

Notes from Community Wellbeing Forum – Sept 19 2019 Māpua Community Hall

Present - see attached list of attendees and those offering assistance

Apologies - Ward Councillors; TACA Chair & Secretary; MDCA Exec members; Maggie Pryce; Sue Fox

The kaupapa

Attendees introduced themselves noting the importance of links between school and community and the strong connections between the themes of health; transport & social connectedness. Concerns over social isolation & loneliness; issues of homelessness and the reality of issues for a “fast-growing elderly population” were all commented upon.

Progress to date

Vicky Stocker (Hills Community Church) summarized the co-operative process of developing the Community Wellbeing Survey; noting the 20% response rate and the high levels of support stated from the community for “something to be done” Vicky reported that the responses fell into three main categories;

Transport ; health & social connectedness commenting on how strongly these were interlinked under the umbrella of “community wellbeing”. She noted that amongst the responses there were “some surprises and some expected ones”. It was agreed that we “didn’t want to shove this into a filing cabinet” but wanted to “give it our best shot at making some of the results and suggestions into realities”.

Putting wheels under the wishes

Those present then divided into groups interested in one of the three topic strands and discussed possible/achievable priorities amongst these and who was interested in being part of an ongoing working party in each area

Transport

In terms of **transport in our own area**, the projects agreed on were to :

1. Establish a roster system of matching volunteer drivers in Māpua with those needing travel around Māpua for appointments / activities { hopefully with the support of AgeConnect's system }
2. Work on setting up a community bus system (leased locally if possible) for a regular Māpua to & from Richmond/ Motueka? route building up to several days a week and maybe several times a day

Convenor: Elena Meredith (MDCA Community Wellbeing Subcommittee & Community Transport Trust)– contact: elena.meredith@xtraco.nz ph: 540-3338

Health

In terms of **health in our own area**, the projects agreed on were :

1. Andrew Goodger (MNDHB) to send a comprehensive list of health and related agencies
2. Agencies and individuals on this list to be approached to see if they would be willing to run local clinics/appointments/ services in Māpua on a regular basis to avoid so many residents travelling outside Māpua for appointments
3. “ Old Church “could make a possible community hub -based on the model of Motueka's Decks Reserve Community House

Convenor: Vicky Stocker (Hills Community Church) –: gvstocker@gmail.com ph: 540-2294

Social connectedness

Areas for further research and follow-up were brainstormed in this group:

1. Community Hub – for information and access to services (see No 3 above)
2. System of hooking into “ excess supply of volunteers” in the area & linking them into areas where support is needed
3. Possible establishment of an accessible (maybe online) directory of such health and social support agencies
4. Wider & more focused use of community ‘s communication systems and forums (eg *Coastal News*; MDCA Facebook & Website; Neighbourly; Community Notice-boards) to inform residents of what is available and what is going on
5. Revive “ Welcome to Māpua “ Newcomer Packs ; link with visits to newcomers
6. How to set up linking surrogate “ grandparents and grandchildren” to make links between families and available older people

Convenor : Garry Pryce e mail: garryandmaggie@xtra.co.nz ph 027-5656544

Report Back

These themes and commitments from each working party were reported back to the wider group.

- It was acknowledged that **more resources** (including research) would be needed for some of these projects and that locating and accessing these is an ongoing task for us all.
- It was **agreed to accept Mapua & Districts Community Association’s offer** to be the repository and communication channel for the three working parties – with its breadth of focus across the whole community. It was noted here that both MDCA & Nelson Tasman Community Transport Trust (NTCTT) can be avenues for accessing further support in terms of funding.
- Working parties will **keep records** of their communication and summarize these in a **report for the beginning of December**.

Most agreed that “ grass roots response is the answer” with the wish that services are made available and resources released together to **all** members of the community “ so that none are left behind.” Those attending were thanked warmly for their attendance; enthusiasm & input and ongoing information/practical results were eagerly anticipated .