

# THAMES COMMUNITY BOARD AREA

## Thames - Community Development

### 80. Youth Safety

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Submitter #98 the Thames Youth Forum state that crime and violence has been identified as one of the biggest issues impacting young people in Thames/ Thames Coast. The Thames Youth Forum would like to advocate that Council consider all of the activities it undertakes to make this community safer for its residents e.g. more streetlights in unlit areas, installing more security cameras

**The matter for the Council to consider is...**

**Options for safer communities including streetlights and security cameras.**

**Staff recommendation**

That Council note the submission and make no further changes to the Annual Plan.

**Staff reason for recommendation for recommendation**

Community Safety is a priority decision making tool for the Thames Community Board.

Additionally, Council's Youth Strategy (within the justice and crime section) acknowledges that Thames Coromandel experiences low levels of crime (particularly around violent crime) than most other Council's in New Zealand, however it also acknowledges that at peak periods and in certain locations there are higher incidence levels. One of the responses to this has been the introduction of liquor bans. The strategy also acknowledges that only 30% of crime is reported to police. Therefore there may be a greater issue than is reflected officially. Therefore one option is for the youth forum to escalate their experiences through the Peninsula wide youth network to see if young people in other parts of the Coromandel have similar experiences. Each theme of the youth strategy will develop an action plan to address issues raised by young people - the implementation of this action plan will be likely requiring a multi-agency response.

**Community Board Recommendation**

Agrees with staff comments and add that a written response be provided to the Thames Youth Forum regarding the Annual Plan hearings. The Thames Community Board welcomes youth input into the street lighting programme and encourage representatives from the youth forum to provide further input into this programme. The Thames Community Board also has a working group looking at upgrading security cameras in Thames.

## Thames - Water

### 81. Fluoridation of Water Supply

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Submitter #25 from Fluoride Action Network provides a 41 page report to Council covering research and recent decisions made by Hamilton City Council during the Fluoridation debate 2013-2014. The submitter does not provide any other comments around a decision sought. The report covers the following key topics:

- 1) World Health Organisation Statistics for Dental Health by Country.
- 2) Fluoride does not work by swallowing
- 3) An account by a former principal dental officer of Auckland and fluoridation promoter and why he changed his mind.
- 4) Statement by Hardy Limeback, former leading Canadian Fluoridation Advocate 2009.
- 5) Fluoridation is Uncontrolled Medication
- 6) Findings from Natick Fluoridation Study committee 1997.
- 7) Why Environment Protection Agencies Headquarter of Professional Union Opposes Fluoridation.
- 8) Hamilton Fluoridation Debate 2013-2014.
- 9) Unfluoridated Canterbury's Answer to Dental Decay.
- 10) A statement on why Judge Hansen's Ruling on the Legality of Fluoridation sets a dangerous precedent.

Submitter # 80 Jordan Lynn (Health Professionals Opposing Fluoridation) requests that TCDC cease fluoridation of the Thames Water Supply and include a full public consultation with written question from council and public responses presented so that referenced answers can be prepared.

Submitter # 167 Noeline Gannaway requests that Council end water fluoridation permanently. For the following reasons:

- The weight of scientific evidence showing it is harmful to human health.
- Fluoride is now linked to premature births, increased rates of infant mortality, lowered intelligence, bone cancer in young men, a general increase in cancer, arthritis, thyroid dysfunction, increased rates of hip fracture and heart disease.
- Dental fluorosis (mottling of tooth enamel) is the first outward sign of fluoride poisoning.  
Any benefit to the teeth from fluoride, by hardening the enamel, comes from topical application (as with toothpaste) NOT from ingesting it.
- Fluoride added to our water is a waste product of the phosphate industry containing traces of heavy metals such as arsenic, lead, mercury, aluminium and radioactive elements.
- Babies are at particular risk, as are those with impaired kidney function.

**The matter for the Council to consider is...**

**Future public consultation on Fluoridation of Thames Water Supply.**

**Staff recommendation**

That Council note the submission points and make no changes to the Annual Plan.

**Staff reason for recommendation**

Fluoridation of the Water Supply was not identified as an Annual Plan issue and was previously consulted on between December 2012 and January 2013. As a result of the consultation the Thames Community Board recommended to Council that fluoridation of the Thames Water Supply continued.

