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WOW Inc MISSION STATEMENT

To find and implement solutions for serious erosion at Haumoana, Te Awanga and Clifton and unite the Cape Coast community to beautify, protect and promote the coastline as an asset for the wider Hawke's Bay region.

City-wide 'cup of coffee' rate to stop coast becoming toast

Burden too great for locals only

:: Keith Newman :: Illustration by Andy Heyward

WOW's business case for coastal protection will require visionary leadership from Hastings District Council, taking into account the long term social, economic, environmental and cultural benefits for the wider region.

WOW has asked the Hastings District Council, which is compiling a cost model to show how the groyne field can be paid for, to hold off on releasing any data until all parties can agree on a suitable approach.

It wants to work with council on achieving a city-wide rating approach, which it has previously referred to as a 'cup of coffee' rate, and cautions that any cost model released at this early stage would be unhelpful.

WOW's resource consent application will quantify the wider benefits in detail and show clearly what the city and the region stand to gain by literally and figuratively by "Giving Hawke's Bay an edge".

The Serjeant Report intended to show whether or not the WOW proposal is likely to succeed in getting resource consent is due for release any day now. Cost issues were to be dealt with separately.

Raise that by a cookie

With up to \$2 million set aside for re-routing parts of East Rd/Clifton Rd in the event of 'managed retreat' or 'do nothing' plus a 10 percent public good input WOW believes it has a solid business case.

It has undertaken to provide council with a clear commitment relating to its benefactor contribution once all the other numbers are in.

Originally WOW suggested the council levy a 'cup of coffee' rate increase to cover any deficit in paying for the protection plan. As the price of coffee has gone up, it now suggests this may be a 'cup of coffee and a cookie' rating, spread over 25 years.

A major concern at this stage is that Hastings District Council will revert to the 'beneficiaries pay' model which will place the burden of saving the Cape Coast on those who dwell along the beach front.

We are all 'beneficiaries'

Such an approach would fly in the face of WOW's undertaking to locals that they wouldn't be taxed off their properties, following a similar approach two years ago that was rejected as unfair, unjust

Give up one coffee a year for 25 years to save the Cape Coast



and unworkable.

A levy of around \$28,000 per year per property to cover the council's quote of \$18.5 million for a field of 13 groynes would have devastated the community quicker than serious inundation.

Both councils later admitted they never intended to follow through on either the impossible rate or the less researched 'managed retreat' option put to the community.

WOW says the only other option: 'do nothing' would be even more costly, requiring a civil emergency to be declared in the case of a major inundation, with the cost of clean up and possible legal claims borne by both Hastings District and Hawke's Bay Regional councils.

As far as WOW is aware there are no contingency plans for homeowners if such an event were to occur and no firm plans for 'managed retreat'.

This is precisely why it is dedicated to achieving a more constructive outcome that benefits all parties. WOW continues to urge both councils to work together

to remove the bureaucratic obstacles to progressing with the WOW groyne field by pooling resources and making saving the Cape Coast a common goal.

What if it was Napier?

Protecting ratepayers and public amenities from breaches of the coastline should be seen as the joint responsibility of local authorities.

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Reports slow protection progress

WOW tech team update

When we discussed progress of our coastal protection proposal at our first WOW meeting for 2011, committee member Johnny Bridgeman quipped "you sure wouldn't want to be getting anything done in a hurry".

The WOW technical team was still waiting for the results of an important series of peer reviews that had been promised by September 2010 and it could still be the end of March or mid-April before the main report is delivered.

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Independent analyst Dave Serjeant of Merestone Ltd is about to deliver his verdict on whether the WOW Inc coastal protection plan is likely to get through the resource consent process. He's seen here in mid-2010 when he first began his investigations, flanked by WOW technical team members Jack Hughes (left), Peter Larsen (right) and chairperson Ann Redstone.

WOW remains hopeful that common sense and the pioneering spirit that enabled Hawke's Bay to rise from the dust of the 1931 earthquake will prevail and our local authorities will rise to the challenge to save the Cape Coast before it is too late.

This is a feisty newsletter because so much is at stake.

WOW believes the only logical way forward for the Cape Coast erosion problem is for the joint councils to apply to the Environment Court supporting the construction of a robust, cost effective, well engineered groyne field.

For nearly eight months WOW Inc's efforts to achieve coastal protection have been under the eagle eye of four 'peer reviewers' tasked with determining whether our professionally structured plan is likely to pass resource consent.

Three of these reviews will inform independent consultant and planner Dave Serjeant of Merestone Ltd who's report to the joint councils will help determine their preferred course of action.

If we go direct to the Environment Court, Hastings District Council and Hawke's Bay Regional Council are freed from any regulatory role and can show leadership in ensuring protection happens in the most efficient way.

