



REPORT OF THE ORDINARY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON TUESDAY 8 MAY 2007, AT 4:03 pm.

PRESENT His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks JP), Cr Davis (Chairperson) Crs Bolger, Dore, Harvey, Hellier, McFadzien, McIntyre, Sutherland and Turnbull.

IN ATTENDANCE The Chief Executive (Mr Steve Parry), General Manager, District Assets (Mr Neil Jorgensen), General Manager, Corporate Services (Mr Russell Duthie), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Roading Manager (Mr Murray Hasler), Asset Manager, Utilities (Mr Ross Haslemore), Management Accountant (Mr Luke Blackbeard), Aquatic Services Manager (Kim Peterson), Gore i-SITE Visitor Centre Senior Consultant (Mrs Rose McMillan), Arts and Heritage Curator (Mr Jim Geddes), Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Jo Waddell) and three members of the public in the Gallery.

APOLOGY Crs McLennan and Ogg apologised for absence.

Cr Davis introduced the new General Manager, Corporate Services, Mr Russell Duthie and welcomed him to the Council.

1. OPERATIONS BULLETIN

The Committee perused the operations bulletin containing reports from the Gore i-SITE Visitor Centre, District Arts and Heritage Curator, Animal Control Contractor, Deputy Librarian, Parks and Recreation Manager, Aquatic Services Manager, Roading Manager, and the Asset Manager, Utilities.

Report of the District Arts and Heritage Curator (23.5)

The Arts and Heritage Curator tabled a provisional financial report for the 2007 Hokonui Moonshiners Festival.

Cr Davis was pleased with the surplus returned from the Festival.

In response to Cr McIntyre, the Curator said the Council provided \$15,000 from its Promotions budget.

Cr Harvey said it was a great achievement by the Council staff as there were very few other festivals that returned a surplus.

Cr Davis echoed Cr Harvey's comments. She had attended the Festival and noted there were many people from outside the region. She thanked the staff for its success and the Curator for providing the report.

Report of the Animal Control Contractor (34.2)

In response to Cr Davis, the Chief Executive advised that unregistered dogs, usually strays were being impounded.

His Worship congratulated the contractor on her work and said she was very tolerant. There had been a number of incidents around the town and she had dealt with them efficiently. He added that it was fortunate there had been no human attacks to date.

Report of the Deputy Librarian (25.1)

In response to Cr Davis, the Chief Executive said the Sunday opening hours over the winter months would be advertised.

Report of the Parks and Recreation Manager (18.1.2)

Cr McIntyre asked what toll the extra mowing was taking on the budget.

The Parks and Recreation Manager advised the staff were coping with it but it was slowing down.

Report of the Aquatic Services Manager (24.11)

The Aquatic Services Manager advised the pool was ticking along nicely and the recent twilight pool party had been a huge success.

His Worship said he had received a number of positive comments about the quality and standard of the pool and he congratulated the Manager and her team on the good work. He added that the public's perception had risen in recent months

and noted that a person from out of the area had told him the pool admission fees were too cheap.

Cr Davis thought a donation box in the foyer could be a good idea and added she had also had positive comments from visitors to the town.

Cr McFadzien was pleased with the increase in the Leaping Frogs Swim School. Drowning was a big problem in New Zealand.

Report of the Roothing Manager (2.1.6)

Cr Dore queried when construction of the carparks for Stage 3 of the Multisports complex would be commenced.

The Roothing Manager advised that construction was expected to start in the next few weeks. There had been no pressure to start due to the building consent still being actioned. The construction crews were currently working on the AWPT on Waimumu Road and once it had been completed, work would commence on the carparks.

His Worship added there was pressure on other rooding areas at present.

Report of the Asset Manager, Utilities (2.1.6)

Cr Harvey asked for an explanation on the effect of reduced tonnage to the transfer station.

The General Manager, District Assets explained it was a two edged sword as the more people recycled, the less tonnage went to the transfer station but it did not reduce the fixed costs of the station.

His Worship said the general refuse was down by 241 tonnes compared to the 2005/06 year. He queried the reduction in July and August and whether there was any reason for it.

Cr McIntyre noted that the green waste for July 2006 was incorrect.

In response to Cr McIntyre, the General Manager said there were two ways to deal with the waste, diversion at the end of the waste stream or reduce it from the start. The New Zealand Packaging Accord was aiming to deal with the packaging of products to help reduce the volume of waste from the start.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Sutherland, seconded by Cr Turnbull, THAT the Operations Bulletin be received.

