

**REPORT OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES MEETING HELD
WEDNESDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2005 AT 9.00AM IN THE
MEMORIAL HALL SUPPER ROOM, ESPLANADE,
KAIKOURA.**

PRESENT: Councillor B Woods (Acting Chair), Mayor Heays, Councillors S Thomas, M Burdon (Community Development Officer & Strengthening Families Co-ordinator), C Mackenzie (District Nurse), M Falloon (Hospital Manager), J Bolton-Roche (Te Whare Putea).

IN ATTENDANCE: L Copping (Executive Officer), M Kennedy (Road Safety Officer), L Craig (Public Health Nurse), R Smith (Kaikoura Police), N Doney (Family & Community Services), D Wright (Order of St John), C Barton (Youth Council), C Hartley, C Roberts (Members of public), T Ayson (Kaikoura Star).

APOLOGIES: Councillor M McChesney, G Kleiss, M Unahi (CCS), L Moffatt, C Cowan.

Moved by M Burdon, seconded by Councillor Thomas and resolved that apologies be accepted.

1. MATTERS ARISING FROM REPORT OF 12/10/2005

Attendance

The Road Safety Officer noted an error in the minutes and advised he was in fact in attendance at the October meeting.

2. MINUTES ACTION LIST

Guidelines for funding applications

The Community Development Officer advised she was hopeful to have this information available by the end of the year for advertising in the local newspaper.

Gambling Funding Breakdown

The Community Development Officer advised she had put this matter on hold for the moment as such information was not readily available.

Avian Flue Pandemic Planning

C MacKenzie advised the district's Primary Health Organisation Manager has spoken with Council and hospital staff regarding pandemic planning.

The Civil Defence Officer advised he had prepared a management plan for Council staff.

3. VISITING POLITICIAN – COLIN KING

Colin King, local member of Parliament, was in attendance. He acknowledged the sudden death of Green MP Rod Donald and the influence Mr Donald had had on parliament and politics.

C King advised his position within the National Party caucus was assistant spokesperson on education, concentrating on skills training, further noting he would be spending the later part of the morning with the local high school in order to become far more aware on how the people inside the establishment were coping.

He advised while he would be unable to attend regular meetings he would be grateful to receive the minutes of each meeting.

4. YOUTH COUNCIL

Carlton Barton of Kaikoura High School Youth Council provided an update. He advised the Youth Council was going well and had some great plans for an amazing end of year school event, which had since been postponed till the end of the first term 2006.

Kaikoura Youth Council was an incorporated society and had taken some effort to get re-established due to being defunct for the past two years.

Councillor Woods commended C Barton on the huge amount of effort and energy being put into the Youth Council and asked what sort of representatives they were looking for. C Barton advised anyone was welcome to join so long as they were able to offer a regular commitment to fortnightly meetings. The Youth Council was originally set up to provide financial support to under 20 year olds to help with art and sporting opportunities and in the past funds had been given to young athletes and families for travelling to tuition outside the district.

C King suggested the Youth Council way wish to meet with community law which visited the district regularly.

5. MAYOR'S UPDATE

Visit to Chatham Islands

Mayor Heays advised he had recently had the opportunity to visit the Chatham Islands to attend a zone meeting. He advised a wonderful presentation was given which reiterated that all districts faced the same problems, but in differing degrees. The Mayor noted it was rather extraordinary that the Chatham Islands were part of Canterbury for Environment Canterbury, Wellington Central for national politics voting, and Timaru for St John and Child, Youth and Family.

Adult Education Classes

Mayor Heays advised he had been working to set up an adult education night class for employees experiencing difficulty with the written

component of training. A meeting had recently been held with various agencies and schools regarding transition between school and employment which focused primarily on the first year after leaving school and the problems associated with that first year such as lack of training and incentives. The Mayor advised he was also looking at some sort of permanent part time youth employment community liaison officer to look after and track youth as opposed to a training school.

6. FLUORIDATION PRESENTATION

Daniel Williams, Martin Lee and Victoria Slade of Canterbury District Health Board attended the meeting to provide a presentation on Fluoridation.

Mayor Heays advised the presentation was not a public debate, but purely a kick start to the fluoridation concept for the community.

D Williams advised fluoride was in everything we ate or drank. He advised natural levels of fluoride in water varied and noted Kaikoura water had approximately 1/8th concentrate of fluoridation in its water.

Fluoride ions are dissolved in water and absorbed from saliva into enamel making teeth more resistant to acid. He advised the consensus was that fluoride was good for teeth, with over sixty years experience and no evidence of harmful effects.

D Williams advised fluoridation in Kaikoura would only happen if the community supported it. He advised community water fluoridation saved money, and everyone with teeth would benefit from it, especially vulnerable children.

Discussion

C Roberts advised she was against fluoride being put into the water supply and asked from where and what source fluoride came from further noting she had evidence there were problems with bone development if fluoride was constantly present.

M Lee advised fluoride was co-produced. In terms of basic science, any fluoride comes from the earth's crust. Fluoride ions are extremely simple in that by the time they are dissolved in water it is irrelevant where they come from. He advised concerns with bone strength in older people was constantly raised. While there was a condition known as Scurvy that affected the strength of bones, it was unheard of in New Zealand and there was no evidence that people in areas of fluoridated water had different bone strength.

C Roberts noted fluoride had been said to replace iodine in bodies which affected people with thyroid problems. D Williams advised at the levels used in water there were no documented issues with health

problems and noted it was very reassuring that there were hundreds and millions of areas where water was naturally fluoridated.

P McGahan advised there appeared to be an explosion in the way people were living and believed it would be hard to dispute there wasn't a correlation with tooth decay.

D Williams advised there had been a push for fluoride in water in the 1950's and 60's with a lot of areas fluorinating in the early 1960's. He advised CDHB had been involved with Ashburton district where Councillors eventually decided to withdraw fluoride from the districts water supply. While they accepted that fluoride was beneficial and not harmful, they did not believe there was enough community support for it. Christchurch and Wellington had been compared and it was found Wellington had 30-40% lower decay.

Mayor Heays thanked the speakers for their presentation and noted it was rather timely with Council about to connect into a new plentiful water supply in the coming months, and challenged the Social Services Committee to move forward or not with this issue.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.51am.