► Continued from front page

The central government role through the Department of Conservation (DOC) is to ensure the natural environment is not damaged and that future generations continue to have access to safe beaches.

If the city of Napier, or for that matter any other coastal city or town, was threatened by the level of erosion being experienced along the Cape Coast it would have been sorted out years ago.

Having a sports park, a swimming complex or a velodrome are all good things that will benefit a certain sector of society for which all of society is expected to pay.

Providing stop banks to prevent rivers overflowing and flooding of good horticulture and farm land is a fundamental responsibility; protecting the coast should progress with the same priority and urgency.

After all if erosion and inundation break through the last few metres of land on to Clifton Rd over the next couple of years it's all downhill from there to the shopping centre, placing homes, farmland, orchards, vineyards, and possibly even the freshwater aquifer at risk.

If the first row of homes is damaged then 200 more properties along Beach Rd and at the beach front in Te Awanga will also have faced inundation, seriously endangering public buildings and infrastructure, including roading, access ways, water mains, power cables and telecommunications.

Hastings District Council was considering raising \$10.5 million toward the velodrome through citywide rating, and expecting additional funding to come from Hawke's Bay Regional Council and even Napier City Council. Now that prospect is no longer with us perhaps some of that budget

Retreat rejected

The Cape Coast does not want to become the New Zealand test case for managed retreat, which can only leaves social, economic and physical chaos in its wake. Doing nothing also invites disaster.

Disasters have costly consequences, as recent events have clearly shown, and failure to protect, prevent or plan for situations like those facing the Cape Coast raises serious questions.

While WOW's grand plan, put to the joint councils two years ago, has been refined and adjusted to align with consent requirements, much still hangs in the balance, including who pays for the resource consent application and whether a city-wide rate is appropriate.

If the Serjeant Report is positive then its up to our local authorities to drive it forward. Prior to the last election, Hastings mayor Lawrence Yule looked like he might champion the cause.

He's seen the business case and unless the peer review suggests otherwise, we remain hopeful he and his councillors will follow through. If HBRC gets on board, a great sigh of relief will run through the Cape Coast and hopefully wider Hawke's Bay.

We've been reminded by a number of influential people and civic leaders that WOW's protection plan with its strong community support would be considered a welcome gift by most councils around the country.

Reviewer reviewed

While the preliminary reviews dealing with the engineering of the groynes and shingle movement seem to have found common ground with WOW's own findings, the cost-benefit reviewer - looking at groynes vs managed retreat - clearly did not understand the brief.

Fortunately WOW discovered this in time and was forced to invest in its own report to challenge incomplete and shallow findings that could have adversely impacted two years of planning and research. Hopefully that potential crisis has now been averted.

Since well before our status as a charitable incorporated society was confirmed, WOW has attended joint council meetings, held public meetings at both the Te Awanga and Haumoana halls and sent newsletters to update and inform every household in the community.

The WOW technical team in particular has spent hundreds of hours working with our coastal engineer and Hastings District Council executives to ensure our plan is compliant.

Our beaches are a regional asset enjoyed and used by all. With a clear business case, the National Cycle Trail running along at-risk parts of the Cape Coast and a visionary Cape Coast Community Group

(CCCG) plan, the case for sharing the cost of protection across Hawke's Bay seems more watertight than ever.

Cape Coast erosion is a Hawke's Bay issue and requires all local authorities to work together to ensure it is resolved. Further delays because councils refuse to co-operate, ignoring the problem or passing the buck in a 'user pays' funding approach are not acceptable.

If you have not received these newsletters, would like more information or want to be added to our mailing list please contact

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Managed growth not retreat

A new subdivision for Goodin Grove, ongoing development up Parkhill Rd and another 50 or so homes proposed for Te Awanga present both challenges and opportunities for the Cape Coast community.

If done tastefully and in keeping with the natural look and feel of the area then a small growth in population could result in social and economic benefits for the entire community.

At the moment there are just over 800 homes along the Cape Coast and a stable population of around 2500. When councils make decisions they often look at the amount of rates being paid before they commit to certain kinds of investment.

A few more ratepayers might help justify upgrading infrastructure and improving amenities and facilities. New families mean more customers for home businesses, artists and craftspeople, shops, the pub, the wineries and cafes, and bring some relief in the off-season struggle for survival.

If there's more ratepayers of course there's more reason to sort out the longstanding issue of protecting the coast from further erosion and inundation.

No more neglect

Despite ongoing rate increases, the Cape Coast community has suffered from neglect over the past decades, and not seen the kind of works programmes and future planning other areas of Hawke's Bay have benefitted from.

Over the past two years representatives from across the coastal communities have come together to form WOW Incorporated and more recently the Cape Coast Community Group so we can have a voice in our own affairs.

