

**MINUTES OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES MEETING HELD
AT 9.00AM ON WEDNESDAY 7th NOVEMBER 2007 AT
TAKAHANGA MARAE, KAIKOURA.**

PRESENT: Councillor M McChesney (Chair), Mayor K Heays, Councillor B Woods, S Frizzell (Disability Sector), L Kahu (Te Tai O Marokura), L Craig, (Public Health Nurse), J Bolton-Roche (Te Whare Putea).

IN ATTENDANCE: L Copping (Committee Secretary), M Pfeifer (Community Development Officer), M Kennedy (Road Safety Officer), A Cowdrey (Kaikoura Star), R Te Ua (Family Violence & Strengthening Families Coordinator), M Unahi (CCS), M Burdon, K Mackenzie (District Nurse), C Hartley, K Roberts (Members of the public).

APOLOGIES: M Falloon, A Blunt, L Howse, L Vallance, J Burrows, D Wright, T McCowen, D Lamond, R Allen, T Dawson.

Moved by Councillor McChesney , seconded by L Craig and resolved that apologies be accepted.

1. CORRESPONDENCE

Age Concern NZ Incorporated

A letter was received from Age Concern NZ Incorporated advising 1 October was International Day of Older Persons. M Pfeifer advised she was currently working on a community events calendar and would insure information such as this was included in the events calendar.

Work & Income

Copies of The Social Report 2007, Regional Indicators Report and an accompanying regional booklet were received and tabled. The Community Development Officer advised she would ensure copies of the regional booklet for Marlborough was distributed to the committee.

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

The Community Development Officer presented her report.

Physical Activity Strategy

A great response to the on-line questionnaire was received with around 200 questionnaires completed online. Workshops held by D Allen of Global Lesiure who was driving the Strategy were well attended and a lot of good information from a cross section of the community had been gathered to help form the Strategy which was now in its draft form. The next stage was for the draft Physical Activity Strategy for Kaikoura to be peer reviewed prior to it going to Council with a view to it being adopted by Council in March 2008.

Youth Council

The newly formed Youth Council were currently drawing up plans for a mural design for the new toilet facility in the West End. They were also looking at creating a graffiti wall which would provide youth with the opportunity to legitimately practice their art, with the hope of alleviating graffiti in the town.

Community Initiatives Fund

The Community Initiatives fund had met twice since the last meeting and had approved funding for the Kaikoura Community Expo, the Kaikoura Village Fairytale Christmas and the Community Gym Biathlon event.

Community Events Calendar

The Community Development Officer advised she was busy preparing a list of community groups and contacts as a resource for the community which would be posted on Council's website along with links to it from other websites. It was suggested the information could be circulated via the following resources:

- Kaikoura Star
- Local Radio Stations
- New World Noticeboard
- Kaikoura District Library

OSCAR Programme

It was noted an umbrella group had still not been secured for this programme and the community was now facing a real risk of parents having to resign from employment due to no care being available in the district during school holidays.

A public meeting was scheduled for Thursday 8th November with interested parties encouraged to attend in order for the community as a whole to work on a solution to the issue.

It was suggested local businesses be approached to become an umbrella group. M Pfeifer advised there was funding for the programme, along with start-up funding available from Work & Income and people willing to act as a management group.

3. FAMILY VIOLENCE OFFICER'S REPORT

Stickers, posters and coasters for the nationwide Family Violence Campaign currently running had arrived and had been distributed throughout the district to various organisations and businesses.

Police Housing

The Family Violence Officer advised it was increasingly hard to retain police officers and their families in Kaikoura due to either the lack of housing or the high rents of Kaikoura rental properties. It was noted two police houses were currently empty, and support was sought for the committee to write a letter of support to NZ Police to have these houses filled with local police officers at an affordable rate.

Moved by Councillor McChesney, seconded by J Bolton-Roche and resolved that the Social Services Committee send a letter to NZ Police advocating its support for affordable housing for Police officers.

Family Violence Campaign – “It’s Not OK”

The nationwide “It’s Not OK” campaign currently being run was receiving a large response from the public, with a lot of enquiries being received on the 0800 line including a number of men seeking information.

