these delegations the Council recognises that it is ultimately responsible for the governance of the district and therefore retains the right to set minimum standards and to review community board recommendations associated with the exercise of these delegations.

In making these delegations the Council undertakes to:

1. Provide for and give consideration to community board input into significant governance decisions affecting the respective community board area.

The ICB is delegated the following Terms of Reference and powers:

Terms of Reference:

Community Board Status

A community board (Local Government Act 2002, s.51) is:

1. An unincorporated body; and
2. Not a local authority; and
3. Not a committee of the Council.

Role

The legislative role of community boards (*Local Government Act 2002, s.52*) is to:

1. Represent, and act as an advocate for, the interests of its community, and
2. Consider and report on all matters referred to it by Council, or any matter of interest or concern to the community board: and
3. Maintain an overview of services provided by the Council within the community: and
4. Prepare an annual submission to the Council for expenditure within the community: and
5. Communicate with community organisations and special interest groups within the community: and
6. Undertake any other responsibilities delegated to it by Council.

Delegations

In exercising the delegated powers, the community board will operate within:

1. Policies, plans, standards or guidelines that have been established and approved by Council:
2. The approved Council budgets for the activity

In addition to the community boards legislative role the community board is responsible for and accountable to the Council for:

1. Providing local leadership and developing relationships with Council, the community, and community organisations in developing local solutions within the Community board area.
2. Assisting the organisation with consultation with local residents, ratepayers, Iwi, community groups and other key stakeholders on local issues including input into the Long Term Plan and the Annual plan.
3. Making recommendations to Council on leases, licenses or concessions associated with all Council owned property included within the locally funded activities of the community board area, excluding Council administration land and buildings.
4. Making recommendations to council on property (including land & buildings) acquisitions and disposals in the local area.

Note:

None of the delegations may be sub delegated

1. Council retains decision making authority associated with new or existing maintenance contracts.

Additional financial delegations

Community Board has the authority to approve annual expenditure from a discretionary fund determined by Council on an annual basis, for local activities with the following parameters:

1. The decision meets relevant legislation and Council policy requirements including any controls on the use of funds from the respective account.
2. The decision is made after considering a report from staff or community members.
3. This expenditure may be operating or capital in nature, or a mixture of the two.
4. This expenditure cannot fund the “additional capacity” component of capital projects. It can only fund renewal or increased level of service components of capital projects

Power to delegate

The Community Board may not delegate any of their responsibilities, duties or powers to a committee, subcommittee or person

Matters which are not delegated.

Council does not delegate:

1. The power to:
 - Make a rate or bylaw.
 - Borrow money, or purchase or dispose of assets.
 - Acquire, hold or dispose of property.
 - Appoint, suspend or remove staff.
 - Adopt a long term plan or annual plan or annual report.
 - Institute an action for the recovery of any amount.
 - Issue and police building consents, notices, authorisations, and requirements under any Acts, Statutes, Regulations, By –laws and the like.
 - Enter into contracts and agreements.
 - Incur expenditure in excess of the approved Community budget; or
2. The powers and duties conferred or imposed (on Council) by The Public Works Act 1981 or those powers listed in the Section34 (2) of The Resource Management Act 1991

Review of a Community Board decision

In recognition of Council’s ultimate responsibility for the governance of the District, that Council retains the right to review any decision of a community board where it believes:

1. The decision is not consistent with the Council’s vision, mission, values and goals.
2. Where it believes the community board decision has contravened any relevant legislation.
3. The powers and functions of community boards as defined in the Local Government Act 2002 have been exceeded.
4. The delegations of the community board have been exceeded.
5. The decision will unduly impact on the ability of the Council to provide a district wide level of service where it believes it is necessary to do so.
6. The decision is contrary to the Council’s Ten Year Plan, adopted council policy, plan or strategy or any other authority, license, consent or approval.

Decision review process

A decision to review and determine the associated course of action associated with a community board decision will be made jointly by the Mayor and Chief Executive. The relevant community board chairperson will be consulted in the process of the Council determining whether a community board decision will be reviewed. Generally the course of action will include one of the following:

1. Refer the decision back to the community board for reconsideration; or
2. Refer the decision to the Council, one of its committees or its delegated representative for determination.

Community Board to Council decision referral process

In exceptional circumstances, community boards may refer any decision to Council or its delegated committee for determination subject to that referral including the reasons the decision has been referred to the Council for determination.

Membership

The membership of the community board (Local Government Act 2002, s.50) consists of:

1. Members elected under the Local Electoral Act 2001; and
2. Members appointed in accordance with the Local Electoral Act 2001 by the Buller District Council.

Chairperson

The community board must have a chairperson (Local Government Act 2002, Schedule 7, Clause 37), who shall be elected at the first meeting of the community board in accordance with the Local Government Act 2002, Schedule 7, Clause 25 or in accordance with any subsequent amendment to this Act.

The chairperson is responsible for:

1. The efficient functioning of the community board.
2. Setting the agenda for community board meetings.
3. Ensuring that all members of the community board receive sufficient timely information to enable them to be effective community board members.
4. Attending Council meetings to represent the interests of the Community Board.
5. Being the link between the community board and Council staff.

Contacts with media and outside agencies

The Mayor acts as the official spokesperson for the Council with the media and may provide approval to elected members to act as an official spokesperson.

Community board members, including the chairperson, do not have delegated authority to speak to the media and/or outside agencies on behalf of the Council.

The Group Manager for the community board area, after consultation with the Community Board Chair, will manage the formal communications between the community board and its constituents, and for the community board in the exercise of its business. Correspondence with central government, other local government agencies or other official agencies will only take place through Council staff.

Frequency of meetings

The community board shall meet at least two monthly.

Conduct of affairs

The community board shall conduct its affairs in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2002*, the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987*, the *Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968*, Councils Standing Orders and Code of Conduct.

Quorum

The quorum at a meeting of the community board shall consist of:

1. Half of the members if the number of members (including vacancies) is even; or
2. A majority of members if the number of members (including vacancies) is odd.

Remuneration

Elected members will be reimbursed in accordance with the current Local Government Elected Members' Determination.

Inangahua Community Board Copy

VENUE: Ikamatua Hall, 304 Ikamatua Highway, Ikamatua



09 April 2024 05:00 PM

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INANGAHUA COMMUNITY BOARD

9 APRIL 2024

AGENDA ITEM 1

Prepared by Krissy Trigg
Group Manager Community Services

APOLOGIES

1. REPORT SUMMARY

That the Inangahua Community Board receive any apologies or requests for leave of absence from elected members.

2. DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

That there are no apologies to be received and no requests for leave of absence.

