

# **REPORT OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 9.00AM ON WEDNESDAY 2 MARCH 2011 IN MEMORIAL HALL, SUPPER ROOM, KAIKOURA.**

**PRESENT:** Councillor D Morgan (Chair), Mayor W Gray, Councillor S Burrows, M Ryan.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** S Syme (Committee Secretary), S Haberstock (Community Development Officer), L Vallance (Strengthening Families / Family Violence Coordinator), A Blunt (SEEK), K Roberts, (Member of the Public), K MacKenzie (District Nurse), D Clark (District Emergency Management Officer), L Sligo (Kaikoura Star), C Davis (Kaikoura High School), D Wright (St John), A Judd (Kaikoura Medical Centre), L Kahu (Te Tai o Marokura), C Cowan-Lee (Te Tai o Marokura).

**APOLOGIES:** M Croll-Wright, M Unahi

*Moved by Mayor Gray, seconded by Councillor Morgan and resolved that apologies be accepted.*

## ***1. SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF THE CHRISTCHURCH EARTHQUAKE***

M Ryan advised Work and Income was very busy in Kaikoura with people requiring payments for food, clothing, accommodation and bedding following the Christchurch Earthquake. He noted since the previous Wednesday staff at the Heartlands Office had not been able to be proactive. Work and Income had provided an additional staff member for the site and staff were seeing a minimum number of regular clients. M Ryan advised there had been offers of help but there was nothing people could do to clear the back log as there were only two computers available. The staff at Heartlands supplied tea, coffee and newspapers to make the wait a little less boring for those waiting for assistance.

M Ryan advised the grant amounts allowed for people to buy food, accommodation, clothing and bedding however the amount was often insufficient for people to acquire all the items required. A request had been made locally for donations of bedding.

L Kahu advised she had been helping at Heartlands and had made herself familiar with processes and the Civil Defence package. She advised some people were waiting for three or four hours and Work and Income were seeing quadruple the number of people they normally would during a day. It was noted a lot of paper work was required to be completed after people had been seen. L Kahu advised a lot of people just needed someone to talk to. She advised people had been sleeping outside in cars waiting for the Heartlands Centre to open. The closest Work and Income site to Christchurch was Rangiora and it was believed they were much busier than Kaikoura. It was noted Work and Income employees were receiving conflicting and new information by the hour with regard to Civil Defence grant packages.

The Community Development Officer advised the Youth Council had operated a sausage sizzle at the Heartlands Office during the busy time. L Kahu advised Youth Council members had also helped with cleaning at the office and the Family Violence Officer had been phoning motels for bedding and towel supplies. Mayor Gray advised a food drive was being held the next day and food would be delivered to Christchurch evacuees currently residing in Kaikoura.

A Judd felt there was a need for a central point for people to come to for a cup of tea or coffee and to talk to other people. She advised herself and Marie Simpson had arranged a site at Harakeke Mall. She felt if there were enough volunteers, people may be able to leave their children whilst they dealt with other issues. A Judd advised there would be clothes and books available for people to take. She advised the aim was to have the 'Drop-in Centre' open from 9am to 5pm and anyone wanting to volunteer should contact Andrea Judd or Marie Simpson. The 'Drop-in Centre' would require baking and tea and coffee.

A Judd advised local midwives had become very busy and the medical centre was bursting at the seams. Councillor Morgan advised the Committee had a small amount of funds which could be used for supplies for the 'Drop-in Centre'. It was noted over \$500 worth of fruit had been used in three days at the Heartlands office. It was noted money had been raised locally and it was generally felt some of the money should be kept in Kaikoura to assist with people who had left Christchurch and were residing in Kaikoura. It was generally felt any money to be distributed locally should be collected through the Council office.

A discussion was held regarding the amount of money the Social Services Committee should provide to assist with the operation of the 'Drop-in Centre'. The Civil Defence Recovery Manager advised if a fund was to be set up there needed to be clear cut criteria and there needed to be accountability. This was helpful later on if someone received money which others felt they were not entitled to. It was generally felt the money should be for the operation of the centre only and not be distributed to individuals.

***Moved by Mayor Gray, seconded by Councillor Burrows and resolved that \$2,000 be allocated to assist with the running of the 'Community Drop-In Centre' until the centre was no longer required.***

Mayor Gray noted everyone wanted to help and there could be impacts long term with regard to accommodation. He noted there could be social issues with people forced to stay in other people's homes. Councillor Burrows noted there was no practice run for this type of event and people were getting thrown into situations which they did not have any knowledge of and having to deal with on a day to day basis and he felt Kaikoura was coping well. Mayor Gray advised there were approximately 60 new students enrolled at local schools. It was noted R Priddle had been collecting money at school for the cause.