The rallying points have been a robust coastal protection plan and now a programme of landscaping and beautification to take advantage of and enhance the areas around the national cycle track and the other public spaces.

Landscaping, public art and improved facilities and services will encourage businesses, accommodation providers and tourist operators as well as reflect positively on how the Cape Coast is perceived.

If we continue to build community pride, vandals and graffiti artists will no longer see us as a soft touch. Out of towners who come here to fish, surf or ride around on quad bikes or off-roaders will be less inclined to leave their rubbish on our beaches, tag our walls and signs or use our roads and cycle track as a speedway.

A community where people listen to each other, share ideas, work through concerns and present a united voice can achieve much in the way of common good. A divided community that cannot agree on the way forward is the best excuse councils to continue to do as close to nothing as possible.

We completed it!

Willie Murphy and friend competed in The Genesis Energy Lake to Lighthouse Challenge (19 - 20 Nov 2010) and, at their own expense, printed the WOW logo on the backs of their t-shirts to increase our visibility.

The event started at Lake Waikaremoana in the Urewera National Park, traversed approx 185 km of stunning native bush tracks, back country roads, farmland and rivers on foot, mountain bike, road cycle and by kayak, to finish at the coastal town of Wairoa. The village of Tuai, situated 6km by road from Lake Waikaremoana and home to the Genesis Energy Waikaremoana Power Scheme, was transformed into the Race Village and served as the venue and camping ground for competitors.

The original Portland Island Lighthouse, now relocated to the Wairoa River bank was the focus of a street party in Wairoa township on Saturday to greet the finishers.

Willie wrote: "15 hours 45 Min's and 30 seconds. The event was ridiculously hard work but we loved it. and battled though the 29 degree heat and were placed 5th in the open men's two man category here are the photos of us at the finish line in our tee shirts."

More on the event can be found at www.l2l.co.nz.



► Continued from front page In May 2010, HDC and HBRC jointly engaged a resource consent specialist, Dave Serjeant of Merestone Ltd, to advise on the likelihood of WOW's coastal protection plan being successful in gaining a resource consent. Serjeant had been asked to come up with a clear answer by September, 2010.

The deadline continued to slip out as the various peer reviewers either hadn't completed their allotted task to feed into the Serjeant Report or needed more time to consider the options.

Hastings District and Hawke's Bay Regional councils had commissioned three separate independent peer reviews to check specific aspects of the WOW coastal protection project to inform the Serjeant Report.

They were required to check work done by WOW coastal engineer Steve Moynihan and research completed by WOW as it prepared the case for taking its coastal protection plan through the resource consent process, possibly through the Environment Court.

The aspects being peer reviewed were: Coastal geomorphology (Dtec), Engineering design (Opus) and Financial cost/benefits of the project (Covec)

The reviews were released in a draft form in December, however a number of concerns and issues were raised in the process. WOW and its coastal engineer Steve Moynihan were briefed and asked by the councils not to release details while these issues were worked through.

WOW undertook to provide clarification and further explanation where it was needed including pointing out where the peer reviewers had either misunderstood the brief or gone beyond its requirements.

HDC and Dave Serjeant suggested that Dtec and Opus meet face to face with Steve Moynihan to seek resolution on engineering related matters. This meeting took place in late January.

The WOW technical team believes the experts are satisfied with the groyne concept and initial design. They agreed that the proposal is practical and feasible and that any downstream effects are manageable. Aspects of the groyne design have been sorted and their cost firmed up. This data was then passed to Covec to update its analysis of the cost-benefit of the project.

WOW has serious concerns about Covec's assumptions and methodology and commissioned world respected coastal engineer Moynihan Coastal Consultants to critique its report.

The Serjeant Report, originally due to be completed in September 2010, is now likely to be tabled before the end of April.

:: Jack Hughes and Peter Larsen

Erosion doesn't affect me



'It's not my problem', or is it?

There are a handful of folk along the Cape Coast who struggle with change, preferring Haumoana, Te Awanga and Clifton to stay just as they are.

Some claim they don't really mind what happens to the Cape Coast and couldn't care less if beachfront homes were wiped off the map in the next storm.

It's hard to believe that this attitude is anything more than a flippant response from those live a street or two back from the beach and haven't thought through the full implications to the community.

Most agree there's something rustic, raw and real about the wild coastal terrain and its villages and indeed many of the people who live here. The Cape Coast has character and characters but in reality there is no such thing as standing still.

Even on our beaches nothing stays the same; the shingle keeps moving around, and often far too much of it moves northward, depleting the resource needed for coastal stability quicker than it is replenished.

If we neglect essential infrastructure or home maintenance, weeds, rot and rust take over. Without protection high seas could soon reach Clifton Road, closing access and triggering staged evacuation.