OR

That the Inangahua Community Board receives apologies from (*insert Board Member name*) and accepts Board Member (*insert name*) request for leave of absence.

INANGAHUA COMMUNITY BOARD

9 APRIL 2024

AGENDA ITEM 2

Prepared by Krissy Trigg
Group Manager Community Services

MEMBERS INTEREST

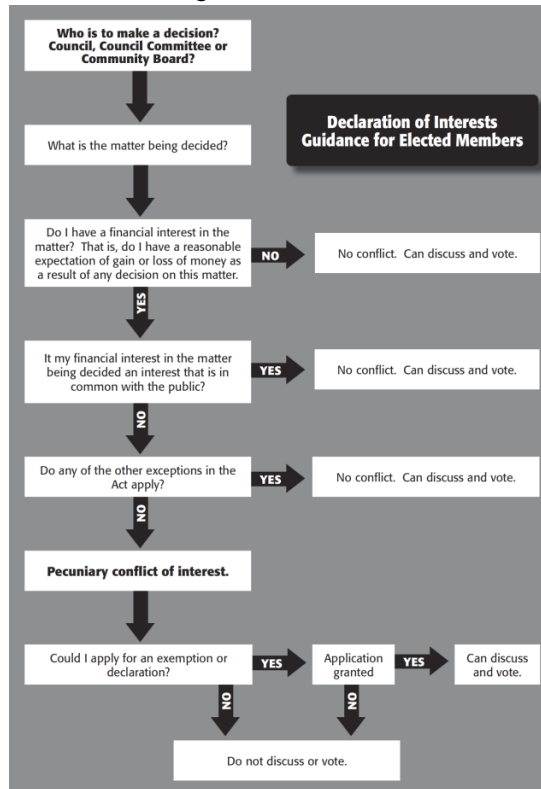
Members are encouraged to consider the items on the agenda and disclose whether they believe they have a financial or non-financial interest in any of the items in terms of Council's Code of Conduct.

Members are encouraged to advise the Governance Assistant of any changes required to their declared Members Interest Register.

The attached flowchart may assist members in making that determination.

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION:

That members disclose any financial or non-financial interest in any of the agenda items.



INANGAHUA COMMUNITY BOARD

9 APRIL 2024

AGENDA ITEM 3

Prepared by Krissy Trigg
Group Manager Community Services

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

1. DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

That the Inangahua Community Board receive and confirm minutes from the meeting of 13 February 2024.

MEETING OF THE INANGAHUA COMMUNITY BOARD, HELD AT 5.00PM ON TUESDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2024, WOMEN'S INSTITUTE ROOMS, REEFTON

PRESENT: Cr L Webb (Chair), Mayor J Cleine, R Abbey, A Bollinger, D Giddens, A Neil, Cr G Neylon

IN ATTENDANCE: K Trigg (GM Community Services), E de Boer (Manager Infrastructure Delivery), M Sutherland (Acting Manager Infrastructure Planning), G Barrell (Governance Secretary)

PUBLIC FORUM:

Luke McLawn and Suvi Van Smit from DoC

Luke spoke to update the community on the progress of the current projects.

All roles in Reefton DOC are now filled and looking forward to getting work done. A lot of work being undertaken in Reefton and Greymouth. A number of projects underway and some completed.

A lot of vandalism lately which takes up a lot of staff time and money to address.

Joss Divis – opening for this is March 15. There will be a public opening. Blackwater School work to be followed up by Luke

A record as to 'who owns what' as far as land goes, will be created between K Trigg, E de Boer and the DoC team. This also will state that the owner is responsible for the maintenance and care of each area. Once established, this will be released to the public with the point of contact for the community regarding any issues, to be DoC. A volunteer group is looking to be established for this.

Adrian Raine (Local Police Officer)

Adrian spoke regarding CCTV being installed in Inangahua. This will hold number plate recognition cameras. These are community funded and require approximately \$6k for two number recognition cameras as well as an overview camera.

Inangahua community are supportive of the cameras.

Cr L Webb noted that the Board will discuss whether there is funding available to assist in funding this.

Adrian noted it is very busy presently. Seven people have applied for the vacant position for another officer.

Betty Gilsenan

Pensioner flats. There is a lot of people waiting to go into them. Very distressing. In need of repair. Also questioned who maintains the lawns. Possibly arrange through each tenant's benefit. Possibly also to work on gardens. K Trigg advised she will check the Parks and Reserves contract with WestReef to establish if pensioners' lawns or/and gardening is included in their contract however she was quite sure it wouldn't be included..

Any chance of having a plaque by the big tree in the park? Check the tree title to ensure it is correct.

Long grass on private property on Steel Street. Who is responsible for this? K Trigg to check with Compliance team. There may be the opportunity to speak to the owner to suggest remedying, otherwise usually FENZ would be appropriate if it is a fire risk.

Suggests changing the wording on the bins to deter public from using it for their personal rubbish.

Rachel England-Brassy

Human excrement on walking tracks is an issue; specifically, around powerhouse. K Trigg advised this is a compliance issue and recommended that service requests be entered so Council is aware, a paper trail is created and able to be remedied.

Who is responsible for the dog poo bag bin on the Strand? Who fills it and empties it? Cr L Webb to check and advise.

Nowhere to fill water bottles with potable water. On main street would be ideal with a sign.

ACTION POINT: E de Boer will follow up on this.

Could WestReef empty bins in summer months more regularly please. K Trigg advised it is currently done every day in the Summer and then a few times a week at other times.

ACTION POINT: E de Boer to see if what options are available.

Could there be recycle collection bins for public?

K Trigg reiterated the importance of entering service requests in order to create a need for issues to be addressed.

E de Boer advised regarding the bins, that waste is certainly an issue in Buller. Twice daily is not something he is able to consider presently.

Ken Leslie – NZ Caravan Motorhome Association

Ken spoke regarding the construction zone at the racecourse for the set up and marquees are due to be erected.

He outlined the programme noting the bulk of people will be arriving on the Thursday.

Safety of people is primary priority. Fire Brigade to check parking and emergency procedures.

Friday morning official opening. Tours over the weekend. Working to bring people into the town centre over the weekend.

Community groups each day fundraising with food stalls etc. Great response from the NZMCA sponsors with lots of prizes up for grabs.

Looking forward to a very successful rally.

Have been working with Council regarding toilet waste and water usage and will ensure the location is left in a pristine state. Has very little concern that community water will be used as most motorhome users will be bringing their own.

E de Boer advised the NZMTA has been a pleasure to work with.

