

**REPORT OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES MEETING HELD
WEDNESDAY 13 JULY 2005 AT 9.00AM IN THE
MEMORIAL HALL SUPPER ROOM, ESPLANADE,
KAIKOURA.**

PRESENT: Councillor M McChesney (Chair), Mayor K Heays, Councillor S Thomas, M Burdon (Community Development Officer & Strengthening Families Co-ordinator), J Bolton (Te Whare Putea).

IN ATTENDANCE: L Copping (Executive Officer), N Doney (Ministry of Social Development), C McKenzie (District Nurse), M Kennedy (Road Safety Officer), G Rae (Work & Income), L Williams (Work & Income Nelson), L Nicholls (Work & Income Nelson), S Chapman (Public Health Nurse), M Slade (Housing NZ Corporation).

APOLOGIES: M Falloon, G Kleiss, C Cowan, Councillor B Woods

Moved by M Burdon, seconded by Mayor Heays and resolved that apologies be accepted.

1. MARC SLADE – HOUSING NZ CORPORATION

M Slade, Partnership Project Manager for Housing NZ Corporation advised Housing NZ were looking at building new housing units in Kaikoura as a result of an application received from Council for funding assistance. He advised Housing NZ Corporation had available a housing innovation fund who's prime function was to fund the development of local authority housing. The fund covered two aspects, one for funding the modernization of existing local authority units and the other to fund 50% toward new housing, the object of the fund being to create an alternative housing source throughout New Zealand. In terms of Councils, the objective was to encourage Councils to continue to provide housing. He advised Kaikoura District Council was the first Council to approach the Corporation for funding for family units.

M Slade advised there would be a long process to work through, although he noted a lot of work had already taken place in relation to mapping throughout the area. Housing NZ Corporation now needed to be satisfied that Council was committed to staying in long term housing, and that there was community support.

He advised design aspects would need to be in good order in order for the dwellings not to date, and advised the Corporation had an in-house design team that would be available to offer Council advice.

He advised other issues to be looked at were management of the units, and asset management.

M Slade advised in terms of the New Zealand Housing Strategy, the Government had produced a long term vision for housing within New Zealand which set out a programme for the next ten years and would act as a pathway for Housing New Zealand. He advised the government had set down a vision for all New Zealanders to have access to affordable sustainable housing that met their needs.

2. CORRESPONDENCE

Education/Children/Youth & Elderly Workstream

An invitation to those interested in joining the working party of the above workstream was included in the agenda. Mayor Heays advised he would be holding the inaugural meeting of the Education/Children/Youth & Elderly workstream on Friday 29th July at 10.00am at Te Whare Putea and encouraged anyone interested in becoming a part of this working party to attend.

Every Child Counts

An invitation to the Mayor to join the Every Child Counts organization and publicly endorse their principles was included in the agenda. The organisation was an a-political campaign, the sole objective of which was to make clear to the incoming 2005 Government that New Zealanders really do care about their children and that much more needed to be done to protect and nurture them.

Councillor McChesney advised she felt the committee did not need to respond as there were many organizations that worked on behalf of children that the committee already supported.

The Environmental Development Officer entered the meeting at 9.45am.

3. RE-USABLE NAPPY CAMPAIGN

The Environmental Development Officer advised the week between the 20th and the 26th June was International Real Nappy Week. He advised nappies were a significant environmental issue with reports from Wellington City that nappies took up 6% of their landfill space. Around 236 cubic metres of nappies went to the Kaikoura landfill per annum which was a real problem as they did not decompose for up to 500 years.

To produce one nappy used the equivalent energy of washing a washable nappy 200 times. Re-usable nappies were now available with no need to be soaked, just taking one wash to clean. The other benefit was not only environmental but also cost. An average child went through a cost of about \$4059, compared to a one off cost of newer, more environmentally friendly nappies at \$960.

The Environmental Development Officer advised Council should be encouraging mothers by way of an incentive to use re-usable cloth

nappies and suggested mothers of new-born babies be given a voucher to purchase one. The cost of this would be around \$2000 for Council.

C McKenzie suggested mothers be given bright red carrier bags in order for nappies to be separated from other household waste.

Public Health Nurse S Chapman advised she had noticed an increase in re-usable nappies being used, further noting there was a local person making re-usable nappies which were called “green-bums” and were available at local store Genevieve’s. It was noted there were approximately 30 births per year in Kaikoura.

The Environmental Development Officer asked the committee to support mothers being given one re-usable nappy upon the birth of a child and suggested a voucher could be sent to the nappy company of their choice, which would in turn be invoiced back to Council, further noting Fuzzy Bunz had indicated they would offer a discount to Council.

Councillor McChesney advised this concept could be trialed for two years as the committee had approximately \$1500 in it’s account that had been there for some 4 years.

Mayor Heays requested that the Environmental Development Officer approach the local person making re-usable nappies to be included in supply of nappies.

Moved by Councillor McChesney, seconded by J Bolton and resolved that:

- 1) The Social Services Committee trial a voucher system for two years to a maximum of 40 births per year;***
- 2) An educational leaflet be included with the nappy voucher to mothers of new-borns and that the nappies be funded from the Social Services Committee budget.***

L Williams suggested since Kaikoura attracted such a large number of tourists it may be a good idea to advertise broadly the issues associated with disposable nappies in order for tourists to be aware. The Community Development Officer advised it would be good to advise the District Health Board and hospitals of the re-usable nappy voucher system Kaikoura was about to launch.

