

**MINUTES OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES MEETING HELD
AT 9.00AM ON 4TH OCTOBER 2006 AT TAKAHANGA
MARA, TAKAHANGA TERRACE, KAIKOURA.**

PRESENT: Councillor M McChesney (Chair), Mayor K Heays, L Craig (Public Health Nurse), M Kahu (Te Tai o Marokura), J Bolton-Roche (Te Whare Putea), C Cowan (Te Whare Putea).

IN ATTENDANCE: L Copping (Executive Officer, M Kennedy (Road Safety Officer), S Frizzell (Disability Sector), K Mackenzie (District Nurse), C King (MP for Kaikoura), C Roberts, C Hartley, D Wright (Order of St John), B van Berkel (Kaikoura Hospital).

APOLOGIES: Councillors S Thomas and B Woods, T McCowan, N Doney, R Te Ua.

1. MINUTES ACTION LIST

Letter to G Kleiss

Councillor McChesney advised she had recently spoken with G Kleiss who had confirmed he was eager to remain on the committee.

Adult & Community Education Representative

The Community Development Officer advised through her report that contacts had been passed on to M Unahi and P McGahan. It was noted that it was important for Council to remain in the loop to progress the "Community Outcomes for Sustainable Education and Employment" as identified in the Long Term Council Community Plan.

Record Pedestrians Data at Ludstone Rd/State Highway Intersection

Pedestrian data was recorded voluntarily by Family Violence Co-Ordinator, R Te Ua, on Monday 18 September 2006 between 8.10am and 8.30am. 37 crossings were recorded made up of 5 adults and 32 children, 7 of which were cyclists. It was noted both students and adults were very aware of the traffic as they crossed and appeared to scurry hastily between gaps in traffic.

Accommodation Supplement Submission

Included in the agenda was a copy of the Accommodation Supplement submission recently submitted to the Ministry of Housing by Councils' Community Development Officer. Current data showed a couple with 2 or more children paying \$220 per week rent on a gross income of \$600.00 per week would receive an accommodation supplement of \$49 per week in Kaikoura and \$65 per week in Blenheim. Councillor McChesney noted Kaikoura was presently at the bottom of the rung.

2. BREAKDOWN OF FUNDING FROM GAMBLING TRUSTS

Included in the agenda was a table showing the breakdown of funding received locally from gambling trusts for the 6 month period January to June 2006.

Society	Venue	No. Pokies	Player Losses	Grants to District	% Returned
NZ Community Trust	Adelphi Hotel	18	\$427,500	\$16,300	3.8%
Pub Charity	Suntrap Lobster Inn	18	\$427,500	\$84,000	19.6%
Scottwood Trust	New Commercial Hotel	9	\$213,750	\$10,000	4.7%
TOTAL		45	\$1,068,750	\$110,300	10.3%

Councillor McChensey noted one third (33%) of funds were meant to come back to the community in funding. Mayor Heays advised although 33% was meant to come back to the community, this could only happen if 33%t was applied for. He noted each Society had strict rules for applying for funding and often made it rather hard to apply.

C King advised he had spoken to gambling societies regarding this and they had said there were not a lot of applications coming in. C King advised if the funds were not applied for and granted to Kaikoura then they were given to groups outside of Kaikoura. He believed Kaikoura needed to focus on and get a stronger relationship with gambling trusts as it would be a good exercise to make them accountable more regularly. He believed there was an opportunity for one or two really important projects to reapply and that they should reapply rather than give up and by doing so the gambling trusts were then obliged to take the application seriously.

J Bolton-Roche advised there was definitely a big problem with gambling in the Kaikoura District and noted it was rather sad that Robbies Bar & Bistro had initially opened without machines but now had 6 machines.

The Chairperson asked M Kahu if there was any support the committee could offer problem gamblers in the district. M Kahu advised L Kitchingham currently provided a service for problem gamblers however she was unsure how accessible it was as she knew of a number of people that were struggling and noticed the gap was getting broader between those on lower incomes.. M Kahu advised she had spoken to the Ministry and Kaikoura had the highest number of machines per capita in the country which was a statement on its own. In a community where there was a focus on development and change everyone dreamed a bit and was looking for ways to achieve which could often motivate people into gambling.

Mayor Heays advised those holding licenses for the gambling venues were now legally required to go through a very stringent training programme of identifying problem gamblers and were trained to identify and intervene.

M Kahu asked the Mayor if he had ever thought of setting up a training programme for the community and suggested it may be a good idea. Councillor McChesney suggested perhaps it could be a mandate to give to the new Community Development Officer, once appointed.

3. MAYOR'S UPDATE

Community Care Van

Mayor Heays advised Community Care were embarking on purchasing a van for the community and to date \$15,000 had been acquired from a gaming trust.

SEEK Worker

The person originally appointed to this position had taken leave and not returned to the position however the contract allowed for a replacement to be reappointed. Council's Family Violence Co-Ordinator, R Te Ua, had recently been appointed to take over the role until March 2007.

Fencing of Davidson Terrace Railway Line

Mayor Heays advised Council had recently spent quite a lot of money upgrading the Davidson Terrace underpass. Conversations had been held with OnTrack regarding the fencing of the track and they had expressed surprise that it had not been fenced off. Mayor Heays was hopeful some action would be seen noting there was a see-through product being used elsewhere in the country that may be used at this crossing.

Kaikoura Hospital

Recent discussions held with Mayor Heays and G Bateup of Canterbury District Health Board had been fruitful and G Bateup was eager to visit to tell the committee what stage the Board was at with regard to Kaikoura Hospital and its services.

4. ROAD SAFETY UPDATE

Civil Defence

M Kennedy distributed a civil defence brochure that was being distributed nationwide. He advised on Friday 13 October a civil defence exercise would take place involving Christchurch City Council, Hurunui, Waimakariri and Kaikoura based on a strong north west wind storm. A further exercise was planned for Monday 16th October involving services such as Search & Rescue, Coastguard, Fire Service, St John and others.

Road Safety

The new Road Safety Report for Kaikoura was tabled which showed fatalities for 2005 were down. It was noted the major road safety issues were still fatigue, speed and truck crashes.

The Road Safety Progress Report for New Zealand was also tabled and it was noted the national road toll for 2005 was the lowest since 1960.

Three new billboards were recently erected in the district, one at Harnetts Creek, one at Stoney Creek and one at Kekerengu. The skins were interchangeable and would be changed from time to time to reflect the current Road Safety theme.

Transit road resealing work was due to start on Beach Road just after Seafest, from Hawthorne Road to the Caltex garage where the road would be ripped up and resealed and would be controlled by lights.

5. GENERAL BUSINESS

Gala Night

C King commended the Kaikoura community for hosting a stunning awards evening.

New Principal

C King advised it was very important for the community to get in behind and support the new High School principal and teaching staff.

Regionalism & Amalgamation

Mayor Heays requested an update on regionalism and amalgamation. C King advised he believed there would be more amalgamation noting the amalgamation between banks Peninsula and Christchurch was very sensible.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.19am.