



Report to Queenstown Lakes District Council May, 2014

Summary:

Shaping Our Future is building its ability to engage the community around a shared vision and set of priorities. Increasing numbers are attending forums and an increasingly wide demographic are becoming involved. This can be demonstrated by comparing the names of people attending forums. Of the 75 who attended the recent Conservation Forum in Wanaka, less than 10 would have also attended the Visitor and Tourism Forum in either Queenstown or Wanaka (165 people in total attended the V&T Forum). A similar comparison can be made between the Innovation Forum (Wanaka) and the Economic Futures Forum (Wanaka and Queenstown) and between the Innovation Forum attendees and those who attended the Conservation Forum. We have 50 signed up paid up members – 8 are corporate - plus 350 people signed up to our newsletter. Our target is 1000 paid up members by 1 July 2016, including 100 corporates. Money from the QLDC grant is used to pay coordination and administration costs plus direct Forum and Speaker Series costs. Other costs include maintaining www.shapingourfuture.org.nz and producing our annual progress report. We are a lean organisation run by a volunteer Steering Group. We do not pay meeting expenses using either Council facilities or donated boardrooms for meetings and always buy our own coffees! We do provide tea coffee and minimal food at forums that are held in the evening. Shaping Our Future now has six forums established that will continue to provide feedback to the community and its agencies for the foreseeable future. The Steering Group envisages a 'sinking lid' policy regarding its current Council funding and will present a plan for reducing the grant level over the next five years in its next report. This will cover corporate membership, alternative funding bodies and sponsorship.

Governance

Shaping Our Future is an incorporated society with tax exemption. It is guided by an annually elected volunteer Steering Group. Pete Bullen, David Kennedy (chair), Alastair Porter, Celia Crosbie, Jim Boulton, Prue Kane, Trent Yeo, Ralph Hanan, Ed Taylor. Four live in Wanaka/Hawea and five in Queenstown. A new Steering Group will be elected at the Annual General Meeting scheduled for November. Coordination is currently contracted through the Centre for Sustainable Practice. This arrangement is likely to come to an end at June 30 2014 and it's proposed that a private contractor be sought with the Centre contracted as and when required.

Financials:

Shaping Our Future has been granted \$50,000 for the year ended June 30, 2014. This money has been committed in the following way:

\$33,000 for coordination services – support and administration

\$6,000 Visitor and Tourism Forum

\$5,000 Conservation, Energy and Innovation Forums for Queenstown and Wanaka, Speaker series events

\$6,000 Annual General Meeting, Annual progress report, website maintenance

This budget will be fully spent by December 2014 (again reflecting a six month delay in MOU establishment)

Shaping Our Future has also raised \$2600 through membership fees and donations.

Forums established over the past year:

Visitor and Tourism, Innovation, Conservation. We envisage all three plus one other (yet to be determined, but planning is underway for an Education Forum) will be at the stage of delivering a report to appropriate agencies by June 30, 2015. At this point, Shaping Our Future will have caught up with its obligations under the MOU (2 Forums per year at stage of report delivery).

Full Forum update:

Events – first round of recommendations complete. In response to that Task Force report, an Events Office and funding regime has been established. First public reports filed. In the Shaping Our Future process at some future point (expected to be around March 2015) this new baseline will be established, a forum convened and, if required, a new task force established to measure progress against vision, re-establish vision if required and new recommendations made if required.

Economic Futures – first round of recommendations responded to by council. An Economic Development Report has been commissioned by Council and is currently under consideration. As with Events, at some future point a forum will be reconvened.

Energy – The task force has reported back on 3 occasions and have on each occasion been asked to reconsider a number of its recommendations to the Council and ORC. We expect a report to be finalised by early June.

Innovation – A forum was convened in Wanaka – a task force is yet to be successfully established. There are several people prepared to engage in a Queenstown forum which is planned for mid-June

Visitor and Tourism Futures – Forums convened in Queenstown and Wanaka – task force established. Recommendations expected by May 2015

Conservation Forum – Upper Clutha – in partnership with Department of Conservation – task force called for – to be established by July 2014. Recommendations expected June 2015.

Community Engagement:

Shaping Our Future has 50 financial members including 8 corporate members.

Since July 2013 approx 700 people have taken part in forums, task forces and speaker series Facebook page has 122 likes and regular interaction. Website is updated weekly – no analytics as yet but will come

Shaping Our Future Inc.

The next report will be provided by end November, 2014.