## **2. MINUTES ACTION LIST UPDATE**

### **Eco-burials**

The Planning Officer was in attendance to present this item. She advised with Eco-burials people were buried at 1m deep and there was an aesthetic element with most eco-burials in a forest environment. She further advised Council staff had investigated Eco-burials in Kaikoura and the only space where this could be done without the requirement for resource consent was within the current cemetery. It was noted Kaikoura had a high water table so a lot of places were unsuitable.

The Planning Officer advised the lots developed in the current cemetery would last for between 5 and 7 years and there was an additional area of approximately 2 hectares which Council would have to make a decision on what it wanted to do with it. She noted approximately .5 hectares was required to have a natural site with trees. She advised a mixed cemetery had the advantages if people wished to be buried near loved ones. She advised a landscape architect would need to be consulted with regard to whether the ground was suitable for eco-burials.

The Planning Officer advised there was nothing to stop people choosing not being embalmed and having a casket which decomposed however they would have to be buried at 6 feet and it took longer to decompose at that depth. It was noted there was space in the current cemetery for approximately 50 years.

*Moved by M Ryan, seconded by Councillor Burrows and resolved that Council investigate the future life of the cemetery with regard to eco and standard burial options for the next 50 years.*

## **3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 2/2/2011**

*Moved by Mayor Gray, seconded by Councillor Burrows and resolved that the report of the Social Services meeting held on 2 February 2011 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.*

## **4. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT**

The Community Development Officer advised the Kaikoura Youth Council were planning to use the Scout Hall for their meetings in the future and there would be a working bee to clean the Hall. She advised a funding application would be made to the Ministry of Youth Development for \$96,000 for a Kaikoura dance project which was based on a three year time table. Every term there would be a small performance which would require lighting, costumes and management. She further advised the overall idea was to have a youth space with organised set activities every day after school.

*Moved by Mayor Gray, seconded by M Ryan and resolved that the Community Development Officer's report be received.*

## ***5. ROAD SAFETY AND CIVIL DEFENCE UPDATE***

The District Emergency Management Officer was in attendance to present this item.

### **Road Safety**

The District Emergency Management Officer advised a road safety display had been set up at the A & P show and had been run by a representative of Environment Canterbury.

### **Rural Fire Ban**

The District Emergency Management Officer advised there was still a total fire ban in place. He advised the ban could be lifted however there was a shortage of rural fire staff available currently and the ban would remain in place. It was noted there was a fire ban for the whole of Canterbury.

### **Civil Defence**

The District Emergency Management Officer provided an overview of steps taken by Civil Defence and why the approach was taken. He advised he started collating information within the district immediately following the Christchurch Earthquake. It was noted only Whales Tales preschool had undertaken an evacuation. He advised the message from Civil Defence was to not rely on the siren or information before moving. If there was a big earthquake people should move to high ground.

The District Emergency Management Officer noted there was panic with people buying groceries and fuel however; there was no need for this. He felt this probably indicated Kaikoura residents were not as prepared as they should have been. He further advised accommodation was quite full and the Marae had self opened and still had room to accommodate people. Local residents were also offering their homes to accommodate people. He noted from the information he had received there was plenty of accommodation available. Mayor Gray advised the need for accommodation had been balanced by a number of cancellations.

The District Emergency Management Officer advised he was providing daily reports to Christchurch and Colin King regarding the situation in Kaikoura and resources could be requested if they were required. He felt having donations and money distributed within the local area was the way forward. He advised the best donation people could give for Christchurch was money and donations could be made through local banks. Councillor Burrows suggested some blankets from the Red Cross may be able to be diverted to Kaikoura for the immediate needs of those affected by the Christchurch earthquake.

The District Emergency Management Officer advised he was checking in with centres including the Marae, Heartlands and the i-Site on a daily basis and he felt there would be long term effects on Kaikoura. He noted Kaikoura Civil Defence was in monitoring mode and was collecting information on the situation and could be activated if required.

## **6. COMMUNITY NETWORKERS MINUTES**

### **Victim Support**

M Ryan advised J Priddle organised Victim Support in Kaikoura. Two additional staff had been requested in Kaikoura the previous Wednesday however there had not been many issues and most could be dealt with by people talking about their experience.

## **7. ACTION PLAN**

It was decided this item would be carried over until the April meeting.

## **8. GENERAL BUSINESS**

The Community Development Officer advised Children's Day would be held on Sunday the 6<sup>th</sup> of March but it would be run as a family picnic day. It was felt this could be run in conjunction with the Mayoral Challenge bike ride which would be finishing in Kaikoura on the afternoon of 6 March. The Mayoral Challenge would involve 55 participants.

***There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.21am.***