

Report of a meeting of the Regulatory and Planning Committee, held in the Council Chambers, 29 Bowler Avenue, Gore, on Tuesday 5 March, at 5.57 pm.

Present His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks, JP), Cr Highsted (Chairman), Crs Beale, Bolger, Davis, Dickson, Gardyne, D Grant, P Grant, 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), General Manager Infrastructure (Mr Ramesh Sharma), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Transport Manager (Mr Peter Standring), Project Manager Infrastructure (Mr Hashem Ramezan-zadeh), Marketing/Communications Manager (Sonia Gerken), Building Control Manager (Mr Russell Paterson), Senior Regulatory Officer (Frances Shepherd), Planner (Fran Davies), Corporate Support Officer (Suzanne Lucas) and 3 members of the public in the gallery.

1. ANIMAL CONTROL ACTIVITIES REPORT

A report from the General Manager Regulatory and Planning had been received.

The Chairman noted the number of dog attacks were above average, but wandering incidents were down.

The General Manager Regulatory said it was disappointing to see an increase in dog attacks and he believed this was due to more victims reporting attacks. The Animal Control team had been publicised as responding well to these issues and victims had been well managed. In terms of approaching these incidents, the Council was trying not to issue fines, and considered training of the dog first. The Dog Action Plan would review this approach and a report will be presented to the Committee in the future.

Cr P Grant passed on positive feedback that he had received from a member of the community to the Animal Control team.

Cr Davis asked the General Manager if he thought people were now less tolerant than was the case five years ago.

The General Manager said he thought that to be the case. It was now easier to report any incidents through the Antenno app and CRM's online, and also the responsiveness of the Animal Control team suggested people were more inclined to do so.

Cr Sharp asked if the number of wandering dogs reported were single incidents or whether there were a number of repeat offenders.

The General Manager replied there were lot of repeat offenders. Often a six month approach was taken, which started in most cases with a warning, and a look at fencing, and education was key. But if there were repeat offences, a fine would be issued.

In response to a query from Cr Sharp, the General Manager said if an owner did not comply, or more complaints were received, the Animal Control team would issue an abatement notice and may remove the dog if necessary. There was a big issue with dogs at home alone during the day that resulted in barking complaints and wandering.

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

2. REPORT FROM BUILDING CONTROL MANAGER

A report from the Building Control Manager had been received.

The Economic Development Coordinator entered the meeting at 6.05pm.

The Manager commented that by the end of year it was hoped to have an online portal for lodging and processing consents and/or mobile processing of inspections on tablets for field staff. He said it was important to move towards electronic systems for capturing onsite inspections to avoid being left behind and the Gore District Council was one of the few Councils which had not moved towards electronic systems.

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

3. FREEDOM CAMPING REPORT

A report from the Senior Regulatory Officer had been received.

The Officer commented this was the first report presented in May 2017. Freedom camping activity had been monitored but only a handful of complaints had been received.

The Chairman asked for clarification about information received from GeoZone

The Officer said the Gore District did not have any freedom camping areas logged onto it, but it provided information on visitor movement.

The Chairman asked where the designated areas for camping were.

The Officer responded that it was behind the Clock Tower, Salvation Army, and Liquorland area.

His Worship said GeoZone would be interesting to look at particularly for traffic flows and volume.

The General Manager commented that Gore did not have the problems other centres with freedom campers as the tourist market travelling through the district was mostly domestic.

The Chairman concluded there was no need for a bylaw at this stage but the Council should continue to monitor freedom camping activity.

Cr Davis asked if the GeoZone data could be included in the next report.

The General Manager said the data was confidential due to a lot of commercial information but could be included in a report for an in committee meeting or emailed to Councillors.

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

4. REGULATORY SERVICES REPORT

The Council perused a report from the Senior Regulatory Officer.

The Officer informed the Committee she had just received an updated draft of the Local Alcohol Policy for discussion. A meeting had been arranged with the Medical Officer of Health for a discussion on the Policy and the local police would also be contacted.

The Chairman asked if there was anything of interest within the report.

The Officer said the Policy was continuing as it previously had. The Southland District and Invercargill City Councils had suggested the default licence hours be brought back to 10.00pm which would have an implication on some of the licensed premises in Gore.

Cr Reid asked for clarification of litter and asked where the dumped rubbish had been found.

The Officer said Walnut Grove and River Street. When picking up litter the staff had tried to find evidence to link to the offenders.

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

5. PLANNING DEPARTMENT REPORT

The Council perused a report from the Principal Planner/Consultant.

Cr D Grant declared a conflict of interest with a consent at 1 Aotea Crescent and confirmed with the Chairman that he would not comment.

Cr P Grant asked why the Spark tower was to be positioned at the top of Waimea Street and suggested it would be better placed by the cemetery.

The General Manager Regulatory said the applicant was assessing alternative sites and the application was currently on hold. He explained that when applying for a resource consent the applicant indicated the preferred site and it was the job of the Council to ensure compliance.

The Chairman referred to Eplans and asked if it tied in with the District Plan review.

The General Manager said it was a mandatory requirement. It would allow access to bring up all rules in the district plan that related to a particular site chosen. It would have to be implemented with five years and the District Plan needed to be reviewed within five years as well. Therefore it would be efficient to combine the two. Other Councils in the region would be consulted to select a provider recommended by the Ministry for the Environment.

Cr Reid noted the number of consents for subdivisions and the development of land which included both rural and urban.

The General Manager said there had been a definite increase in activity in resource consenting.

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

The meeting concluded 6.18 pm.