

**REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 9.46AM ON
WEDNESDAY 22 JUNE 2005 IN THE MEMORIAL HALL
SUPPER ROOM, ESPLANADE, KAIKOURA.**

PRESENT: Councillor B Woods (Chair), Mayor K Heays, Councillor J Diver, S Thomas, M McChesney, B Seddon, J Macphail, M Pablecheque.

IN ATTENDANCE: S Grant (Chief Executive Officer), J Woodgate (Minutes Secretary), D Laughton (Building Inspector) S van Aswegen (District Planner), M Hoggard (Planning Officer), R Vaughan (Planning Officer), J Denton (Monitoring/Biodiversity Officer), I Challenger (Environment Development Officer), J Uren , J Ransley, and G Nolan (Innovative Waste Kaikoura).

1. MATTERS ARISING FROM REPORT OF 18 MAY 2005

There was questioning on who was in charge of litter control around the town.

The Chief Executive Officer advised litter control was part of the Roading contract with contractors instructed to keep the district tidy.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS

a) Building Report

The Building Inspector presented the report advising 27 buildings consents were issued for the month of May with a combined construction value of \$2,536,980.

He advised Land Information Memorandums were down by half with only 9 issued for property purchases throughout May. 21 Code Compliance Certificates were issued for completed building projects throughout the month.

The Building Inspector advised he had been busy sending out reminder letters to all building consent holders that had not completed works for final inspections, further advising if works were not followed up the relevant consents would be cancelled.

Mayor Heays asked for an update on the Scenic Circle Hotel Site.

The Building Inspector advised he had recently had a meeting with the owner who advised they were currently sorting out legal details with the other partners involved. He advised it would be

continuing as a Hotel operation with plans well underway and expected to be lodged with council in the very near future. They had applied for consent from Environment Canterbury, and the interior had been redesigned with a further 7 rooms added. The size of the establishment would remain unchanged.

The Building Inspector advised inspection costs would remain unaltered as they had already been paid for.

Councillor Pablecheque requested an update in relation to the clean up of the site.

D Laughton advised it appeared to be a hopeless scenario, and there was nothing more that Council could do apart from consistently keep pressure on them to keep the site tidy.

b) Resource Planning

The Planning Officer presented his report. He advised thirteen new resource consents had been received for the period. The large Seaview application had progressed to a decision being made by the Hearings & Applications Committee. He advised several telephone enquiries had been received with regard to large developments.

Councillor Diver enquired as to whether the Neumann Real Estate Ltd consent would be publicly notified.

The Planning Officer advised the application complied with all performance standards, however the lift shaft protruded through height restrictions. He advised selective notification was being considered given the zoning of the site which was located north of the CRT building on Beach Road.

c) Monitoring/Biodiversity

The Monitoring Officer presented her report advising that follow up to non-compliances was till ongoing, with two S224 requests currently in process.

A Significant Natural Areas meeting was held on 16th May 2005 with the group looking at appointing a liaison person, who would make the first point of contact with landowners, work on building a relationship with them if they were interested, make follow up telephone calls, and organise get togethers with the group and land owners.

The Biodiversity Officer advised she was busy getting material ready for the new Council website which was due to be up and running by the end of the month.

She advised the final progress report to Department of Conservation was currently being worked on.

Councillor McChesney enquired whether council would be responsible for paying a new liaison person, or whether central government was able to assist with such funding.

The Chief Executive Officer advised one consideration was that the person who undertook this role could be the Biodiversity Officer. To date the biodiversity project was totally funded by grant funds which could be reapplied for as and when required.

Councillor Seddon suggested council appoint the Biodiversity Officer to this role as she had been in this line of work for some time and had good knowledge of the area.

Mayor K Heays asked whether consent monitoring was self funded.

The Chief Executive Officer advised it depended on how much monitoring and how compliant the applicant was with their conditions. He advised the Annual Plan stated council was working towards 100% monitoring of consents annually. He noted however some consents required a lot more monitoring than others.

The Monitoring Officer advised with changes to the Resource Management Act the consent holder had 5 years to make effect, therefore making it difficult to keeping an eye on all. She noted a backlog of consents had been inherited with the position.

Councillor Woods expressed concerns that if the Monitoring/Biodiversity Officer was appointed the liaison position it would surely impact on her time to undertake monitoring.

The Chief Executive Officer advised such matters would need to be reviewed should the appointment be made.

Councillor Seddon commented that there would be a lot of unknowns throughout the first year of the liaison position such as how much time the job would really take and suggested that the first year be held in house with the Monitoring/Biodiversity Officer in order to see the outcome.

Councillor Woods suggested the job needed to be done well by a person that had sufficient time to put into it.

d) District Planning

The District Planner presented her report advising deliberations on the Ocean Ridge variation were now complete. Drafting of the preliminary decisions and the two variations was now in progress.

e) Environmental Development

The Environmental Development Officer advised the week between the 20th and the 26th June was International Real Nappy Week. He advised nappies were a significant environmental issue with reports from Wellington City that nappies took up 6% of their landfill space. Around 236 cubic metres of nappies went to the Kaikoura landfill per annum which was a real problem as they did not decompose for up to 500 years.

To produce one nappy used the equivalent energy of washing a washable nappy 200 times. Re-usable nappies were now available with no need to be soaked, just taking one wash to clean. The other benefit was not only environmental but also cost. An average child went through a cost of about \$4059, compared to a one off cost of newer, more environmentally friendly nappies at \$960.

The Environmental Development Officer advised as a council we should be encouraging mothers by way of an incentive to use re-usable cloth nappies and suggested new mothers be given a voucher to purchase one. The cost of this would be around \$2000 for council.