The Arts and Heritage Curator, Aquatic Services Manager and the Gore i-SITE Visitor Centre Senior Consultant departed the meeting at 4:20pm.

2. GORE DISTRICT RECYCLING OPTIONS AND WAY FORWARD
(10.15)

A memo had been received from the General Manager, District Assets about the Council's first step in its journey to determine what the future for solid waste recycling should be for the Gore District. A summary of the results of the feedback from the community showed that approximately half of those who responded preferred the three bin collection with a quarter not wanting any change at all. It was suggested that a workshop or separate meeting would be the appropriate mechanism to firstly determine the preferred option and then brainstorm the relevant issues relating to that option.

Cr Harvey thought that while a workshop or meeting could be held, he wondered if an advisory panel consisting of interested stakeholders could be set up to give them a feeling of ownership. He thought it might help to "marry" the two options.

Cr McIntyre asked if the panel would represent both sides of the equation.

His Worship said from his observation, he was disappointed at the response from the public and a decision could not be based on this survey. He said the Council needed to have more debate on this issue and thought a workshop was a good avenue for it. He noted he had received a report from the Auditor General about how Councils were handling waste management. A copy of the report would be provided to Councillors. He said Cr Harvey's idea of having interested parties involved was good but the Council somehow needed to find out what the community wanted. Although the feedback was good, there needed to be more of a majority response. The Council needed to be more inventive in surveying the public and perhaps electronic surveying could be an avenue to explore. He did not think any decisions could be made at this meeting.

Cr McIntyre said the result was inconclusive and asked how the Council had invoked public interest in the fluoridation matter.

Cr Harvey said a public meeting had been held.

The Chief Executive said there had been 70 or 80 people at the public meeting.

Cr Davis called order to the meeting and asked Councillors to move on from the fluoridation issue. She asked how the Council could pique the community's interest. She noted that the public had not been given a choice with fluoridation and that had resulted in the public outcry. She queried whether the Council wanted to force recycling onto its constituents?

Cr Hellier said the Council was lucky to get this type of result. He believed the public relied on the Council to make the decisions and it needed to listen to the comments of people who had replied.

Cr Turnbull said the public had the opportunity to have a say and obviously they were happy for the Council to make a decision one way or the other. A workshop would be a good idea.

Cr Dore said the Gore District had a wide variety of residents and the Council needed to take this into account. In the past the residents had been given the choice of bags or wheelie bins. He had not seen any exact costs or revenue for the recycling options and it was likely to be subject to ongoing increases.

Cr McFadzien said the Council needed to ensure it had an outlet for recycling and those options needed to be surveyed and looked at for a period of time.

Cr Sutherland recommended THAT the Council hold a workshop/meeting to determine the preferred option and then to discuss and debate the relevant issues of the preferred option,

AND THAT a stakeholder group be established.

Cr Sutherland said the waste had to be separated and it was no good recycling unless people wanted to do that. Before any decision was made it needed to be discussed in a workshop.

The recommendation was seconded by Cr Harvey.

Cr Bolger did not support any recommendation that presumed that a decision to recycle had been made.

Cr Harvey said it did not.

Cr Bolger said the public's feedback was inconclusive and he was concerned that once the Council went down the recycling track it could not go back and the financial implications would be dire.

The General Manager thought a workshop would be where the Council would decide on the pros and cons of recycling and from that, start to develop solutions or answers. The public and the Council had many concerns but it was important to get everything written down.

Cr Harvey said it was important that the Council had ownership from the community.

Cr Hellier asked if the workshop held would be open to the public and the Council agreed it should be.

The recommendation was put and it was carried.

3. WALKING ACCESS CONSULTATION PANEL (18.9.6)

A memo from the Parks and Recreation Manager had been received about the Outdoor Walking Access Consultation Panel's findings and the article that featured in the Southland Times in March 2007. A summary prepared by Local Government New Zealand on the report to the Minister of Rural Affairs had also been circulated.

The Parks and Recreation Manager clarified it was a national issue that had been ongoing for a number of years and it was gaining unity throughout the country.

In response to Cr McIntyre, the Manager said he would provide the Council with its submission made to the consultation panel.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Hellier, seconded by Cr McFadzien, THAT the information be received.