MEETING WAS DECLARED OPEN AT: 5.49PM

1. APOLOGIES (Page 8)

Discussion:

Nil

RESOLVED

That there are no apologies to be received and no requests for leave of absence.

Cr G Neylon/A Neil

6/6

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. MEMBERS INTEREST (Page 9)

Discussion:

Nil

RESOLVED that Inangahua Community Board members disclose any financial or non-financial interest in any of the agenda items.

Cr L Webb/D Giddens

6/6

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES (Page 10)

Discussion:

The amount granted for the A&P show was not advised at the previous meeting.

This amount was \$1,950

RESOLVED that the Inangahua Community Board receive and confirm minutes from the meeting of 5 December 2023.

Cr G Neylon/D Giddens

6/6

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. ACTION POINTS (Page 16)

Discussion:

No.	Action Point / Meeting Date	Responsible	Update	Date Required By
30	7 February 2023 Cr L Webb to find understanding of requirements in a letter of support and draft one in support of learn to swim pool etc by next meeting.	Cr L Webb	Moved to June Moved to August Moved to October Moved to December Moved to February 2024 This should be able to be done following the February meeting so, moved to April for sign off	9 May 2023 13 June 2023 8 August 2023 3 October 2023 5 December 2023 13 February 2024 9 April 2024
39	5 December 2023 Look into the voluntary work for the housing units	M Sutherland		13 February 2024 Completed
40	5 December 2023 Reforming of Allocation Committee	Cr G Neylon	Moved to April meeting	13 February 2024 9 April 2024

K Trigg spoke regarding action point #30. This will be able to be addressed once a discussion has been had within ICB today.

E de Boer spoke regarding #39. Noting a volunteer management policy needs to be in place for this. Also requires a group for Council to work with. K Trigg noted two of the homes are currently being in the process of having work done to enable residents to move in. There are two that are not viable currently. Those that are not viable to be done up and will come through in a Council Property Rationalisation report.

Cr G Neylon spoke regarding #40. He noted the obligation of ensuring homes meet the Healthy Homes requirements. He further spoke that there will likely be an Allocation Committee.

K Trigg added that there was no issue for this to happen and the topic would be raised in the next senior housing working group agenda for it to be completed.

RESOLVED that the Inangahua Community Board receive the Action Points report for information.

Cr G Neylon/A Bollinger

6/6

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. INANGAHUA COMMUNITY BOARD UPDATE (Page 18)

Discussion:

Community Funding Update

Request for \$6k for the CCTV cameras. K Trigg advised ICB has a set amount of money available, and the required funding could be applied for in the Contestable Funding from a community group. The times for the funding rounds will come once the Council meeting schedule is confirmed.

Theatre Update

External funding applications for the dimmable lights needs to be done. The Theatre Manager is in the process of applying. K Trigg to check that, if successful in application, if the dimming is able to be done manually as opposed to automatically.

E de Boer spoke to the ICB Action Sheet noting an update of the progress on projects. He confirmed that under the Roading section, Item 4 is in fact Ikamatua and not Inangahua as is noted in the report.

R Abbey noted the report states that 1 Broadway stormwater works is complete. Still a lot of leakage by the reservoir on the clay bank. Looking unstable and wet in the rain.

E de Boer said they have resolved the initial flooding issue. There are still some work elements to be done and have a remedial programme to submit to the LTP for funding. He agrees there is still some work to do, noting the requirement for further funding to be able to do this.

Cr L Webb reminded the cleanliness of the public toilets is still an issue. Cr G Neylon noted it would be good to have an update on the Ikamatua toilets for the Ikamatua community when the ICB meeting is to be held there in April.

RESOLVED that the Inangahua Community Board receive this report for information.

Cr L Webb / A Neil
QTY 6/6
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. STATUS REPORT – REEFTON POOL (Page 28)

Discussion:

M Sutherland spoke to his report and requested feedback on the Tables sections of the report.

A Bollinger felt installation of the pool cover was high priority.

Concern was raised around people being able to let themselves in if there was the requirement to manually operate the anticipated pool cover.

If the money was spent on Table A, then it would be more difficult to receive funding for B or C. M Sutherland recommended holding off on spending until an application to the Lotteries Commission was made for Tables B or C.

E de Boer spoke that in his view the background work already done should prove as a positive on the application. There are no guarantees, but he felt this would be a good application.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Board receives this status report.
2. That the Board supports Council with the Priority One Works listed in Table A in this financial year.
3. That the Board confirms which Priority Two Works listed in Table B that Council should apply for external funding.
4. That the Board request Council to resolve to make a funding application to the Department of Internal Affairs Lottery's Community Facilities Fund for **\$1.107m**

Cr G Neylon/A Bollinger
6/6

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. CHAIR'S REPORT (Page 56)

Discussion:

Regarding a warning speed sign that a 50kph zone 'warning' sign, at the entrance to Reefton from Black's Point, E de Boer advised that NZTA is the body to approach for this. R Abbey to write this letter.

Cr G Neylon requested a visit by the Board members to Oceana Gold. Cr G Neylon to organise this.

Reefton Camping Ground

Cr G Neylon spoke there has been a lot of work done. They are looking to have a community open day. Looking for a new Manager.

Reefton Race Days

Cr G Neylon noted that both days were a great success with another one coming in March.

Reefton Health Issues

Cr G Neylon spoke that the Ziman house meeting was held. Day service not up and running despite being advised it would open early January. Disappointing the community has not had an update from Kainga Ora.

Reefton GP issue. Mr Neylon acknowledged Dr Alex for his continual service and support of Reefton community. He requested a letter of thanks and support be sent from ICB to him. He recommended members of the community invite him to dinner if able to. There was a request of a letter of thanks to also be sent to Ian Holding.

ACTION POINT: Cr L Webb to pen letters to Dr Alex and Ian Holding.

RESOLVED that the report be received for discussion and information.

Cr L Webb/D Giddens

6/6

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC FORUM RESPONSES:

Discussion:

DOC

Acknowledge and thanks. Information about who owns what will be made public.
Friends of Waiuta March 15.

Regarding the vandalism, Cr L Webb to make public statement requesting people desist in this. Request that people notify if vandalism spotted. Also to request that people stop defecating on public grounds.

Adrian

ICB can put in an application to contestable funding on behalf of the community.

RESOLVED that \$1,500 of ICB budget to go towards funding the CCTV cameras and then further funding applied through contestable funding.

Cr G Neylon/D Giddens

6/6

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Betty

Regarding maintenance of pensioner lawns...seek update from Housing meeting with Cr G Neylon and he will respond.

