

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 11 NOVEMBER 2008, AT 4 pm

**Stephen Parry
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

5 November 2008

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COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE AGENDA

NOVEMBER 2008

1. COMMUNITY SERVICES BULLETIN

The Community Services Bulletin comprising reports from the District Arts and Heritage Curator, Parks and Recreation Manager, Library Manager, and Aquatic Services Manager is enclosed with the agenda.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Bulletin be received.

2. COUNCIL PARTICIPATION IN AOTEAROA PEOPLE'S NETWORK

(Memo from Library Manager – 31.10.08)

Purpose

To reach a decision regarding Gore District Council's participation in a joint Otago/Southland application for the Phase 3 rollout of the Aotearoa People's Network (APN).

Background

The Aotearoa People's Network programme owes its origins to a similar programme in the United Kingdom entitled The People's Network. The programme in the United Kingdom was implemented in over 4000 public libraries, providing PCs, staff training and free internet access.

The Aotearoa People's Network (APN) is one of the major projects to come out of the New Zealand Digital Strategy. It is overseen by the National Library of New Zealand and addresses all three strands of the digital strategy.

These three strands are:

- Connectivity- offering broadband access to internet tools and services on capable machinery to anyone using the computer;
- Confidence – offering an environment where people can safely learn and/or enhance their knowledge and capabilities around the use of ICT; and
- Content – offering universal access to content using these computers and deposit of stories, history or general content.

The guiding principles of the APN are that:

- New Zealanders have free and facilitated access to the internet, digital tools and services and are able to deposit content into community and national repositories;
- New Zealanders need help to work within the digital world and this will be made available by competent and knowledgeable staff in a library or in an online setting;
- The network will be available to New Zealanders everywhere.

Rollout of the APN is in phases. Phase 1 has already been completed, Phase 2 was due in September/October 2008 with Phase 3 following in 2009. The closing date for applications for Phase 3 is 19 December 2008. When Phase 3 is completed, 29 local bodies (87 libraries) will be part of the network.

Recently APN has received an additional \$2 million from central government to extend the service into more communities.

Successful libraries are gifted:

- Hardware with a four year warranty and a range of software (each PC is valued at approximately \$1,600);
- Installation and provision of a standalone network;
- Increased bandwidth;
- Connection charges for two years; and
- Dedicated technical support.

Libraries need to provide furniture and staff training.

Options

Option 1

Gore District Council decides to join the Otago/Southland joint submission process.

Option 2

Gore District Council decides not to join the Otago/Southland joint submission process.

Social Wellbeing Impact

Option 1 is considered to have a beneficial impact on present and future social wellbeing because the APN benefits anyone who has access to a public library. It opens up the digital world to everyone, not just to those who can afford it. APN also provides an opportunity to upskill communities so that they are better able to engage with the technology of today. A report recently published stated “there were numerous examples of adult users who had learned to do new things through interacting with the APN” *

Option 2 is considered to have a less beneficial impact on present and future social wellbeing as this option would retain the status quo ie internet access is available only to those who can afford it.

Economic Wellbeing Impact

Option 1 is considered to have a cost to present and future economic wellbeing through loss of income generated from the provision of internet services in both libraries. Income generated in 2007-2008 was \$6,438.00.

This loss of income should be considered against the value of the gifted hardware, connectivity and support network provided when joining the APN. PCs are valued at approximately \$1,600

each and it is envisaged that 9 PCs would be provided at Gore library and 3 at Mataura library.

Hardware is guaranteed for four years. Replacement of the hardware would be the responsibility of the Council.

Hardware would be subject to GDC's depreciation policy.

After the two year 'gratis' period there may be a requirement to negotiate a contribution to any ongoing connection charges.

There is an option to withdraw from the network after the two year 'gratis' period if connection charges become untenable.

Option 2 is considered to have less of an impact on economic wellbeing as the status quo would remain and replacement costs of hardware etc would be through natural obsolescence.

Cultural Wellbeing

Option 1 is considered to have a beneficial impact on present and future cultural wellbeing because in addition to accessing content, users will also be able to create and reposit their own content. The vision, goals and objectives of APN revolve around people and their communities – our customers and users. The experience of other libraries that have joined APN is that the free internet service brings in sectors of the community who have traditionally not been library users but who then go on to use the other services the library provides. "In many cases the presence of the APN in libraries has transformed those libraries into meeting places for new types of library users" *

Option 2 is considered to have a less beneficial impact on present and future cultural wellbeing as this option would retain the status quo.

Impact on Promotion of Community Outcomes

Free internet access has a positive impact on both of the library service's community outcomes:

Lifestyle and Culture – "Southland is a great place to live"

Education and Training – "a well-educated and skilled community continually seeking further opportunities to learn"

Impact on LTCCP

The forthcoming LTCCP would need to allow for:

Expenditure on suitable furniture (tables and chairs) = \$8,064.00.

Cost of replacing hardware in 2013 = \$12,000 (12 x \$1,000)
Staff training = \$ 960.00

Conclusion

The relatively minor cost of this initiative, the gift of new assets and the removal of barriers to enhance community outcomes would suggest that the Council should affirm its involvement in the application process.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Council agree to participate in a joint Otago/Southland application to the Aotearoa People's Network.

** National Library of New Zealand (2008). Aotearoa People's Network impact evaluation 2008.*

3. GORE DISTRICT COMMUNITY AWARDS

(Memo from Administration Manager – 03.11.08)

The second Gore District Community Awards were held on Saturday 1 November in the form of a gala dinner, guest speaker Sarah Ulmer and culminating with the presentation of eight awards before a sell-out crowd of 360 people.

The new format that had been developed for the inaugural awards in 2007 was cemented this year. The Council again co-ordinated the calling of nominations in August of the following awards:

- *Young Achiever of the Year*
- *Contribution to Arts and Culture*
- *Toastmasters Communicator of the Year*
- *Soroptimist International of Gore Woman Achiever of the Year*
- *Eastern Southland Junior Sportsperson of the Year*
- *Eastern Southland Sportsperson of the Year*
- *Newslink-Southland Times Eastern Southland Chamber of Commerce Customer Service Award*
- *Gore District Civic Award*

In particular, the Junior Sportsperson of the Year awards attracted 16 nominations from an obvious depth of talent within the Gore District.

Following a huge amount of organisation and attention to detail, the awards evening was again extremely successful. Many positive and welcome 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 principal sponsor, Solid Energy was superb and very much appreciated. The contribution of the Mataura Licensing Trust is also acknowledged. The key aim was to make the function as affordable as possible to as many people from the community and I believe this was achieved. For the ticket price of \$30 patrons were treated to a superb four course meal, some refreshments, the guest speaker and the presentation of the awards. As intimated above, the event was sold out almost 10 days prior to it being held and there were a number of disappointed potential customers who were simply not able to be accommodated.

Along with announcing the winners of each category, another highlight of the evening was the awarding of the Civic Award to Thistle and Hec Macdonald.

Planning has already commenced for the 2009 event, which will be held on Saturday 31 October.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the information be received.