

Report of a meeting of the Community Services Committee held in the Council Chambers, 29 Bowler Avenue, Gore on Tuesday 6 June 2017, at 4.06pm.

Present His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks, JP), Cr Beale (acting Chairperson), Crs Bolger, Davis, Dickson, Gardyne, D Grant, Highsted, Phillips, Reid and Sharp.

In Attendance The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), Chief Financial Officer (Mr Luke Blackbeard), General Manager Regulatory and Planning (Dr Ian Davidson-Watts), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Transport Manager (Mr Peter Standing), Communications and Promotions Manager (Sonia Gerken), Building Control Manager (Mr Russell Paterson), 3 Waters Asset Manager (Mr Matt Bayliss), Senior Corporate Support Officer (Ceri Macleod), Events and Promotions Coordinator (Ms Emma Carle), 3 Waters Project Manager (Mr Sam Bunting), District Arts and Heritage Curator (Mr Jim Geddes), Visitor Centre Senior Consultant (Nicole Parry), Aquatic Services Manager (Ms Kim Peterson), Animal Control Officer (David McKewen), Policy and Planning Officer (Emma Williams), Planning Consultant (Keith Hovell) and two members of the public in the gallery.

Apology Cr P Grant apologised for absence.

Cr Beale called for any conflicts of interest. None were declared.

1. GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL DRAFT RESERVE MANAGEMENT PLANS - VOLUME 3 TOWN BELT RESERVES AND VOLUME 4 DOLAMORE PARK (sc1248)

The Committee perused a report from the Parks and Recreation Manager regarding the review of existing reserve management plans. Copies of the plans and a summary of submissions had been circulated with the agenda.

Cr Dickson said some great submissions had been received, which had been good to see.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr D Grant, seconded by Cr Dickson THAT the report be received.

AND THAT the Gore District Council Draft Reserve Management Plan Volume 3: Town Belt Reserves and Gore District Council Draft Reserve Management Plan Volume 4: Dolamore Park Scenic Reserve, be adopted.

2. REPORT FROM MIGRANT SERVICES COORDINATOR – MARCH-MAY 2017

The Committee perused a report from the Mirant Services Coordinator.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Phillips, seconded by Cr Reid THAT the report be received.

3. REPORT OF THE AQUATIC SERVICES MANAGER

The Committee perused a report from the Aquatic Services Manager.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr Gardyne THAT the report be received.

4. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT ARTS AND HERITAGE CURATOR

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

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Dickson, seconded by Cr P Grant THAT the report be received.

5. REPORT FROM LIBRARY MANAGER

The Committee perused a report from the Libraries Manager.

The Manager said the Library's focus on younger children was part of a drive to promote literacy amongst a younger age group. She emphasised this was not at the exclusion of older people.

Cr Reid asked what attendance figures were like on Sundays now the library opened that day. The Manager said numbers on Sundays were good and almost as high as attendance on Saturdays.

Cr Sharpe asked about the possibility of having a café in the Gore library to improve attendance. The Manager said development proposals for the heritage precinct could include a library café, but the lack of available space limited its potential at present.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Reid, seconded by Cr Davis THAT the report be received.

6. JOSEPH STREET – STREET TREES (SC1542)

The Committee perused a memo from the Parks and Recreation Manager regarding the Joseph Street trees, following a meeting of residents and Councillors on 9 May.

The Manager said of the options recommended to the Committee, option 2 offered the best potential in meeting the concerns of residents and feedback received from Council staff.

Cr Highsted asked for advice from the Chief Executive regarding the involvement of potential panel members in the discussion, should a panel be required.

The Chief Executive said that to be safe, it would be better for the panel to refrain from being involved in the discussion.

Cr Highsted said this would involve himself, Crs Davis, D Grant and Bolger.

Cr Bolger said he could not be involved in a panel as he had been involved in discussions with one of the petitioners over several months. Cr Beale said he was in a similar position.

