

Community & Services Committee
8 August 2024

Report for Agenda Item | Rīpoata moto e Rāraki take [2]

Title | Taitara : Chair's Report

Purpose of the Report | Te Take mō te Pūroko

The purpose of this report is to provide the Community & Services Committee with an update on projects of interest.

Recommendation | Kā Tūtohuka

That the Community & Services Committee:

1. **Note** the contents of this report.

Prepared by:



Name: Craig Ferguson

Title: Chair, Community & Services Committee

31 July 2024

Context | Horopaki

Community Services Group

1. Following the last Chair's report, I would like to acknowledge the broader outcomes and programme progress for the Community Services group which has included the focus on the Councils Long Term Plan. Delivery against the work programme for the 2023/24 financial year including capital works projects, asset renewals and maintenance outcomes across the district plus the ongoing commitment this group undertakes alongside a large number of community organisations. Note the specific Community Services Business Units updates below.

Parks

2. The Parks Team are currently progressing four Reserve Management Plans (RMP) for key reserves in Queenstown and Wānaka: Mount Iron, Riverside Road, Glenorchy Airstrip, Te-Taumata-o-Hakitekura Ben Lomond, and Te Tapu-nui Queenstown Hill Reserves. The RMPs are currently being drafted incorporating community feedback. They will set out how Council intends to provide for, and ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection, and preservation of the reserves. The next step will be for the relevant committees of Council to discuss and consider notification of the draft RMPs.
3. The heavy rain cordon for Breacon Street in Queenstown is no longer needed (i.e. closures of Breacon Street if rain reaches above a certain threshold). The cordon was in place following the weather event in September 2023 to protect life and property. Advice has been received from geotechnical specialists that due to the remediation work undertaken in the cemetery and on the front face of Bob's Peak in the Ben Lomond Reserve it is no longer needed. Local businesses have been advised.

Sport and Recreation

4. The demolition of 516 Ladies Mile is nearly complete, and contractors will be looking to remove the recycled materials and rubbish over the next two weeks. The slab will be left as concrete pad for potential community use in the future. All services are disconnected and capped, and the site is still fenced as a construction zone.
5. A large volume of Long Term Plan submissions has been received especially in the community services area regarding Option 2 in the consultation document regarding bringing forward community investment for Ladies Mile, Wānaka Sports Fields and Aquatic LPG replacement projects. Staff are currently working through these submissions.
6. New LED floodlights have been installed at Upper Clutha Rugby Grounds which will provide a better coverage of the field. Replacement floodlights for Queenstown Event Centre 1a and B are programmed to be installed before the end of the year. This will also involve the installation of two extra poles to ensure optimum coverage of these fields.
7. Local community groups and organisations responded positively to inform 'Our Community Spaces report'. This was an update to the 2018 report and has provided lots of valuable

information and detailed data which our project team is working through to create a final report. A snapshot update will be sent to key stakeholders prior to reporting back to the Community & Services Committee on 24 September. A detailed report will be released in October 2024.

8. At the end of June 2024, Sport Centrals Kelvin “Tiny” Carruthers retired after 6 years with Sport Central based at the Wānaka Recreation Centre. Sport Central plays a critical role in our district in supporting recreation and sporting organisations and advocating for increased participation and community facilities. Jo Knight has been appointed into the role and will be based in Queenstown a minimum of two days a week to strengthen the existing relationships with the Whakatipu community as well as continue to service the Wānaka community.

Community Partnerships

9. Queenstown Lakes District Council (QLDC) has worked with our community to develop a three-year Welcoming Plan for the district that reflects the unique characteristics of our place and people to ensure that all newcomers are able to thrive. Community engagement will take place 1-22 August 2024, gathering thoughts from the wider public about the draft Welcoming Plan 2024-2027. Community feedback and insights will be considered, with the final Welcoming Plan to be presented to the Community & Services Committee for endorsement on 24 September 2024.
10. The latest community funding rounds to be added to QLDC’s new online application platform are the Get Active Community Grant and the Creative Communities Scheme (CCS). The Get Active Community Grant supports not-for-profit organisations in the area by providing facility entry passes for services such as swimming pools and programmes at local recreation centres; applications can be made 1-22 August 2024. The CCS strengthens the local art community by funding projects that encourage participation, support diversity, and enable young people to engage in the arts; applications can be made 1-30 August 2024.
11. The Winterdaze Queenstown Winter Wellness Series has delivered a range of successful community events at Happiness House and the QLDC Whakatipu Libraries. The Wānaka Winter Wellness Series commences on 5 August and runs across the month of August with four different initiatives happening weekly at the Wānaka Library.
12. The Winterdaze Mixing with the Minis programme successfully kicked off in July. This programme helps connect new parents within the community. The next programme runs on 25 August and 29 September 2024.

Libraries

13. QLDC Libraries have implemented a fine-free model as at the 1 July 2024 in partnership with Central Otago Libraries. Previously, overdue items were free from fines for children and senior borrowers – now all borrower categories are included. This is in line with the 2020-2030 QLDC Library Strategy approved by Council in October 2020.
14. The results of the Annual Library Survey are being released to the Library Team this week, then to the Community & Services Committee on 24 September. The survey was conducted in March

2024 to establish baselines for library services, including community service, accessibility, events, programmes, collections and for the first time, the wellbeing impact of libraries, rural and towns. The results will guide libraries on successes and areas needing improvement.
