

**MINUTES OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES MEETING HELD
AT 9.00AM ON WEDNESDAY 4TH JUNE 2008 AT
TAKHANGA MARAE, KAIKOURA.**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: L Copping (Committee Secretary), M Pfeifer (Community Development Officer), M Kennedy (Road Safety Officer), K Mackenzie (District Nurse), D Wright (Order of St John), R Te Ua (Family Violence/Strengthening Families), C Hartley, K Roberts, T Poharama (Members of the public), G Mora, A Benseman (Kaikoura High School Student Council), L Vallance (Mental Health), M Unahi (CCS), N Hazelwood (Guest Speaker, Land Transport New Zealand), T Richards (Guest Speaker, Nelson Police), B Stratten (Guest Speaker, Transit NZ),

APOLOGIES: T McCowen, A Blunt, R Smith.

APOLOGIES FOR LATENESS: L Vallance, M Unahi.

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

1. MINUTES ACTION LIST UPDATE

Police Houses

Councillor McChesney advised she had spoken with Sergeant Smith who had advised Police houses were not available for members of the public to rent. It was noted some districts included a police house within the salary package of the officer but this was not the case for Kaikoura.

Reusable Nappy Project

The Community Development Officer advised she had been unable to meet with the new midwives and hoped to have a report available for the next meeting.

CDHB Hospital Project Update

An update was included in the agenda and the Community Development Officer advised the team driving the Hospital project were eager to attend a future meeting to provide a further update.

Kaikoura Physical Activity Plan

8 submissions were received and were expected to be heard at the Kaikoura District Council June meeting.

Form working groups on wellbeing

Councillor McChesney advised she had formulated a shopping list with essential food items on it and had forwarded it to various districts such as

Invercargill, Dunedin, Christchurch, Wellington, Wanganui and others however to date she had only received two responses from Blenheim. The aim was to compare food prices in other areas of New Zealand compared to Kaikoura prices as it was felt following a recent wellbeing workshop of the Social Services Committee that Kaikoura food and fuel prices were more expensive than other districts. It was a research exercise that would hopefully provide strong proof if it was found that Kaikoura prices were dearer than other areas.

Disabled Parking

Mayor Heays advised disabled parking was enforced on consents for new or altered facilities. M Unahi advised an accessibility workshop had been held with Councillors earlier in the year and as a result she hoped to form an accessibility committee with business people and Council members to look at what could be done within the district.

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Youth Council

The Community Development Officer advised the week commencing 26 May had been Youth Week and the Kaikoura Youth Council had been successful in receiving \$1,000 funding. The Youth Council had been extremely busy and a very successful quiz night was held with great prizes and supper provided for the more than 120 people who had attended. National Hoodie Day was held on Friday 30th May where everyone, including businesses, were encouraged to wear hoodies for the day and this concluded with the Youth Council hiring out the Mayfair Theatre and providing a free movie night for youth aged 12-24 years. Prizes were awarded to Kaikoura I-Site and Adelphi Hotel for having the most staff wearing hoodies for the day.

Oscar Programme

A survey was undertaken earlier in the year to assess the need for an Oscar Programme in the district. It was found only 6 children would participate whereas the project needed 10 children to make it a viable service. The situation would be reassessed in Spring to see if demand had altered.

Crime Prevention Unit Workshop

The Community Development Officer advised she had recently attended a workshop run by the Crime Prevention Unit to learn about accessing small grant funds and had been successful in receiving funding of \$5,000 for updated liquor ban signage and education throughout the district. It was hoped new signage would be installed prior to Seafest in October. Adverts would also be placed in the Kaikoura Star throughout the busy summer period advising the public of the district's liquor ban.

Community Events Calendar

The Community Events Calendar was expected to go live on Council's website within the next week. The Community Development Officer encouraged everyone to let her know of any upcoming events and she would ensure they were posted on the calendar.

3. FAMILY VIOLENCE OFFICER'S REPORT

R Te Ua advised she had been busy working towards promotions and getting training workshops to Kaikoura. Children's Day was held on March 8th and raised \$148 for the Kaikoura food bank. It had been a fun day and feedback had been very positive.

The Family Violence Officer advised a Women's Empowerment course was scheduled to be held at Takahanga Marae on 20 June and to date a good response had been received with approximately 30 women registering to attend.

Women's Refuge facilitated a training workshop the previous week with 16 agencies attending. It was very informative with lots of ideas on how to look for signs of family violence.

