

REPORT OF THE ORDINARY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON TUESDAY 11 MARCH 2008, AT 4:11 pm.

PRESENT His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks JP), Cr Davis (Chairperson), Crs Bolger, 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), Arts and Heritage Curator (Mr Jim Geddes), Library Manager (Mrs Jane Robinson), Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Jo Waddell) and six members of the public in the Gallery.

APOLOGY Cr Harvey apologised for absence.

1. OPERATIONS BULLETIN

The Committee perused the operations bulletin containing reports from the Roothing Manager, Asset Manager, Utilities and the Animal Control Contractor.

Report of the Roothing Manager (2.1.7)

The Roothing Manager said it was business as usual with the completion of the pre reseal repairs being the main focus. The rooding department was pleased with the rain which would help with the maintenance of the District's gravel roads.

Cr Bolger noticed in the programmed maintenance works for March there was depression levelling repairs to be carried out and he asked if that was carried out pre-reseal.

The Roothing Manager advised it was pre-reseal to take out any ponds or shallow depressions. With the lack of rain it had made it difficult to identify some of them.

Cr Gardyne asked if there would be a follow up inspection on rural roads for noxious weed spraying.

The Roothing Manager advised that his assistant would audit the spraying as well as Works. Touch ups would then be carried out on those areas that had been missed or where growth had occurred since being sprayed.

Report of the Asset Manager, Utilities (2.1.7)

The General Manager, District Assets advised that the hosing ban was still in place but the recent rain was having an effect and it would hopefully be lifted on Thursday 13 March.

Report of the Animal Control Contractor (34.3)

In response to Cr Sharp, Cr Davis assumed that some of the 19 wandering dogs would be unregistered.

In response to Cr Gardyne, the Chief Executive advised that the Council was required by law to impound a dog for seven days and if it was not claimed, then the dog was destroyed. If the dog was registered the owner was contacted and required to pay a pound release fee.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Highsted, seconded by Cr Sharp, THAT the Operations Bulletin be received.

2. CHARLTON ROAD SPEED PROBLEMS (3.1.3)

A report had been received from the Roothing Manager, together with a copy of a signed petition from residents concerned about the speed of traffic along Charlton Road. The petition sought a permanent speed restriction or other improvements be installed. As the traffic volume had significantly increased over the past few years, it was obvious that the risk of a crash was inevitable. If Land Transport NZ's criteria was met for an application of reduced speed restrictions, it would be at a relatively low cost to the Council. However, the construction of a footpath alongside the road could cost approximately \$30,000.

The Roothing Manager said the issue had arisen because of the high amount of development along Charlton Road from the existing speed restriction to Terry Road and beyond to the substation. It was a very popular road for cyclists and pedestrians and as the petition stated, it needed to be made safer for all those involved.

In response to Cr Davis, the Roothing Manager advised there was a rigid procedure to set speed limits or restrictions with three

surveys required by Land Transport NZ; activity to measure the amount of development, speed and traffic counters. The information gathered was put into a national formula and it collated what the allowable speed limit would be. A lot of care needed to be taken when setting a speed limit otherwise it could be ignored by motorists.

Cr Bolger said it looked like a sensible and reasonable recommendation and a footpath could be a solution in the future.

Cr Dixey believed Waimea Street had a similar problem with speeding motorists.

His Worship noted he had received comments about that street in the past.

The Roding Manager said there were a number of similar areas, Racecourse Road, a section of McKinnon Road and Wentworth Street which needed to be reviewed.

Cr Davis asked if these other streets would be brought before the Council in the future.

Cr Gardyne asked if LTNZ undertook the surveying and whether the Council given any latitude as it was a national formula being used to set the speed limit.

The Roding Manager advised the Council carried out the survey and collation of data. LTNZ would be provided with the information but there was no latitude, it had rules to abide by not guidelines. The Council could be forced to remove the speed restriction if the rules were not met.

In response to Cr Davis, the Roding Manager advised a survey could take several weeks and then would be brought back to the Council. Any change would require an amendment to the Bylaw.

Cr Dixon asked if the Council could rezone the area as urban and whether that would fix the problem?

Cr Davis thought that was a separate issue and the Council would need to look into it in the future.

Cr Grant noted that Charlton Road had a very high rate of heavy traffic compared to the other areas mentioned.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Heller, THAT a survey be undertaken to determine what, if any, reduction in speed limit can be imposed from the

substation to the existing 50km/hr speed restriction sign on Charlton Road,

AND THAT a footpath extension option west along Charlton road be investigated and cost estimates be provided to the Council.

The meeting concluded at 4:24 pm