



COMMUNITY
WAIKATO

"Supporting strong communities"
Hei taatoko kia tau pakari ai ngaa haapori

MEDIA RELEASE

Ruapehu District Council



Contact: Paul Wheatcroft, Communications Manager, 027 24 33 064

Date: Wednesday 10 August 2011

TRANSPORT DISADVANTAGED URGED TO ATTEND PUBLIC MEETING

Ruapehu District Council (RDC) in conjunction with Community Waikato have organised a public meeting in an effort to gain an understanding of how Taumarunui and surrounding communities are affected by currently available transport services.

The public meeting starting at 1:00pm on Friday 19th August in the RDC Chambers, Huia St, Taumarunui, is open to the public, community organisations and transport providers.

RDC Mayor, Sue Morris, said that the transport disadvantaged in our community include people with mobility impairments such as disabilities, the elderly, youth, low income earners, and those without access to a private vehicle.

"The level of transport disadvantage is further enhanced for rural communities which are a lot more dependent on car travel than people who live in town," she said.

"Everyone needs to be able to get to essential services such as medical facilities, places of work and education, food and other shops as well as the ability to stay socially active with friends, community and sport groups which contributes to peoples positive mental health and wellbeing."

Mayor Morris said that they needed to hear what peoples experiences have been with local transport services in Taumarunui and what sort of issues there are.

"Likewise from transport providers we need to know what their experiences as a transport operator have been and what sort of issues they are confronted with in providing a transport service."

Community Waikato Advisor, Jenny Patching, said that Community Waikato wanted to understand how they could best help the community in Taumarunui.

"Our role is to support and strengthen community capacity, and so we are delighted to be able to offer our free service to any working group that may be formed as a result of the public meeting, by providing facilitation, planning and information services," she said.

"The public meeting is a key step in understanding the issues."

Ms Patching stated that anyone involved in providing or subsidising transport services in Taumarunui including health providers, marae, taxis, clubs, community groups, etc as well as anyone who has problems getting to services due to transport issues should come along to the meeting.

“If anyone has any questions on the meeting they can call me on 021 222 6442 or email jenny@communitywaikato.org.nz,” she said.

“If you require free transport to and from the meeting please register with RDC on 07 895 8188.”

Meeting details

Public Meeting for transport disadvantaged and transport providers in Taumarunui

Ruapehu District Council Chambers, Huia St, Taumarunui

Friday 19th August 2011

1:00 pm to 2:30 pm

Meeting transport registration: 07 895 8188

DAVID HAMMOND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CJH : PRW