Caring more or less?

If the front row or block of homes face destruction or forced removal, rather than inheriting so-called beachfront privileges those who claim to care less will be the next to face inundation.

A lack of commitment might be understandable for those who are renting, however home owners throughout the Cape Coast face plummeting property values as long as coastal erosion remains a major threat.

If our heritage is ongoing destruction then we are all affected and certainly the nature of what most of us like to call community will be changed forever.

If the proposed WOW protection plan halts erosion and builds back volume on the beaches, we all benefit from security of tenure, confidence in future maintenance and development and increased in property values, regardless of whether we are located on the beach front or back a block.

:: Keith Newman

Where has all the shingle gone?

"(A report by) Tonkin and Taylor coastal engineer Richard Reinen-Hamill, says the beach between Cape Kidnappers and Napier is losing about 45,000 cubic metres of gravel a year to erosion. Most of that was going to Winstones, which takes gravel from the foreshore at Awatoto". Marty Sharpe wrote "Gravel firm making erosion worse" (Dominion Post, 5 April 2005).

Since the 1931 earthquake, tens of millions of cubic metres of shingle have been extracted from the Hawke's Bay, most coming from the Tukituki and Ngaruroro riverbeds and from erosion along the northern cliffs of Cape Kidnappers.

These cliffs have retreated some 40 metres since 1930. The shingle is carried north toward Napier by wave action, some is removed by the shingle company at Awatoto and some is used to replenish the beach at Westshore.

Tens of thousands of cubic metres are also removed annually by truck from the Tukituki riverbed.

What a fantastic cheap resource this has been for the residents of Hawke's Bay to have right on their doorstep. This shingle has been used to build the wonderful Art Deco cities of Napier and Hastings and all the infrastructure that goes with them, including the Port of Napier, the airport, roads and motorways.

Every building in Hawke's Bay whether it be administration, industrial, retail or residential has used shingle to some extent. The new Hastings Sports Park will gobble up thousands of cubic metres of the stuff.

By removing shingle from our rivers, in combination with the stop banks, Hawke's Bay has been able to turn thousands of acres of swamp into some of the most fertile land in New Zealand. The orchards, kiwifruit, vineyards and cropping that this land is used for has created thousands of jobs and brings millions of dollars into the economy every year.

Clearly every resident of Hawke's Bay has benefited enormously through the removal of shingle from our rivers and foreshore. Unfortunately there has been a downside to this and that is tens of millions of cubic metres of shingle have been removed but nothing has been put back.

Tests have proved that much more is being extracted from Hawke Bay than is being replenished by natural means, and consequently this continues to contribute to coastal erosion.

While the majority of Hawke's Bay benefits enormously from this extraction of shingle, one small section of the community has been disadvantaged; the people who live along the Cape Coast.

Surely it is only right that any coastal protection costs be spread across the whole of Hawke's Bay?

:: Rex Read

Sea wall drama drags on Family despair over compliance costs

A Haumoana family who built a solid concrete wall in front of their Clifton Rd property is still locked in the ongoing legal wrangle to determine whether they have to remove the structure that now protects their home from inundation by the sea.

Mark Lawrence and Tracy Oliver and their children are waiting for a final determination from the Building and Housing Department in Wellington to see if they can keep and complete the three metre high block wall.

Mr Lawrence replaced a previous wall that was damaged by the sea in late 2008 but his project has remained incomplete since legal action was taken because he had not sought the proper consents from both Hastings District and Hawke's Bay Regional councils.

Last year Hastings District Council prosecuted Mr Lawrence and Ms Oliver for building the seawall without a building consent and has now declined their application for a retrospective certificate of acceptance.

Ahead of the application, which has now been forwarded to the Building and Housing Department in Wellington for a final determination, the couple had spent \$60,000 in compliance costs, including legal, engineering and planning reports, to legitimise their efforts. That doesn't include the \$3500 in prosecution costs.

Protecting the family The wall has protected the Lawrence property and immediate neighbouring properties through several major storm events. "I'm just trying to protect my family and do what any reasonable person would but this mountain of paperwork and the compliance costs are just too much for us," says Lawrence.

As a worst case scenario the couple face "a notice to remove" and watching their home and neighbouring properties damaged beyond repair in the next major storm surge.

The Hastings council in its case says Mr Lawrence's wall is a risk neighbouring properties because it may cause downstream impacts. However as WOW has stated in submissions in support of the couple, the real destructive impact would come through removing the solid professionally build structure.

Ironically the 21 neighbouring properties at the most vulnerable place along the coast are already under significant threat from high seas and act as a buffer to inundation of the road, commercial area and homes opposite them on the Clifton Rd.

A wider protection plan for the coast to prevent further erosion and protect these and other properties is currently under consideration by the joint councils.



