

**REPORT OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD AT 9.06AM ON WEDNESDAY 4  
MAY 2011 AT TAKAHANGA MARAE, TAKAHANGA  
TERRACE, KAIKOURA.**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** S Syme (Committee Secretary), S Haberstock (Community Development Officer), K Roberts, (Member of the Public), D Clark (District Emergency Management Officer), C Cowan-Lee (Te Tai o Marokura), M Unahi (CCS Disability), D Wright (St John Ambulance), C Hanbury-Weber (KK Medical Centre), L Vallance (Te Rito Coordinator), S Kovacs (RCPHO Mental Health).

**APOLOGIES:** A Blunt, M Ryan, L Kahu.

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

**1. ENLARGED RURAL FIRE DISTRICT**

The Chief Executive Officer was in attendance to present this item. A short video entitled 'Governance and Management of Enlarged Rural Fire Districts' was screened.

The Chief Executive Officer advised the aim of Enlarged Rural Fire Districts was to substantially reduce the number of rural fire authorities in the country. It was not because there was a concern with existing authorities. He advised in the Marlborough / Kaikoura region there were currently four different authorities. He further advised an enlarged rural fire district had been looked at because Marlborough north was primarily Department of Conservation land and they were not able to deliver the service.

The Chief Executive Officer advised Department of Conservation were keen to move forward with discussions regarding an Enlarged Rural Fire District. He advised the Kaikoura District Rural Fire Authority was quite small due to Department of Conservation land in the district however rural fire volunteers had generally been attending fires within the 1km Department of Conservation exclusion zone.

The Chief Executive Officer advised the Kaikoura volunteers were doing a great job and Kaikoura needed and wanted more volunteers. It was noted the average age of the Goose Bay rural fire team was 65 years old. He advised the biggest concern / risk was volunteers being over extended and if they could not manage the cost to Council could be horrendous. He further advised Council had been fortunate over the last many years not to have had any major fires and noted Kaikoura may not always be so

fortunate. He noted the Principal Rural Fire Officer in a number of smaller organisations including Kaikoura undertook a number of roles and could not focus exclusively on rural fire. The Department of Conservation was under continual pressure to do more with less. The Chief Executive Officer advised there was a move nationally for more sharing of services amongst local authorities and the Enlarged Rural Fire District was about minimizing the risk.

An Enlarged Rural Fire District would mean one consistent fire plan as opposed to each rural fire authority having its own and there would be a stronger funding base with the four areas combined. The Chief Executive Officer advised to obtain rural fire funds the authority was required to have plans updated and comply with standards. If the standards were continually changed or expectations were changed they could squeeze Kaikoura out and if there was a half decent fire Kaikoura could not afford it. Under the enlarged rural fire model it would be the Enlarged Rural Fire District who would pay.

The Chief Executive Officer advised under the Enlarged Rural Fire District there would be no change to what was currently happening on the ground and change would be primarily from a planning perspective. He noted there would be one additional full time staff member over the whole region and an additional cost of \$5,000 for the 2011/12 financial year. Going forward the cost was expected to be approximately \$15,000 per year. The Chief Executive Officer advised from a Council perspective there would be a substantial reduction in potential risk going forward.

The Chief Executive Officer advised consultation meetings regarding the proposal had been held in February along with budget meetings and the proposal was now in the Annual Plan. The Community Development Officer enquired if the change would mean volunteers would respond to any rural fires even those on Department of Conservation land. The Chief Executive Officer advised this could potentially happen but issues still needed to be worked through with the Department of Conservation. He did not see volunteers attending fewer fires.

## ***2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 6/04/2011***

***Moved by S Frizzell, seconded by Councillor Burrows and resolved that the report of the Social Services Meeting held on Wednesday 6 April 2011 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.***

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

### **Funding**

The Community Development Officer advised of successful applicants for the Council Community Grants. It was noted the Kaikoura Rugby Club had received a large sum of money from the SPARC rural travel fund. The Community Development Officer advised the Rugby Club had a lot of children travelling all the time and they had submitted the most rigorous application and was the only application which included the dates and time of travelling.