Cr McFadzien said it was not always a simple solution and he was a great believer in retaining the road lines. He said some people wanted to take gates off the accessways which was impossible given there were different boundaries between road lines. He believed paper roads did not always form easy access and felt the whole thing was going to take a lot of sorting out.

Cr Harvey mentioned there was division on the panel as one of the members had not endorsed the report. The Fish and Game Director had said the recommendations were not tough enough and would change little.

Cr McFadzien asked what would happen if the Council were to take over the management of the access tracks. He felt it would be better to stay with the status quo.

In response to Cr Davis, the Manager advised the report would go to the Minister of Rural Affairs and it was hoped the Council would get additional feedback from it thereafter.

Cr Dore asked what the percentage would be of people using the tracks as he has saw plenty of people walking streets around the town. Was there really a necessity for additional walking tracks?

Cr McFadzien mentioned the recent mountain bike riding event that had gone through private properties which had been a wonderful success and financial gain for the District.

Cr Dore said it had been through local co-operation rather than walking access.

The recommendation was put and it carried.

4. ECCLES STREET PLAYGROUND LITTER PROBLEM (55.1)

A memo had been circulated from the Roading Manager highlighting the escalating problem of litter being deposited on the roads and footpaths adjacent to the Eccles Street playground. Council staff were investigating options to improve the situation and a report would be presented to the Council detailing the options considered to be most effective and affordable.

Cr Davis said the matter had been raised at the monthly Works meeting. Works was responsible for keeping the area clean but within hours of a cleanup it was untidy again.

The Roading Manager said he felt this area was the first impression visitors had of the town and it was untidy due to the litter. It was going to be a difficult problem to solve but the problem needed to be highlighted and publicised so the general public were willing to report littering offences. He suggested that there could be additional lighting or a camera installed. There were a number of possibilities that could be investigated and it would be monitored closely to get an effective solution.

Cr Davis said there was no shortage of rubbish receptacles and it was a concern as many young children used the playground.

Cr Dore asked if the carparks had always been there. He noted that the central parks in the Main Street had been removed and the young people were now congregating in the Eccles Street area.

The Manager advised he was not certain whether the parks had always been there but advised there were other new factors to take into consideration. One was the proximity of certain businesses that produced a large part of the litter and he thought it could be a possibility to work with them to find out if they were willing to participate in any solutions.

Cr Hellier said there were plenty of carparks along Eccles and Ardwick Streets and it might be better to remove the Main Street carparks to stop the problem.

Cr Sutherland was strongly against the removal of the carparks as the toilets were situated there. He said the Council needed to look after its youth and education was the key. He thought an advertisement stating that litterers would be fined and an example made of them could be an idea, otherwise they would only go somewhere else.

Cr Harvey said the worst part was in Ardwick Street's cul de sac and agreed the carparks should not be taken away. He thought a sign was appropriate and felt the Council needed to appeal to the better nature of people.

Cr Bolger did not think removal of the parks would be a good idea as it would only transfer the situation to another place.

Cr Davis asked for a meeting with the businesses in the area.

His Worship was happy to move in that direction. It was a constant annoyance and a brainstorming session was a good idea.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of His Worship, seconded by Cr Dore, THAT the information be received,

AND THAT a Working Party be formed in conjunction with the Roding Manager comprising of interested parties, Councillors and the Police.

Cr Dore thought a time limit could be introduced on the carparks.

Cr McFadzien asked if there was a litter bylaw in place.

The Chief Executive replied there was.

Cr McFadzien said it needed to be enforced.

The Chief Executive said it was one of the bylaws to be reviewed in 2008. However, the Litter Act 1979 prescribed the maximum amount any person could be fined was \$500. With a new bylaw under the Local Government Act that fine could be increased. The other problem faced was that it was very difficult to find a witness of a person littering who was prepared to make a statement.

Cr McIntyre asked if the littering notice was in public view.

The Chief Executive was not sure but said the Working Party could suggest the Bylaw could specify a certain area like the Council's Liquor Bylaw. He thought there were perhaps other techniques that could be used to correct the behaviour.

Cr Bolger wondered if the offending persons car could be impounded.

The Chief Executive said the cars did not litter and to impound a vehicle would impinge on a person's liberty.

The recommendation was put and it carried.

The meeting concluded at 4:57 pm.