

**Workshop notes of Taihape Community Board held Wednesday 10/7/24 6.30pm Awa Stone Cafe Mangaweka.**

**Community Board members present : Chair Peter Kipling-Arthur, Emma Abernathy, Les Clarke.**

**Apologies – Councillors WONG – DUNCAN.**

The chair addressed the meeting advising the Board was aware of some items concerning Mangaweka including the traffic issues and.....etc...etc ....

Community members present touched on the following subjects that they had concerns about.

**Traffic:**

**Speed through Mangaweka.**

Could speed through Mangaweka be reduced as traffic was regularly exceeding the existing 70 kmph limit. This made it difficult for residents entering and exiting their driveway's and crossing the road to and from school and the township.

**Dukes Cafe.**

There is a growing problem with north bound traffic turning right off SH1 in the Dukes Cafe area. Traffic has to stop in the centre of the road and following traffic has to go round if they can. An issue especially with caravans, motor homes and when traffic has to queue. Can consideration be given to creating a right turn lane into this area.

**Traffic Visibility Sth Bound SH1 Dukes Cafe to Sth bound exit.**

The hedging on the bend, on the south bound side of SH1, between Dukes Cafe and the south bound exit to Mangaweka has grown over the pedestrian walkway causing issues for pedestrians, and further, it limits visibility for nearby residents entering and leaving their driveways. There is an issue here due to poor visibility, - the bend and the hedging - the speed of the traffic and the age of the residents.

**Deviation.**

Residents stated the deviation north of Mangaweka was continuously in a state of poor repair with pot holes forming regularly and the gutters continuously overflowing because of debris not being cleared from the guttering by the contractor.. The water overflow crosses the road and has been responsible for accidents in the past. It will continue to do so unless cleared regularly. The water overflow freezes overnight and places sheets of ice across the roadway.

**School/Traffic/issues.**

There is concern around the pupils of the school crossing the SH1 to and from school. After much discussion a group will begin to investigate the placement of 'school' flashing lights at the roadside. These to be activated at the start and finish of school timings.

**Gardens SH1 Entrance and Exit**

Concern raised around the condition of the gardens and speed signage on SH1 at the entrance and exit to Mangaweka township. The signage is broken regularly and remains broken for extended periods. The gardens are poorly planted and kept. The walkway next to the traffic island is also in poor condition and request was made to have the safety of the walkway checked.

**School Drain.**

There is a large open drain (perhaps two metres deep ?) outside the main foot entrance to the school. It floods during heavy rains and drains poorly during normal times. It was recently blocked with debris that stopped water moving through the accompanying culvert. A request to council was made and the debris were removed by Council a short time after the request (surprising and pleasing residents - only approximately 5 metres of the drain was cleared however?) Unfortunately the debris were placed close to the drain and not removed from the site. During the next rain event the debris was washed back into the drain. It will again block the drain.

The drain issue and the dangers to pupils has been repeatedly reported to Council over the years and requests to have it covered have been denied. A request to have the debris removed again will be made.

**Cell phone cover.**

Residents were concerned about the poor cell phone cover for the area. The major concern is that when the power goes off some phone company towers switch off immediately leaving the owners of that companies phone without any communication at all. Other companies towers run out of battery power within a short period of time again leaving the owners of that company's phone without cover.

(Peter – can the TCB send letters to each f the phone companies requesting solar panel back up be fitted to their sites for this/our areas )