Crs Highsted, Davis and D Grant left the room at 4.26pm.

Cr Bolger asked what period of time was included for tree removal in option 2.

The Manager said they would be removed over a season.

Cr Dickson asked whether drainage issues would be resolved via option 2.

The Manager said it was possible drainage issues could remain post tree removal, but they would be addressed if they arose.

Cr Reid asked if the replacement Sorbus Eastern Promise trees would be deciduous.

The Manager said they were. He said some Sorbus Eastern Promise trees were already growing in the street and had been proposed to keep the feel of the avenue the same.

His Worship asked why Betula trees were not planted by the Council in other areas of the District. The Manager said this was due to problems associated with managing the Betula catkins and berries.

Cr Beale asked the 3 Waters Asset Manager what had been proposed at the stormwater working party regarding the diversion of stormwater and whether such proposals would alleviate any of the problems associated with leaf drop in that area.

The Manager said he had received initial results from OPUS on the modelling of changes to Joseph Street drainage. These had indicated the Joseph Street main was at full capacity and therefore any proposed diversions would not alleviate the problem.

Cr Sharp asked whether the last point in option 2 was necessary, ie addressing streetscape inconsistencies.

The Manager said that had been included to acknowledge there was some inconsistency in the town with plantings, and this issue represented a good opportunity to look at the issue more closely with LTP discussions on the table.

The Chief Executive said if residents were not happy with the proposal following consultation, it would have to go to a hearing panel.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Sharp, seconded by Cr Reid THAT the information be received,

THAT the Council endorse option 2 instructing Council officers to proceed with consultation of affected parties,

THAT Council officers implement option 2 - remove the 16 Betula trees and replanting with Sorbus Eastern Promise - subject to a majority consensus for change emerging from affected party consultation,

AND THAT the Council instruct officers to progress the strategic planning of a Streetscape Strategy implementation/upgrade plan to be included in the 2018-28 LTP discussion.

His Worship asked what the consultation process would entail. The Manager anticipated a postal vote pending further discussion with the Communications/Promotions Manager.

Crs Highsted, Davis and D Grant returned to the meeting at 4.36pm.

7. REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER

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

The Manager said autumn conditions had resulted in a significant leaf dump. He also noted favourable comments were being received from residents regarding the plantings on the State Highway, Mataura.

He said the parks and reserves team was in the process of trialling new battery-operated hand tools.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr D Grant, seconded by Cr Davis THAT the report be received.

8. REPORT FROM GORE VISITOR CENTRE

The Committee perused a report from the Visitor Centre Senior Consultant.

Cr Beal enquired about the level of merchandise sales at the Gold Guitars weekend.

The Senior Consultant said merchandise had been well received and there had been lots of interest in promotional material available at the stall.

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

9. REPORT FROM COMMUNICATIONS/PROMOTIONS MANAGER

The Committee perused a report from the Communications/Promotions Manager.

The Manager highlighted the \$10million international spend for the year ending March 2017. She also drew the Committee's attention to issues associated with the resident's survey, particularly in relation to getting fair representation from all age groups and limitations associated with calls being conducted via landlines only.

Cr Gardyne queried the information source behind the \$67million visitor expenditure quoted in the report. The Manager referred Cr Gardyne to the sources contained in the report.

In response to Cr Beale asking whether the \$67 million included Field Days expenditure, the Manager said the data related only to tourism and was supported by MBIE and monthly regional tourism statistics. She said Infometrics data provided additional information regarding expenditure in the region beyond tourism.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Dickson, seconded by Cr Davis THAT the report be received.

10. REPORT FROM THE EVENTS AND PROMOTIONS COORDINATOR

The Committee perused a report from the Events and Promotions Coordinator.

Cr Reid thanked the Events and Promotions Coordinator and the Visitor Centre Senior Consultant for providing lots of support to Youth Councillors during Youth Week.

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

The meeting concluded at 4.49pm.