

Good afternoon Team.

I would like to give my thoughts on the LTP. Many items included in there already, I am in favour of, such as improvement of playgrounds for kiddies etc. I'm not sure what 'minor renewals for TK Library' even means, but I do think for the size of our town, our library is a shining star with wonderful staff - my only request there would be to have a lot more non-fiction large print books! Choice is **very** limited. Not sure what 'developing walking & cycleways' means, but I would LOVE to see the tracks for walking /biking in Brook Park improved. At the moment the whole park looks a disgrace & I really don't know what's happened there. On a number of occasions I have asked Council **WHY** we can't have better access to BP at the Colin Brook Place entrance. That stile there is **SO** dangerous - I've lost count of how many I've seen (including elderly) trip getting over it. Even saw a young woman with a baby strapped on her back actually fall - thankfully she took the brunt of the fall. I did suggest some of us would be prepared to even **PAY** for a new gate like the ones that are at the main entrance (one, the small gate that is self-closing, or the other styled so although 'open', sheep won't walk through it (sorry, don't know what they are called). But I never got so much as a reply. It does make one hesitant to even bother with things like having a say on the LTP as it appears nothing is ever taken notice of.

These are the points that concern me, (in order of importance to me), that I would like addressed (& it certainly will influence my voting at next LG elections):-

- * Rates. I truly believe very few of us can afford another increase in rates. However I know money has to come from somewhere, so provided it was only a minimal increase, I could live with that. I will not be happy though if water rates are also instigated in the area!
- * The lack of a gate as above at Brook Park (Colin Brook Place entrance) and again, we would be more than happy to raise the required funds to do this.
- * Absolutely NO more Council funds to be directed to the Timber Trail! If it can't stand alone now after so much input from Council, maybe it just won't survive. especially now post-Covid, when for the foreseeable future, we will have vastly reduced numbers of overseas visitors. I can't understand why they have EVER received anything when I believe it is privately owned??
- * I am in favour of the new proposed stadium but again, certainly not in the present economic climate and most definitely not if it's going to involve any further costs to ratepayers. There should be a cap on how much Council provides & it should **NOT** exceed monies already allocated.

* Roaming dogs continue to be a problem here & I've given up calling Dog Control about dogs being exercised off-leash in Brook Park & The Rose Gardens. I know our Dog Control Officer here does his very best but he covers such a huge area, he needs at least one, if not 2 more staff. And we should come down much harder on errant dog owners who refuse to abide by the rules. Most of us put a lot of time & money into training our dogs, making sure our properties are completely dog-proofed & fenced etc etc - we pay enough in dog rego fees - it should be a priority that everyone plays by the rules, if not, much higher fines for unregistered dogs & pound fees to get a dog out of the Pound should apply.

* I would like to see much more representation at Tourism conferences & Home Shows in NZ , especially those targeting the Kiwi tourist/home owners. Te Kuiti sadly is still seen as a town to pass through on the way to Waitomo Caves, Hamilton or New Plymouth, with a low socio-economic population, although it was very pleasing to see the recent publicity given to the King Country, & TK in particular in the media recently. Just a shame most reading/seeing it thought (incorrectly) that the \$600K figure quoted was a median. (I asked friends in Ak & Ham & that was the impression they got also). With so many people now, across all age groups, being **so** interested in reno's (thanks to the plethora of Home Renovation shows on TV) we should instead be promoting the number of solidly built older homes available here, that just need a 'make-over' & tidy-up - & can still be purchased under \$350k! I still have to have it confirmed, but I believe the majority of out of towners purchasing property here in TK are buying as rentals & NOT to move into. (which will help the rental market but it's not attracting new residents). Another idea I had which wasn't acknowledged, was a 'Te Kuiti's most beautiful street' or something similar. There could be an incentive for people to improve their homes, even something so simple as packets of seeds, a native plant etc. It has to start somewhere. Maybe some night classes on DIY (c'mon Mitre 10), how to plant a vege garden (Michelle Wi is the expert here), painting tips & know how - its SO easy to get representatives from companies to run these type of things. Costs little except their accommodation costs & a meal. So many streets sadly look very run down & it's putting people off coming here. It annoys me to hear some from other areas talk about crime rates in TK - well they should go live in places like Taupo & they'd see how bad crime is there now! So much worse than here. It's all 'perceived' thoughts. We really need to think outside the square. And I still say, and stand by, my opinion that the exorbitant rates are the biggest hindrance to attracting new owners to TK. No question.

Just some general comments - I have to admit I don't buy much here in TK apart from TWH, New World & sometimes Mitre10. One does try to support local, but at the end of the day, & in this present economic climate, when every dollar is important, one goes to where the 'best deal' is, whether that is on-line, or travelling to places such as Te Awamutu which has great shopping or further to Hamilton. (yes I know you have to factor in petrol costs but it is still often

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to add to my submission on LTP re Dog Control. Does WDC have any intention go follow Wgtn (& probably ChCh Council) lead in getting rid of the plastic dog tags, in an attempt to be environmentally-friendly? Their new ones are not plastic, last the dogs lifetime (although you still pay normal dog rego fees each year - maybe the rego part could be called something else?) come in 2 sizes for small or large dogs, and have provision for adding dog's name & phone number on reverse. I think it's a wonderful idea! Cheers