

**REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 9.45AM ON  
WEDNESDAY 16 MAY 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).

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor M McChesney  
*Moved by Councillor Pablecheque, seconded by Councillor Macphail and resolved that apologies be accepted.*

**1. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS**

**a) Building**

The Building Inspector presented the report advising 24 building consents with a combined construction value of \$1,972,500 were issued for the month of April. He advised it was hoped the normal turnaround time of consents would return to normal shortly as an outside consultant would be contracted to process consents.

The Building Inspector advised Council's Building Control Officer was busy working on the accreditation process which was expected to be ready to lodge with IANZ by the end of the week. Once received IANZ would undertake a desktop review of the documentation followed by an on-site audit of Council's processes. In order to become accredited Council was required to demonstrate that its processes were robust. The registration fee was approximately \$23,000 with ongoing registering and auditing two-yearly.

The Chief Executive Officer advised Council had recently introduced a compliance levy in order to recoup costs. It was noted costs associated with the new accreditation system would affect smaller communities a lot more than bigger centres.

**b) Resource planning**

Planning Officer, M Hoggard, presented the report advising processing of resource consents remained steady with 11 new resource consents received for the period.

Councillor Woods asked if applicants that were being asked for more information after lodging resource consent applications were clear on what information was required in the first place. The Planning Officer

advised generally more information was sought because the applicant was trying to take shortcuts.

Councillor Seddon noted a few years ago Council had been in the top 10% in terms of efficiency and asked if that was still the case. The Planning Officer advised Council was no longer in the top 10% due to a number of factors, the main one being that it did not use Section 37 of the Resource Management Act while many other Councils were. Section 37 of the Resource Management Act allowed for the timeframe to be doubled. The Planning Officer advised feedback was showing people were generally happy with the timeframes.

The Chief Executive Officer advised he did not see the point in using Section 37 of the Resource Management Act in order to make Council simply look good and placed more reliance on the feedback received from surveys sent to applicants where over 90% were highly complimentary.

*c) Monitoring/Biodiversity*

The Biodiversity Officer presented the report.

**Biodiversity Contestable Fund**

The Biodiversity Contestable Fund panel met recently to make decisions on the seven applications received seeking funding from this fund and applications were funded as follows:

- St Josephs School
- T & S Blunt
- D Eaton
- M Birling
- Milton
- Forest & Bird

One applicant was turned down due to the fund being oversubscribed. It was noted T & S Blunt had committed to covenanting 6 blocks on their farm totaling approximately 9.9hectares.

**Significant Natural Areas Project**

Council's Biodiversity Officer advised a lot of time had been spent the previous week out on the field with Ecologist G Walls and further work would not be arranged until later in the year.

*d) District Planning*

**District Plan Appeals**

Planning Officer, R Vaughan, advised the way forward had been outlined to the applicant however they had not replied and had until the end of May to do so. If a response was not received a resolution would then be forced by the courts who would outline the timeframe. It was believed the courts had been prompt in setting times and it was hoped, if needed, the matter would be heard in June.

**Canterbury Regional Council**

### ***Regional Policy Statement Review***

A further meeting was scheduled to be held with Environment Canterbury in Christchurch on Tuesday 22 May to deal with waste, hazardous substances, contaminated sites, air, Tangata Whenua processes and energy.

### ***Regional Council Annual Plan***

A submission was made by Council to Environmental Canterbury's Draft Annual Plan 2007/08. The aim of the submission was to address the allocation of funds to the District Plan liaison team responsible for lodging submissions on resource consents. R Vaughan advised it was worth noting that Environment Canterbury were now submitting on every notified consent of Kaikoura District Council's which staff believed was bad practice and an onerous requirement on the applicant for Environment Canterbury to be undertaking such a practice. Councillor Woods asked if Council could take this issue further. The Chief Executive Officer advised Council would need to investigate the legal mandate issue first and if proven correct it would be worthwhile pursuing.

### **Industrial Zone**

It was noted to date no feedback had been received from the community on the need for an industrial zone.

### ***e) Environmental Development***

#### **Sustainability Conference**

The Environmental Development Officer presented the report advising the recently attended climate change conference held in Melbourne had included celebration that the programme had been going for 10 years. The conference had provided a great gathering of local government leaders in sustainability action and it was noted approximately 75% of New Zealand's population were involved in the Communities for Climate Protection Programme. The conference was also attended by Mayor Heays and Deputy Mayor B Woods and had been funded personally and by a generous donation from International Councils for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI).

#### **Plastic Bag Free Towns**

The Environmental Development Officer advised she had visited Coles Bay, Tasmania, whilst in Australia recently, who were the first town in the world to become plastic bag free. During the visit contacts were made to enable Kaikoura to learn experiences from initiating such a programme. A presentation was also given to a community group and Councillors of the Glamorgan Spring Bay Council area in Tasmania explaining Council's involvement with Green Globe.

Included in the agenda were international examples of plastic bag free cities and towns taken from the internet.

Councillor Pablecheque noted New Zealand used a billion plastic bags per year. The Environmental Development Officer advised she was in

the process of putting together a list of retailers interested in becoming plastic bag free and hoped to have the project up and running by summer 2007.

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

***There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.25am.***