In terms of Strengthening Families, a lot of families were in need of help as a result of rising fuel and food costs.

4. DRAFT KAIKOURA PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PLAN

The Community Development Officer advised submissions on Kaikoura's draft Physical Activity Plan had closed and 8 submission had been received. She advised submissions would be heard at the June Council meeting.

5. EDUCATION KAIKOURA

L Craig provided an update, tabled submission forms, and encouraged individuals to make submissions on what they wanted in terms of education for Kaikoura. Good information was coming out as a result of collaboration and it was believed a good strategic plan would be the end result. A final report was required to be given to the Minister by the end of October.

C King entered the meeting at 9.34am.

6. LAND TRANSPORT NEW ZEALAND

Guest speaker, Natalie Hazelwood, Sustainable Education Advisor for Land Transport New Zealand (LTNZ) advised her role was to assist Council's in the running of day to day road safety and sustainability work. She advised LTNZ were well aware of Kaikoura's driving issues and of the high volume of trucks travelling through the town.

N Hazelwood advised funding had recently been confirmed for Council's Road Safety Officer role to continue and it was hoped funding would soon be confirmed for campaigns such as speed and driver fatigue to be run in the district.

It was announced that Land Transport New Zealand and Transit New Zealand were merging. As of 1st July 2008 they would be known as New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA).

L Vallance and B Stratten entered the meeting at 10.01am.

7. TRANSIT NEW ZEALAND

Guest Speaker, B Stratten, of Transit New Zealand advised a study was undertaken on safety and as a result a lot of work had been done by Transit north of Kaikoura to improve the safety of the road with the aim of reducing crashes. He advised overall approximately \$5million had been spent, with the most extensive work undertaken around the Iron-gate area.

Further safety work was nearing completion at Kekerengu and a south bound passing lane at Hapuku was delayed as Transit had been unable to purchase the land for the project. B Stratten advised Transit were now going through the process of compulsory acquisition through the Maori Courts which was expected to delay things for a further two years.

Questions:

Update on Ludstone Road and Beach Road intersection.

B Stratten advised it was very difficult to do any changes to this intersection, and the best option long term was realignment across the West End. He advised part of the study currently occurring was looking at the total issue of pedestrian and cycling safety and he encouraged Council to pursue its walking and cycling strategy in order to apply for the relevant funding.

Replacement of single lane Hurunui Bridge with two lane bridge

B Stratten advised initial investigations were undertaken 4 years ago and were still currently being reviewed. He advised the bridge was outside of the Kaikoura District and noted it was monitored all the time but to date there was not a definite way forward.

Bypass of State Highway One vs Beach Road

A bypass of current State Highway One on Beach Road was unlikely to occur within the next 10 years. B Stratten advised a bypass was not the answer and he did not think Kaikoura would like a bypass. He noted all other districts where Transit had put in bypasses, such as Ashburton and Temuka, the town had moved and effectively the front door of the town and its businesses had become the back door.

Mirrors at Ludstone Road corner

T Poharama suggested round mirrors erected to powerpoles would be very helpful for cars turning right from Beach Road into Ludstone Road as it was a blind corner coming down from Churchill Street. B Stratten advised he would look into placing mirrors at this intersection but noted mirrors were often vandalized and needed replacing. He suggested other options that could be looked at were advanced warning lights.

Impact on roads of bigger trucks on roads

B Stratten advised a trial was taking place in some areas in terms of maintenance to roads and noted the biggest issue Transit would have would be with weight restrictions on existing bridges. He further noted at the end of the day it was a Central Government decision.

Lowering of speed limit north of Kaikoura

T Poharama advised there were a number of people in the Mangamaunu area eager to see the speed limit lowered to 80kph as had been done on the coastline south of the district. B Stratten advised the speed limit was lowered south of the district purely because of the number of crashes and noted most vehicles travelling on the coastline north of the district travelled below 80km. He noted the only reason the 80kph zone south of the district was working was because it was being enforced by Police.

B Stratten advised he would like to meet with Council and On Track to come up with a joint strategy on how surfers could be encouraged not to park on the roadside at Mangamaunu as it was a continuing problem, especially since it was a 100km zone and suggested perhaps access and parking could be formed along the beach however there would be a lot of issues associated with such access such as the foreshore.

Rail vs Road

J Bolton-Roche asked B Stratten if he foresaw freight being transported via rail in the future because of the high cost of fuel and also since the government had recently purchased the railways. B Stratten advised it would depend on how the government decided to develop the rail service. The main reason freight was moved via trucks was that it was a door to door service however if a solution was found then rail may be used a lot more.

