

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE, WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE, ON TUESDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2007, AT 4 pm

**Steve Parry
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

6 November 2007

A G E N D A

1. Community Services Bulletin
(Page 1)
2. Parks and Reserves Working Party
(Pages 2-3)
3. Sport and Recreation New Zealand Rural Travel Fund
(Page 4)
4. Christmas Parade
(Page 5)
5. Christmas in the Park Concert
(Pages 6-7)
6. Gore District Community Awards
(Page 8)
7. Draft Constitution - Gore District Youth Council
(Pages 9-28)

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE AGENDA

NOVEMBER 2007

1. COMMUNITY SERVICES BULLETIN

The Community Services Bulletin comprising reports from the District Arts and Heritage Curator, Parks and Recreation Manager, Library Manager, District Promotions and i-Site Visitor Information Centre and Aquatic Services Manager is enclosed with the agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Bulletin be received.

2. PARKS AND RESERVES WORKING PARTY

(Memo from Parks and Recreation Manager – 17.10.07)

Historical reason

This Working Party was instigated following lengthy discussions relating to the overall Parks and Reserves activity and associated budget costs during the development of the 2006-16 Long Term Council Community Plan deliberations. There were a variety of different points to consider ranging from “parks and reserves are too expensive” to “lets continue to develop the asset we have”. It was decided that the best forum for such debate was to form a Working Party and spend time going through the activity in detail.

At its meeting held on 28 February 2006, the Council resolved to form the Working Party and appointed Crs Bolger, Davis, Harvey (Chair), McLennan and Sutherland. Cr Turnbull was added to the working party at its September 2007 meeting. The terms of reference for the Working Party are:

Terms of Reference

- 1. To critically examine the number of parks, reserves and recreation areas in Gore, Mataura and the rural area of the Gore District to ascertain whether they are still meeting the needs of the community, having regard to current usage levels;*
- 2. To critically examine levels of service provided to parks, reserves, recreation areas and garden plots in Gore, Mataura and the rural area of the Gore District to ascertain whether they are meeting the needs of the community; and*
- 3. To recommend to the Council the disposal of surplus reserves and changes in service levels as a result of the analysis undertaken in (1) & (2), above.*

Progress to date

The Working Party met on several occasions throughout the last Council term. There was a tour of all reserves in the district to familiarise the Working Party members of the Parks and Reserves we do have responsibility for.

The Working Party scrutinised the existing budgets for this activity and thereafter recommended to the Council the need for budget amendments. These recommendations were debated by the Council before being incorporated into the draft 2007/08 Annual Plan. A number of submissions were received during the

consultative process which were considered by the Council before it adopted the final version of the Annual Plan.

Minutes of the previous meetings will be made available to the new Working Party so it can see the extent of work that has taken place to date.

What is left to undertake

The remaining unresolved issue facing the new working party is one of considering the “potential disposals”.

There are a number of sites identified by the previous working party as having possible sale potential, with a view to utilising any sale proceeds generated to offset operational expense. A schedule of the reserves provisionally earmarked for disposal, is attached.

The sale of land with a “Reserves” classification registered on the title and gazetted as Recreational Reserve requires the signature of the Minister of Conservation to revoke that status. To achieve this there is a stringent and lengthy consultative process that needs to be undertaken. There needs to be a well founded, considered and consulted opinion as to whether a change in a level of service is needed or is appropriate.

The new Working Party will be able to determine the extent and scope of where we now go with regard to the potential disposal issue.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Council appoint seven members to the Parks and Reserves Working Party,

THAT the Council appoint Cr Harvey to continue as Chair of the Parks and Reserves Working Party,

AND THAT a separate tour of all sites earmarked for potential disposal by the last Working party be organised for all Councillors.

**SCHEDULE OF RESERVES EARMARKED FOR
POTENTIAL DISPOSAL**

Site	Possible Realisation	Current Income \$	Current Cost of maintenance \$
Bannerman Park	\$360,000	\$100	\$0
Broughton Street	\$35,000	0	\$818
Dale Crescent	\$40,000	0	\$498
Hamilton Street	\$80,000	0	\$1,450
Moa Street	\$50,000	0	\$1,000
Salford Street	\$30,000	0	\$810
Sword Street	\$35,000	0	\$958
Golf Driving Range	\$350,000	300	\$0
Koa Street South	\$200,000	0	\$2,648
	\$1,180,000	\$500	\$8,182

3. SPORT AND RECREATION NEW ZEALAND'S RURAL TRAVEL FUND

(Memo from the Parks and Recreation Manager – 31.10.07)

An application was furnished in May to Sport and Recreation New Zealand (SPARC) after the Gore District became eligible to apply for contestable funds to cover travel costs of district residents to sporting events. The Council has been granted \$9,000 to distribute via a panel to applicants meeting the strict criteria.

SPARC's Rural Travel Fund is designed to subsidise travel for junior teams participating in local sport competitions. It was developed in response to concerns raised by Councils about the lack of participation in sport by young people living in rural communities. Geographical isolation, urban drift, and lack of employment opportunities and access to mainstream funding were identified as barriers to sport participation.