The professionally constructed straight line of Mark Lawrence's wall separating two properties is seen in perspective to neighbouring properties on the left of this aerial photo taken in January this year.

Greater risk in removal Mr Lawrence has provided the Building and Housing Department with several years of aerial photographs that show that none of the properties in questions have been impacted by his wall.

The battle to keep the wall has already sent Mr Lawrence and Ms Oliver close to bankruptcy, and they state that they do not have the funds to continue to contest what they consider is a basic human right, to protect their family.

Any removal of the wall would require Resource Consent and the permission of the neighbours who are not going to put their own homes at risk by agreeing.

So WOW continues to ask who will pay for the Resource Consent application? Who will pay for the removal of the wall? And who will pick up the costs if damage to neighbouring properties, and indeed impact on the coastline north of the property, is proven?

WOW had previously asked the council to put a hold on its legal battle with Mr Lawrence and Ms Oliver until a decision was made on wider coastal protection. The council insist this matter is entirely separate and it must uphold the law.

WOW asks how many people will turn up to protest this action if council heavy vehicles turn up on the beach to remove the wall?

This debacle certainly threatens to become a spectacle the nation will hear more about in the coming months unless a commonsense solution is reached quickly. :: Keith Newman

Massive support at WOW auction

Despite wind and rain about 350 people turned out to Elephant Hill Winery on the evening of Wednesday October 13 to 'Celebrate and Save the Cape Coast' raising \$50,000 for the coastal protection cause.

As soon as the WOW fundraising committee framed the idea and began soliciting items for auction they knew there was strong support from the wider community for this fundraising venture.

Initially it was thought to limit offerings from those who lived in and around Haumoana, Te Awanga and Clifton but it was soon apparent many from the across Hawke's Bay and even further afield wanted to contribute and to support WOW Inc.

The offers came flooding in from as far away as Taupo and Wellington and WOW's fundraising committee was overwhelmed by the goodwill and the quality and quantity of items offered.

The auction was held in the winemaking cellars of the multi award-winning coastal vineyard Elephant Hill. Within a short time of the advertised opening people were milling around in the



Karl Hannah with the surfboard he donated to the auction

cavernous space and you couldn't hear yourself over the conversation.

Elephant Hill not only showed their support by donating the venue but all the proceeds from wine sales on the night. The MC for the event was media personality Paul Homes, who kept up a lively banter with the attendees.

Wine aficionado Yvonne Lorkin put cases of award winning Hawke's Bay wines under the hammer and auctioneer Simon Tremain offered a hundred items including paintings, sculptures, dining packages for top restaurants, luxury accommodation, a WOW-branded Hannah surfboard, gift vouchers, concert tickets, fishing trips, sports equipment and signed books.

Bidding was fast and furious with many items bringing top dollar. The highest bidding of the night was for Haumoana resident Dick Frizzell's painting "Beached Stump". Another favourite was the portrait of All Black Captain Ritchie McCaw painted live at the venue by Dick's son Otis Frizzell.

At the same time as the live auction, there was a superb array of silent auction items around the perimeter.

By the end of the night a massive \$50,000 plus was raised, evidence of the strong support for WOW Inc and its coastal protection plan and a clear mandate from the wider Bay community.

The WOW committee is grateful for the support and committed to using this money in the best possible way to save the Cape Coast and protect this stunning environment for locals, Bay residents and tourists alike.

:: Emma Hagen & Jo Bonner

Ruatoria effort an inspiration

The first of three groynes were put in place on the Waiapu River steps in February to protect further erosion threatening land, homes and property in the township of Ruatoria.

Two groynes, each consisting of 35-40 large concrete shapes, were placed downstream from the Rotokautuku Bridge to encourage the river to veer to the left bank where it used to flow prior to Cyclone Bola.

The 4.5 tonne concrete blocks for the groynes were manufactured on site by Ruatoria based contractor Ron Hedley Ltd using local labour and shingle from the Waiapu River.

The Gisborne District Council worked closely with local contractors to speed up the process which took three days to locate the blocks in the groyne shape and then wire them in place.

A third and larger 40 metre groyne is planned just upstream and is expected to create a new beach.

The problem of erosion was first brought to the attention of a Ruatoria-based trust board which worked with the Gisborne council over a number of years and used a grant from the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology (FRST) to investigate solutions.

Resource consents were granted in February 2010. The project bought a number of employment opportunities to the small region.

Comments on the article on the Scoop web site include this one from local Hastings District councillor Simon Nixon:

"The thing I find most interesting about this flood protection work is the contrast with the efforts by the Hawke's Bay Regional Council to impede the building of groynes and other defences to protect properties and potentially roads from the sea during occasional storms at Haumoana and Te Awanga. Perhaps a unitary council is the answer."

