

REPORT OF THE ORDINARY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2008, AT 4:22 pm.

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

IN ATTENDANCE General Manager, District Assets (Mr Paul Withers), General Manager, Corporate Services (Mr Russell Duthie), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Roading Manager (Mr Murray Hasler), Planning Consultant (Mr Keith Hovell), Asset Manager, Utilities (Mr Ross Haslemore), Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Tracey Millan) and four members of the public in the Gallery.

APOLOGY Cr Dixon apologised for absence.

1. OPERATIONS BULLETIN

The Committee perused the Operations Bulletin containing reports from the Animal Control Contractor, Roading Manger, Asset Manager, Utilities and the Civil Defence Officer

Report of the Animal Control Contractor (34.4.1)

Cr Davis thought that people seemed to be more aware now about the need to clean up after their dogs, after visiting Hamilton Park.

Cr Sharp queried the large number of wandering dogs for the month.

Cr Davis noted that being the time of year when female dogs were in season, probably added to the problem. She thought the Contractor did a good job.

Report of the Roading Manager (2.1.7)

The Roading Manager said that the public meeting of the grading demonstration had been a very beneficial experience to

observe, and all of the participants now had a better understanding of each others positions.

Construction projects that Works Infrastructure were undertaking for the Council were well ahead of schedule. The tracks and seals on Otama Hill Road and its bridge approaches were completed.

Cr Davis said that it was pleasing to be ahead of schedule and thanked the Roothing Manager for organising the grading demonstration.

Cr Gardyne inquired now that the maintenance metalling programme was coming to a conclusion for the season, could the Council have a update on a total amount of metalling used for the season and also asked if a copy of the tracks and seals programme was available.

The Roothing Manager advised that at the last count 35,000 cubic metres of gravel had been placed on various roads throughout the district over the past three years. This had been slightly above the requirement and a little more than had been scheduled. Shanks Road at Tukurau and some smaller sites at various intersections and single lane bridge approaches still required tracks and seals work that would be done towards the end of the season.

Report of the Asset Manager, Utilities (2.1.7)

The Asset Manager, Utilities reported the figure for general refuse for October had been 593 tonnes. This was the largest amount ever recorded in one month.

The Actiflo plant had begun operation on 7 November and full commissioning would take place on 12 November with two technicians from Australia on site. Councillors would be advised when the plant was fully operational, so they could observe the plant in operation.

Report of the Civil Defence Officer (45.6.1)

Cr Dixey thought the pandemic exercise had been very informative.

His Worship thought the display had been a good idea but suggested that in future such exhibits could be situated in a busier place, perhaps a supermarket or the library..

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

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2. DRAINAGE CONNECTIONS (9.3.1)

A memo had been received from the General Manager, District Assets regarding a recent sewer lateral failure in Bangor Street, Mataura.

The General Manager, District Assets gave an overview of his report and proposed recommendations.

The Chief Executive said that a policy crafted could never take away the human element, as there would always be grey areas between the Council and property owners.

His Worship thought the proposal was sensible and represented a fair solution. If a situation was dragged out, a public health situation could eventuate.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr McLennan, seconded by Cr Sharp, THAT the report be received,

THAT the Council in response to drainage connections and the parameters of responsibility between the Council and property owners dated 23 July 1996, be rescinded,

THAT the Council approve the following policy on responsibility for repairs and maintenance of drainage connections in the Gore District,

THAT the point of discharge be defined as set out in Clause 2.5.2 Option (b) of NZS 9201 (Point of Discharge – Single Ownership) for the Gore District drainage as represented in Figure 1 below,

