

	TO	Thames Community Board	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For Information <input type="checkbox"/> For Approval <input type="checkbox"/> For Action <input type="checkbox"/> For Recommendation
	FROM	Greg Hampton Area Manager - Thames and Coromandel	
	DATE	13 May 2016	
	SUBJECT	Area Manager Monthly Report for May 2016	

Purpose:

To provide the Community Board with an update of work programmes and significant issues.

General:

The 2015/16 work programme is generally on track with the exception of the Thames Skate Park and the Thames Indoor Sports Facility which are now both programmed for construction in 2016/17.

The District Parks, Cemeteries and Community Facilities contract is performing well although contractors are continuing to struggle to keep up with grass growth and mowing due to rapid late autumn growth.

Planning is underway for the next Long Term Plan with work packages being developed for project scoping and asset management plans.

Thames Area Projects:

Thames Indoor Sports Facility Project

Consultants Aecom have now been engaged to manage the construction phase of this project including contract management and peer reviews of design and engineering. Contractors Stanley Construction and Architects BBGB are on track to complete detailed design at the end of May with final costing available in June. Upon completion of the detailed design phase a report and updated business case will be presented to the Thames Community Board and Council for final sign off and approval to proceed to construction phase.

Thames Skate Park Project

The project team and focus group of stakeholders met on 11 April with the designer to provide final input into the detailed design.

The construction programme is still on track to start in October with programmed completion by the end of November 2016 in time for summer. The preferred contractor has also noted that he would work with TCDC through his industry contacts to organise a skate competition for the official opening.

Kopu to Kaiaua Cycle Trail Project

The K2K trail construction is programmed for construction and completion by the end of October 2016. Surface construction commenced in April with good progress being made over the first month. Contracts for the bridges and boardwalks have also now been awarded excluding the Piako

river crossing which will be tendered by HDC in the May/June period on behalf of NZTA. All bridges are programmed for completion by September. Financial spend is currently on track.

A stakeholder working group will be convened to plan information and interpretation signage across the K2K trail.

The main risks to the project currently are:

- Weather causing delays to completion of the trail surface in time for the proposed opening date of October 2016 and;
- Failure to secure external funding for the final section Miranda to Kopu. In this event cyclists will still be able to traverse the road from Kaiaua to the start of the formed trail.

There are two proposed trail extensions currently being considered for connection to the Hauraki Rail Trail:

- Matamata-Piako District Council is currently scoping a trail extension from Te Aroha to Matamata.
- Auckland City's ATEED has also advised that they are investigating a cycleway from Auckland to Kaiaua and have engaged Chris Adams of Miles Partnership to scope the first piece of work. The Thames Area Manager has been invited to participate in an initial stakeholder workshop.

Leveraging Economic Benefit from the Hauraki Rail Trail

The Waikato University research survey of 620 trail cyclists in 2013 found that trail use had exceeded the original estimates for rider numbers. Whilst the numbers are impressive most of the activity currently is day rides with very little multi-day use being observed. Most day rides are also concentrated on the Waikino gorge section of the trail between Paeroa and Waihi and consequently activity around Thames from out of district visitors is relatively much lower. This is not unexpected as the Waikino section the most attractive section of the trail.

The K2K section of the trail is expected to increase multi-day ride use and attract more activity in the Thames area, however the same risk of riders "cherry picking" the most attractive sections of the K2K trail and leaving out visiting Thames remains a concern.

To address this issue there is a need to enhance the trails surrounding Thames to increase rider interest in day rides from Thames. To this end the Thames Promotions Project has developed several trail enhancement project proposals to attract higher rider numbers and better leverage economic benefit from the cycle trail project. These proposals will be discussed in greater detail at the meeting.

Kopu Toilet

This project is on track to be completed prior to 30 June. The unit has been delivered and associated visitor information signage is being developed to provide directions and town attraction information.

Thames Promotions Project

The project is progressing well and on track to deliver the key year one deliverables by 30 June.

A business survey has been undertaken with good response to capture all key visitor services for inclusion in the project.

The steering group has now endorsed the key areas of focus and the draft strategy is near completion at the time of writing this report.

Next Steps:

- The strategy and programmes will be presented to the Community Board for endorsement
- Prioritisation of energy and investment (e.g. Community Grants - Long Term Plan / Annual Plan)
- Prioritisation of projects
- Form Project Coalitions around the key major projects
- Develop marketing material and website in accordance

Victoria Park Seawall Replacement

The Victoria Park Seawall replacement was successfully completed on time and within budget.

Thames Swimming Pool Fire Egress

Extra funding to complete the fire alarm and emergency lighting work in the Administration building was endorsed by the Board and will be going to Council for approval on 18 May. The work has been staged so that it can be undertaken within Council approved budgets with the building consent and alarm installation being stage one.

Thames Airfield

Fuel pump concrete pad - design is to be finalised in liaison with fuel providers.
New honesty box received - installation pending fuel pump project
CAA inspection of Thames airfield has taken place - awaiting report
Silage/haymaking contract being prepared for tender in June

Thames Monument WW1 Lotteries Application

This application for restoration of this significant monument has been submitted with a result likely to be known in late May 2016.

Thames Civic Centre

The hall opening plaques have been restored and relocated making way for additional seating to be installed under the verandas adjacent to the plaza area.

The Custodian and Cleaning contracts are being retendered with award proposed for July 2016.

Thames Library

Consent to be lodged for stage two of the alterations in May, out to tender June with construction planned for August.

Property Matters

The property team is undertaking Section 40 investigations on the previously identified list of properties considered for disposal.

A report on 112 Barrett Street (referred to as Lowe Avenue) land and pensioner housing recommendations is now expected to be available for the July Community Board meeting.

Risks and Issues:

Tararu Cemetery

NZTA has now confirmed its responsibility for managing the State Highway 25 slip on the cemetery frontage.

Land stability issues posing potential risk of further slips, damage to monuments and reputational risk if no mitigation actions are taken. Hazard signage has been erected. New geotech investigations may have to be undertaken to determine whether any interventions are possible / affordable. Representatives from Heritage New Zealand have gone on site to provide comment on what remedial work can be undertaken and what permissions the work would require. Staff are currently liaising with Heritage NZ to ascertain what options are available in relation to the failing structures.

Shortland Cemetery

Tree hazards - Planning for more permanent fences, some tree removal and communication is underway. Cemeteries Co-ordinator has been onsite as part of work to be done to provide maps and health and safety information for the public.