

# **REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 10.27AM ON WEDNESDAY 21 APRIL 2010 IN MEMORIAL HALL SUPPER ROOM, ESPLANADE, KAIKOURA**

**PRESENT:** Councillor J Ransley (Chair), Mayor K Heays, Councillors J Diver, N Pablecheque, D Holmes, M McChesney, B Woods, J Macphail.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** S Grant (Chief Executive Officer), S Syme (Executive Officer), R Vaughan (District Planner), D Laughton (Senior Building Control Officer), J Denton (Biodiversity Officer).

## ***1. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS***

### ***a) Dog/Noise/Stock Control***

27 complaints were received in March regarding dogs. Most complaints related to wandering dogs. A bad stock attack, which resulted in a number of sheep being killed or injured, had occurred during the month. A trap had since been put in place on the property where the attack occurred to try and catch the offending dogs.

4 complaints had been received regarding noise. On one occasion the Noise Control Officer had been accompanied by Police and an amplifier seized. Three complaints were received regarding band practice on Churchill Street. On one occasion noise was just over the allowable limit, the band was visited and noise levels were reduced.

### ***b) Building***

13 Building Consent were issued with a combined construction value of \$500,300 were issued in March. There were currently 10 Building Consent applications on hold awaiting further information and all were for new houses. The Senior Building Control Officer advised enforcement issues were becoming more apparent in the District and he attributed this to either lack of maintenance or a lack of money.

The Senior Building Control Officer had attended a Mainland Building meeting where proposed changes to the Building Act were discussed. The group had decided to write individual submissions. The Senior Building Control Officer had since attended the Building Officials Institute Seminar and a joint submission was being prepared. The Senior Building Control Officer advised if the proposed changes were to come into effect he believed more than half of the work would disappear for small Building Control Authorities.

The proposed changes to the Act would mean Licensed Building Practitioners would have the right to certify their own work and a standard house would only require three inspections by the Building Control Authority compared to the current seven or eight. The aim behind the changes was to put the responsibility and liability where it

should lie. Currently territorial authorities were generally the last in a chain of individuals or companies whom had insurance. The Senior Building Inspector believed even with changes to the Act this would not change. It was noted currently 80% of building practitioners in New Zealand did not hold a trade qualification. Feedback received from local builders had indicated they would still have Council process their building consents.

**c) *District and Environmental Planning***

Mayor Heays enquired if Council staff had noticed any effect when dealing with Environment Canterbury following the sacking of Councillors. The District Planner felt staff were in limbo with regard to where processes were going. She was unsure if the draft Regional Policy Statement would be presented to the new commissioners and she advised changes to the Regional Plan were still being processed. She further advised there would be no right of appeal to the Environment Court for either document. Documents would only be able to be appealed to the High Court on points of law. .

**d) *Biodiversity and Environmental Projects***

The Biodiversity Officer advised the Biodiversity Contestable Fund had closed on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March and the panel had met on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April to assess the applications received and conclude funding decisions. A total of 15 applications had been received with a combined request value of \$41,590. The fund had \$20,700 available for allocation.

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

***There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.53am.***