

**REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 9.45AM ON  
WEDNESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2007 IN THE MEMORIAL  
HALL SUPPER ROOM, ESPLANADE, KAIKOURA.**

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

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

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:** Councillor B Seddon

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor M McChesney  
*Moved by Councillor Woods, seconded by Mayor Heays and resolved that apologies be accepted.*

**1. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS**

**a) Building**

The Building Inspector presented the report advising 20 building consents with a combined construction value of \$1,073,000 were issued for the month of March 2007.

The Chief Executive Officer advised he had received a resignation from Building Control Officer, N Burnby, who would be finishing with Council on 18 May 2007. Councillor Woods commended N Burnby for his magnificent contribution to Council, and noted in particular he had been a driving force in Council's accreditation process to date.

**b) Resource Planning**

The Planning Officer advised processing of resource consents remained steady with 9 new resource consents received in the period 8 March to 5 April 2007. Mayor Heays asked for an update on Works Infrastructure application to move to Kowhai Ford. The Planning Officer advised she believed the applicant would be lodging an application for an alternative site suggested by Environment Canterbury however she believed residents were not happy with the alternate site.

**c) Monitoring/Biodiversity**

The Biodiversity Officer advised seven applications had been received for Biodiversity funding with a date yet to be set for the panel to meet to make decisions on the issuing of funds. Councillor Woods encouraged other Councillors to join the Significant Natural Areas

Committee as it was a very interesting committee and being a part of it was a wonderful way of finding out things of value in the area.

The Biodiversity Officer advised Councils Significant Natural Areas project ecologist had recently undertaken a week of survey work in the district where he had visited properties of interested landowners in order to confirm historical information regarding biodiversity values and to raise awareness to landowners.

An application was submitted by the Biodiversity Officer to the "Rural Sustainability" Category of the Ministry for the Environment's Green Ribbon Awards currently open and it was hoped that if successful, it would set a useful tool to add to future requests for funding for the project.

Councillor Woods advised she was very impressed at the impact Kaikoura was having on Environment Canterbury and noted Environment Canterbury appeared to be listening to the smaller people at a recent workshop.

*d) District Planning*

**District Plan**

Planning Officer, R Vaughan, advised District Plan appeals were progressing and it was hoped the launch of the plan could take place toward the end of April.

**Regional Policy Statement Review**

A Regional Policy Statement Review workshop had been held with Environment Canterbury and was ongoing.

**Transit Strategic Planning**

Work had commenced on Transit's strategic planning study of the roading requirements of the district by way of a traffic congestion survey at the urban State Highway intersections. The study is being undertaken by RMG Resource Management Consultants and it was believed the advantages of this project would have a huge contribution to the future planning of the district.

**West End Working Party**

Preliminary concepts to smarten up the West End, along with prices, were due to be presented to the working party later in the day.

*e) Environmental Development*

Included in the agenda was a summary of independent overnight parking for the summer of 2006/2007, prepared by the Environmental Development Officer.

The Environmental Development Officer advised she felt Council had enough opportunity under its Traffic Control Bylaw, Reserves Act and the Litter Act to manage freedom camping rather than develop another policy. In terms of existing legislation, as outlined in the report,

Councillor Woods noted the wording within 2.1.1 on page 28 of the agenda did not actually make sense.

Councillor Macphail asked if the Blackmiller area had been monitored. The Environmental Development Officer advised a group had stayed there over the summer period however not for nearly as long as in the past. She noted Transit had undertaken some works at the site and it was no longer as conducive for parking.

Councillor Macphail expressed concern at the amount of camping taking place opposite the Sonic On the Rocks and the Seal Colony. He believed freedom camping hadn't stopped at all and campers were just moving from the places where signs had been placed to areas where there were no signs. He believed the problem had moved rather than it being managed.

The Chief Executive Officer advised it appeared signage had been effective at South Bay, and that flyers placed inside campervans had been effective. If people had moved to spots where there were no signs then Council could look at placing signs at those spots.

Councillor Woods saw no problem with campers parking opposite the Sonic since they were within walking distance to a toilet facility. Councillor Macphail expressed concern that the West End carpark could end up being a camping ground.

Councillor Thomas asked if Council had any plans for monitoring or enforcement. The Environmental Development Officer advised Council had the opportunity of using its existing policies and Acts for enforcement purposes. She advised in working with the national Tourism Waste Working Group there were opportunities to have an educational ranger throughout the district. For clarification purposes Councillor Thomas reiterated so Council had the ability to enforce but did not have an officer to enforce with. The Environmental Developmental Officer advised she was not aware that Council wanted to undertake enforcement.

The Chief Executive Officer advised the original thrust was to go down the educational route. Council had also looked at engaging Eastcoast Security to provide information on any issues and the feedback had been that there were very few issues. The main thrust had been the spoiling of the environment and from what Council had put in place it did not appear to be the big issue that it had been the year before. He noted the Department of Conservation tended to encourage people to camp.

