

SOUNDS ADVISORY GROUP REPORT

Covid removed the first scheduled meeting for the year. Meetings were held August, November 2020, February 2021, at the MDC. I have passed on the minutes of these meetings and hopefully they are available on the KCSRA website.

These meetings have been quite full on and I will not try to cover fully in this report. The resource consent process for wastewater systems was covered thoroughly in November, and will have implications for all residents long term. No urgency at this time however. Reports from Department of Conservation, Fisheries (MPI) and MDC are always full and keep us up to date.

Currently the Sounds Advisory Group are undertaking a review. The objectives of the review are to;

- Define the purpose and the role of the Group.
- Define Stakeholder Membership.
- Seek efficiencies and integration with other community organisations.
- Review council support structures.

From my perspective, change is a challenge. Are we connecting well enough with Sounds residents? With meetings only four times a year is that enough? Council is currently publishing 'Marlborough Matters' weekly and is that keeping us informed adequately? Also 'Sounds News' in the free local newspapers. During the past year I have been taking part, by invitation, with the Smart+Connected Aquaculture Group, by attending or by Zoom. This Group meets monthly, and have been of interest. Are there lessons to be learned from the Smart+Connected format? There has been a suggestion that SAG is more connected with environmental concerns and not enough with industry interests. To my mind industry is well served particularly with S+C and the economic development division of Council. A healthy environment is essential for the economic and social needs of the all in the Sounds.

Ross Withell