

Report to Waihi Ward Committee -

Whiritoa Emergency Centre Management Committee

When the centre was built in 1999 a decision was made to establish a committee made up of representatives of the key users as well as a Council representative. The Mayor at that time also wished to have a person whom he chose as Mayor's representative, who would report directly to him.

The committee consists of three representatives from the Fire Party and two from the Library committee, as well as the two Council/Mayor reps. Currently these latter two are me and Pam Taylor (Mayor's rep.). The other reps are chosen by their respective organisations.

The role of the Management Committee is to oversee the management and maintenance of the Centre. The Fire Party has undertaken to keep the grounds in order, and is helped in this by members of the committee. Hire of the Centre's community room is controlled by the Committee, and has been used for weddings, funerals, market days, public meetings, private functions. Local weddings have a lower hire fee than for people from outside the community, and there is no charge for the funerals of local residents. Youth birthday parties are discouraged, as activities are not allowed to progress beyond 10.00 pm.

The Committee arranges for minor maintenance and additional assets and pays for these out of funds it raises through the hire of the hall. Pam Taylor also compiles the "Whiritoa Tidings", a local news-sheet, which brings in extra money through advertising. This paper is printed by the Council.

Some of the assets bought in recent years are crockery, cutlery, tables and chairs, and an outside deck was donated. The sun cover for this has been replaced by the committee. Cleaning of the deck, room and kitchen, and of the chairs, is undertaken or paid for by the committee. Plumbing and maintenance of the deck have been done.

Council takes responsibility for major items of maintenance.

Initially the meetings were held monthly, but over the past two years have been held quarterly. Urgent issues are dealt with by email or by a special meeting.

I have been Chairperson since its foundation as it was felt that a person outside the community would not be influenced by local "politics".

In my opinion, the Whiritoa Emergency Centre Management Committee is a very successful organisation. Its members have the interests of the Centre and the community at heart, and there have been some long-term and hard-working members serving on it. Council is fortunate in having this organisation working to protect its assets.

Cllr Mike Hayden
8.9.10