

**REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 10.24AM ON  
WEDNESDAY 17 MAY 2006 IN THE MEMORIAL HALL  
SUPPER ROOM, ESPLANADE, KAIKOURA.**

**PRESENT:** Councillor B Woods (Chair), Mayor K Heays, Councillors S Thomas, J Diver, M McChesney, J Macphail, M Pablecheque.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** S Grant (Chief Executive Officer), L Copping (Executive Officer), D Laughton (Building Inspector), M Hoggard, R Vaughan (Planning Officers).

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE:** Councillor Seddon

**1. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS**

**a) Building**

The Building Inspector presented the report advising 14 building consents with an estimated construction cost of \$1,019,300 were issued for the month of April. 16 Code Compliance Certificates and 10 Land Information Memoranda were also issued.

The Building Inspector advised Councils registration to the Building Consent Authority was expected to be lodged by 31 May and he believed there was a possibility some funding may be available to local authorities.

**b) Resource Planning**

The Planning Officer presented the report advising the number of resource consent applications received for the month were down on previous months however it had provided an opportunity for time to be spent on District Planning mediation.

**c) Monitoring/Biodiversity**

The Monitoring/Biodiversity Officer presented the report advising a Significant Natural Areas project ecologist would be working in the district next week.

**Biodiversity Contestable Fund**

The Monitoring Officer advised six applications were received and granted for the Biodiversity Contestable Fund. Applicants had been advised of their success and arrangements were now being made for Memoranda of Understanding between landowners and Council for accountability of spending.

***Kaikoura High School Science Teacher, O Lydford and students S Smith and A Syme entered the meeting at 10.15.***

### **2006 Youth Enviro-School**

A presentation was provided by local High School student, Sarah Smith, who was sponsored by Council to attend the 2006 Youth Enviro-School Forum, held at Lincoln University.

S Smith advised the forum was attended by 49 students. Field trips were undertaken during the week to Lake Ellesmere, Ngati Moki Marae where water was tested using a monitoring and assessment kit, Rakaia Gorge, and a sand and silica quarry.

Mt Somers Station was also visited where sustainable farming was looked at, in particular water sustainability. S Smith advised plastic silage covering was also looked at as it was unable to be recycled. Silage covers at Mt Somers Station were either burnt or buried in large silage pits in the ground.

S Smith advised the forum had provided a great experience of university life and she would now be working on creating an ecological footprint for the High School. Many priorities for action were discussed including environmental workshops, buying locally, non use of plastic bags, native tree planting, waste auditing, alternative energy and economic incentives. Four main priorities for action were identified from the priorities discussed being:

- Reduced Use – aim for minimum waste
- Education for sustainability
- Alternative energy
- Environment in the media

Councillor Woods asked what was going on at Kaikoura High School environmentally. S Smith advised Kaikoura High School had recently received funds from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund which would allow planting in and around the school in order to increase biodiversity and birdlife. She advised the school had an enviro island which was an area set aside and contained organic vegetables, compost, a worm farm and a weather station where temperatures were recorded daily and landscaping, seating and native planting were priority tasks.

S Smith advised Kaikoura High School had a small Eco Council which met weekly. With senior students leaving each year, junior students would be encouraged to join the Eco Council in order for it to remain sustainable.

#### ***d) District Planning***

The Planning Officer presented the report advising mediation had been set by the Court for most appeals. She advised 2 full weeks had already been spent on mediation where middle ground was found on many matters, however two matters would be proceeding to Court, being Subdivision Standard and Whale Watch Tourism Zone.

The Planning Officer advised guidance from Council was sought regarding an appeal from A MacDonald as there appeared to be no middle ground or consensus following mediation. A report and presentation from a landscape architect would be provided to Council at a future meeting for advise on what course of action to take.

The Chief Executive Officer advised appeal results from mediation had been excellent and commended the Planning Committee, previous District Planner S van Aswegen, Council's Planning Officers and lawyer M Hunt on the work that had been achieved.

***e) Environmental Development***

The Chief Executive Officer presented the report in the absence of the Environmental Development Officer.

**South Bay Domain**

Work at South Bay was progressing well with sewer and water lines laid for new toilet facilities. Landscaping and planting was expected to commence within the next month and a funding contribution was being sought from the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association.

**Zero Waste Funding**

The Chief Executive Officer advised Council had been successful in obtaining \$6,500 from Zero Waste to develop a template and implement an education program relating to ZORG and waste management throughout the district.

**International Student Volunteers**

A group of student volunteers were expected in the district to work on conservation projects throughout the district.

The Mayor noted there appeared to be a huge amount of proposals for native planting from various groups and asked if there were any thoughts on providing a nursery.

Councillor Macphail advised Innovative Waste Kaikoura were aware of the huge demand and had a nursery plan which would attract funding from the Ministry.

***Moved by Councillor Pablecheque, seconded by Councillor Macphail and resolved that the Environmental Services Reports be received.***

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