

**Report of the Gore District Youth Council meeting, held in the Council Chambers,
29 Civic Avenue, Gore on Monday 16 September 2013, at 4pm.**

Present Kateleen McWhirter (Chair), Holly Julian, Georgia Johnston, Megan McCall, Devin Kubala, Carlie Paterson, Danialah Bourke, Renee Moyles, Olivia Nicholson, Laura Miller, Georgia Nicol, Richard Gardyne, Sian Davis, Tayla Marlow, Alice Robertson, Andrew MacLeod, Amy McCabe

In Attendance Cr. Marty Redhead, Community Development Officer
Melissa Smith, Cr. Anne Gover, Youth Worker Hannah Armstrong, Youth Development Coordinator Kayla McIntosh

Apologies: Olivia Nicholson

Minute Taker: Sian Davis

1. Confirmation of Previous Minutes

The minutes from the Gore District Youth Council meeting held on Monday 5 August 2013 were confirmed. Cr. Gardyne moved that they be received and this was seconded by Cr. Robertson.

2. Local Alcohol Policy Pre-Consultation

Southland's local authorities are seeking feedback as they consider how to manage the sale and consumption of alcohol under changes to legislation. Questions and comments discussed included:

1. Context Gore Community Binge Drinking culture reality?
Yes we believe that this is a reality
2. Is preloading common?
It is common yes
3. How can this be reduced?
Limit on how much they can drink after a certain time
Breath testing
Security, parents or adults
Knowing the people that they are drinking with
Non-alcoholic drinks
Take drinks away from the really intoxicated people, but do this slowly and subtly

4. Binge Drinking, is it the main problem?
We feel that young people are more likely to binge drink if there is a limit on drinks. It is also a social thing, with people meeting up to have a few drinks before heading to the party
5. Should there be a limit to the number of licenses given out?
We did not think that this would be a problem in Gore
6. Late night trading, should there be a one way door policy?
We think that this is a good idea; however there could be problems with conduct after people have been kicked out. Need to think about how to reduce this

3. Youth Events Programme

There was a discussion about the event workshop held recently, and evaluation form was filled out by all those who attended. We then discussed the next steps for the event programme.

Eight people put their name forward to be on the Youth Awards Organizing Committee. Those that volunteered were Andrew, Renee, Richard, Alice, Georgia N, Sian, Devin and Kateleen. The next Youth Council meeting scheduled for Monday 21 October at 4pm will be dedicated to event programme planning.

4. Youth Council Business Cards

Business cards are now available for Youth Councillors to distribute to encourage people to raise issues with the Youth Council. The cards were distributed amongst Youth Council members.

5. Council Agenda

Kateleen led discussion regarding items on the Council's agenda for their meeting to be held on Tuesday 17 September.

Free Swimming Lessons

We agree that this is a good idea and that there should be free swimming lessons. We also think that it is a good idea to fund Primary school children to receive swimming lessons at the Gore Multisports Complex by qualified instructors.

Road Naming Policies

We agreed that it makes sense to have a policy in place. It could also help to maintain our heritage as streets could be named historically for example Whiskey Lane.

IPads

We felt that at this day in age it is a good thing for the Council to go paperless which would be better for the environment as the council would use less paper and the IPads would eventually pay for themselves. We are very supportive for this concept. This also got us talking about an idea to have a dedicated Youth Council area within the Council. We believe that this would be a good idea as we would then have resources available to access when we are working on Youth Council initiatives.

Ronald MacDonald House

The Gore Pakeke Lions have put \$10,000 towards the Ronald McDonald House at Southland Hospital and we had a discussion about the request for the Council to also support it.

We raised the question whether it would be easier to fund the people from Gore using it, rather than the house. However, we soon discussed this and found that this would be a hassle to the parents as it would be an extra thing for them to worry about. We also found that if we funded the people instead of the house then we would have to pay for food, housing, gas and hospital bills and this would then become more expensive than simply funding the Ronald MacDonald House.

It would just become too hard and too lengthy to get a family to do paperwork in order to get funding, it should all be about making it easier for the family.

We thought that it would be a good idea to have a mufti day in all of our schools to raise money to go towards the cause; we were going to discuss this idea with our principals. Carlie and Danialah were going to lead this initiative.

Fee Waivers

We were supporting of this concept and would like to commend the full Council for the way they support community groups and events through fee waivers.

6. Youth and Rural Issues Seminar

We have been invited to attend a Youth and Rural Issues seminar that is being coordinated by the Southland District Youth Council. Unfortunately nobody was able to attend this as it is scheduled on a school day and Youth Councillors are busy with exams.

7. Cultural Diversity Forum

Kateleen and Laura gave an overview of their experience at a recently attended youth forum.

They were put into 6 groups where they talked about ways on how to improve New Zealand. Their group motto was, give every person a reason to smile and they had to define the issues and gives ways on how to improve them

8. Other Matters Arising

Pink Ribbon Day is coming up, we thought about doing activities during the day to show our support for breast cancer awareness. We thought about some fundraising activities that we could do around Gore. Getting businesses involved for example pink clothing on mannequins, putting pink bombs on Gore icons, and dressing up the ram in a tutu. Kateleen, Alice, Amy, Georgia J, Sian, Tayla, Megan, Richard and Laura volunteered to be available to support this.

We elected a new Deputy chair as Clark has moved to Christchurch to take up a rugby scholarship. Georgia Johnston was elected as the new Deputy Chairperson.

We had a discussion about the Youth Council for 2014. We thought promotions should start now and that the forms should be due in at the end of February. We feel that power points and promotion in schools would be the best way for the Youth to find out more about it. All those who are eligible to be on the Youth Council for next year were encouraged to reapply. The following Youth Councillors from each school also put their name forward to promote the Youth Council at their school assemblies:

- Gore High School: Kateleen and Richard
- St Peter's College: Georgia J, Amy, Tayla
- Blue Mountain College: Megan and Georgia N
- Menzies College: Acacia and Erin

For next year we discussed having Youth Council meetings more often, and suggested following a similar format to the full Council. Instead of meeting every 6 weeks, we felt that meeting every 3 weeks would be best. This would keep everyone in the loop better. Having later meetings rather than afternoon meetings was also discussed.

The Pomona Roding Survey has been handed out at both schools. 800 surveys have been handed out and we expect them to be back in, in time for our next meeting.

The meeting concluded at 5.40 pm.

Next meeting is Monday 21 October at 4pm, in the Council Chambers.