

**REPORT OF THE SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD AT 9.00AM ON WEDNESDAY 7
SEPTEMBER 2011 AT TAKAHANGA MARAE,
TAKAHANGA TERRACE, KAIKOURA.**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: S Syme (Committee Secretary), S Haberstock (Community Development Officer), L Vallance (Strengthening Families Coordinator), A Blunt (Youth Transition Service), K Roberts (Member of the Public), E Dangerfield (Kaikoura Star), D Clark (District Emergency Management Officer), M Unahi (CCS Disability Action), L Kahu (Te Tai o Marokura), D Wright (St John), K Mackenzie (Public Health Nurse).

APOLOGIES: M Ryan

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

1. MATTERS TO BE RAISED AS GENERAL BUSINESS

1) Social Services Committee Members

2. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES 06/07/2011

Moved by Councillor Burrows, seconded by Mayor Gray and resolved that the report of the Social Service meeting held on 6 July 2011 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

3. MINUTES ACTION LIST UPDATE

Natural Burials

Councillor Morgan advised the general information available on natural burials was similar to that which had already been presented to the Committee. With regard to the designation of a site it was noted the contract for burials within the existing cemetery stated a minimum burial depth of six feet. The Asset Manager was investigating whether this was a rule which was set by Environment Canterbury.

K Mackenzie advised she had obtained her information on natural burials from the general manager at Sowmans and she felt it might be beneficial for him to present to the Committee. She advised the process of a natural burial was not as easy as it seemed and noted undertakers preferred to work with people who had been embalmed. She also did not feel the current cemetery was suitable and felt natural burials should take place in an area which needed to be reforested.

Otago Medical Students – Community Contact Week

The Community Development Officer advised Otago medical students spent one week in Kaikoura each year meeting with most agencies in Kaikoura. These included Council, St John, Kaikoura High School, Te

Tai o Marokura, Te Whare Putea and the Medical Centre. The Otago University donated \$500 plus GST to the community each year following the contact week.

Welcome Pack

Councillor Morgan advised D Lewis was currently having some new Kaikoura guides printed and they would be included in the Welcome Pack. A welcome letter from Mayor Gray would also be included along with information from the Council website.

4. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs Forum

The Community Development Officer advised she had attended the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs Forum which was held in Palmerston North in August. The theme of the forum had been "Investing in Our Young People". She advised Andrew Becroft, Principal Youth Court Judge, had given a presentation entitled "Work Works! OK". He had advised when young people began working trouble stopped.

The Community Development Officer advised the Community Collaboration workshop had been the highlight of the Forum and had looked at the Palmerston North Youth Action Plan and the Horowhenua Social Well Being and Youth Strategies. A 'think tank' would be initiated by Mayor Gray with youth sector representatives with the aim of creating a Youth Action Plan for Kaikoura. The 'think tank' would discuss what was being done now, where we wanted to be and how to get there. The Community Development Officer noted it was about the community leading social change. The meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 4 October 2011.

Tasman Regional Sport Trust

The Community Development Officer advised a meeting with the Tasman Regional Sport Trust and Council would take place the following week. The aim of the meeting was to streamline Tasman Regional Sports Trust outcomes with Council outcomes.

5. STRENGTHENING FAMILIES COORDINATOR'S REPORT

The Community Development Officer advised there had been an increase in hours to 32 per week for the Strengthening Families Coordinator. The contract for the Strengthening Families Coordinator required at least 25 families to utilise the service each year. It was noted 21 families had either been referred or had self referred to the service in the past two months.

The Strengthening Families Coordinator advised her role was to get all the required agencies to a meeting with the family rather than the family having to meet with agencies at different times. The aim of the process was to empower families to make positive change. It was noted there was discretionary funding available for families but this was to help children rather than adults.

A family could self refer or be referred to the Strengthening Families process when they had two or more agencies working with them, they had at least one child under the age of 18 present in the family, the family was not part of a Child Youth and Family, Family Group Conference process or in crisis.

A discussion was held regarding there no longer being a Truancy Officer at the High School. It was noted truancy was now picked up by counselors and other organisations. It was also noted the school had set protocols regarding truancy and the Police were the enforcers.

6. KAIKOURA YOUTH TRANSITION SERVICE REPORT

The Community Development Officer advised an application had been made to COGS for funding of one eight week course which would provide unemployed youth with skills and certificates in areas such as first aid, day skipper and marine radio. It was hoped the course would inspire youth to join volunteer organisations around the district.

A Blunt advised she had also attended the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs Forum in August. Included in the agenda was a report entitled 'More Ladders, Fewer Snakes' which highlight New Zealand youth were being materially disadvantaged compared with other countries in the OECD. Two proposals to reduce youth disadvantage were to accelerate the roll out of e-learning to low decile schools and to improve school to work transition. It had been identified the process of tracking youth needed to begin when children started school. A Blunt advised there was a problem with connection between each level of education and by creating connections outcomes would be improved. There was also a need to ensure children were engaged and it appeared e-learning was the way of the future.

A Blunt advised the largest Youth Transition Service in the country had nine staff plus a manager and they had one or two people whose role was to track school leavers. If students did not have any direction they were referred to a youth coach. Follow up was undertaken over a two and a half year period once youth left school.

