

I hereby give notice that an ordinary meeting of the Golden Bay Community Board will be held on:

Date: Monday 1 July 2024
Time: 1.00pm
Meeting Room: Collingwood Fire Station,
Venue: Elizabeth Street, Collingwood

Golden Bay Community Board Hapori Whānui ō Mohua

MINUTES ATTACHMENTS

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Almost four years ago I attended the Community Board in Pakawau Hall and proposed attempting to get the Salisbury Swingbridge reinstated. Councillor Hill kindly agreed to be our Community Board representative and we got a small group together Chris, Carolyn McLellan, Kate Heal and myself.

We met and discussed a game plan, which was that we would seek Central Government grant aid, as we considered that our current TDC debt level was already alarming. We approached all the local groups and organisations we would think of and received considerable encouragement, I'd like to thank them and the hundreds of signatories who signed the petition at Langford's Store.

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Covid then hit us and since then the level of Central Government and indeed Local Authority debt has sky rocketed.

Having approached both Damien O'Connor, who was responsible for finding the funding for the 2003 refurbishment and our newly elected MP Maureen Pugh, no immediate golden egg was laid. We would like to thank Maureen who gave us an entire morning to review the site and gave us some pointers, but no promises.

I made a submission to the TDC Long Term Plan requesting that if funding could be found to rebuild the bridge, would the TDC readopt the bridge as an asset and the answer was no. In short, the TDC don't want the bridge so even if the roughly \$300,000 fell into our laps tomorrow.

In consideration of the TDC's response and the sad state of the country's and the TDC's levels of debt, we do not consider that this is the time to push further, for a nice-to-have attraction.

In the last 21 years since I've been living in the west of the Bay, I've witnessed the demise of several significant attractions and facilities which have been closed, for various reasons, by the authorities; the Farewell Spit Café, the Collingwood Raft Race and associated Market, Farewell Horse Treks, Te Anaroa Caves, the Wild Food Festival, the Joan Whiting Nursing Home and of course the Salisbury Swingbridge.

The Swingbridge was opened in 1887, was damaged, rebuilt and repaired several times until 2004. It got swept away in the 2010 floods and the TDC chose not to reinstate it. I find it sad that a Category 2 Historic Place, that was with us for 123 years was allowed to die on our watch.

I apologise for my failure, thanks to my team members and those who would like to see the bridge replaced, but our group is giving up. If anyone or any group would like to pick up the baton, our files and data are available, please get in touch.

Thank you.

Bruce Collings – Golden Bay Community Board 1 July 2024