



**REPORT OF THE GORE DISTRICT YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING,
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON
TUESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2008, AT 7:32 pm**

PRESENT Crs Dixey, Highsted and Youth Crs D Luoni (Chairman), K Barron, J Bone, M Hansen, N Dickson, R Gibson, J Jenkinson, R King, F Maslin, E Paterson, A Rennie, B Stark and H White.

IN ATTENDANCE Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Jo Waddell).

APOLOGIES M Boyd apologised for absence.

1. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED on the motion of J Jenkinson, seconded by J Bone, THAT the report of the Youth Council meeting held on Tuesday 19 August 2008, be accepted as an accurate and complete record.

Cr Dixey asked what funds had been made available from Gore High School for the National Hoodie Day.

K Barron said she would be able to confirm at the next meeting.

Clause 5 – Art/Graffiti Exhibition Sub-committee

D Luoni reminded the chairs of the two sub-committees to set the wheels in motion to organise both events. Those members who had not been assigned a sub-committee would be part of the social event by default.

Cr Dixey advised the Gore A & P Showground was able to provide the Showground as the venue for the exhibition. He thought a grant could be obtained from the Eastern Southland Community Arts Council to cover the cost of the paint.

Clause 6 – Youth Forum

D Luoni said he had spoken with S Jones who had advised that the Council was only in a position to pay for him to attend the Youth Forum. If there were others who wished to go, other avenues for funding would need to be approached.

2. CALVIN CHURCH COMMUNITY CHURCH YOUTH GROUP

Marty Redhead, the Calvin Community Church Youth Pastor was in attendance and spoke about his role and the various programmes available at the church. There were three different youth groups held every Friday night to cater for kids aged between 10 and 18 years. Various events such as the recently held barn dance and EXO Day, to be held in December, were organised on a regular basis. He expected about 700 youths to attend EXO Day.

Cr Highsted asked how the youth groups were funded.

M Redhead advised the Church was the main funder although he had applied for funding from other organisations for the EXO Day. Most events were self funded with a usual charge of \$5 per person. The weekly youth groups were free to attend.

Cr Dixey noted there could be funding available from SYNOD as it was looking to expand to help with youth in the wider community.

M Redhead confirmed SYNOD had been fantastic and as a rule he found most funders were generous in funding youth orientated projects.

Cr Dixey asked if the Church could be used as a drop in centre and whether it provided after school care.

M Redhead said the Church had not taken any steps in that direction. He thought it would be great to be able to have a centre available every day of the week and he supported the formation of a youth centre. He confirmed the recent barn dance had been well supported with over 100 youths in attendance. He supported the Youth Council and thought it was good to see the members profiles in the paper.

3. RESULTS OF THE SURVEY FOR OUT OF SCHOOL CARE

F Maslin advised the results from St Peters had been mislaid. However, the results from both schools had been similar.

N Dickson had a draft copy of the results but would tidy it up and table at the next meeting.

4. ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED FROM GREY POWER

A letter had been received from Mr Dick Stark from the New Zealand Grey Power Federation asking the following questions of the Youth Council.

Question 1

At the recent Government Hearing Loss Advisory Committee meeting, concern was expressed at the increasing numbers of young people suffering from impaired hearing and that an awareness campaign should be initiated through Schools to recognise this. Was this the way to go and if so how should it be presented?

J Jenkinson said he was not aware of any hearing awareness campaign being run at St Peters College and did not think it was part of the health syllabus. He asked whether Grey Power wanted a survey done or did it already have results of what hearing issues were for youth.

Cr Dixey said it had been identified as a health problem as more people were suffering hearing loss at a younger age.

Cr Highsted said when people join the workforce, it had been identified there was already a hearing problem with many young people. Loud music was a contributing factor.

J Jenkinson suggested advertising campaigns on television would be more effective than in school.

F Maslin suggested flyers could be put up around the schools.

K Barron said youths were more open to information outside of school and agreed advertising on television had merit.

J Jenkinson suggested hearing tests be available at secondary schools not just at primary level.

Cr Highsted suggested hearing awareness could be included with the careers evening as a link to the next stage of life after leaving school.

Question 2

What was the best promotion through schools to ask for responsibility in the partaking of drugs and alcohol?

D Luoni suggested it would be more beneficial to ask the schools as it was already compulsory for year 10 students.

J Jenkinson thought schools already had a pretty thorough programme to deal with drugs and alcohol issues.

Cr Dixey suggested posters in schools.

Question 3

Was peer pressure at schools a problem and did parents set enough reasonable and helpful standards that were acceptable or were those standards out of date to cope with today's expectations?

K Barron suggested the schools guidance counsellor's and teachers would be in a better position to answer it. She felt that students would not tell their peers if they were under pressure.

D Luoni said there were two types of pressure, positive and negative.

R King said all families were different and it was difficult to know whether their standards were out of date.

F Maslin thought parents were well aware of the issues for this generation.

Cr Dixey said each generation had a new set of problems to deal with. Bullying over the internet had not been an issue during most parent's childhood and it could be difficult for parents to relate to these new problems.

D Luoni felt standards had changed but it was not the Youth Council's place to talk about moral fibre.

Cr Highsted thought a survey could give a gauge on the standards and peer pressure.

Cr Dixey felt it could be difficult to get a survey opinion.

5. LETTER FROM NATHAN JUDD – YOUTH WORKER

A letter had been received from Nathan Judd, Gore and District Youth Worker and was tabled at the meeting. Unfortunately Nathan was unable to attend the meeting but the letter provided an outline on his role and established contact between himself and the Youth Council.

Cr Dixey said it was good to see his link with Child Youth and Family Services. Students could go to Nathan for counselling if they needed it.

6. REPORT FROM CR DIXEY

Cr Dixey reported the new toilets in the Main Street would be finalised at the September Council meeting. It would make the toilets a much safer place. He mentioned the recent residents survey of the Gore District. At the Council's September

Committee meetings, Mr Richard Pasco from Sport Southland had been in attendance and spoke about the various walking tracks he wished to set up. He had contacted Andrew Allan about the possibility of setting up a supervised motorbike riding track and was on the look out for a ten acre block.

Cr Highsted said most other communities had a track and he thought Gore should try it. It would be user pays with the service groups supervising for fundraising.

7. YOUTH FORUM

J Jenkinson asked whether the funds raised from Hoodie Day could be used to send someone else to the Youth Forum. He would like to go but was happy to fund his own trip.

D Luoni thought the funds should be used for the exhibition or concert rather than going to the Youth Forum.

F Maslin thought the funds should be used for future operations.

N Dickson said the funds were raised for youth so they should be used for youth orientated projects.

D Luoni reported it was costing \$820 for him to attend the Youth Forum which covered airfares, accommodation and registration.

Cr Dixey felt there would be an opportunity in the future to send others to the Youth Forum. He was concerned it would not be beneficial. He asked the Chairman to provide a written report for the Youth Council afterwards.

F Maslin thought it was unrealistic for anyone else to attend at this stage, however, the Council could decide to attend again in the future if it was worth it.

Date of next meeting – 21 October 2008 at 7:30 pm.

The meeting concluded at 8:19 pm.