Report of the ordinary meeting of the Community Services Committee held in the Council Chambers, 29 Civic Avenue, Gore on Tuesday 1 September 2015, at 4.00pm.

Present

His Worship the Mayor (Tracy Hicks, JP), Cr Gover (Acting Chairperson), Crs Beale, Bolger, Byars, Highsted, Page and Sharp.

In Attendance

The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), General Manager District Assets (Mr Paul Withers), General Manager Community and Strategy (Mr Aaron Fox), Roading Manager (Mr Murray Hasler), Chief Financial Officer (Mr Luke Blackbeard), Building Control Manager (Mr Russell Paterson), 3 Waters Asset Manager (Mrs Sarah Crooks), Senior Planner (Mr Howard Alchin), Communications Manager (Mrs Sonia Gerken), Library Manager (Ms Lorraine Weston-Webb), Aquatic Centre Manager (Ms Kim Peterson), Arts and Heritage Curator (Mr Jim Geddes), Events and Promotions Coordinator (Ms Emma Carle), Animal Control Administrator (Mrs Rowena Burnby), Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Kylie Weir) and two members of the public in the gallery.

Apologies

Crs P Grant, D Grant, Davis and Dixon apologised for absence.

Cr Gover asked for any conflicts of interest. None were received.

1. REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT ARTS AND HERITAGE CURATOR

The Committee perused the report from the District Arts and Heritage Curator.

Cr Gover congratulated the Curator on securing a donation of 35 pieces of artwork by Trevor Moffitt.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Beale, seconded by Cr Page, THAT the report be received.
2. REPORT FROM AQUATIC SERVICES MANAGER

The Committee perused the report from the Aquatic Services Manager.

Cr Gover congratulated two staff members on awards received in their field of work. Donna Burr had won the NZRA Lifeguard of the Year and Martin Mackereth won the outstanding contribution to Austswim Aotearoa.

The Manager said she was proud of her team members and the high level of standard of work they carried out each day.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Sharp, THAT the report be received.

3. REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER

The Committee perused the report from the Parks and Recreation Manager.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Byars, seconded by Cr Highsted, THAT the report be received.

4. SPORT SOUTHLAND – ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee perused the report from the Parks and Recreation Manager.

Cr Gover extended the Council’s best wishes to the Eastern Southland Sports Coordinator in his future endeavours following his resignation from Sport Southland.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Page, seconded by Cr Bolger, THAT the information be received.

5. ANNUAL RESIDENTS SURVEY (SC1048)

The Committee perused the report from the Communications Manager.

Cr Gover felt the survey was interesting and the priority areas raised in the survey were issues already recognised within the Council.

His Worship thought it was timely to review how the annual survey was carried out. The Council had been utilising students at the Southern Institute of Technology for the past six years. The methodology of the survey was designed for old technology with the only contact being made using landlines. He felt the survey was only reaching a small demographic without using different media forms.

He wondered if the survey should be carried out several times a year rather than just once and whether it would provide a wider level of feedback.
In response to Cr Sharp, the Manager advised the perception of the Council was probably influenced by the current topics which had been in the public eye over the past few months like the Long Term Plan and the UAGC.

In response to Cr Sharp, the Chief Executive stated there was a slight rating drop from 3.7 to 3.4 over the past year.

Cr Highsted advised on page three of the survey it stated the Council had a rating of 3.47 in the current year down from 3.6 in the 2014 survey and 3.66 in 2013.

The Manager said this also highlighted the way the survey was carried out and the need to gain a wider demographic and look at the time of year when the survey was carried out.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Byars, seconded by Cr Beale, THAT the 2015 Gore Residents survey be received.

6. REPORT OF THE GORE DISTRICT LIBRARIES

The Committee perused the report from the Libraries Manager.

The Manager wanted to draw attention to the end of financial year statistics which showed the annual visitor numbers, issues and the increased use of the self-issuing machine in comparison to the following year.

In response to His Worship, the Manager advised the internet usage was tracked through the Aotearoa People’s Network Kaharoa which was the provider for the internet and advised she could have the numbers for the committee at the next meeting.

Cr Highsted thanked the Manager for having the statistics available.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Byars, seconded by Cr Highsted, THAT the report be received.

7. REPORT FROM THE GORE VISITOR CENTRE MANAGER

The Committee perused the report from the Visitor Centre Manager.

The Manager stated she was proud of the team and noted the significant improvement in ratings the visitor centre had achieved in the resident’s survey.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Highsted, seconded by Cr Page, THAT the report be received.
8. REPORT FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

The Committee perused the report from the Communications Manager.

The Manager stated an addition to the report was the Society of Local Government Managers had carried out an audit on consultation documents from local authorities and the Council had put its document forward to be audited. She advised the document was placed in the top 20 in the country.

V Venture Southland was hosting some visitor centre staff from throughout the South Island and with an improved relationship with Venture Southland, the staff would be visiting Gore and spending a night.

Cr Gover noted the plan to launch a free Wi-Fi service in the main business area was a good idea.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Sharp, seconded by Cr Byars, THAT the report be received.**

9. REPORTS OF THE YOUTH COUNCIL

The Committee perused the reports from the Youth Council.

Cr Gover thought the Youth Council was getting better every year. She advised the Youth Awards would be held on 28 November at the SBS St James Theatre and invited Councillors to attend.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Beale, THAT the reports of the meetings held 8 June and 10 August be received.**

The meeting concluded at 4.18pm.