The Rural Travel Fund is open to rural sports clubs and rural school teams in Council areas that have less than 10 people per square kilometre. The fund is for young people aged between five and 19 years who require subsidies to assist with transport expenses to local sporting competitions. (The fund is not available for travelling to regional or national events.)

The fund is managed by local Councils. Each Council has a limited amount of money and distributes the fund as they see fit. The Council decides on its own assessment process, based on the resources they have. It is up to each Council to communicate the process to applicants. Councils should satisfy themselves that the public money distributed from the fund has been used for the purpose for which it was intended. SPARC has produced guidelines to help Councils with this.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Council appoint a panel of four people comprising the Parks and Recreation Manager, a representative from Sport Southland and two Councillors, (quorum of three) to act as the Contestable Grant Committee for disbursement of the Rural Travel Fund,

AND THAT the Council's Corporate Support Officer be appointed as the fund administrator.

4. CHRISTMAS PARADE

(Memo from Administration Manager – 06.11.07)

A Christmas parade of floats and associated activities is being organised by a small group of interested people and co-ordinated by the Council. The parade will be held on Sunday 16 December, prior to Christmas in the Park.

A further report covering more detail will be tabled at the meeting.

5. CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK CONCERT

(Memo from Chief Executive - 06.11.07)

Christmas in the Park will this year be held in the Gore gardens on Sunday 16 December, commencing at 3 pm. In response to concerns expressed about confusion surrounding and the disjointed nature of some of the previous years efforts, I have taken a closer interest in this event and have changed the format a little.

A meeting has been held with local Church groups who will commence proceedings at 3 pm with some performances of their own which provides a religious focus on the meaning of Christmas. The Church groups will have a 45 minute time slot in which to put on performances for the public. At this juncture, there may well be a 15 minutes slot for a dance performance by a local group or groups. At 4 pm the full concert kicks into gear with a line up of ten singers backed by a five piece band. The ten singers will each sing three songs apiece which will be a mixture of Christmas songs and songs that connect with the general theme of Christmas of family, home, sharing and caring and good times in summer.

The ten singers who have agreed to take part in this concert are:

- Peter Cairns, Taylor Cairns, Kayla Mahon, Julianne Black, Dylan Hanna, Earl Foran, Bryan Griffith, Kim Sheridan, Mike Hood and Bradley Craig.

Mike Hood is arranging for a professional sound system and a suitable weather proof stage so that the event will take place in the Gore gardens, rain, hail or shine.

The backing band which is about to commence its rehearsals in earnest is made up of the following:

- Chris Phillips (Base), Chris Parish (rhythm guitar) Archie Vettors (lead guitar) Lyndon Copland (piano/keyboards) and myself (drums).

Hopefully performances by all entertainers which I must stress is being done voluntarily, will provide something for all tastes.

While a good deal of planning and hard work is going into the event as always we live, hope and pray that mother nature will play her part as well.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the information be received.

6. GORE DISTRICT COMMUNITY AWARDS

(Memo from Administration Manager – 06.11.07)

The inaugural Gore District Community Awards were held on Saturday 27 October in the form of a gala dinner, guest speaker Eric Rush and culminating with the presentation of six awards.

Following agreement by the previous Council, a new format was developed that saw the Council co-ordinate the calling of nominations in late July of the Eastern Southland Chamber of Commerce's Customer Service Award, two sports awards that had previously been presented via the Mataura Lions Club, the Council's own Civic Award and two new Awards, being Young Achiever and Contribution to Arts and Culture.

Both the Customer Service and Junior Sportsman of the Year awards attracted good numbers of nominations, and it is expected that the other categories will also be well sought after next year.

Following a huge amount of organisation and attention to detail, the awards evening was extremely successful. Many positive and unsolicited comments have been received from a good number of people who attended the evening and all are talking about it being a "must go again" function next year.

The support received from the main sponsor, Solid Energy was superb and very much appreciated. The contribution of the Mataura Licensing Trust is also acknowledged. A key aim was to make the function as affordable as possible to as many people from the community and I believe this was achieved.

Along with announcing the winners of each category, another highlight of the evening was the awarding of two Civic Awards to Violet Lynch and Kathy and Peter Ashbridge.

Planning has already commenced for the 2008 event, which will be held on Saturday 1 November.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the information be received.

7. DRAFT CONSTITUTION: GORE DISTRICT YOUTH COUNCIL

(Memo from Chief Executive – 01-11-07)

Earlier this year, the Gore District Council approved the establishment of a Youth Council. On 3 August, the Council approved a draft Constitution of the proposed Youth Council for distribution to interested parties for comment. A copy of the draft Constitution, together with a list of the interested parties who were forwarded a copy for perusal and comment are attached.

Also enclosed are copies of the six responses received from interested parties on the draft Constitution.

