

**REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 10.37AM ON
WEDNESDAY 20 JUNE 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 McChesney, M Pablecheque, S Thomas.

IN ATTENDANCE: S Grant (Chief Executive Officer), L Copping (Executive Officer), M Hoggard, R Vaughan (Planning/District Planning Officers), J Denton (Monitoring/Biodiversity Officer), N Sherriff (Environmental Development Officer), T Rasmussen (Environmental Health Officer).

1. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS

a) Building

The building control report was taken as read in the absence of the Building Control Officer. It was noted 18 building consents with a combined construction value of \$1,303,800 were issued for the month of May.

Councillor Diver asked for an update on the delays with building consents being processed. The Chief Executive Officer advised building consents were presently taking longer to process than in the past. During the month of May no consents had been processed at all due to the Building Control Unit concentrating on preparing and completing manuals for accreditation which meant a build up of applications over that time. Having completed the accreditation process, Council was now sending applications to a processor based in Nelson with the aim to work within the statutory time frame of 20 days once caught up.

In terms of the new act, Council was no longer allowed to touch plans or make any corrections which it had been allowed to do in the past which was causing some frustration. An example was presented where a recent consent application sent away to the processor required 49 points to be addressed by the designer, many due to the new Building Control Act requirements. It was hoped once everyone such as builders, applicants, designers and draughtsmen were familiar with the new legislation there should in fact be a faster and smoother process requiring less inspections. The Chief Executive Officer advised clients in Kaikoura had been very well served compared to most other districts in the country in that Kaikoura had always been able to issue consents within the 20 day statutory timeframe.

Councillor Macphail felt Council should be mindful that the consultants being used to process outside of the district were not giving Council a bad name. The Chief Executive Officer advised he had no qualms about the ability of the person in Nelson processing

applications and that the onus was now on designers ensuring they had everything right in the first instance.

b) Resource Planning

District Planning Officer, M Hoggard, presented the report advising there was a need for a further prehearing meeting as not all submissions were resolved at a recent prehearing meeting for Kaikoura Waterfront Apartments Ltd.

It was noted the applicant of a recently declined consent application had lodged an appeal.

c) Monitoring / Biodiversity

The Monitoring Officer presented the report advised she had recently attended an Enviroschools workshop at Kaikoura High School along with the Mayor. The Environmental Development Officer had also attended and updated schools on the plastic bag free district concept which had been received with a lot of eagerness by schools.

d) District Planning

District Planning Officer, R Vaughan, presented the report advising one last outstanding appeal was still being resolved and it was hoped the launch for the District Plan would take place around the end of July 2007.

Canterbury Regional Council

Comments submitted to Environment Canterbury on their Regional Coastal Environment Plan had been rejected by Environment Canterbury however it was noted Council would get a chance to make a formal submission when the plan change was formally notified.

The District Planning Officer advised Environment Canterbury believed Kaikoura's swing moorings to be banned, however she felt they should be allowed. Environment Canterbury were changing the activity status of swing moorings and if not in a designated swing mooring area then resource consent would be required for existing swing moorings. The Chief Executive Officer advised it was now time for formal submissions to be presented and Kaikoura would certainly be appealing the issue of swing moorings.

Industrial Zone

The Chief Executive Officer advised the aim was to have a workshop following the adoption of the Annual Plan on 29th June where two proposed applicants would be invited to present to Council for consideration, along with a presentation on the proposed development of the wharf site.

Councillor Diver questioned the legality of Councillors who sat on the District Plan Committee or Resource Consent Committee being present at such presentations to Council. He believed there was no problem if it was a Council staff member presenting to Council, but there was a

perceived problem with the Environment Court if the developer presented to Councillors sitting on such committees.

The Chief Executive Officer advised in this particular case all Council would be doing would be to hear of a couple of options which would then be followed by staff reports and recommendations. He advised in smaller Councils the resources needed to be looked at such as in Kaikoura where staff wore multiple hats due to the lack of resources.

e) Environmental Health

The Environmental Health report was presented by T Rasmussen. Included in the report was an update on the Wild Foods Festival held at Hokitika following a request at a previous meeting. The report noted there appeared to be a general lack of family groups attending the event and suggested a greater emphasis was needed to remove the focus from beer tents and the problem that such tents encouraged. Councillor Woods noted the beer tent focus was really part of the west coast lifestyle. T Rasmussen concurred with Councillor Woods but noted the festival had become bigger and bigger over the years and it was the sheer numbers and management of such numbers that was causing the most issues. Councillor Thomas noted the focus of Wildfoods festival appeared to be around the beer tents whereas the focus of Seafest was primarily around entertainment.

The report advised a newsletter was currently being drafted for all licensed premises raising the profile and awareness of key issues and initiatives by the Alcohol Advisory Council and other stakeholders in the industry. Councillor Woods requested a copy of the newsletter, once drafted, to be included in a future Council agenda.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.43am.