The motion was put and carried.

4. GREEN GLOBE SOCIAL INDICATOR

The Environmental Development Officer advised the Green Globe 21 benchmarking process involved measuring 12 indicators, 10 compulsory and pre determined by Green Globe and 2 optional indicators. He advised one of the two optional indicators measured was the social health and well being of Kaikoura’s community, and the other was chemical spills from truck accidents. The measure for this was taken through an

annual customer satisfaction survey undertaken by Council which had just been completed.

Survey results, along with comparisons over the past three years were included in the agenda for information purposes.

N Doney noted the survey indicated people did not know how to participate in community activities which he felt reiterated the need to advertise the upcoming Education/Children/Youth & Elderly inaugural meeting.

5. MAYOR'S UPDATE

Mayor Heays provided an update to the committee. He advised Council's Annual Plan had been adopted on 29 June, which included a budget of \$20,000 for Social Services and suggested the committee now needed to plan how they may spend these funds meaningfully and sustainably.

An employment forum, in association with Work & Income had been held two months previously. Mayor Heays advised it had been very well received with 23 local employers attending. They were advised how they could get assistance and encouragement to train youth through employment. Mayor Heays advised the next forum was being planned which would be focused on the needs of the employer and how Council and the community could assist them.

The Community Development Officer suggested it may be useful to talk to Marlborough Law Centre as they received quite a lot of employment enquiries.

6. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER'S UPDATE

Housing Sub-committee

An application to Housing Innovation Fund was collated and sent to Housing New Zealand Corporation. The next step for Council would be to establish a project group comprising Council staff and input from the sub-committee and elected members which would act as a reference group. Once established, design staff from Housing NZ Corporation would visit to help progress plans with the aim of having the application approved by December 2005.

Community Website

The community website group had met once and were very eager to have a forum to discuss local issues.

Family Violence Network

The next meeting was due to be held Thursday 21 July in the Memorial Hall supper room with the aim to work on the Memorandum of Agreement for signatories to the Te Rito proposal. If unable to reach agreement, parties have agreed to set their involvement in this aside.

Early Childhood Project

In collaboration with Sport Marlborough and REAP an applications was being worked on for the Tindall Foundation for a comprehensive project.

Long Term Council Community Plan

A meeting has been scheduled with the Relationships Manager from Department of Internal Affairs and Ministry of Social Development, Council Staff, the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer. The Community Development Officer advised she had suggested a plan and timeframe to work within to develop consultation.

Adult & Community Education

The Community Development Officer advised Adult and Community Education classes for the third school term had been organized by Paul McGahan. She advised P McGahan was eager to hear from people as to what they were interested in learning or if they were interested in being a tutor. It was noted tutors were now required to be accredited.

Medical Students Visit

A report from ten medical students who visited the district in June was now available.

Strengthening Families

The Strengthening Families Co-ordinator advised two referrals had been received to date, and meetings had been held. She advised promotional work and ongoing training sessions for new facilitators would be carried out in the near future.

Arthritis Society

A public workshop scheduled for Thursday 28th July was scheduled for Thursday 28 July and called "Understanding Managing Arthritis". Further details were advertised in the Kaikoura Star.

Sport Marlborough

An Active Movement workshop, hosted by Gill Connell was scheduled for August 8th 1-4pm in the Memorial Hall supper room. Anyone interested in attending could contact sport@mar.sportasman.org.nz

7. ROAD SAFETY UPDATE

The Road Safety Officer advised a Network Safety Co-ordinators Group (NZCG) had been formed with regard to truck crashes on State Highway One, of which he was a member. The group was being driven by Land Transport New Zealand, Transit and Police. Opus and Transit would be visiting Kaikoura shortly to discuss issues in regard to State Highway One. One of the focuses the group would be using to deal with crashes on State Highway One was called 'The Three E's', being Engineering, Enforcement and Education.

The Road Safety Officer advised major road safety issues that had been identified in the Kaikoura district were:

- Loss of control
- Trucks
- Fatigue
- Speed

He advised Kaikoura was now part of the Land Transport Canterbury group. Lynne Battey, Regional Education Advisor would be attending the next Social Services meeting to speak to the committee.

Mayor Heays advised the Social Services Committee had some leverage to forge some kind of campaign on safety on the districts roads. He noted road safety was an issue in the community and had been for some time. Councillor McChesney suggested an article in the Kaikoura Star may be helpful in reminding the community of road safety issues within the district.

The Road Safety Officer advised he would attend to this and was very eager to see the committee get actively involved with road safety.

G Rae asked what responsibility trucking companies had toward their employees. The Road Safety Officer was asked to provide information at the next meeting on what the committee could do in terms of educating trucking companies.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

Lynne Williams of Work & Income Nelson advised the latest Social Report was due for release on 21 July. She advised this year information had been bought down to a regional level which would be useful for Councils and their Long Term Community Council Plans with regard to well-being of communities.

Leanne Nichol of Work & Income Nelson advised she had recently been appointed as a Community Developer which involved identifying projects that Work & Income could assist with in terms of funding and advising community groups of agencies where they may seek funding from. She advised groups seeking funding would need to be non-profit groups in order to qualify for grants, and once granted were monitored quarterly.

N Doney advised the Kaikoura Community Report was presently being printed and would be available in the not too distant future. He advised the moving of Heartlands and Te Whare Putea was progressing well and was expected to occur sometime in August, further noting Work & Income would also be one of the partners in the new premises.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.10am.