

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE, WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE, ON TUESDAY 8 MAY 2007, AT 4:00 pm**

**Steve Parry  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**1 May 2007**

## ***A G E N D A***

1. Operations Bulletin (Page 1)
2. Gore District Recycling Options and Way Forward (Pages 2-5)
3. Walking Access Consultation Panel (Pages 6-26)
4. Eccles Street Playground Litter Problem (Page 27)

## OPERATIONS COMMITTEE AGENDA

MAY 2007

### 1. OPERATIONS BULLETIN

The Operations Bulletin containing reports from the Visitor Information Centre, District Arts and Heritage Curator, Deputy Librarian, Aquatic Services Manager, Parks and Recreation Manager, Roading Manager, Asset Manager, Utilities and the Animal Control Contractor, is enclosed with the agenda.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the Operations Bulletin be received.**

## 2. GORE DISTRICT RECYCLING OPTIONS AND WAY FORWARD

(Memo from General Manager, District Assets - 02.04.07)

The Council has completed the first step in its journey to determine what the future for solid waste recycling should be for the Gore District by finishing the first round of consultation with the community on Friday 23 March.

The purpose of this memo is to summarise the results of the feedback forms received as well as feedback from discussions held at the public meetings and to recommend the next step to continue progress on the project.

### Feedback Forms

There was a good response to the consultation with 782 feedback forms being returned to the Council. This is one of the better return rates the Council has had in recent years showing that the community has a reasonable level of interest in recycling.

The Gore urban area showed the most interest with a 13% response rate based on the number of ratepayers. There was lesser interest from Mataura and rural areas where 7% of ratepayers responded as is shown in the table below:

|                     | <b>Forms Received</b> | <b>Number Ratepayers</b> | <b>Percentage Return</b> |
|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Total Return</b> | <b>782</b>            | <b>5860</b>              | <b>13%</b>               |
| <b>Urban</b>        | 663                   | 4610                     | 14%                      |
| <b>Rural</b>        | 86                    | 1240                     | 7%                       |
| <b>Unknown</b>      | 33                    |                          |                          |
| <b>Gore</b>         | 507                   | 3810                     | 13%                      |
| <b>Mataura</b>      | 54                    | 810                      | 7%                       |

The feedback forms showed that approximately half of those who responded preferred the three bin collection. About one fifth thought that a kerbside recycling bin was the best solution while a quarter thought that the status quo was the best option.

There was some variation in the three areas, with the most prominent being in Mataura where there was an almost even split between the status quo and the three bin option.

The results showing preferred options were:

|                     | <b>Option 1<br/>Status<br/>Quo</b> | <b>Option 2<br/>Drop Off<br/>Centre</b> | <b>Option 3<br/>Recycle<br/>Crate</b> | <b>Option 4<br/>Three Bin<br/>Collection</b> |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Total Return</b> | <b>24%</b>                         | <b>9%</b>                               | <b>17%</b>                            | <b>49%</b>                                   |
| <b>Urban</b>        | 24%                                | 7%                                      | 18%                                   | 50%  |
| <b>Rural</b>        | 18%                                | 22%                                     | 13%                                   | 48%  |
| <b>Unknown</b>      | 35%                                | 3%                                      | 10%                                   | 45%  |
| <b>Gore</b>         | 22%                                | 7%                                      | 18%                                   | 52%  |
| <b>Mataura</b>      | 37%                                | 7%                                      | 15%                                   | 39%  |

Please refer to the notes attached to this memo which summarises the general comments from the feedback form consultation along with a list showing the full results of the feedback survey.

#### Consultation Meetings

Three public meetings were held, one in Mataura on Monday 5 March and two in Gore on Wednesday 7 March 2007. There was a reasonable amount of public participation at the meetings. One advantage of the expo type meeting was that the public were able to talk to each other about the issues and debate differing points of view.

Once again there was a clear division between the status quo and the three bin option, which is most favoured. This reinforced to me that there are several clearly defined user groups with quite different recycling needs.

#### Way Forward

There is quite a bit of feeling in the community about where this project should head. Unfortunately, no one solution fits the needs of everybody and decisions need be made where to go from here. The conundrum for the Council is that although half of the respondents prefer the three bin option, a quarter of respondents do not wish for any change at all!

I suggest that a workshop or separate meeting is the appropriate mechanism to firstly determine what the preferred option is and then to brainstorm all of the relevant issues relating to the preferred option. This will mean that staff can start developing potential solutions to mitigate the issues raised.

These solutions can then form an agenda for a future meeting for the Council to discuss and debate the next step.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**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.**

## SUMMARY OF COMMENTS ON FEEDBACK FORMS

General comment themes from the feedback forms are listed below so that a general flavour of thoughts can be gained.

### Option 1 – Status Quo

- Do not want a rate increase
- Easier on the elderly
- Happy with as is
- Are using Paddy's Bins
- Gives no incentive to recycle

### Option 2 – Drop Off Centre

- Unsuitable for people without transport
- All recycling can be done in the same place
- Best option for rural residents
- Takes up time, many won't bother with it

### Option 3 – Recycle Crate

- Has worked well in other towns
- Is untidy in bad weather, e.g. wind
- A step in the right direction
- Can not dispose of green waste
- A lot of concern over the bins, e.g. size, lid, weight

### Option 4 – Three Bin Collection

- Seen as a good option but too expensive
- Has worked in other cities/towns
- Environmentally friendly
- Large cost for the elderly which they will not use as much as others
- Maybe get to choose size of bin and have different rates for each
- Is option only for urban residents?
- Most popular option by far

### Other Comments:

- PD workers should have to sort out the rubbish
- Unwanted increase in rates
- Concern that Paddy's Bins will go lose out
- Possibility of sharing bins with neighbors?

### 3. WALKING ACCESS CONSULTATION PANEL

(Memo from Parks and Recreation Manager – 30.04.07)

In June 2006 the Council was invited to participate in a consultation process for opinions on “Outdoor Walking Access”. Information was drafted by Council staff and submitted for appraisal by the consultation panel.

The Panel has reported to the Minister of Rural Affairs with its findings.

Attached is the reply from the Chairman of the Walking Access Consultation Panel with the key findings noted, and an 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 is also attached.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the information be received.**

#### 4. ECCLES STREET PLAYGROUND LITTER PROBLEM

(Memo from Roading Manager – 30.04.07)

The purpose of this memo is to highlight to Councillors and the public that there is an escalating problem with litter being deposited on the roads and footpaths adjacent to the Eccles Street playground.

Travellers and residents entering the CBD area of Gore are often greeted with a highly visible, unsightly and likely unhealthy mess on the road and in the gutters. This is despite the early morning litter removal carried out by the Council's maintenance contractor. Ample litter bins are available within a couple of metres of the discarded litter. The litter is predominantly comprised of fast food packaging and its partly consumed contents, along with beer bottles.

Council staff are therefore investigating options to improve the situation. Initial suggestions to fix the problem could include some of the following:

- Media publicity.
- Encouraging witnesses of littering to report details to enable prosecution of offenders.
- Surveillance cameras, which could be temporary, intermittent or permanently placed.

Once the options have been investigated a report will be presented to Council detailing those considered to most likely be effective and affordable. In the meantime it is hoped that this report will engender some public discussion about the problem and possible solutions.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the information be received.**