

# **REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT 10.09AM ON WEDNESDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2014 AT MEMORIAL HALL SUPPER ROOM, ESPLANADE, KAIKOURA.**

**PRESENT:** Councillor D Morgan (Chair), Mayor W Gray, Councillors T Blunt, J Diver, G Harmon, J Howden, C Mackle, D Millton.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** S Grant (Chief Executive Officer), S Syme (Committee Secretary), D McCaul (Senior Building Control Officer), M Hoggard, R Vaughan (District Planners).

## **1. MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE TO BE RAISED AS URGENT BUSINESS**

1. Petroleum Exploration Subcommittee (Councillor Morgan)

## **2. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS**

### **a) Building**

4 Building Consents with a combined construction value of \$642,000 were issued for the month of January 2014.

Staff were now processing Christchurch City Council Building Consents at a rate of approximately two per week. Christchurch City Council was currently receiving about 250 consents per week. It was noted that if all information was provided in a Building Consent application it took approximately 8 days to issue the consent. Building consents for Christchurch City were processed online.

### **b) Resource Planning**

7 Resource Consent applications had been received over the two month reporting period. Mayor Gray enquired whether the Kaikoura Boat Club was able to proceed with work. The District Planner advised an archaeological authority was required and had been obtained. It was noted it had taken longer than expected to obtain the authority.

### **c) District & Environmental Planning**

#### **Resource Management Reforms**

The District Planner advised there was still some uncertainty regarding whether the "Single Plan" concept would be advanced. Some Council's had put all non-urgent plan changes on hold until the new framework was known.

#### **Land and Water Regional Plan**

Appeals on the Land and Water Regional Plan closed on 17 February 2014 but were limited to points of law. It was noted the document was a vast improvement on the Natural Resources Regional Plan however some concern still existed. For example rule 5.8 which required resource consent for new wastewater discharge on properties less than 4.0hectares. It was felt this could possibly be dealt with through the sub regional chapter but this was not due for review until 2017.

### **Walking and Cycling**

Construction of the new portion of track from Harakeke Mall to Middle Creek had commenced. It was hoped the track could have been further seaward to improve views however the soft sand made the task very difficult and the recommendation from contractors was that the track be kept at existing alignment and lookout areas be created.

### **Te Korowai**

No further progress was able to be reported. Councillor Millton enquired regarding funding of Te Korowai. The Chief Executive Officer advised Council had agreed to provide funding to Te Korowai for a set number of years which ended in 2012/13. Funding had not been included in the budget for the 2013/14 year however a submission to the Annual Plan was received and Council agreed to provide funding. It was noted Council was a stakeholder in Te Korowai and had been involved since the beginning. Environment Canterbury also provided funding. Work had taken longer than envisaged.

### **Kaikoura Enhancement Group**

K Goodfellow had been appointed to provide a landscape design for the Kaikoura Enhancement Group. He would work with the group to provide an "Opportunities and Constraints Plan" for the urban section of the State Highway and also a landscape design concept for the Northern town entrance area. A meeting had recently been held with New Zealand Transport Agency to see what it could assist with, it was noted funding was extremely limited.

### **Biodiversity Project**

The District Planner advised the Environment Canterbury Biodiversity Officer for the Kaikoura Zone had been struggling to find projects for Immediate Steps funding. It had become apparent that lots of work needed to occur to ensure projects were put forward and funding was attracted to the district. It appeared the Officer did not have time to liaise with landowners therefore time would be allocated to the project. It was noted approximately \$140,000 of Immediate Steps funding had been allocated there was one year to go until all \$500,000 allocated was supposed to be spent. The District Planner advised other Zones were oversubscribed whilst Kaikoura was undersubscribed.

Councillor Millton noted that obviously there had been someone previously undertaking the work in Kaikoura and he enquired if Council should be looking to do more work in the area. The Chief Executive Officer advised Council had previously had a Biodiversity Officer for a number of years. Environment Canterbury had advised they would be doing the work so there had been no need to replace the staff member undertaking the role when they had left. The District Planner advised work was still happening with the QEII Trust and two new areas had been protected. Councillor Millton suggested the media could help by writing stories about the good work which had been done.

### **Godzone Adventure Race**

The Godzone Adventure Race would be held in Kaikoura from 7 to 15 March 2014. The race would attract worldwide attention and as part of the Adventure Racing World Series. It was noted the Tourism and Development Committee had underwritten \$50,000 to support the event with other businesses potentially contributing towards the amount. Mayor Gray advised no other funding had been obtained to date however the Tourism Officer was liaising with Tourism companies.

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

### **3. URGENT BUSINESS**

#### **Petroleum Exploration Subcommittee**

R Hogan had requested the Petroleum and Exploration Subcommittee be re-established and Mayor Gray had suggested the Subcommittee did not need to be reformed. It was noted the Subcommittee had previously been made up of Councillors and R Hogan as advisor. The subcommittee had helped collate submissions. It was noted there had been no community representative on the Subcommittee.

Councillor Diver advised he felt there was no point reforming the Subcommittee because central government had made a decision on what they wanted to happen and it was a waste of time until central government changed its mind. Councillor Morgan advised if people did not speak up then there would be no change. She advised there were sides to everything and as community leaders it was important to have good information. She further advised she would not just see the Subcommittee as dealing with petroleum exploration but sustainability as well.

It was noted individuals and groups in the community were able to put their views forward to the relevant authorities.

Mayor Gray noted the issue was very emotive and staff had done a good job putting submissions together and Council wanted to keep the pressure on to ensure there was a ridged structure in place. He noted there were plenty of avenues for community members to make their views known.

Councillor Blunt felt the Subcommittee would be a good conduit to feed information to Council he noted the submissions to date had been great but there was a lot of information which Council hadn't heard and whilst the Government was not about to change its mind Council needed to represent the community.

Councillor Morgan enquired if staff would find it beneficial to have a subcommittee. The District Planner advised to date issues had been clear and Council had been kept informed. She further advised any feedback from Councillors was taken on board.

*There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.05am.*