K Trigg noted there is a deadline to bring houses to compliance. Not necessarily a budget for this, however this is something they are required to do. Recommended either WINZ or volunteers to do lawns and gardens.

Cr L Webb to speak to Tony regarding plaque for tree to receive a quote and bring back to next meeting.

Fire issues to be investigated on private land.

Rachel England-Brassy

Sign at swingbridge directing to toilets.

Cr G Neylon to speak to Reefton Inc regarding dog poo bags.

E de Boer to look at frequency of bin emptying and wording on the bins deterring public dumping.

ACTION POINT: E de Boer to get costing for community water tap.

Ken

Letter of thanks.

RESOLVED that the Inangahua Community Board advise of any public forum responses.

Cr L Webb/D Giddens

6/6

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

There being no further business the meeting concluded at: **6.58pm**

- **Next meeting: TBC and location to be Ikamatua Hall**

Confirmed: **Date:**

INANGAHUA COMMUNITY BOARD

9 APRIL 2024

AGENDA ITEM 4

Prepared by Krissy Trigg
Group Manager Community Services

ACTION POINTS

1. REPORT SUMMARY

A summary of resolutions requiring actions by the Inangahua Community Board.

2. DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

That the Inangahua Community Board receive the action points report for information.

ICB Action Points - CURRENT

No.	Action Point / Meeting Date	Responsible	Update	Date Required By
30	7 February 2023 Cr L Webb to find understanding of requirements in a letter of support and draft one in support of learn to swim pool etc by next meeting.	Cr L Webb	Moved to June Moved to August Moved to October Moved to December Moved to February 2024 – Item addressed in Feb 2024 meeting to allow letter to be written	9 May 2023 13 June 2023 8 August 2023 3 October 2023 5 December 2023 13 February 2024 9 April 2024
40	5 December 2023 Reforming of Allocation Committee	Cr G Neylon	Moved to April ICB	13 February 2024 9 April 2024
41	13 February 2024 Public Forum E de Boer to get costing for community water tap and a sign on main street	E de Boer		9 April 2024
42	13 February 2024 Public Forum E de Boer to see if able to empty rubbish bins more often in summer months	E de Boer		9 April 2024
43	13 February 2024 Reefton Health Issues Cr L Webb to pen letter of thanks to Dr Alex and Ian Holding	Cr L Webb		9 April 2024

INANGAHUA COMMUNITY BOARD

9 APRIL 2024

AGENDA ITEM 5

Prepared by **Krissy Trigg**
 Group Manager Community Services

Reviewed by: **Simon Pickford**
 Chief Executive Officer

Attachments: 1. ICB Operations report – Infrastructure Services

INANGAHUA COMMUNITY BOARD UPDATE

1. **REPORT SUMMARY**

The report will provide an update on the positive and strategic aspects that are happening in the Inangahua District between the last Inangahua Community Board meeting to now and moving forward.

The Infrastructure Operations Report, (appendix 1) has been developed following requests for updates on works in the Inangahua ward. This report updates the Community Board on the actions taken as a result of service requests and to show progress made as a result of works undertaken as part of Council's adopted works programme (and levels of service).

2. **DRAFT RECOMMENDATION**

That the Inangahua Community Board receive this report for information.

3. **COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATES:**

3.1 **Inangahua County Library Reefton**

The Summer Reading Programme was another huge success. 30 children from the Reefton area signed up this year. We had Reefton children win some of the major prizes including \$50 vouchers and a Chromebook!

The Lego Club and Knitting group are up and running. Our team reported the last knitting group had out-of-town visitors join in. They were very impressed with the library and visitor centre.

3.2 **Theatre Update**

Funding is being sought to be able to provide the Reefton Cinema with automated dimmable lighting in the cinema. This application will be completed the first half of 2024.

3.3 Reefton Visitors and Service Centre

Unfortunately, we have received two resignations from our team at the RVSC. We have also approved a request from a staff member to reduce their hours of work. The resignations are not linked and are for differing reasons. We wish our departing staff all the very best with their next endeavours.

Recruitment to fill the vacant positions is underway.

It is acknowledged that during the recruitment and training processes, there may be some minimal disruption to operational hours and/or services.

Assurance is given that the impact on the community, and staff, is considered throughout any decision making.

We are excited to work with our remaining staff, and to focus on rebuilding the RVSC team, as our commitment to the Reefton community.

It is also advised that with the busy visitor season coming to an end, RVSC will revert back to being open six-days per week, closed Sundays, after Easter Weekend 2024. This will be reviewed once staffing numbers increase and if demand requires.

3.4 Governance Structure Change

New Workshop Guidelines

At its meeting on 13 December 2023 Council considered a report which reviewed the Chief Ombudsman's 'Open for Business' report (released in October 2023).

The report outlined the main issues addressed by the Ombudsman and resolved to adopt the following recommendations set out in the 'Open for Business' report as follows:

- (a) Continue to understand the clear guidelines and reasoning for public excluded agenda items and ensure correct procedures are followed.
- (b) Open all Council meetings and workshops for public attendance. Agendas for all meetings to be prepared however no public forum will be offered, or minutes taken at workshops.
- (c) Take a written record of the workshop will be kept and include:

- time, date, location, and duration of workshop
 - people present, and
 - general subject matter covered.
- (d) Continue to use workshops for discussion and presentations. Recommendations can be presented to Council, but no decisions can be made within a workshop setting.
- (e) Advertise all Council meetings and workshops on the Buller District Council website and social media as well as other platforms as they become available.
- (f) Livestream all Council meetings and workshops via Buller District Council's YouTube channel.
- (g) Record all Council meetings and workshops and ensure they are on the Buller District Council website in a timely manner.
- (h) Establish pathways for complaints regarding Council meetings and workshops to be received and resolved.

Some of the matters resolved require amendments to be made to Council's Standing Orders which are the rules governing the conduct of proceedings for meetings of Council and its committees. As for most Councils the BDC Standing Orders are based on the Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) template which are considered to be best practice.

The current Standing Orders were adopted at the inaugural Council meeting for the current Triennium in October 2022. LGNZ are undertaking a review of their template to reflect the recommendations of the Ombudsman. They aim to have this available in April. Council will consider a report outlining the new template at the April Council meeting with a view to adopting new Standing Orders for Buller District Council.

A new meeting schedule was adopted in the March Council meeting which amended the month ICB meetings are held. There will be an additional ICB meeting held in May and then they will run bi-monthly from then.

The proposed meeting schedule for next calendar year will include a meeting at the end of January, and then bi-monthly from then.

