

**REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 10.24AM ON
WEDNESDAY 21 JUNE 2006 IN THE MEMORIAL HALL
SUPPER ROOM, ESPLANADE, KAIKOURA.**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: S Grant (Chief Executive Officer), L Copping (Executive Officer), D Laughton (Building Inspector), M Hoggard (Planning Officer), R Vaughan (Planning Officer), J Denton (Monitoring/Biodiversity Officer), D Shovel (Food & Health NZ), N Sherriff (Environmental Development Officer), Ueili Mass (Swiss Intern), J Crooks (Environment Canterbury), S Jarvie (Forest & Bird Chairperson), T Howard (Forest & Bird).

LEAVE OF ABSENCE: Councillors J Diver and S Thomas

1. MINUTES ACTION LIST UPDATE

Swiss Internship

The Environmental Development Officer introduced Swiss Intern, Ueili Maas. U Maas advised he would be in Kaikoura until early October and was working on Council's Solid Waste Management Plan.

The Environmental Development Officer advised she and U Maas would be working closely together to action the items on the Minutes Action List.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS

a) Building

The Building Inspector presented the report advising 21 building consents with a combined construction cost of \$1,359,900.00 were processed for the month of May 2006.

He advised many hours were being worked on the joint Council Building Consent Authority project for accreditation, with over 40 documents produced that when completed would form the quality management manual and the forms and checksheets required to operate a quality management system.

b) Resource Planning

The Planning Officer presented the report advising four new resource consent applications were received for the period 10 May 2006 to 14 June 2006.

c) Monitoring/Biodiversity

The Biodiversity Officer presented the report advising the Significant Natural Areas project ecologist had completed two weeks of field work

where 9 properties were visited, including 6 with the Biodiversity Officer.

The Biodiversity Officer advised funds from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund had been allocated by the subcommittee as follows:-

- Forest & Bird Kaikoura \$201.50
- Woodgrove Farm Ltd \$3000.00
- Sawtooth Run \$3000.00
- Clematis Grove \$3000.00
- Kaikoura High School \$1000.00

Presentation of Weedbusters Award

Chairperson Councillor B Woods welcomed J Crooks, S Jarvie and T Howard to the meeting.

J Crooks of Environment Canterbury advised Weedbusters was an Australian concept which had grown to be a nationwide initiative within New Zealand and was an educational initiative designed to get the public behind controlling weeds.

Weedbusters was brought to New Zealand in 2002 by the Department of Conservation and had four main goals, being to:

- ◆ Increase the number of people participating in weed issues
- ◆ Build a population aware of the threats of weeds
- ◆ Reduce the number of plant species becoming established as weeds throughout NZ
- ◆ Help all agencies involved in weeds work share resources.

The 2006 Weedbusters Award was presented to Forest & Bird by Councillor B Woods in recognition of the work Forest & Bird had undertaken in Kaikoura, and in particular the Waimangarara area.

T Howard advised Forest & Bird were active in a number of areas including the Waimangarara area, coastal cliffs and the Fyffe Palmer Walkway. In the Waimangarara area approximately 15 working days had been spent cutting out weeds, replanting natives and pest control. He advised the birdlife in that area was now incredible and welcomed others to join the Forest & Bird Society.

d) District Planning

The Planning Officer presented the report advising District Plan appeals were running fairly smoothly with the exception of one matter that had been unable to be resolved through the mediation process.

She advised the planning department had recently received from the Ministry for the Environment an urban design toolkit. In order to become a signatory to the Urban Design Protocol, organizations must appoint an urban design Champion and agree to prepare an Action Plan. The Planning Officer advised although the Kaikoura district was not intensively urbanized it may be a good time to sign up to such an

initiative in order to keep up to date on developments in the district. It would also provide another tool for Council staff and planners to use when assessing development proposals.

The Planning Officer was asked to provide a report and recommendation on Urban Design Protocol to the July meeting.

e) Environmental Development

The Environmental Development Officer presented the report.

International Student Volunteers

The Environmental Development Officer advised two groups of international student volunteers had visited the district over recent weeks and had provided many hours of work on conservation projects throughout the district for very little cost to Council. They had worked with Environment Canterbury, Innovate Waste Kaikoura and the Department of Conservation on the following projects:

- Trees for Travellers (planting trees, clearing gorse)
- Toms Track (upgrading track, clearing overgrown trees)
- Removing wilding pines (South Bay)
- Lyell Creek (riparian planting)
- Gooches Beach (replace planting boxes, enhance path to toilets)
- New World (planting)

Signage

The Environmental Development Officer advised intern U Maas would be undertaking a review of signage relating to littering and camping throughout the district including details of current signage, location, perceived effectiveness and suggested recommendations.

Freedom Camping

The draft policy was forwarded to relevant landowners such as Ngai Tahu, Department of Conservation, Transit and Environment Canterbury for feedback and support. Support was received from each of the above landowners and the policy was about to be put out to the public for consultation. Once feedback was received from the public, implementation would be looked at.

Waste Management

Councillor Seddon expressed concern and amazement at an item he had read in the Christchurch Press relating to Kate Valley where it had stated if funding for trucking waste was not available then they would have to look at another landfill at either Hurunui or Kaikoura. The Chief Executive Officer advised he had also read the article, with interest and noted there had certainly been no approach to Council to discuss regional landfills, further advising he would phone Mr James regarding this matter.

Signage at New Toilet Facility

Councillor Woods requested signage be installed at the new toilet facility on the corner of State Highway 1 and Mill Road as there was presently no indication of how to get there or where to park. The Environmental Development Officer advised she should follow up signage with the Asset Manager.

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

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.11am.