8. NEW ZEALAND POLICE

T Richards of New Zealand Police was present. He advised the Highway Patrol Unit was a district resource with 20 constables, 3 sergeants and one senior sergeant. Essentially each group looked after its own area and from time to time groups from other areas visited Kaikoura.

T Richards advised the 80km area south of Kaikoura had been in place for 28 months and over that time 1580 infringement notices of various types had been issued. Over 1000 had been for speeding and approximately 350 for failing to keep left. As a result of police activities south of Kaikoura there had only been 3 heavy vehicle crashes in that area which was a huge reduction. He advised enforcement in this area would continue and it would continue to be monitored to ensure the end result of fewer crashes was achieved.

T Richards advised while he supported the idea of dropping the speed to 80km in certain areas of the northern coastline where it could be enforced, he noted most of the time the traffic was only travelling 75km per hour, and there were few truck crashes. The problem area was the surfing area at Mangamaunu, for which there was not an easy solution.

T Richards advised the average mean speed in the Tasman district, which included Kaikoura, was the lowest in the country, as were accidents. It was noted tourists accounted for approximately 1% of crashes.

Stock effluent was being targeted by both Transit and Police as it was noted there was a lot of effluent on the roads just north of Oaro. B Stratten advised this issue was often two fold – stock owners were required to stand their cattle prior to transportation taking place however farmers were often unsure when trucks arrived.

9. MAYOR'S UPDATE

Mayor Heays commended Transit and New Zealand Police for the large amount of work undertaken by both in the Kaikoura district.

Canterbury Community Trust

Mayor Heays advised, with disappointment, that local representative P Sigglekow was no longer a representative on the Canterbury Community Trust, which effectively meant Kaikoura had no-one on the trust representing it which would surely have an impact on the amount of funding Kaikoura received in the future. A lot of projects in Kaikoura had benefited from the trust in the past, including Coastguard.

Draft Annual Plan

Mayor Heays advised Council's Draft Annual Plan was currently out for submission and Councillors and Management had provided a public Road Show, taking the plan to residents of Kekerengu, Clarence and Oaro. A public meeting was also held in the Memorial Hall for urban ratepayers.

Youth Council

The committee were asked to encourage youth 12-24 to join the Youth Council. 15 members were needed in order for the Youth Council to become an incorporated society and attract outside funding.

Drug Presentation

Mayor Heays provided a presentation on the drug 'P' at a recent Mayoral Forum in Christchurch and offered to provide presentations to any organisations the committee thought would benefit from it.

10. ROAD SAFETY UPDATE

M Kennedy, Road Safety Officer, provided an update. A road safety display was shown at the district's A&P Show held in February, along with a bogan car with many illegal faults on it. The community were invited to identify the illegal faults and 90 entries were received.

Fatigue Campaign

A fatigue stop was held at Sandy Bay at Easter which saw a massive marquee erected, free sausages, hotcross buns, coffee, fruit and portable toilets. The idea was to encourage people to stop and have a break. The campaign would be run again in 2009 but would commence later in the day.

Rural Fire

M Kennedy advised there were no major rural fires in the district throughout the summer season however the soil was still very very dry

and unless significant rain was experienced throughout the winter then Kaikoura would be entering next summer very dry.

M Kennedy advised traditionally this time of year was open fire season however this had been severely abated due to Environment Canterbury air quality plan rules that no longer allowed drum fires or braziers in urban areas without resource consent.

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

Conservation Park Opening

M Unahi advised Department of Conservation were holding a special dawn ceremony at 6am on Saturday 7th June followed by breakfast at Takahanga Marae, to celebrate the opening of the department's Conservation Park.

MP, Colin King.

Colin King, MP, was in attendance. He advised attending Social Services committee meetings provided him with a great deal of information. He noted the current education review would reveal the best practices for Kaikoura schools, and that he had concern for businesses that would be affected by the recent Maui dolphin decision.

C King advised he had met with the group that had initiated the Local Government amalgamation of Kaikoura District Council with Hurunui District Council and noted it was a legislative process that would no doubt go forward throughout the required process. He advised John Key would be in Kaikoura on 30th July at the Kaikoura Winery and encouraged people to attend.

Work for PD Workers

T Poharama advised she was currently working as a corrections officer and if anyone knew of any jobs needing to be done throughout the community to let her know on 021 768487.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.43am.