3.5 Communications and Engagement

Draft West Coast Regional Speed Management Plan

The West Coast community can give feedback on the West Coast Draft Regional Speed Management Plan (the plan) between 14 March and 16 April.

The plan is a comprehensive document setting out the ten-year vision for speed management on the West Coast and outlines the first three years of implementing the proposed changes around schools and high-risk, high-benefit local roads and areas.

The West Coast Regional Council, in partnership with the Buller, Grey, and Westland District Councils, has developed the plan to create a safer road network on the West Coast.

The plan excludes State Highways, which are covered by NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi's interim Draft Speed Management Plan 2023.

Over the first three years between 2024 and 2026, the plan will focus on changing the speed limits around schools, and on high-risk, high-benefit local roads and areas (e.g. places with a high concentration of people like town centres), and other areas the community identifies as important.

In Buller, the plan proposes to lower the speed limit around eight schools, and seven high priority roads/high priority areas. Location maps showing the proposed new speed limits for the local roads are included in the plan.

Council will share the information through Council's channels over the coming four weeks and contact key stakeholders (including schools).

Enhanced 2024-2025 Annual Plan

Community consultation on the Enhanced 2024-2025 Annual Plan will occur in mid-April – May 2024.

3.6 Funding

All funding rounds have closed for this financial year. A grants workshop was held on the 3rd of April, and recommendations for the Community Grants and the Rural Travel Fund were made to the full Council. A decision will be made at the full Council meeting on 24 April 2024.

Opening dates and further information on all Council and Council administrated funds are available from Council's website. An update on funding round opening dates will be included in the ICB report.

ICB members and the public are encouraged to sign up to Buller's Funding Finder. This free online tool allows community groups and businesses in the Buller District to easily find grants. The Funding Finder

hand-picks grants and funding opportunities specific to local businesses and community groups, encompassing all government and private sector grants available. The portal, which can be found on Council's website features council's grants and initiatives.

3.7 Reefton Campground

Campground Contractor Manager interviews were conducted on 11 March. The subcommittee selected the most suitable candidate and has entered negotiations.

Reefton Campground held on "Open Day" on Saturday 16 March to celebrate the refurbishment.

3.8 Reefton Service Centre Building

Council has been approached by several community groups who would like to see the previously used BDC service centre set up for community use.

A report will be considered by Council at the end of April regarding the future use of this building, options will include:

1. Council divesting of the asset
2. Retaining the Centre for community use at no cost to council
3. Retaining the Centre for community use with a cost to council.

ICB's recommendation for the future use of this building will be included in the report for Council consideration.

3.9 KMTT Update

The KMTT Flora project has recently completed a big ground control effort on Old Man's Beard around Inangahua, between New Creek and Whitecliffs, in support of DOC's aerial control operations.

The work done in Buller to keep on top of Old Man's Beard is unparalleled across the country, and as such this problem weed is still relatively rare here. Now is the time to spot the creamy white flowers, before they turn into the distinctive fluffy seed heads. If you spot it, please notify DOC or WCRC. The native clematis can look similar but flowers between October and December.

Chocolate Vine – another pernicious vine that smothers everything it climbs over. We have completed control near Inangahua Junction, but this season we noticed it had jumped the road and is on the move. This climber has 5 leaflets arranged in a hand shape, and is generally deciduous near Inangahua. If spotted, please contact WCRC.

It's pampas season! Do you know your problem pampas from the native toetoe? The upright fluffy plumes of pampas are easy to spot now, quite

different from the droopy toetoe that has been in plume for a few months. Also, pampas have a distinctive mid-rib on the leaf, whereas toetoe has smaller parallel ribs. Another one to let WCRC know about.

All these weeds are in the Regional Pest Management Plan which means that landowners have a legal responsibility to control them. Keeping on top of them before they get established can save a huge amount of time and cost in the future!

Old Man's Beard in flower:



Old Man's Flower Seed:



Inangahua Community Board (ICB) Action Sheet

Item	Year	Responsibility Area	Issues/Projects	Actions	ICB Contact	Timeframe
PROPERTY - PARKS & RESERVES						
1	2024	Infrastructure Services	Footpath to the cenotaph	Pathway to the cenotaph is complete.	Michael Duff	Completed
2	2024	Infrastructure Services	Footpath to the monument	The footpath to the monument is complete.	Michael Duff	Completed
3	2024	Infrastructure Services	Maintenance for Ikamatua toilets	Council Parks, Property and Reserves staff have reconnected with Del at Pump Services to ascertain the ongoing willingness of providing some level of public accessible facility (during business operating times) for public loos for a small fiscal yearly contribution. Buller District Council have agreed to cover some of the cost involved in the ongoing maintenance and cleanliness.	Michael Duff	Completed
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT						
1	2024	Infrastructure Services	Inangahua, Mahawareti, Ikamatua and Spring Junctions Legacy Landfills	Council continues undertaking regular closed landfill site inspections and surface water monitoring twice a year to monitor adverse effects from the landfill leachate in the surrounding environment.	Michael Duff	Ongoing
2	2024	Infrastructure Services	Maruia Lanfill and Recycling Center	the new resource consent conditions. Once consultation on these fees and charges has concluded a new information sign can be installed.	Michael Duff	Jun-24
3	2024	Infrastructure Services	Enviroschool Programme	The Maruia School has been welcomed to the Buller Enviroschools network this year. The school has an active programme of education using nature as a classroom. Students are learning how to grow fruit and veggies in their school garden and orchard, they maintain a local bush walk, grow kōwhai trees from seed, and look after the Kōhanga Atawhai – Manson Nicholls Hut at Lake Daniell. There are seven Enviroschools in the Buller District. (Picture supplied)	Michael Duff	Ongoing
WASTEWATER AND STORMWATER						
1	2024	Infrastructure Services	Failed Aerator at Reefton WWTP	Technical team have worked together with Westreef Servies Ltd. to replace a failed aerator at the wastewater treatment plant	Michael Duff	Completed
2	2024	Infrastructure Services	Coordinating with the MCA (Motor Caravan Association) for wastewater disposal	The Motor Caravan Association held their National Rally in Reefton on the 22-26th of February. The MCA were very good at coordinating with council in regards to any impacts of the event. There was a higher than usual wastewater disposal forecast while the event is happening due to the volume of participants expected however had very little, to no adverse effects on infrastructure.	Michael Duff	Completed
3	2024	Infrastructure Services	Critical Spares for Reefton Wastewater Treatment plant	A critical spares list for electrical devices and electrical plant necessities has been compiled. Critical Spares are purchased at the end of the financial year (June) with any remaining budget. Or the beginning of the next financial year.	Michael Duff	Jun-24
4	2024	Infrastructure Services	Review of Reefton Wastewater treatment plant	the BDC Wastewater & Stormwater coordinator met with a Wastewater process engineer in March 2024 and did a site visit of the Reefton Wastewater treatment plant to view the processes. He took flow data and plant information and has several new ideas for optimising the running of the plant.	Michael Duff	Mar-24
5	2024	Infrastructure Services	Brennan St Wastewater replacement	Brennan Street requires a total wastewater replacement from 5 Victory Street to the Main Street (through the school yard). Pricing and works have been approved and work has commenced. The work for the school yard part of this project has almost been completed with a manhole to follow. Works in Southern Brennan street are about to commence.	Michael Duff	Jun-24
6	2024	Infrastructure Services	Potter - Buller Road deep sewer main relining (ongoing from last financial year)	An additional access structure is needed near Potter Street and Buller Road junction to access sewer for any existing or future blockages, this has been programmed. An access structure is missing at a change in pipe direction. This access structure is required before we can make progress to complete a deep sewer main relining project - which is ongoing work from last year due to a partial blockage in the area.	Michael Duff	May-24
7	2024	Infrastructure Services	Alternate design/ relining the service lane between Potter, Ranft, Main and Dick Street	This work package is currently being scoped and will depend on pricing and constructability. Further update to follow.	Michael Duff	Next financial year
8	2024	Infrastructure Services	Stormwater and Wastewater modelling	Water engineers continue to work on a digital storm and waste water modelling project across the region. They are currently doing Westport and will look to commence Reefton straight after. This modeling is important as it will look to inform options for separation and improve the Reefton wastewater treatment plant performance and matter of Te Mana o te Wai. Having sound modeling data is essential for deciding on future waste water and storm water pipe replacements and specifications - especially around the brick arch and near the waste water treatment plant where one pipe potentially may need to be replaced with two.	Michael Duff	Next financial year
9	2024	Infrastructure Services	Stormwater Reticulation for Lancaster Street	The Better-Off funding targeted stormwater improvements in Inangahua (externally funded works) it is in the planning stage and requires significant investigation into the new proposed stormwater network system to ensure it delivers an appropriate service level to residents.	Michael Duff	Jul-24