Council has committed to review the matter of Fluoridation and levels of service through the 2015-2025 Long Term Plan.

**Community Board recommendation**

Agrees with the staff recommendations and reasons.

## Thames - Parks and Reserves-

### 82. Replacement of Hauraki Terrace Playground

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Submitter # 16 (Room 2 Thames South School) request that Council replace Hauraki Terrace Playground. They state that the playground is old and requires replacement. They state that Thames South School have worked to develop a proposal which covers local needs and have already replaced a swing set working with Council and would like to work further with Council to develop replacing the rest of the equipment and be involved in designing the new equipment.

Submitter # 66 and #68 request that Council upgrade Hauraki Terrace Playground which includes a dog bin and proposes:

- The current playground is a health and safety risk.
- It's in a key location and would boost community especially for those who do not have access to play equipment
- That parents and caregivers assist in construction and maintenance
- A dog bin is necessary
- Removal of vegetation around street lighting is needed to improve lighting to the playground.
- Three options were presented around costs for the playground and indicative costs.

**The matter for the Council to consider is...**

**To include a project and allocate funds to upgrade Hauraki Terrace Playground.**

#### **Staff recommendation**

Support the Submission and amend the Annual Plan subject to Thames Community Board decision on a report requesting allocation of existing funding for replacement in the 2013/2014 Year. If approved there will be no need for funding in the 2014/2015 year.

Funding of a dog bin at the reserve is also recommended in 2014/2015. The dog bin will cost approximately \$500 to purchase and \$120 per annum to service.

#### **Staff reason for recommendation for recommendation**

The playground provides a valuable community need in an area of high social need. The current playground equipment is well utilised but in need of replacement both due to condition and to comply with current safety standards. Dog bins are needed at this location for sanitary purposes.

#### **Community Board recommendation**

Thames Community Board agrees with the staff recommendation and has approved funding through an existing 2013/2014 budget so no change is required to the 2014/2015 Annual Plan.

## Thames - Parks and Reserves

### 83. Sporting Facilities in Thames

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18 submissions were received in support of Sporting Facilities in Thames. Of these, 8 were in support generally for Sporting Facilities in Thames. 7 were in support of the Skate Park and 6 were specifically supporting the dry court facility. The main reasons stated were that it is long overdue and that sporting facilities are important.

One submitter opposed the Thames Sporting Facility project stating that \$885,000 was excessive for investigations and that this project could be another Mercury Bay Multisport budget blowout.

Submitter # 22 requests that Council continue and increase allocated funding and administrative support for sports facilities in Thames. The submitter states that Thames is the largest permanent population in the rateable area and has the least number of facilities.

Submitter # 33 requests that Council approve the project plan and business case for the Thames Community Sports Facility so progress is finally made as it has been stalled and put on the back burner for too long and Thames needs this facility now.

Submitter # 44 Sports Waikato submit in support of the recreational changes from the 2012-2022 Ten Year Plan in support of the Thames Community Sports Facility and supportive of a partnership approach with the school.

Submitter # 67 requests that Council doesn't forget or leave out the Rhodes Park Project for a physically healthy Thames.

Submitters #69 and #70 #72, #73 and #74 support the Thames Recreation Facilities Projects including Skate Park, addition of Dry Court to Thames High School Gymnasium & Multipurpose Clubrooms & Facilities, as these will make Thames a vibrant healthy community.

Submitter # 78 requests that Council does not defer the project as the need for and availability of, the proposed dry court facility (which is hoped will be the focus in the 2014/15 and 2015/16 years) has already been documented. The submitter states that another business case is unnecessary, and will mean that current funding round for grants will be missed and will prove costly in the long run by dragging the whole project out (yet again) to a later completion date.

Submitter # 81 and #85 supports Council's input into sports/recreational facilities in Thames as these are long over-due and supported by the whole community.

Submitter # 95 requests that all Thames Community Board Projects receive funding especially the sporting facilities projects as these are good for Thames.

Submitter # 98 (Thames Youth Forum) provide a youth survey for 2011 and 2013 and the Thames Youth Forum support the completion of the Thames Skate Park at Porrit Park and state

that a lack of youth focused facilities has been identified in both the 2011 and 2013 Coromandel Youth Surveys as a factor for youth being un-engaged in their community. This project has been worked on by the community for 15 years and because of this we expect to see no more delays and this finalised in this annual year.