Councillor Macphail advised he had another concern whereby the Trotting Association had an arrangement with the Motor Caravan Association that allowed members to stay for free at the Racecourse. He advised it seemed very bizarre when Council was discounting the rental of the racecourse to the Trotting Club. Councillor Woods

advised perhaps it would be advisable for Council to bear a few more things in mind at the review of the Trotting Club's rental next time. Councillor Macphail advised he wondered why the Motor Caravan Association hadn't approached local camping grounds noting Council was unable to get any rates from the Trotting Club yet camping ground owners had to pay rates.

### **Plastic Bag Free Town**

The Environmental Development Officer advised Kaikoura Enhancement Trust had been working with local businesses and mooting the idea of Kaikoura becoming a plastic bag free town. Canterbury Waste Joint Committee had recently offered \$5,000 to kick start the project and support had been shown from Encounter Kaikoura, Whalewatch, 4 Square and New World. Foodstuffs had also shown some support however they needed to see how it would fit within their organization nationwide.

Councillor Woods requested the Environmental Development Officer to provide Council with information from the internet on other towns that were plastic free, including Tasmania. The Environmental Development Officer noted Golden Bay was the only town within New Zealand that was plastic bag free however there were a number of places globally that were plastic bag free. Councillor Woods advised it was not something Council wanted to embark on that was going to fail. Councillor Thomas advised he believed it was great to be heading toward a plastic bag free district and wondered if the same could be achieved with advertising in letterboxes. The Environmental Development Officer advised "No Junk Mail" stickers had been included in quarterly rates notices. Councillor Diver expressed concern that such a move would take away someone's living from delivering flyers.

### *f) Environmental Health*

D Shovel of Food & Health Standards was in attendance to present the report. He advised he had recently attended a conference in Gisborne where the key note speeches were very much focused on the domestic food review and drinking water standards. Mayor Heays asked how the local market fared in terms of selling home made food. D Shovel advised Farmers Markets were currently quite an issue around the country. Food was being sold on an ongoing basis to the public at farmers markets falling under the grounds of a registered food premises which meant they must be registered and not prepared in the home environment.

Following three years of review, Central Government had agreed to New Zealand Food Safety Authority's proposal to redesign the domestic food regulatory system with a clear message to promote safe and suitable food into the future.

The Chief Executive Officer asked if farmstays or B&B's would be affected. D Shovel advised it was envisaged that both would have to

comply and would be required to separate domestic food from commercial food with a strict hygiene regime and elimination of pets and children. Strictly controlled cleaning and sanitization practices must also be adhered to.

Councillor Macphail advised he would be interested to see feedback on the wildfood festival as a result of an upcoming meeting with Christchurch Central Liquor Licensing, Police and District Inspectors being attended by D Shovel in terms of his role with Seafest. D Shovel advised he would include this in his May report for Council.

Councillor Diver advised neighbours of the mall in Beach Road had been complaining about the lighting from the mall. D Shovel advised he had investigated this matter and a report had been provided to the Monitoring Officer.

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

## **2. SOLAR BRIGHT LIMITED**

A presentation was provided by Solar Bright managing director P Martin. The cost per light in a typical street in Christchurch was between \$3,000 & \$4,000 plus a further \$75 to \$150 per year in electricity whereas the cost per light for a solar light was between \$2,500 & \$3,000, zero electricity costs, \$50 for a battery which had a life of approximately 8 years.

P Martin advised based on one street with 12 lights at an average of \$115 per annum per light, in 20 years one street would save \$30,000 not to mention the impact on the environment.

P Martin advised there were two basic types of solar panels (also referred to as a PV – photo voltaic cell) mono-crystalline and poly-crystalline and each had it's own output characteristics. Solar panels were made from poly-crystalline silicone which yielded a slightly higher charging output than a mono-crystalline in direct sunlight and slightly less in overcast conditions.

An LED, or Light Emitting Diode, contained a chemical compound that gave off light when an electric current passed through it and had been around for many years but only recently had the technology advanced so that rather than just an indicator light on a stereo amplifier or phone, it could be bright enough to actually use as an independent light source.

The environmental benefits were noted as follows:

- No power required from an already overloaded grid
- Passive solar design had no known negative environmental consequences - only positive
- Reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and used no electricity generated by power stations.

- A 2kW PV system on a house would prevent the emission of about 40 tonnes of CO2 during its projected 30 year life time
- More than any other developed nation, NZ needs to go the extra mile to lower greenhouse gas emissions and increase sustainability

Councillor Macphail asked if the solar panels were self cleaning as there would be a lot of salt spray and seagull excrement. P Martin advised they had been designed smoothly in order for all matter to wash off and noted the panels could be spiked in order to stop seagulls from landing on them. The shininess and angle of the panel made them extremely hard for birds to sit on.

The lights could be managed individually as to when they came on and were very sensitive and efficient in that they only lit up as the natural light became low.

Councillor Diver advised he believed the figure quoted of \$4,000 for an average light in Christchurch was wrong and asked for a diagram of the spread of light. P Martin advised he did not have a diagram with him but was happy to produce one later.

P Martin advised he was supplying two lights and installing them free of charge as a trial for the district with the two sites for the lights to be trialed at being Kilarney Street, by Whitby Place, and in the West End outside the Strawberry Tree.

***There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.47am.***