### **Family Violence**

The Community Development Officer advised an application had been made to Family Centered Services Fund for a full time Family Violence Coordinator.

### **Kaikoura Leadership Course**

The Community Development Officer advised a fitness programme for youth three mornings per week would commence the following Monday. She advised the youth had different portfolios and part of the course was for youth to get their friends to come along.

*Moved by Councillor Burrows, seconded by Councillor Morgan and resolved that the Community Development Officer's report be received.*

## **4. TE RITO COORINDATOR'S REPORT**

The Te Rito Coordinator advised she had attended a Te Rito training day regarding 'It's not OK' and 'Blow the Whistle' campaigns.

The Te Rito Coordinator advised there was a lot of work happening with women who had suffered abuse and there was a lot of positive prevention. She advised women were being empowered by attending programmes like 'Steps to Freedom'. She further advised phone calls regarding domestic violence had reduced significantly.

The Te Rito Coordinator had met with Innovative Waste Kaikoura manager regarding the 'Men's Shed' project. The project was aimed at retired tradesmen or those interested in sharing their skills to restore items. Once items had been restored they could be sold back to the community with the funds flowing back to the shed to keep it sustainable. She advised the shed could also fit closely with health and wellness for men.

Councillor Morgan noted Council had submitted on the Alcohol Reform Bill and she felt the submission should have been put to the Social Services Committee for discussion. It was generally felt the Committee should be involved in future discussions on similar issues.

*Moved by S Frizzell, seconded by Councillor Burrows and resolved that the Te Rito Coordinator's report be received.*

*Mayor Gray entered the meeting at 10.33am*

## **5. YOUTH INVOLVEMENT**

Trystan Swain from the Ministry of Youth Development was in attendance to present this item.

T Swain advised his job was to get young people's voice to the government and looked at ways for involving young people in services. The booklet "Keepin' it Real" a resource for involving young people in decision-making was tabled.

T Swain advised the Ministry worked on youth involvement because it encouraged citizenship and democracy and from a social services perspective it made services more effective if targeting young people. It was noted youth participation was a process rather than a specific event or project. The Shier's Pathways to Participation Model was useful in assessing organizational readiness and commitment to youth participation beyond individual projects. The model had five levels and level three 'young people's views are taken into account' was the minimum practice required to meet the requirements of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

T Swain advised if planning a course for young people then organisations needed to let young people be involved in the planning. He noted at a medical centre he used to be part of the thing that changed lives most was when youth went from client to youth advisor. He advised organisations should work along side youth rather than tell them how it should be.

## **6. SEEK REPORT**

The Community Development Officer advised confirmation had been received that the Youth Transition Service would be funded for another year. Work and Income had been working with the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs to review the Youth Transition Service to develop a strengthened model.

The Community Development Officer advised the Careers Expo would be held at the Kaikoura High School in June.

***Moved by Councillor Morgan, seconded by S Frizzell and resolved that the Seek report be received.***

## **7. MAYOR'S UPDATE**

Mayor Gray advised Jan Francis from Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs had presented at the South Island Local Government meeting held the previous week. He advised the Kaikoura Careers Expo had been promoted as an initiative. He further advised Paula Bennett, Minister for Social Development, had also presented at the meeting. She had noted youth pregnancy was a big issue and there was a need to get young mothers back into education.

Mayor Gray advised the Community Watch initiative was still in progress and there would be something happening by spring.

The Community Development Officer enquired regarding progress with new aquatic facilities for the community. Mayor Gray advised the Community Facilities Charitable Trust was currently waiting for a peer review on financial information in the Hypothetical Development Statement. Once this had been received the Trust would look to firm up on what they were going to do and how they were going to do it.

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