(Submitter # 98) The Thames Youth forum is pleased to acknowledge that a Thames Community Sports Facility is identified as a priority and would like to advocate that Council provide on-going support be given to the Zoom Zone group who have undertaken the lion's share of this project.

Submitter # 107 and #108 support the projects and requests these to be finished by 2016.

Submitter #99 believes that Thames Community Sports Facility, even the deferred amount of \$445,000 seems excessive and does not want this to become another MB Sports Complex financial fiasco. Costs need to be very carefully monitored and justified or in the near future.

**The matter for the Council to consider is...**

**The scope and progress of the Thames Sports Facilities.**

**Staff recommendation**

Council note the submission points and recommend that the current budget allocations be retained for the 2014/15 Annual Plan provisional on Community Board and Councils approval of a final business case.

**Staff reason for recommendation**

A business case is currently being prepared to Councils newly adopted standards to ensure that Council has all the information to determine the prudence and viability of these projects.

**Community Board recommendation**

Agrees with the staff comments and adds in 'Community Board and Councils approval..' to the staff recommendation.

## Thames - Strategic Planning

### 84. Placemakers Site

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Submitter #99 suggests that the Tourism Precinct at Placemakers site should be put on hold until the Kopu Gateway concept is finalised. The submitter states that there may be no need for this Placemakers site or even the Thames I-site if these activities can be concentrated at Kopu which would capture more visitors than a Thames site. Kopu could also host the Destination Coromandel offices presently located in the Goldfields Mall.

**The matter for the Council to consider is...**

**The timing of the development of the Placemakers site in Thames.**

#### **Staff recommendation**

Council note that the Kopu Development Concept Plan does not specifically recommend an Information/Tourist Centre at Kopu.

Council note that the development of the placemakers site is subject to further precinct planning and is yet to be determined.

#### **Staff reason for recommendation**

The Thames Urban Development Strategy proposal that Grahamstown be developed as a visitor precinct is consistent with leisure activities and museum attractions that are located there.

#### **Community Board recommendation**

Agrees with the staff recommendations and reasons and add that the Thames Community Board is considering several options on around the relocation of the i-site.



## Thames - Community Centres and Halls

### 85. Fees and Charges for Thames Hall Storage Hire

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Submitter # 20 (Thames Community Board) requests that the Fees and Charges for Thames Halls Storage Hire be amended from \$5 to \$2 per month per m<sup>3</sup>, with one month being the minimum charge.

**The matter for the Council to consider is...**

**Change of Fees and Charges Hall Storage Hire from a \$5 charge to a one month minimum charge of \$2 per month per m<sup>3</sup>.**

**Staff recommendation**

That Council amend the Fees and Charges for Thames Hall Storage Hire from \$5 to \$2 per month per m<sup>3</sup>, with one month being the minimum charge.

**Staff reason for recommendation**

The current fee of \$5 per square metre is ambiguous.

**Community Board recommendation**

Agrees with the staff recommendations and reasons and add that there would be a clear access way to the relocated toilet from the roadside. these new toilets will not impact on the completions of new toilets at Grahams Town for the 2014/2015 year. The new toilets at Porrit Park will still provide for through traffic with the provision of adequate signage for queens street traffic directing motorists into the shoppers carpark and to park at the back of the mall.

## Thames - Airfield

### 86. Fees and Charges

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Submitter # 20 (Thames Community Board) requests that Council include the wording in the fees and charges schedule for the Thames Airfield to include microlights in the \$10 landing fee.

**The matter for the Council to consider is...**

**To amend wording of the Fees and Charges for Thames Airfield to include micro lights.**

**Staff recommendation**

That Council amend the Fees and Charges for the Thames Airfield to state that the \$10 landing fee also covers microlight aircraft.

**Staff reason for recommendation**

For clarification purposes.

**Community Board recommendation**

Agrees with the staff recommendations and reasons

## Thames - Public Conveniences

### 87. Porrit Park Toilets

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Submitter # 89 requests that Council replace the public toilets in Thames adjacent to Goldfields car park.