10	2024	Infrastructure Services	Drainage Reserve Land Swap	<p>The Stormwater Reserve (Gazetted 1968) at 7 Herald Street diagonally transects the property and impedes future development. The stormwater channel no longer follows the path of the reserve, therefore Council has begun the process of dis-establishing this reserve under the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977.</p> <p>In exchange, the current owner will swap an equivalent area of land on this section as a reserve and sign an easement agreement for the modified stormwater ditch. A public notice will be issued at the end of March providing the community with the opportunity to give feedback until late April. Council and Ngati Waewae have already given consent to proceed. All costs associated with the process are being met by the land owner.</p> <p>Once the public notice period of one calendar month has closed all feedback will be collated and presented to Council. If, after considering the feedback, Council decides to endorse the land swap then that decision along with all the feedback will be forwarded to Minister of Conservation for consideration. If the land swap is approved by the Minister the reserve status will be uplifted from the current reserve and that land will be transferred to the land owner. The land identified to be swapped will be gazetted as Local Purpose Reserve (drainage).</p>	Michael Duff	May-24
DRINKING WATER						
1	2024	Infrastructure Services	Replacement of Reefton Water main	To replace Walsh Street water main from Herald Street to Dick Streety to enhance level of service and resilience.	Michael Duff	Next financial year
2	2024	Infrastructure Services	Repair of Reefton treated water reservoir fencing	To repair Reefton treated water reservoir fencing to increase water supply security and minimise open water hazard of old water reservoir body.	Michael Duff	Next financial year
3	2024	Infrastructure Services	Inangahua Settlement new treated water main	To install new rising main pipeline from Inaganahua Junction Water treatment plant to the treated water reservoir.	Michael Duff	Next financial year
ROADING						
1	2024	Infrastructure Services	Camp Bridge replacement	Camp Bridge is a minor bridge located along the side of the Kiwirail line in Inangahua. It is due for replacement because of structural failure. Technical staff have received design from WSP. Final construction drawings are complete and its with WestReef Services Ltd for final construction.	Michael Duff	By July 2024
2	2024	Infrastructure Services	Reefton and Ikamatua footpath resealing	There is a planned work programme for footpath resealing in Reefton, and Ikamatua area to be undertaken throughout the 2023-2024 summer.	Michael Duff	By July 2024
3	2024	Infrastructure Services	Roading team visit to Inangahua <i>*Updates in red</i>	<p>The roading team visited Inangahua on 11th of January 2024 to discuss roading related issues recorded in the last ICB meeting. Some of these issues need action from Kiwirail - the BDC Roding coordinator will make contact with the necessary agencies and provide an update when able. These issues included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Speed control ideas for the "D" on Ikamatua township road - Street cleaning (gravel/ aggregate being carried on the road due to Kiwirail operation) at the junction between the Ikamatua rail bypass road and the railway crossing - <i>Kiwirail have removed the ballast stockpile from the junction of Ikamatua Rail Bypass and the State Highway/ Any aggregates spilled on the road will be cleared by Kiwi Rail/ WR</i> - Sightline improvements with encroaching vegetation making intersections less safe - <i>NZTA have been given a list of maintenance issues that come under their Jurisdiction, including vegetation clearance and mowing</i> - Kiwirail ballast area- <i>Marker posts have been installed to deter heavy vehicles from cutting the corner. Once the success of the marker posts has been assessed we will consider programming repair of the damaged section of the road on the corner.</i> - Other general maintenance issues to discuss with Westreef - The Thompsons Road Junction on the State Highway is being raised at the next NZTA Safety Meeting 	Michael Duff	By July 2024
PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE						
1	2024	Infrastructure Services	Roding Return to Service Programme - Gannons Creek Bridge	<p>A gap has shown under the wingwall (As shown in the photo). Repairs will consist of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excavating loose material under the wingwall down to the bedrock - Reinforcing bars drilled into the bedrock and base of wingwall - Formwork placed at front and back of wingwall - Concrete poured and formwork removed 		By April 2024