Conservation Board listening

WOW is hoping to form a joint working group with members of the local Conservation Board to ensure both parties are well informed ahead of plans to seek a consent for Cape Coast protection plans.

WOW has been liaising with the regional Board which reports to the Department of Conservation (DOC) since August 2010, and presented at a public forum on Saturday 5th Feb 2011 in Napier.

Conservation Boards are independent bodies established by statute to represent public and community interest in the work of DOC, and conservation in general.

Members may have knowledge and skills in nature conservation, natural earth and marine sciences, cultural heritage, recreation, tourism, the local community and Maori perspectives. Board members are paid for approved activities only.

WOW wants to work more closely with the board's Hawke's Bay representatives to better understand any issues and objections as we progress our proposal for coastal protection. Local members include Garth Eyles (retired HBRC), Kevin Trerise and Papara Carroll.

The Conservation Board, while positively responding to our presentation admitted it did not have time to discuss this at any length.

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Wall covering at the centre

Respecting the cycle track

- time to report the spoilers

There is a perception among local authorities and some of their workers that enhancing, maintaining or improving assets along the Cape Coast is a waste of time and energy as locals don't appreciate their efforts.

Graffiti on the new TSB Bridge across the Grange Creek linking the wider cycle trail with the Cape Coast leg has done little to change that perception and the frequent use of the trail as an off road track for quad or trail bikes raises further concerns.

It's too easy to blame joy riding out-of-towners for reckless behaviour and vandalism but the real challenge falls to responsible members of the community to take ownership of this important public resource which is there for all to enjoy.

WOW and the recently formed Cape Coast Community Group (CCCG); backed by Haumoana Ratepayers, Te Awanga Progressive Association (TAPA), Cape Coast Community Patrol and the Clifton Reserve Society, support the cycle track and associated public landscaping and beautification projects.

Outdated perceptions

Together they are working to unify Haumoana, Te Awanga and Clifton, protect and maintain our unique identity and change perceptions that the area is a soft target for vandalism and unruly behaviour.

It is wonderful sight to see so many visitors and locals, individuals and groups of family and friends cycling and walking along the track and so many youngsters gaining confidence on trainer wheels.

Despite signs erected at key points prohibiting horse riding, off road bikes, quad bikes and cars on the lime sand track, these continue to be ignored by a number of people.

While a blind eye is turned to adults and children riding slowly and carefully on a quad bike along the track, or learners on trail bikes gaining their confidence at a slow speed, those who think it is an obstacle course to get through as quickly as possible not only rip up the track but endanger lives.

Rock block no shock

Large boulders acquired and placed by HBRC and Hastings District Council in conjunction with CCCG are part of an ongoing landscaping project and are meant to prevent vehicles on the cycle trail.

At the East Rd/Clifton Rd/Beach Rd intersection, where further landscaping is in progress, they protect the weakest part of the crest, preventing access where erosion is at an advanced stage and where the sea has previously broken through.

In most beachfront communities around the country insensitive use of vehicles and erosion has resulted in all beach access being banned.

There are no such restrictions in place here and of course locals want things to stay that way. However, those who continue to abuse the cycle track, take heavy 4-wheel drive vehicles onto the beach or push new tracks over the vulnerable crest put that freedom at risk.

There are several places where easy beach access is available for quad bikes and trail bikes and these will be more clearly signposted in the future. Attempts to block of a couple of vulnerable points to vehicle access simply align with coastal protection plans, now at an advanced stage.

Arrogance unhelpful

It is hoped locals and visitors will support those plans which are for the wider good, rather than persisting with the arrogant attitude: "I'll have access to go wherever I want and nobody is going to tell me otherwise."

The Hawke's Bay Regional Council which built the cycle way with funding raised by the Rotary Pathways Trust has a back-up plan to place bollards along the cycle track if it is continually misused.

WOW and CCCG oppose this plan, believing eventually common sense and peer pressure will prevail.



Quad bikes, farm bikes and horses are prohibited from the new National Cycle Trail but few still tend to treat it as their own personal racetrack putting walkers and cyclists at risk.



Haumoana residents David Grieve and Denise Langlands and Hawke's Bay Regional Councillor Liz Remmerswaal (at left), among the first across the new cycle trail after the opening of the new Grange Rd bridge linking the Cape Coast in with the wider Hawke's Bay circuit.

The reality is the cycle trail is there to provide a great cycling and walking experience and open up opportunities for local businesses and community development. If locals take ownership, lead by example in respecting their own beach and environment, then others will follow suit.

In the interim locals are being urged to politely discourage anyone they see misusing the track, and if irresponsible behaviour persists to capture digital photographs of the culprits, making sure the number plate (if registered) is clear, then email this along with details to our local police officer.