The submitter states that they are in an appalling condition, difficult to keep clean and the cubicles are too small for comfortable use. (It is almost impossible to get in and out the door without falling). The facility is placed in such a location as to be the first used by visitors to the Peninsula and therefore does not create a good impression at all.

**The matter for the Council to consider is...**

**Renewing the public toilets adjacent to Goldfields car park.**

**Staff recommendation**

That Council prioritise the replacement of the Porrit Park toilets and recommend a change to the Annual Plan to indicate that this replacement will be include within the existing public convenience renewals budget of \$178,565.

**Staff reason for recommendation**

Staff have assessed these toilets and are aware of capacity and quality issues.

This public toilet is the highest use toilet in the Thames area being located adjacent to Thames major playground and Goldfields Mall on the main highway.

Although built in the 1980's and structurally sound, the toilet design and capacity is woefully inadequate for current demand and poorly located for use by the park users. This was confirmed in a recent audit of district toilets with the Porrit Park toilet being rated highest for need of replacement.

Users include playground patrons and travellers to the Coromandel.

Regular complaints are received related to security, health and safety and quality of the facility.

The likely placement of a new skatepark for Thames at Porrit Park will increase toilet usage and the toilets current location compromises spacial design for the proposed skatepark and park layout.

The proposed new location would provide better and safe access for park users. The proposed new layout is supported by the Thames Police for visibility and security reasons.

A replacement facility with greater capacity and better design and is recommended to be located at the rear of the playground for ease of use by park patrons.

A larger and improved facility will also provide a better service to travellers visiting the peninsula and passing through Thames.

**Community Board recommendation**

Agrees with the staff recommendations and reasons and add that these new toilets will not impact on the completion of new toilets at Grahamstown for the 2014/2015 year. The new toilets at Porrit Park will still provide for through traffic with the provision of adequate signage for queens street traffic.

## Thames - Local Transportation

### 88. Pollen Street, Thames

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Submitter # 36 requests that Council consider a revised parking layout for Pollen Street, Thames.

The submitter specifically suggested amending the wording in the Annual Plan Thames Community Board Area Advocacy and Planning on page 22 from "Reviewing the walking, cycling and car parking strategies" to "Reviewing the walking, cycling and car parking strategies by changing forward entry angle parking to reverse entry angle parking in Thames."

The submitter states that current parking arrangements in Thames mean that vehicles have to egress into the traffic lane with very poor visibility to the drivers.

A revised parking layout would provide higher visibility to the drivers leading to the following improvements to road safety:

1. Proper view of traffic coming along the road including cycles.
2. No need to look through vehicles or large vehicles
3. Improved visibility to traffic entering the road from side streets due to car bonnets being viewed over rather than higher parts of vehicles.
4. This change is easily achieved at minimal costs.

#### **The matter for the Council to consider is...**

**The Parking layout of Thames Pollen Street be revised to allow for reverse parking.**

#### **Staff recommendation**

That Council note the submission and request that staff undertake further research on advantages of reverse entry angle parking and the associated costs.

#### **Staff reason for recommendation**

Staff note that there are a number of other considerations that need to be addressed when looking at reverse parking including:

- Location of street furniture and buildings in relation to reverse parking.
- Costs of re-marking the car parks
- Costs of relocating street furniture and installation of wheel stops

Staff suggest that a trial could be undertaken in a location that limits potential hazard to assess the benefits of such proposal. Staff will also look at where else this has been undertaken and the successors of this.

Staff also caution that vehicle crash data (from the national crash analysis system) suggests that these vehicle movements are not a large contributor to vehicle crash injuries.

**Community Board recommendation**

Agrees with the staff recommendations and reasons and add that the investigations should include legality of ú turns on Pollen Street.

## Thames - Local Transportation -

### 89. Car Parking Seal for Thames Contract Bridge Club, Brown Street.

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Submitter #84 (Thames Contract Bridge Club) requests that Council seal an area in front of the Thames Bridge Club at Brown Street at the cost of \$9,820. The submission provided a detailed breakdown of costs for construction.

The Club would like the area sealed as many of the members are elderly. Three are in their 90's, they, and those with mobility problems need to be dropped off, or to park close to the club and in the winter the grass is too wet and boggy to park on. Having this area paved would make a big difference to its members.