2	2024	Infrastructure Services	Roading Return to Service Programme - Rough Creek Bridge	Rock has been located against the piles of the bridge (as shown in the photo). Repairs will consist of: - Removal of existing rock - Place sandbags against the bridge piles - Backfill with gravel - Place geotextile fabric to ensure fines from gravel are not washed out - Replace rock		By April 2024
IKAMATUA SITE VISIT WITH COUNCILLOR NEYLON						
1	2024	Infrastructure Services	Salmon Creek (SH7) – gorse, roadside mowing <i>- Updates in red</i>	Salmon Creek (SH7) – gorse, roadside mowing The Salmon Creek Bridge and approaches both north and south are along the State Highway network. We understand that the residents are keen to see the road side verges, and in particular the vegetation and gorse coming through the fences controlled to enhance the attractiveness of this entry to the settlement. Waka Kotahi NZTA is the Road Controlling Authority (RCA) for this segment of road. Action: <i>BDC roading staff have forwarded this on to NZTA for Action</i>	Michael Duff	By April 2024
	2024	Infrastructure Services	Railcrossing – Rail Bypass Road – gravel on apex of curve <i>- Updates in red</i>	Railcrossing – Rail Bypass Road – gravel on apex of curve This site is experiencing high gravel migration from the apex of the curve into the roadway. This is a clear problem, and one we agree needs remediating urgently. Council roading engineers will need to liaise with Kiwirail to ensure rail ballast stockpiling practices change to mitigate this from happening. Council Roding staff to also repair the pavement surface defects to ensure smooth and safe travel. Action: <i>Kiwirail have removed the ballast stockpile, lowered the level of the gravel yard by 100mm and installed marker posts to deter heavy traffic from cutting the corner. Once the success of these measures has been assessed Council will consider programming the repair of the damaged section of road.</i>	Michael Duff	By June 2024
	2024	Infrastructure Services	Visibility from Rail Crossing/Bypass Road entrance onto SH 7 – looking SW <i>- Updates in red</i>	Visibility from Rail Crossing/Bypass Road entrance onto SH 7 – looking SW Some tree planting has been undertaken in the past as part of a community driven initiative to achieve Ikamatua Beautification. Some of those trees that were planted are now presenting a clear sight distance hazard for traffic on the intersection entering from Rail Bypass Road onto the State Highway. Action: <i>Issue communicated to NZTA</i>	Michael Duff	By April 2024
	2024	Infrastructure Services	State Highway road side mowing <i>- Updates in red</i>	State Highway road side mowing There are several identified locations both alongside the highway and in the tenure strip between highway and kiwirail land that the community feels would benefit from regular mowing and maintenance in order to further enhance the attractiveness of Ikamatua. Where these fall within the state highway roading corridor, it is for NZTA to action. Where it is in the Local Road corridor, BDC can do this work. Action: <i>Issue communicated to NZTA</i>	Michael Duff	By April 2024
	2024	Infrastructure Services	Golf Links Road – old cattle stop <i>- Updates in red</i>	The request was made to consider re-instating the old cattle stop. The site was visited and inspected. The cattle stop is not required for local road management (it currently bypasses this). Staff view is that if the cattle stop is a helpful addition to the local land owner for his/her farming practices, then the costs should fall to them. If they wish to restore this asset, an approach will need to be made by the farmer to BDC Roding team with a clear plan for re-instatement and ongoing maintenance commitments via MOU. Action: <i>over to landowner to make approach.</i>	Michael Duff	By April 2024
	2024	Infrastructure Services	Pump Services – publically accessible toilets <i>- Updates in red</i>	Del from Pump Services was in principle happy to continue this arrangement for now. Kieron is to contact her to make a visit to arrange terms and conditions (027 716 2047 email: bcdkld@gmail.com) Further longer term conversation can be had by the property team with the Ikamatua Tavern owner(s). Action: <i>Council Parks, Property and Reserves staff have reconnected with Del at Pump Services to ascertain the ongoing willingness of providing some level of public accessible facility (during business operating times) for public loos for a small fiscal yearly contribution. Buller District Council have agreed to cover some of the cost involved in the ongoing maintenance and cleanliness..</i>	Michael Duff	By June 2024

2024	Infrastructure Services	Snowy River Road – bypass laybys and speed restrictions - Updates in red	As part of the consent conditions the mining company have installed the passing bays. Satty and Alan to inspect for completeness. The speed reduction suggestions shall be encourage to be captured via the Regional Speed Management Plan consultation that will be open for consultation from March 2024, last submissions due by 5PM Tuesday 16th April 2024, via the WCRC website. Action: Inspection scheduled for end of March	Michael Duff	By April 2024
2024	Infrastructure Services	Ikamatua Footpaths – condition improvements - Updates in red	The footpaths require the spray and moss removal. Also elements of the existing network can benefit from spray chip seal reapplication. The new extension footpaths will need to have a budget bid endorsed via LTP process and NZTA NLTP 24-27 bid. Action: Placed on next years maintenance list, from 1 July 2024.	Michael Duff	Next financial year
2024	Infrastructure Services	Speed control in the "D" - Updates in red	The speed reduction suggestions was to take this down to 30km/h. This shall be encourage to be captured via the Regional Speed Management Plan consultation that will be open for consultation from March 2024, last submissions due by 5PM Tuesday 16th April 2024, via the WCRC website. Action: Steps have been taken towards this, in the form of contacting the appropriate people to inform them that they need to make a submission to have this included in the SMP process. All necessary information has been supplied to ensure success of making this submission. Also hearing back from local community they do not want speed bumps upon reflection.	Michael Duff	By April 2024
2024	Infrastructure Services	SH7 turn entry onto Thompson Road - Updates in red	For traffic heading from Reefton to Ikamatua, waiting to turn right into Thompson Road, means they are feeling exposed sitting in live lane of the State Highway. Waka Kotahi NZTA is the Road Controlling Authority (RCA) for this segment of road. Action: . Issue communicated to NZTA and is on the agenda for the next Safety Meeting	Michael Duff	By April 2024
ICB CHAIR REPORT GENERAL ITEMS					

INANGAHUA COMMUNITY BOARD

9 APRIL 2024

AGENDA ITEM 6

Prepared by Councillor Linda Webb
Chair

Attachment 1: Petition Cover Letter. Ziman House

CHAIR'S REPORT

1. REPORT SUMMARY

This report is to provide commentary on significant events and meetings attended by the Chair. The report also provides information on advocacy or political matters relevant to the Inangahua Ward currently before Council.

2. DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received for discussion and information.

3. GENERAL ITEMS

3.1 Reefton Camping Ground Open Day March 16

This was a great success with a large crowd of people who looked through the upgraded facilities. The new mangers have now started.

3.2 **Ikamatua issues – An update will be provided on the issues below**

Following consultation with the community, these are the issues that have been highlighted and BDC staff are intending to pursue.

