

Notes from Ohaaki Design Workshop (Sunday 12th June, Ohaaki Marae)

Attendance: Pehi & Ratana Wall, Materoa Mita, Puti Puti Biel, Mike Reweti, Joe Raihana, Tony Raihana, Valerie Moengaroa, Nellie Hathaway, Ken Forrest, Stephen Forrest, Wikitoria Hepi Te Huia, Sue Westbrook, Moana Durie-Sinclair, Hendrika Nepia, Rangimarie Ngamotu

The meeting was opened by Rangimarie. Aroha Campbell then welcomed everyone and introduced Sean Harris (the Architect).

Sean explained that the building process for the new marae would run over 2 years and that he envisaged the establishment of a number of smaller focus groups to look at the different aspects of the design. He showed some concept plans on the wall, and some models (on the table) demonstrating the comparative dimensions of the existing and proposed buildings.

Sean introduced Rob Marshall, the project manager. Rob summarised the proposed design and construction programme.

Kenny Forrest queried the safety of access to the proposed marae site off the highway. He said that it was his intention to let the design process run, but would continue to oppose the relocation of the marae. He said that the marae can not be moved unless there is safe road access (including access to an urupa) and a reliable water supply. He said that there would need to be an underpass, or something like that, to get to the urupa across the road.

Rob Marshall said that the NZTA (State Highway authority) had been consulted about road access. They are satisfied with the safety of what is proposed. Rob also discussed recent changes to the location of the highway entrance, whereby the entrance would now be closer to the main site than previously envisaged. This also allowed more land (previously part of the driveway) to be added on to the main site.

Another question from the floor was whether there could be speed restrictions on the road (for better road safety). Rob Marshall said that he could look into it, but that it would be hard to get done.

Discussion returned to the formation of design focus groups. Aroha said that she had received calls from Denise Takahe and Lorna Marks saying that they would both like to be on the focus group for design of the Dining room / Kitchen areas.

An meeting attendee asked whether the Marae Coimmittees had been approached. Aroha said that invitations to attend the workshops had gone out to all of the Marae Committees. The door is always open.

Stephen Forrest said that there was a group of people here at the workshop who wanted the Marae to stay – but that they are here to listen. The design work can carry on, but they will fight to keep the marae where it is. Aroha said that the decision of the majority of the owners/beneficiaries had been to move, and that they plan to take the buildings with them.

Aroha reviewed the models and explained that the intention is to cater for 350 people in the new buildings. She said that there is a possibility the existing wharenuī could be used as part of the paepae – as a place for the kaumatua.

Stephen Forrest said that we should look at enlarging all the wharenuī at the other marae. Mark Raihana reflected on the plan to make a bigger wharenuī. He noted that this is the wharenuī of the founding tipuna (Tahu) and that it is therefore appropriate that Tahu's marae should be bigger than that of his mokopuna (the other surrounding marae).

Pehi Wall suggested that it would be helpful, next time, to have a walk around the site. We'd like to see the area and marked out on the ground, where the various buildings will be. Aroha said this can be done next time, as long as it is 'allowable' (with regard to protocol).

Pehi queried the location of the car parks and asked why the carparks for the kaumatua could not be located closer to the meeting house so they (the kaumatua) don't have to walk so far.

There was discussion around the moving of the mauri. It was agreed that this would be an issue for the kaumatua. It should be left to them.

Pandra Raihana said that the kaumatua have already met and considered the relocation plan and that 90% of them had opposed it. Some discussion followed (in Maori) between Rangimarie and Uncle Tana.

Kipa Morehu said that he had come along to learn. He is newly involved and, to start with, just wants to know where the proposed site is. He had come along expecting to learn more.

Mark Raihana said that while he doesn't agree with relocation, we still have to go through with this (design and planning) process so that we're ready if needed, come the 11th hour. He compared it to an insurance package.

Pehi Wall said that you can't go ahead without the mauri. Stephen Forrest said that the mauri can't be allowed to be moved. The kaumatua have spoken and said they don't want to move.

Aroha concluded the meeting and proposed meeting again in 2 weeks time. There was a suggestion to meet on Saturday (rather than Sunday) on the 25th of June, starting at 1pm so that hopefully Uncle Riki and other Kaumatua could attend to provide guidance.. The intention is to meet at Ohaki marae with a view to begin with a walkover of the site.

The meeting was then closed with karakia, led by Uncle Tana.

Notes recorded by Murray Tonks, Secretary to the Ohaaki Working Party