The following comments are offered in response to suggested amendments submitted by organisations and individuals:

1. Blue Mountain College
 - a. The suggestion of inserting an age range to define the parameters of youth is sensible. An upper limit of 25 to mirror the approach used by the MAYOR'S TASK FORCE FOR JOBS, has logic. At the lower end of the scale the minimum age could be anything from 13 to 16.
 - b. The suggestion put forward appears to be more concerned with semantics or word-smithing. That said, it is a simple matter of deleting the word "more" from the second line of 3(a).
 - c. The total membership of the Youth Council may seem rather large, but based on advice from Invercargill City Council, a larger group is needed because there will be absentees and changing sets of circumstances which will naturally inhibit a full muster of youth councillors being in attendance all the time. If Blue Mountain College believes one representative from its institution would suffice, then there appears to be no reason why the Council should not act in accordance with its wishes.

Church groups were selected to be represented on the Youth Council not because of any particular religious beliefs that they might hold, but in acknowledgement of the fact that some church groups are very active in providing youth programmes. Church groups were included in the

interest of ensuring that all activities and outlets focused on local youth had a formal channel on to the proposed Youth Council.

In a similar vein, Te Iho Awho Rito Health and Social Services was included in the proposed membership of the Youth Council to reflect the fact that it is active in providing services for local youth.

The question posed in respect of the meaning of 4(i) of the Constitution is noted. In simple terms the four youth councillors will be nominated through a public process and this allows youth councillors to come from a wider cross section of the community than that which may occur by the appointment of representatives from the organisations listed under Section 4 of the Constitution.

- d. There appears to be a danger in unnecessarily straight jacketing the new Council by specifying when it is to meet. The times at which the new Youth Council will meet may vary from time-to-time and it is suggested that the meeting times be determined by the new Youth Council rather than the Gore District Council via inserting a nominated time in the Constitution.
- e. Blue Mountain College has correctly identified a typographical error, which will be corrected.
- f. The means and criteria for the election of a representative from Blue Mountain College to be appointed to the new Youth Council would appear to be the sole prerogative of the College. While the College suggested criteria for election of its representative on the Youth Council makes a good deal of sense, it is difficult to feel complete comfort with the suggestion that this election process should be enshrined in the Youth Council's Constitution.

2. Gore High School

The Rector of Gore High School appears to make the suggestion that as the School role is significantly higher in number than St Peters College, Gore High School should have a greater number of representatives on the Youth Council. This approach if adopted would differ from the practice used in the senior student essay

competition where three finalists from each of the two Gore based high schools are chosen.

3. Public Health South

- a. While the principal aim of the Youth Council will obviously be to focus on issues effecting youth, there is no reason why other matters or issues affecting the whole community can occupy the attention of the new entity. Therefore it is suggested that there is merit in expanding the role of the new Youth Council to consider a wide ambit of community issues.
- b. The suggestion of producing a strategic plan and an annual plan of activities, while understandable, does appear to be a little bureaucratic. While the new Youth Council may indeed produce an annual plan of activities, I do think there is a danger of older people constraining younger minds with challenging compliance oriented documentation.
- c. The determination of local youth needs and resources and a separate objective about identifying the particular issues that effect young Maori in the Gore District are suggestions worthy of serious consideration.
- d. A number of good suggestions have been made to assist with clarifying the membership of the Youth Council. Responding to the specific points raised:
 - An age range for youth councillors has already been suggested in response to the submission made by Blue Mountain College.
 - Staff resourcing of the Youth Council is a matter that is still being worked through and will do and will chiefly be determined by the number of other social/community development initiatives that the Council may launch or be actively engaged in.
 - With respect I do wonder whether a two year term is needed. Is this concept more reflective of mature and organised minds imposing their will on younger, less structured, but perhaps more creative minds? The question must surely be asked as to what benefits would accrue from finite terms being enshrined within the constitution?

- Maori representation over and above that already forwarded via Te Iho Awho Rito Health and Social Services will need to be seriously considered by the Council.
- Paragraph 4(l) needs to have 20 inserted for the word 2 to reflect that the maximum membership will be 22.

4. Harley Ware

- a. With all due respect to the suggestion put forward, there does need to be a touch of realism in terms of the commitment and input expected of a youth councillor. It is not solely about the Council investing in individuals, but also individuals providing ideas, energy and commitment, which will hopefully in turn be reciprocated by a supportive and caring Council. The investment in individuals being sought should be directed via the group in total ensuring that adequate support and servicing of the Youth Council does occur. It is suggested that the investment by the Council in servicing and supporting the Youth Council will deliver an individual benefit to youth councillors.
- b. It is somewhat difficult to see the need for an impartial person to work alongside the Gore District Council and Councillors in order to see that individual members of the Council are receiving an appropriate level of investment. It is suggested that the Gore District Councillor appointed to the Youth Council can fulfil a vital role in guiding and mentoring individual youth councillors.

5. Marty Redhead

A supportive submission, which does not require any specific comment.

6. Family Works

No specific comment required.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Committee consider the responses to the draft Constitution of the Gore District Youth Council and make recommendations for amendments to be submitted for endorsement by the full Council.