Councillor Woods advised she believed having increasing alcohol outlets in the district was not helpful and asked if any reports were being undertaken to link alcohol abuse with family violence. R Te Ua advised two local businesses had ceased selling party pills and a new outlet had ceased selling Mexican Tripping Weed after being approached by Council however it was believed the new liquor outlet was still selling party pills. Councillor Woods suggested far stronger measures were needed to stop party pills being sold in Kaikoura. People needed to make a stand and go to Central Government.

Moved by Councillor Woods, seconded by Mayor Heays and resolved that the Social Services Committee send an open letter against party pills to the following:

- *Kaikoura Star*
- *Christchurch Press*
- *MP Colin King*
- *Minister of Health*
- *Media*

The motion was put and carried.

4. MAYOR’S UPDATE

Mayor Heays congratulated Councillor McChesney on her re-election to Council and commended her on her commitment to Social Services.

Zone 5 meeting

Mayor Heays advised he had recently attended a Zone 5 meeting in Christchurch where Police had advised it was estimated approximately 75 people were expected to die on New Zealand roads by 31st December. Police were pushing for the driving age to be raised, and a new move was also pending where if fines were unpaid offenders would have both their car and license suspended. Police were looking at lowering the alcohol limit to the same as the Australian level.

Council

Mayor Heays advised Council had two large issues pending, one where a developer was eager to pursue an industrial site in Kaikoura, and the other where another developer was eager to develop the new wharf area. Both developments would involve plan changes.

Councillor Woods noted the submission process for these developments was very important and Council appreciated as much public input as possible.

5. ROAD SAFETY UPDATE

The Road Safety Officer advised the recently purchased speed monitoring device had arrived and was located on Beach Road. Good feedback had been received to date and a further 8 brackets were being ordered in order for it to be moved around the district.

Newsletters from Transit New Zealand and Land Transport were tabled.

Rural Fire

M Kennedy advised Kaikoura was presently in a Restricted Fire Season. He advised two residents of Oaro, Sam & Emiko Leary deserved to be commended for their rural fire input. It was agreed M Kennedy send a letter of thank you to Mr & Mrs Leary on behalf of the Social Services Committee.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

Social Well-being

Information on social well-being was tabled by the Community Development Officer following this matter being raised at the September Social Services meeting where Chairperson Councillor McChesney asked the committee to consider social well-being in Kaikoura and what it meant to each of them.

The Community Development Officer advised it was important the Social Services Committee acted and look at the hierarchy of needs and suggested a workshop be held for the first our of the December Social Services Meeting in order to come up with a list of priorities for the committee to focus on and achieve in 2008.

What the Social Services Committee could do to assist in enabling the community to meet most basic needs:

Advocate for more affordable housing

- Form a working party to address this issue with needs to include business and community leaders
- Housing NZ
- Development Contributions – Queenstown model
- Canterbury Community Trust - \$1.8 million grant towards housing in Marlborough in 2008
- Accommodation supplement level.

Promote warm and healthy homes

- Advocate for landlords to take advantage of Mainpower subsidies to insulate properties
- Encourage homeowners to take up the Mainpower subsidy to insulate their homes

Encourage Healthy Lifestyles

- Focus on prevention and early intervention
- Physical Activity Strategy – aim to increase the amount of physical activity uptake in the Kaikoura community by supporting physical activity initiatives
- Support schools with exercise and nutritional programmes
- Work with CDHB and other health care providers to ensure good health and social services are provided for in the Kaikoura community

Protection of our natural environment – short and long term

- Support initiatives that promote sustainability and the protection of our environment including air and water quality and other issues such as global warming.

Address low incomes verses high costs for families and individuals in the Kaikoura community

- Address the seasonal nature of employment in the community
- Advocate for sustainable development that would provide for ongoing and rewarding employment opportunities for our community members
- Advocate for employers in the community to value employees by paying above minimum wage and facilitating training opportunities in the off season.

It was suggested the Chief Executive Officer and Councillors be invited to attend the December workshop along with Office Manager, S Poulsen.

Increased hours for Mental Health Support Worker

J Bolton-Roche advised mental health support worker, L Vallance, was now working 40 hours per week which was fantastic for the community.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.00am.