Councillor Woods was interested in finding out where this good information was being spread, for instance at play centres, crèches, daycare centres.

The Environmental Development Officer advised there were many opportunities for promoting such nappies further noting he had incorporated them into the Zero Waste Conference.

The Chief Executive Officer questioned from a convenience point of view where in Kaikoura could the new re-usable nappies be purchased.

The Environmental Development Officer advised all brands of re-usable nappies could be bought via the internet, further noting Council or Innovative Waste could possibly set themselves up to sell them. It would also be a great idea to educate supermarkets of these brands.

Councillor Woods commented this item really needed to be discussed fully with interested parties. The concept also needed to be sold to parents as she believed one free nappy was not much help if the idea was to be developed as an incentive to mums.

The Environmental Development Officer advised the incentive to mothers would primarily be aimed at newborns.

Communities for Climate Protection

In September 2004 Kaikoura District Council joined the Communities for Climate Protection programme.

The Environmental Development Officer advised data had been collected by M McDonald who worked with Council for about 5 weeks at the beginning of 2005. M McDonald was now in the process of loading the information from Australia. Council now needed to finish the inventory for the community sector, in order to reach an emissions figure. He advised most of Councils emissions were caused from buildings, streetlights and water / sewerage.

Councillor J Diver questioned where the figures had come from for 2002 / 2004

The Environmental Development Officer advised the information was collected from Connell Wagner and from electricity figures. He advised a big increase would be seen from 2011 as a result of pumping of water.

f) Environmental Health

Mayor Heays enquired how impending water standards from around the country would affect the Kaikoura community.

The Chief Executive Officer advised figures for the new water standards had not been seen to date. They were expected shortly however the Ministry was still in debate over the new standards.

Moved by Councillor Pablecheque, seconded by Councillor Macphail and resolved that the Environmental Services reports be received.

3. INNOVATIVE WASTE KAIKOURA PRESENTATION

A presentative was provided by J Ransley of Innovative Waste Kaikoura called 'ZORG' being Zero Organics to Landfill.

He advised current growth and anticipated growth had a down side, which was hugely affecting the land fill. This new project (ZORG) was innovative and also necessary, as it would cement Kaikoura's status in environmental management.

J Ransley advised it was a real matter of urgency as Kaikoura's landfill had reached crisis point. At the normal rate the landfill would fill by 2015 with a worst case scenario that the landfill would be at capacity in 3 years with 1000 tonne already gone to landfill this year. He noted one developer had dumped 200 tonne in 2 days. He believed the solution, in a best case scenario,

was to recycle everything. Presently approximately 360 tonne of kitchen scraps were put into the landfill per annum, with a similar amount of paper also going into the landfill. He advised both kitchen scraps and paper could all be converted into compost.

J Ransley advised developers and builders needed to be targeted by way of building seminars in order to alert them to the impact they were having on the landfill. The public needed to be shown how to buy fewer plastics, and how to buy smarter. Education at this point was the most important key in getting results on this issue. In order to commence recycling of kitchen scraps under way skip trucks would need to be purchased for commercial collection. The present shed would need to be extended, the conveyor upgraded, and a new shredder would need to be purchased. The existing HCU would continue to be used to process organics. Marketing would also be a key factor.

J Ransley advised the total cost of such an operation would be around \$700,000.00 for all capital items, operating costs and marketing. The benefits would be huge as the life of the landfill would be increased indefinitely. As there would be no rising costs it was really a matter of investing now and saving later. J Ransley noted nowhere else in New Zealand was there a community group that was working so closely with a Council.

Councillor MacPhail was interested to know if ZORG was Innovative Wastes idea? J Ransley responded yes, the idea had been made up by J Uren of Innovative Waste and branded

Councillor Seddon enquired whether Innovative Waste had the discretion to turn people away and tell them to dump their waste elsewhere.

J Ransley responded it was really up to the Chief Executive Officer. He advised Bylaws could be put in place stating what would be accepted and what would be turned away, however Innovative Waste did not want to discourage construction, and believed education was the key.

J Ransley advised the plan was to sort out rubbish into two categories – organic rubbish to be put in one bin and the second bin for all other rubbish. This process would make it very simple for people to understand and take part in. It would also marginalise the aggressive companies that have been eyeing up Kaikoura and hopefully satisfy the community that wanted a waste pick up. The landfill would pick up everything so long as it was separated into the two bins, however it required 100% participation from the district in order to be successful.

Councillor Woods advised she believed there needed to be disincentives put in place for people who did not comply. Currently a lot of the rubbish collected around various sites in the district had actually been dumped by residents.

Councillor MacPhail was interested to know how much of a lead Innovative Waste would need in order to set up an organics recycle pick-up service. J Ransley advised he believed set up could occur within three months.

Councillor Pablecheque suggested wheelie bins could be funded via a one off cost to users.

The Chief Executive Officer advised there were a number of options that would need to be discussed further.

Councillor Diver enquired whether the Planning Committee was reviewing how applicants / developers were disposing of waste from building sites.

The Chief Executive Officer advised there was no reason why such information could not be supplied by developers when applications for resource consent were lodged with council.

The Chief Executive Officer advised it would be a good idea for Council to endorse this project.

Moved by Councillor Macphail, seconded by Councillor McChesney and resolved that Council endorse the concept of ZORG, and initiate further discussion with Innovative Waste.

The motion was put and carried.

4. URGENT BUSINESS

Councillor Diver asked whether Kaikoura Residential Developments had been mediated in full.

The Chief Executive Officer advised the main parties had been mediated with.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.38am