Police will respond

Community Constable Alan Daly is keen to work with CCCG, saying the police will take action if they receive a complaint and can identify those responsible.

He warns locals not to confront anyone if they feel uncomfortable, particularly not a large group. If you do approach people take someone non-threatening with you or contact the police.

"Certainly photographs, registration numbers and forwarding details onto myself directly or to the Hastings Police is the way to go... This is a community facility and needs to be treated as such not as a personal racetrack," says Constable Daly.

He says if there are particular days and times when misuse of the track is most evident he will either personally monitor this or arrange for regular traffic patrols to catch people in the act.

If people draw attention to themselves it may end up being an expensive exercise, at \$200 a pop, particularly if they insist on using unregistered vehicles, says Constable Daly.

Digital images and a note about behaviour, including the time observed, should be sent to:

Alan Daley
Community Constable
Clive Police Station (06) 870 0250.
Email: alan.daley@police.govt.nz

If we show that we value the cycle trail and have zero tolerance to irresponsible behaviour it can only improve our sense of community pride and increase support for further efforts to protect and tidy up our unique coastal environment.

CCCG has agreed to file a monthly report to the HDC and HBRC on a 'state of the cycle track' report, advising of any maintenance work required or any damage or graffiti.

► **If you have concerns or ideas about any aspect of the cycle track or landscaping plans, or have resources, services or skills you can offer please email CCCG representative Michelle Wade at michelle@actualgroup.co.nz**

Cross-council co-operation key to Cape Coast future

Greater co-operation between Hawke's Bay local authorities could reduce duplication of effort, ensuring a more collaborative, creative and focused approach to community planning along the Cape Coast.

A binding agreement signed by our local politicians in February to co-operate and consult across councils should be taken more seriously, said Tom Belford, in his 27 February Bay Buzz article rather than being treated as some kind of in-joke.

The three yearly agreement between Hastings, Napier and our regional councils had to be signed in order to comply with the conditions of the Local Government Act. However Regional councillor Tim Gilbertson described the eight page document as "bollux" and "a farce" for councils who routinely ignore each other and neglect obvious areas for collaboration.

Councillors Wayne Bradshaw and Cynthia Bowers, while questioning whether the agreement carried any real meaning or significance, wondered whether it was possible for it to amount to something useful. There was apparently little response to that challenge.

Bay Buzz editor Belford however said aspects of the document should be taken very seriously, particularly while councils were drafting their Annual Plans or budgets for 2011-2012.

One clause states that signatories, will work together, as far as practicable, to develop a common process for identifying community outcomes in order to minimise costs and the consultation burden on the public"

Belford pointed out that currently there is a lack of co-ordinated "needs assessment and planning" which has resulted in wasteful and duplicate spending by councils, often requiring the same submitters and interest groups to "trudge around making their case over and over".

He asks why, in the spirit of the agreement, can't the Hastings, Napier and regional councils organise a common submissions process covering at least some 'trial' areas for common consideration.

He suggests spending on tourism promotion and related event assistance, the sports community and sport facilities, support for arts and cultural activities, and spending on coastal protection are four 'trial areas' for such collaboration.

WOW couldn't agree more. It submitted its Cape Coast Vision document to both Hastings District and Hawke's Bay Regional Councils last year but received nothing but a standard letter of acknowledgement.

Undeterred, WOW will again submit to both councils with an updated coastal protection plan and the Cape Coast Community Group (CCCG) will submit a revised and updated 'vision' document to hopefully increase local authority co-operation with the community.

CCCG is already engaging in cross council discussions about how the Cape Coast can tell its story, and become valued as an important part of Hawke's Bay region rather than a neglected poor cousin.

As Belford says, if the conditions of the Local Government mandate were honoured, genuine collaboration might result, for example through: "Shar(ing) resources where feasible on such information as demographics, survey data, scientific studies and the analysis of social, economic, environmental and cultural trends."

:: Keith Newman



Giving Hawke's Bay an Edge

Emerging community group to give Cape Coast a voice

The Cape Coast Community Group (CCCG), representing the wider interests of Haumoana, Te Awanga

and Clifton, is preparing a revised 'vision' document to present to local authorities as part of their annual plan process.

Included in document is a request that the Cape Coast have a greater say in its own future development and the first stages of a plan for landscaping and public art installations along the cycle track and other public spaces.

The fledgling group has the full support of Haumoana Ratepayers Association, Te Awanga Progressive Association (TAPA), the Cape Coast Community Patrol and the WOW coastal protection group.

It has had some involvement with both the Hastings and Hawke's Bay Regional councils providing advice on enhancements to the Rotary Pathways / National Cycle Trail that runs from Grange Creek through to Clifton.