- Salmon Creek - Spray gorse, Clean up, Include in Roadside mowing
- Rail crossing – Metal on road, visibility (tree)
- Mowing – Spray drains so water can run off
- Golf Course Road – Fix cattle stop, culverts
- Footpaths – Spray and reseal
- Snowy River Road – Speed restriction? Passing lane/bay
- Public Toilets – Looking at the possibility of getting stand alone toilets
- Thompson Road – No place to get off the road if coming from Reefton

3.3 **Enhanced Annual Plan and waste consultation Drop in Sessions**

BDC are currently sorting out consultation opportunities for our communities to engage once the DRAFT Plan and consultation document has been adopted on the 10th April. They are proposing drop-in sessions which will be informal opportunities for the community to talk elected members about the Enhanced Annual Plan. They will also be running the waste consultation at the same time which will be manned by staff in a separate area. This will happen between 22 April and 9 May.

3.4 **Projects / Requests**

Several projects / requests have been discussed with staff with a request that an update be provided for at the meeting:

- **Costings for the Government Funded upgrade to the Reefton Community Centre** – add as action point
- **DOC update** - Clarification is needed on who owns what land in regards to the Reefton Reservoir Walk and who will be maintaining this track. This is a follow up from our last meeting.
- **Strand Dog poo bin** - The key for this is held by WestReef
- **Noise Control**
What service is offered in Reefton in regards to noise control complaints?
- **Toilet at Women's Institute**
Possibility of converting the toilet into an accessible toilet. What is the progress on this?

3.5 **Reefton Hospital Action Group Petition**

I have attached the letter address to the Mayor and BDC Councillors from the Reefton Hospital Action Group. They presented at last months Council Meeting and presented a petition signed by more than 2000 people requesting the reopening of Ziman House and the return of palliative and respite care.

3.6 **Deputy Chair for ICB**

In the case of myself being absent from an ICB meeting, I propose we elect a deputy chair that can chair our meetings.

3.7 **Oceania Visit – Globe mine site**

The ICB members visited the Globe Mine site for an update on the restoration and were impressed by the plans for the new Visitor Experience Project. Thank you to Megan Williams for facilitating this visit.

3.8 **West Coast Draft Regional Speed Management Plan Feedback**

Discussion needed around any feedback we would like to give on behalf of the ICB. <https://bullerdc.govt.nz/have-your-say/draft-west-coast-regional-speed-management-plan/#:~:text=The%20Draft%20West%20Coast%20Regional%20Speed%20Management%20Plan%20is%20a,benefit%20local%20roads%20and%20areas.>

To Mayor Jamie Cleine and the Buller District Council

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

This letter aims to set out two concepts.

The first is the background story to the Petition that will be presented to you 27th March 2024, by members of the Reefton Hospital Action Group; namely Moira Lockington, Bernadette Snowdon, Suzanne Archer and Zoe Gough.

More than 2000 people have signed this petition requesting the reopening of Ziman House and the return of palliative and respite care. It is clearly a request that resonates with many.

The second aim is to request BDC's support and advocacy to reinstate Aged Residential Care at Ziman House, and palliative and respite care.

As you will know, Reefton's Ziman House Aged Care Unit was emptied of its inhabitants by the then WCDHB in 2022.

The reasons are well-documented : the looming threat of covid, understaffing, internal politics and a lack of duty of care by the employers themselves ~ the then WCDHB. (Sherriff report -Jan '22)

The DHB gave little notice to the residents of Ziman House or to their whanau before the evacuation. Nor was there any offer of consultation with our community to formulate a solution to keep our kaumatua close to their whanau and turangawaewae.

It is understood that a motivation for moving the elderly occupants of Zimon House at short notice was a fear of Reefton's staunchness, a staunchness which was brought to the fore during the time of the Hands around the Hospital demonstration when closure loomed in 1988.

Sadly, in 2022 the DHB misread Reefton's staunchness as a threat when it is in fact an asset and a strength which the DHB could have drawn on, and still could.

Regardless of the reasons for the actions of the DHB, it is well-known that the residents of Ziman House were happy and well-cared for and they did not want to leave their community.

This is illustrated by Ramona Waghorn who demanded a lawyer when she realised she was being taken away.

When no lawyer surfaced she tootled up to the police station in her mobility scooter to seek sanctuary.

Sadly, the station was shut and Ramona was taken away to Hokitika where she recently ended her days at the age of 95 . Of the ten Ziman House residents removed only two are still alive.

As you may see from the photos overhead, Ziman House has indeed been fully refurbished but remains empty.

It is potentially a marvellous resource. It is cleaned daily. Given the shortage of Aged Residential Care accommodation around the West Coast, this may only be seen as an obscene social and economic waste.

It is also actively harmful to the aged, their families and our whole community.

Current research shows that the aged thrive by being cared for in their own communities with daily contact with their own people.

The March 2024 report by Aged Care Commissioner Carolyn Cooper stated that: *"harm can be caused by separation of couples and whānau where consumers must seek care in another region a long distance from their home."*

"There are significant negative impacts on the wellbeing of older people associated with living a long distance away from their spouse/partner and whānau/ family."

This is no secret in Reefton where geographical inequalities in Aged Care remain active despite the rhetoric from Poutini Whatu Ora, Takiwa etc.

In a letter to the CDHB about the closure of Ziman House, the Nurses Union stated in October 2023 that:

"The feedback we have received from staff is that they believe that the facility should be reopened as an aged care facility."

"Staff and the community feel strongly about the facility reopening and staff believe that recruitment of the required amount of RNs would be possible."

"Staff feel that there has been no attempt at recruiting to Reefton so it is premature to rely on the inability to recruit as a justification for the change."

RHAG fully agrees with this statement after looking on Te Whatu Ora's recruitment website to see advertising for 8 vacancies, none of them in Reefton. Is Whatu Ora advertising elsewhere for RNs for Reefton? If not, this would explain why no-one has applied for jobs here, as their management claimed at our last meeting.

The Aged Care Commissioner's report also indicated that *"kaumātua have special status"* and that *"kaumātua knowledge is an important resource for the community."*

Regardless of how they identify culturally the aged folk of our district are treasures. They embody the history of the district and we feel the loss because as you may know, Reefton folk savour their history.

RHAG's recent survey has identified eleven local residents who will potentially require residential care in the very near future

Five local people who would have benefited from local residential care have recently been obliged to leave their turangawaewae.

At least one local person would currently benefit from respite and one person from hospital step down service

Palliative care for all ages remains a priority.

We believe that the required number of RNs (5.5) to enable the reopening of Ziman are out there and could be recruited if Reefton's plight was advocated by Council to Poutini Whatu Ora and the Minister of Health.

We look forward to Council's response on this.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Bollinger on behalf of RHAG.