Included in the agenda was the Job Ops with training fact sheet. A Blunt noted three employers had employed youth through the Job Ops with training scheme in the previous week. She advised the number of youth registered with the service was similar to the same time last year. It was noted a number of youth had gone outside of the district for employment.

Moved by Mayor Gray, seconded by Councillor Burrows and resolved that the Community Development Officer's Report, Strengthening Families Coordinators' Report and the Youth Transition Services Report be received.

7. CIVIL DEFENCE AND RURAL FIRE UPDATE

The District Emergency Management Officer advised there had been no rural fire incidents since the last meeting. He advised the rural fire shed

on Scarborough Street had been completed as much as funding had allowed. Photos of the shed were tabled at the meeting.

He advised the idea was to relocate the Civil Defence headquarters into the shed. Two large generators would be located at the shed which would mean the building would be self sufficient. A new radio system had been purchased which would allow district wide communication. Radios would be installed at Goose Bay, Woodbank School, Kekerengu and in the new rural fire shed.

8. SMOKE FREE OUTDOOR AREAS

Martin Witt from the Cancer Society and Heather Kimber, Health Promoter, from Community and Public Health were in attendance to present this item.

M Witt advised he had been working on outdoor smoking policies for Councils over the last three years. He advised he worked under the umbrella of Smoke Free Canterbury. Smoking was one of the major health problems and was the leading cause of preventable death in New Zealand. He further advised New Zealand was a world leader in terms of tobacco control. New Zealand was in a position of strength because it was the only country to adopt a vision of being smoke free by a particular date, which was 2025.

M Witt advised smoke free was not about a ban on smoking but was about a commitment to see steps were taken to become essentially smoke free and smoking was no longer the public health issue it was currently. It was about creating an environment where smoking was no longer acceptable. Children were more likely to take up smoking when they lived in a home with smokers or they saw older teenagers and/or parents smoking. The average uptake age for smoking in New Zealand was fourteen and a half years. Smoke free playgrounds and green spaces were not about a ban but were an area where people could choose to be responsible and was very much a voluntary approach.

M Witt advised nearly 30 Councils had adopted smoke free policies and the target was to see all Council's smoke free by 2013.

H Kimber advised Christchurch had undertaken a three month trial with three parks being trialed as smoke free areas. 150 people had been interviewed regarding the trialed parks; of those interviewed 93% felt it was acceptable to have smoke free playgrounds and 89% of people who smoked thought it was acceptable as well.

H Kimber would like to work with a representative from Council to develop policy options and assist with consultation with stakeholders. If a policy was adopted she was able to assist with implementation. She advised she did not want signage to be a barrier in adopting a policy as signage could be achieved by adding a logo to existing signs and communications. She also advised implementing a policy could be a collaborative approach with other Councils who were at the same stage.

She further advised Smoke Free Canterbury could provide a \$3,000 kick start to implement the Policy.

It was noted schools were smoke free by law. There was no requirement for Council to be involved in enforcement as there was no bylaw. Smoke free was a behavioural change and it would take a long time. It was noted that having designated smoking areas or ash trays in green spaces heightened the visibility of smoking and this was to be avoided.

It was generally felt the offer from Smoke Free Canterbury to help with the formation and implementation of a Smoke Free Policy should be embraced.

Moved by Councillor Morgan, seconded by Councillor Burrows and resolved that the Social Services Committee recommend to Council that they further explore implementation of a Smoke free Outdoor Policy with the support of Smoke Free Canterbury.

9. RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE FUNDING REQUEST

Ronald McDonald House had made a request for funding to assist sick children and their families who made use of the house when they were in Christchurch.

It was noted Ronald McDonald House was well used by Kaikoura families and the Committee had supported the house in the past.

Moved by Mayor Gray, seconded by Councillor Burrows and resolved that \$300 be donated to Ronald McDonald House.

10. MAYOR'S UPDATE

Mayor Gray advised the Rugby World Cup had arrived and maintenance work on the sewer in the West End had ceased due to a request from businesses. Work would resume in May 2012.

The Kaikoura Zone Water Committee was now up and running and they would be making decisions around water in the Kaikoura District. Mayor Gray advised each zone would receive \$100,000 per year for five years for projects in the Zone.

Mayor Gray advised he had attended the Te Korowai Strategy launch the previous week. He advised Te Korowai had been working on the document for the past six years and he encouraged people to read the document and make submissions.

An event had been held at the Mountain Bike Jump Park at Scarborough Street in the weekend. There had been 28 entries and approximately 60 people attending the event. It was noted the park was well used most evenings.

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

Social Services Committee Members

It was noted often there were only three or four ratified Committee members at Social Services meetings. These were the only people who could vote and the Community Development Officer suggested committee representation be reviewed. D Wright advised he had been attending meetings for eight years and it was always the same few who had voting rights. He felt those who turned up should have voting rights.

A list of current agencies and agency representatives would be provided for discussion at the next meeting.

Kaikoura Highway Bypass

K Mackenzie noted Beach Road was really busy and dangerous and enquired if there had been any discussion about a bypass around Kaikoura. Mayor Gray advised transit were planning several truck stops and there was room for the widening of Beach Road but there had been no recent discussion about a bypass. It was noted work on the state highway was prioritized by using traffic counts and accident statistics.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.04am