



**REPORT OF THE ORDINARY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON TUESDAY 12
FEBRUARY 2008, AT 4:00 pm.**

PRESENT His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks JP), Cr Harvey (Chairperson) Crs Bolger, Davis, Dixey, Dixon, Gardyne, Grant, Heller, Highsted, McLennan and Sharp.

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), Roothing Manager (Mr Murray Hasler), Asset Manager, Utilities (Mr Ross Haslemore), Library Manager (Mrs Jane Robinson), Hokonui Horizons Co-ordinator (Rachel Eyre), EECA Account Manager (Mr Mike Fairfield), Hokonui PHO Chief Executive (Mr Ian Macara), Hokonui Runanga Representative (Aroha Reid), Budget Advisor (Mrs Jenny Buchanan), Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Jo Waddell) and four members of the public in the Gallery.

1. COMMUNITY SERVICES BULLETIN

The Committee perused the Community Services Bulletin containing reports from the District Arts and Heritage Curator, District Promotion and i-SITE Visitor Information Centre, Library Manager, Parks and Recreation Manager and Aquatic Services Manager.

Report of the District Promotion and i-SITE Visitor Information Centre (18.18)

His Worship said he had spent time with the Tamworth Queen on her recent visit and was sure she would visit Gore again. He congratulated the Senior Consultant for hosting the Queen.

Report of the Library Manager (25.1)

Cr Harvey congratulated the staff for an excellent children's programme with special thanks to Jenny Smith and Valmai Redhead.

Report of the Parks and Recreation Manager (18.1.2)

Cr Heller said the gardens and flower beds around the town were a credit to both the Parks and Recreation Manager and the staff.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Dixey, seconded by Cr Heller, THAT the Community Services Bulletin be received.

Cr Gardyne attended the meeting from 4:09 pm.

2. PRESENTATION ON HEALTHY HOMES INITIATIVE (18.77)

The Co-ordinator for Hokonui Horizons, Mrs Rachel Eyre, together with Energy Efficiency Conservation Authority (EECA) Account Manager Mr Mike Fairfield, Hokonui PHO Chief Executive, Mr Ian Macara, Hokonui Runanga representative, Aroha Reid and Budget Advisor, Mrs Jenny Buchanan were in attendance and spoke about the healthy homes initiative.

The Co-ordinator gave a brief explanation on the healthy homes initiative which had arisen from a poverty forum held by Hokonui Horizons in 2007 in an attempt to alleviate such issues.

The initiative provided money for energy efficiency retro-fitting of homes built before 1980 and occupied by low income families and it could benefit an estimated 3000 people in the Gore District. The healthy homes interest group was seeking active involvement from the community and the Council. From the compelling evidence presented and with EECA's financial contribution of 40%, it was hoped that the Council would agree the initiative had merit for the District. A pilot scheme had already been established by the Hokonui PHO with ten homes retro-fitted and monitoring of the people who lived in those homes had resulted in a marked improvement in their health.

Cr Harvey thanked the speakers for their presentation.

Cr Sharp asked what it would cost to insulate an average house.

Mr Fairfield replied the average cost would be approximately \$2,200 to \$2,500.

In response to Cr Dixey, the Account Manager advised that the Bluff Healthy Homes initiative was still progressing although it had come to a standstill over the summer months. The project had been a success over the last two years with half of the houses requiring insulation (pre 1978) being retro-fitted. It had been funded by EECA, Rio Tinto and the Community Trust of Southland.

The Co-ordinator advised that Bluff Healthy Homes had extended an invitation to any interested parties who would like to view its achievements.

In response to Cr McLennan, the Account Manager advised a 55% subsidy of the insulation cost was offered to landlords for insulating their properties. A landlord was not allowed to increase the rent for a six month period or sell the house for a two year period after insulation had been completed.

In response to Cr Grant, the insulation was installed under the floors, in the ceiling and any drafts were fixed.

Cr Dixey asked whether there were two levels of assistance available.

The Account Manager responded that EECA provided for interest free loan to middle income households which could be repaid over a five year period. Lower income households would be provided with free insulation if funding was available, however, there were some instances where EECA had worked with Work and Income and the cost was deducted from their benefit over a period of five years.

Cr Gardyne asked if the Community Trust, Hokonui PHO and any other organisations had been approached and what their responses were. He wondered whether central government would be willing to contribute to the scheme with pending tax cuts. He believed that the scheme could fund itself.

The Account Manager agreed there would be a 34% saving in energy consumption which could be applied to fund the loan thereby making it self funding.

The Co-ordinator added that a meeting had been held with all the organisations who wished to be involved.

The Chief Executive of the Hokonui PHO said it was behind the initiative and had funded the pilot of ten homes in the Gore District.

Cr Heller asked if EECA would provide 40% of the cost for a project in Gore.

The Account Manager said at present EECA was planning for 225 homes to be included in Southland and would contribute 40% of that cost.

In response to Cr Sharp, the Account Manager said it was too early in the project to know much it could cost the Council to fund the insulation for an average home in the Gore District.

His Worship congratulated those who had presented the initiative to the Council. It had outlined a real need in the community and he hoped there was a way for the Council to remedy it. To be a responsible Council, it needed to be party to this initiative and gathering partners was the key to a way forward.

The Chief Executive said the Council needed to consider what its role would be with a project of this kind. Before the Local Government Act 2002, it would be clear to what was needed from the Council. However, it had an obligation to recognise the social wellbeing of the community. As the Account Manager had shown there was not too much doubt from the compelling evidence that a positive change was needed and he thought the Council could endorse the initiative in principle.

The Account Manager departed the meeting at 4:57 pm.

Cr Davis asked why the DHB had not been involved in the pilot scheme.

The Hokonui PHO Chief Executive advised the DHB had advised it did not have the time to be involved so the PHO had taken the project on itself.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of His Worship, seconded by Cr Sharp THAT the Council approve being part of a healthy homes initiative in the Gore District in principle,

THAT the Council authorise further work on a specific proposal in order that the level of support for a healthy homes initiative can be determined,

AND THAT the Council nominate representatives on local and regional Healthy Homes Committees.

3. RESERVES ROTARY HOE (18.71)

A memo had been received from the Parks and Recreation Manager about the replacement of the Reserves Department's rotary hoe. Although the existing rotary hoe was not up for replacement until 2010, the incumbent machine was not delivering the level of service required. As a result, the Manager recommended a new Grille G107D rotary hoe priced at \$5,861.35 plus GST be purchased prior to the upcoming planting season to be funded from the current years Parks and Reserves Capex budget.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Dixey, THAT the Council approve the replacement of the Reserves rotary hoe, utilising funds available in the current years Parks and Reserves Capex Account.

4. SPORT SOUTHLAND PROJECT (50.34.1)

A memo from the Parks and Recreation Manager had been received, together with a copy of the six monthly report to December 2007 from the Sport Southland Co-ordinator, Richard Pasco about the recreational programming services provided under its contract to the Council.

The Parks and Recreation Manager commended Mr Pasco and his team for the work Sport Southland did.

Cr Harvey thought a stronger programme was required during the school holidays.

Cr Dixey was concerned the petanque courts at the Gore Main School field were not being utilised and wondered if Sport Southland could be requested to promote them.

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

The meeting concluded at 5:06 pm