**The matter for the Council to consider is...**

**Sealing car parking of the Thames Contract Bridge club.**

#### **Staff recommendation**

That Council consider the formation of a carpark funded from the local roading activity at \$9,820 for 5 parks or \$14,483 for 8 parks.

#### **Staff reason for recommendation**

The site is not able to accommodate parking adequately on the road.

The area is busy, also being the venue for the Thames Squash and Tennis Clubs, the Thames Small Gauge Railway Station and the coastal walkway.

Creating a car park will improve usability and accessibility for patrons of a well utilised community activity.

Council Roading staff have provided estimates for the proposed parking (Cost options are \$9,820 for 5 parks and \$14,483 for 8 parks) and do not see any issues with safe access from the road or that part of the proposed car parking is formed on road reserve.

#### **Community Board recommendation**

This area is a well used area and includes the Thames Squash and tennis clubs and small gauge railway and toilets which means that there are a number of community groups and organisations using this area for parking. It is important to provide accessible parking in this area given elderly who use the club regularly.

## Thames - District Transportation

### 90. Thames Coast Road Widening

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Submitter #1 requests that Council does not widen the Thames Coast Road through Ngarimu and Thorntons Bay, and that the road verges are mown to allow for off road parking for visitors at Ngarimu Bay.

**The matter for the Council to consider is...**

**Widening of Thames Coast Road through Ngarimu and Thorntons Bay and provision of off road parking and mows the verges.**

**Staff recommendation**

That Council notes the submission and makes no changes to the Annual Plan.

**Staff reason for recommendation**

The Thames Coast Road is a State Highway managed by NZTA. Staff are not aware of any proposal to widen the road in this area and are not aware of any issues around parking or vehicles being unable to park at Ngarimu Bay at present. Staff will contact the submitter to ensure confirm.

Council's parks department currently mow the berm on the seaward side of SH25 at Ngarimu Bay.

**Community Board recommendation**

Agrees with the staff recommendations and reasons.



## Thames - Social Development

### 91. Thames Community Centre

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Submitter # 14 requests that Council consider a service level agreement with Thames Community Centre to provide capacity building support to not for profit social service, education and health community groups in the district.

It is the Trust's belief that in collaboration with TCDC it can provide a professional service to maximise the collective impact groups in the Tangata Whenua Community and Voluntary Sector in terms of the Council's stated outcomes by:

- Continuing to provide backroom resource and
- Providing capacity building support to groups to remain resilient.

**The matter for the Council to consider is...**

**A service level agreement with Thames Community Centre Trust.**

**Staff Recommendation**

That Council note the submission but make no changes to the Annual Plan.

That Council instruct staff to work with the Thames Community Centre over the course of the next six months to consider what the mutual benefits of a service level agreement would be, so that Council can consider this matter further.

**Staff reason for recommendation**

Currently Council has three District-wide service level agreements through its Social Development Activity. An SLA with the Thames Community Centre as proposed by the submitter is would best fit under the District Social Development Activity.

Having had initial conversations with the Thames Community Centre, staff believe there is definitely merit in pursuing a more formal relationship. The resource implications for Council (both personnel and funding) need to be considered further.

**Community Board recommendation**

Agrees with the staff recommendations and reasons.

## Thames - Social Development

### 92. Grant to the Coromandel Heritage Trust

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The Coromandel Heritage Trust (Submitter # 94) have just finished the Family History and Research Centre and Archive and request \$90,000 for funding of a full time curator and a receptionist position. Funds are being requested from both TCDC and HDC.

**The matter for the Council to consider is...**

**A grant or service level agreement to the Coromandel Heritage Trust.**

**Staff Recommendation**

That the Thames Community Board consider this matter further.

**Staff reason for recommendation**

Staff would caution that given this request is for funding of personnel, this request is unlikely to be one-off. Expectations could be raised that this be an on-going arrangement.

A \$90,000 grant, funded locally by the Thames Community Board area would be approximately (\$19.30 in GST) per rate payer.

**Community Board Recommendation**

That Council consider this as part of a District Grant within the Social Development activity. The Thames Community Board Consider that this organisation provide a district service and the Coromandel Heritage Trust are also seeking a contribution form Hauraki District Council. The Board note that Rex Simpson is the portfolio holder working with existing Museums to create an umbrella trust which is run within existing resources and is working towards a sustainable self-funding model.