It recently worked with Hastings District Council to have a community notice board placed close to the Haumoana turn-off on Mill Rd and organised the Open Ride day on Sunday 19 December as a community celebration of the newly completed the cycle track.

Currently CCCG is working on a cohesive landscaping and beautification plan including improvements to reserve facilities and play areas, the creation of suitable rest and picnic areas including seating, picnic tables and strategically placed rubbish bins and appropriate public art,

The group is developing an overall "pallet or philosophy statement" for the future of the Cape Coast and will continue to consult with the wider community on ways to improve confidence in the area as a tourist destination and a great place to live and do business.

Part of the goal is to raise the profile of local artists and craftspeople and give them a sense that their work is valued, so the Cape Coast is not only known for its wineries, great views, fishing and recreation but as a haven for a range of creative people who produce quality work.

The Cape Coast Community Vision document will try to articulate how the community sees itself going forward.

CCCG is looking for any feedback from the community that may be presented as part of the submission to councils or could form an agenda for a public meeting later in the year.

Email: Michelle Wade:
michelle@actualgroup.co.nz



Tom Belford Bay Buzz

► Continued from page 5

"In the past the board (has) not supported any hard engineering options for coastal developments. The board will wait until further notice of any resource applications which may arise, and discuss the issue at that time, taking your group's views into consideration." WOW intends to pursue this matter further and hopes to meet with the local representative as soon as this can be arranged.

:: Michelle Wade



In case of strong or prolonged earthquake shaking, unusual ocean behaviour, or noise, move to high ground and/or inland following evacuation routes where present. Wait for official all-clear.

Cape Coast test case for prototype tsunami siren

Just as daylight saving reverts back to standard time on April 3, Cape coasters will be subjected to a loud haler voice message and a Civil Defence sting tone in a continuous loop as the new tsunami and emergency warning system is put through its paces.

A Civil Defence vehicle with a combined siren and public address (PA) system mounted on the roof will drive through the streets of Haumoana, Te Awanga and Clifton in an effort to familiarise people in with the new warning process.

Once the prototype warning system is proven and further details of the evacuation process worked through it's likely to become a template for all of Hawke's Bay.

The exercise will help the local Community Response Planning Group decide how many of these portable units, which plug into a vehicle's cigarette lighter, will be required to inform the community in optimum time. Up to four may be needed.

Hastings District Council emergency management officer Warren Meldrum says the alternative was a fixed siren



system but that's tone only, doesn't explain the nature of the emergency and can only be activated once the threat is confirmed. "If we come through with a siren and a voice message we cover both bases," he says.

The Haumoana fire siren may still be activated as a last resort, and technology to comply with Civil Defence emergency tone variations is being discussed. "Unless people know the difference we're no better off," says Meldrum.

However attempts to create a series of neighbourhood watch groups and a "phone tree" to help speed up evacuation have so far failed to rally the community, and an evacuation trail walk on December 5 saw less than 100 people involved.

Meldrum is still looking for neighbourhood watch co-ordinators. "We've encountered a big hole engaging with the community. We're not getting the buy in for what we believe are the best ways of notifying and evacuating a community."

He says maps of the evacuation route and advice will eventually be delivered to all households and he wants to see every home have their own emergency kit and a plan for how their family will respond.

"We want to be able to treat Haumoana, Te Awanga and Clifton as an island that can look after themselves." In the first instance he says all roads lead up Parkhill Rd to the school.

Meldrum says locals should also know the natural warnings. "If the Lachlan Fault off Mahia Peninsula fails and creates a tsunami you'd be lucky if you have 15 minutes before it hits the coast. There's no way we can warn anyone in that time."

If there's prolonged shaking big enough to move items around in the house he says, "you have to be getting out of there fast."

Regardless of where the tsunami originates Civil Defence would phone all local places of mass assembly including wineries, schools, day care centres, Clifton Café and the motor camps.

Mobile PA-sirens would be sent out on civil defence vehicles and fire trucks and as a last resort people would go through the streets blasting their vehicle horns.

Another step in the preparation plan is to establish "huge" Evacuation Zone signs at Tukituki and Raymond Rd corner and the approach to Black Bridge. In case the community doesn't want its own welcoming signage overshadowed by such foreboding messages the decision will be put to a public meeting.

Meanwhile Meldrum says it's important the Cape Coast community establish neighbourhood support clusters. Further efforts will be made over coming months to get buy in for the phone tree model. "This would be far more effective than knocking on every door".

Meldrum says local police and council neighbourhood watch co-ordinators will continue trying to stimulate interest along the Cape Coast and welcome any volunteers.

Contact: [Warren Meldrum](mailto:Warren.Meldrum@hdc.govt.nz)
Hastings Emergency Management Officer
06 871 5000
warrenm@hdc.govt.nz

