



Focus on goals and successes for Picton Community Meeting

Picton residents keen to help grow the community are being encouraged to turn out in force – and volunteer - at a Picton Smart & Connected's annual Community Meeting on Tuesday October 18, at Endeavour Park.

The public meeting at Port Marlborough Pavilion is also a chance for locals to learn what the volunteer community group has achieved and new plans underway, from cycle and walkways to the foreshore upgrade, building its tourism appeal and making successful submissions to the annual and long term plans on key issues impacting the township and its residents.

Already, Picton Smart & Connected has eight working groups involving about 70 volunteers, some pushing through practical short term benefits to the community, others focused on the bigger picture, and making sure the community has a stronger voice in decision making by council and other organisations. Chairwoman Barbara Speedy says the meeting will be a chance for people to meet the volunteers and learn about the achievements over the past year. A lot of the work is behind the scenes, or work in progress, she says, not always visible until a final outcome is achieved.

The working groups will briefly outline their goals for the coming year, and invite the community to contribute new ideas they'd like to see advocated in 2017 – and volunteer to help make them happen. Picton Smart & Connected is inviting expressions of interest from people keen to join either the Working Groups or the Steering Group, to bring new energy, skills and experience in at both levels.

'While Picton Smart & Connected was initiated by council to give us more influence in the town's destiny, it receives no direct funds, so we rely on that volunteer energy and experience. We're focused particularly on building a stronger voice for the community at early stage of developments.

'Picton has a unique situation in having to handle visitor numbers vastly beyond the small resident population, and on the other hand, it also represents Marlborough's greatest opportunity to build the region's economy. That's a tricky balance, and we believe passionately the community needs to have a strong voice in how Picton can be a better place to live, to work and to play.'

The meeting begins at 6.45pm at Port Marlborough Pavilion, Endeavour Park, Waikawa Road, open to all residents of Picton, Waikawa and environs. People can find more details via info@pictonsc.org or at the Picton Library or on posters around the town.

For more information:

Barbara Speedy, Chair, Picton Smart & Connected

Jill Evans, Deputy Chair

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