

**REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 9.40AM ON
WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2006 IN THE MEMORIAL
HALL SUPPER ROOM, ESPLANADE, KAIKOURA.**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: L Copping (Executive Officer), D Laughton (Building Inspector), M Hoggard (Planning Officer), R Vaughan (Planning Officer), J Denton (Monitoring/Biodiversity Officer), N Sherriff (Environmental Development Officer).

LEAVE OF ABSENCE: Councillor B Woods

1. MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE TO BE RAISED AS URGENT BUSINESS

The Chairperson advised the Traffic Control Bylaw item within the Environmental Development Officer's report had been brought to his attention and requested it be discussed at the Council meeting later in the day.

Moved by Councillor Pablecheque, seconded by Councillor Diver and resolved that the Traffic Control Bylaw be held over for discussion in the Council meeting later in the day.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM REPORT OF 16/08/2006

Councillor Macphail requested an update on progress with the Seawall. Planning Officer, R Vaughan, advised a pre-hearing meeting was scheduled for submitters to attend on Monday 25 September at 7pm. M Dasler of Connell Wagner would be attending and acting on behalf of Council.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS

a) Building

18 Building Consents with a combined construction cost of \$1,463,195.00 were issued for the month of August.

The Building Inspector advised a lot of time had been spent policing compliance of the Building Act 2004 as there appeared to be a perception that work could commence without a building consent or Council inspections. As a result builders and the public were being reminded and educated as to the requirements of the Building Act. It was noted it appeared to be occurring with a mixture of both domestic dwellings and commercial buildings.

Councillor Thomas asked if anything was being done to enlighten people rather than having to catch them out after the works were done. The Building Inspector advised building seminars had been held in the past where the enforcement aspect was always pushed however the main offenders often did not bother attending noting it was mainly locals who were offending

b) Monitoring/Biodiversity

Regional Biodiversity Strategy

The Biodiversity Officer advised Environment Canterbury were developing a Regional Biodiversity Strategy. A wide range of stakeholders from within the Canterbury region were involved with the strategy and had formed a Strategy Advisory Group. Monthly meetings were scheduled and it was important to note that it would be a Regional Strategy for all regional stakeholders rather than an Environment Canterbury strategy. Such a strategy would provide coordination and awareness and understanding of the term “biodiversity”. The Biodiversity Officer advised she would report back to Council on a regular basis and once a draft was in place would bring it back to Council for input.

c) District Planning

Planning Officer, R Vaughan, advised the Whalewatch appeal had been heard by Judge Smith in the Environment Court resulting in the creation of a Lifestyle Living Area on the land to the east end of Scarborough Street. Councillor Diver requested for the actual parcel of land identified as the building platform to be shown in a map to the Council and also be given to the Kaikoura Star for publication as there appeared to be a lot of misconception in the town. R Vaughan advised she would attend to this and advised she would also note that all parties had used landscape experts and they had all endorsed that part of the peninsula being used for building.

Canterbury Regional Council

R Vaughan advised submissions to the Natural Resource Regional Plan (NRRP) were currently being heard by Environment Canterbury and submissions had been prepared in a collaborative approach with other Councils in the Canterbury Region. It was noted other Canterbury District Council’s had been generous in meeting the majority of costs for these appeals, thus lessening the burden on small Councils such as Kaikoura.

d) Environmental Development

Sustainable Business Charter

A meeting was held in late July and was attended by four local businesses, all of whom were already involved in sustainable practices. The Environmental Development Officer advised the charter had been put on hold for the time being and it had been felt that increasing awareness and participation in sustainable actions would generate momentum and was more likely to result in strong support for a sustainable business charter in the future. She advised she would

continue developing actions for businesses to include in the day to day running of their operations.

South Bay Facilities

The Environmental Development Officer advised new toilet facilities at the South Bay Reserve area were nearing completion and interpretation panels were expected to be installed at the interpretation centre at the reserve by early December. The development of the walkway was expected to commence within the next few weeks which would include the development of a wheel chair accessible track from South Bay.

The Environmental Development Officer advised she and the Biodiversity Officer were working with the Department of Conservation to develop a landscape plan for the area.

Mayor Heays advised the entranceway to the Peninsula walkway at South Bay looked fantastic and suggested Council acknowledge the Department of Conservation by way of a letter.

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

4. URBAN DESIGN PROTOCOL

Included in the agenda was a report from Planning Officer R Vaughan on Urban Design Protocol. She advised the Protocol was a voluntary commitment and had been prepared by the Ministry for the Environment, seeking signatory organisations to use specific urban design initiatives to achieve good outcomes for urban spaces. The Protocol aimed to make towns and cities more successful and identified seven essential design qualities, being:

- **Context:** Seeing that buildings, places and spaces are part of the whole town or city
- **Character:** Reflecting and enhancing the distinctive character, heritage and identity of our urban environment
- **Choice:** Ensuring diversity and choice for people
- **Connections:** Enhancing how different networks link together for people
- **Creativity:** Encouraging innovative and imaginative solutions
- **Custodianship:** Ensuring design is environmentally sustainable, safe and healthy
- **Collaboration:** Communicating and sharing knowledge across sectors, professions and with communities.

The above qualities were dubbed the seven C's and would become a test for any new project. It was noted some of the design qualities were already identified through current Council policies and initiatives.

R Vaughan advised while it appeared to be a huge undertaking it would provide another tool to work with in development and subdivision. It

was a concept that would provide teeth in terms of training and would provide a good basis to turn down shoddy development or subdivision. Ongoing professional training and toolkits would also be received. Councillor Thomas asked if it would create a lot of extra work. R Vaughan advised it would not create extra work and would be an extension of the work already undertaken by the Planning Department. She advised while there was no government funding, there was support from the Ministry for the Environment.

Councillor Seddon noted there was a recommendation included in the agenda and advised he would be voting against it as he believed Council had enough controls. Through the District Plan the people of Kaikoura had said how they wanted Kaikoura to look and he believed the Urban Design Protocol would be more unnecessary bureaucracy for staff.

Councillor Diver believed Council should endorse the Urban Design Protocol as it added to and enhanced the District Plan and would certainly aid the Hearing & Applications Committee.

Councillor McChesney advised she had initially not been in favour of it however she had now changed her mind and would like to see the District Plan complimented by such a protocol and provide the District Planner and staff with another tool to help design the town well.

Councillor Seddon asked how strong the protocol would be if adopted, and if it would be strong enough to stand up in the Environment Court. R Vaughan advised it was more of a professional education programme. The objectives of the District Plan were the bottom line however the protocol provided something else to work with to achieve that. She noted the protocol was information that developers knew but chose to ignore if they could.

Moved by Mayor Heays, seconded by Councillor Pablecheque and resolved that Council direct staff to:

- 1) Prepare a letter to the Ministry confirming that the Kaikoura District Council become a signatory to the Urban Design Protocol;***
- 2) Make recommendations to appoint a design champion within the Council;***
- 3) Begin a program of Action to support the Urban Design Protocol.***

Against: Councillor Seddon

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.41am.