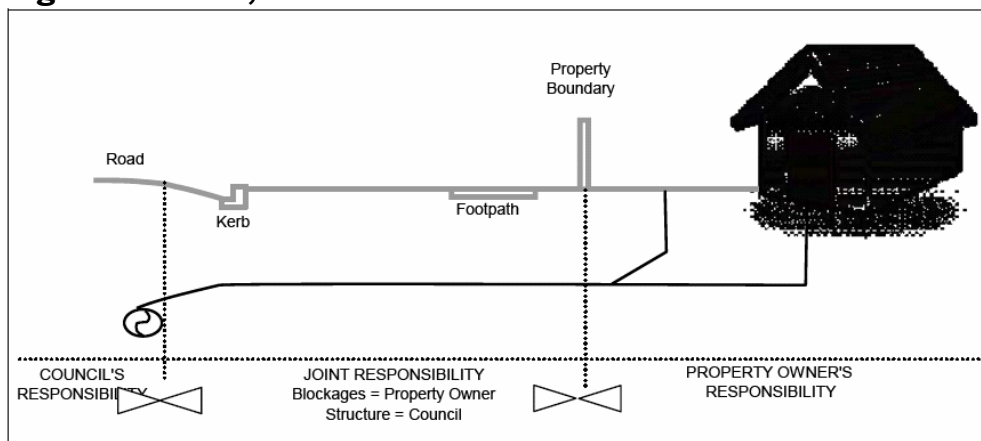


Figure 1

THAT the Council be responsible in the event of a drain blockage by roots from street trees or structural failure other than age related failures and pay all costs involved,

THAT the Council be responsible if similar problems occur on private property due to a blockage in the trunk sewer and pay all costs involved.

AND THAT all blockages occurring as a result of actions by an occupier be the responsibility of the property owner.

2. SOUTHLAND WASTE MANAGEMENT AND MINIMISATION PLAN
(10.18)

A memo had been received from the General Manager, District Assets regarding the Southland Waste Minimisation Plan that had come into effect on 25 September 2008.

The Act introduced a levy of \$10+GST per tonne of refuse discharge into land fill from 1 July 2009.

The General Manager, District Assets said the \$10 per tonne would go into the Waste Minimisation Fund and give the opportunity to submit to claim some of the levy back as it progressed forward. A component of the \$10 per tonne would go to the contestable fund and the other component would go back to the community to use.

His Worship said the Act had been set up ultimately, to minimise waste, regardless of where the waste came from.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Dixey , seconded by Cr McLennan , THAT the information be received.

4. WEST GORE SCHOOL, ROBERTSON STREET – SCHOOL CROSSING (3.24.2)

A report had been received from the Roothing Manager regarding the provision of a safer school crossing on Robertson Street, Gore at the West Gore School.

There had been a request from West Gore School and children for the Council to look into a proposal. Three options were provided in the report.

The Manager advised that there were two sides to the issue. The West Gore School and community believed there was a problem. There had been near misses, and there was real potential for an accident to happen. Parents of school children

in the past had not allowed their children to walk to school because of the hazard on Robertson Street of speeding traffic and the wide width of the road. This had affected the numbers sited when the hazard had been investigated.

A safety engineer from the Land Transport Safety Authority had been involved with what had been proposed, however adjacent residents had concerns that they could lose some on-street parking.

The Manager said the issue came down to a decision between the priority of safety and losing parking. The trial would determine if the crossing could physically work.

Cr Davis said that when children cycled around the bulbous crossing, it could put cyclists in the line of traffic, so would it be possible for the cyclists to cycle over the kerbs.

The Manager advised there was adequate room for both a cyclist and traffic as the road was very wide.

Cr Dixey had been on patrol at West Gore School in the past and thought the bulbous kerbs were a good idea.

Cr Harvey had also patrolled in past. He thought the trial should go ahead to let property owners see if it worked. He thought the second part of the recommendation was a little presumptuous until the trial was completed.

Cr Highsted, who was Chairman of the West Gore Board of Trustees advised the problem had been identified by the children and had been driven by the community and the Board. The situation also affected Longford and St Peters students. He asked what an estimated cost would be for the trial to go ahead.

The Roding Manager had estimated a trial would cost several hundred dollars. If kerbing and signage went ahead the cost would be approximately \$10-\$15,000. The cost could be funded from the minor safety works account, and monies were available for the project if necessary.

In response to Cr Sharp, The Manager advised that kea crossings had been all over New Zealand for a number of years.

Cr Heller had sympathy for the residents and wanted to know how many children would be utilising the crossing.

Cr Gardyne suggested a normal pedestrian crossing be constructed. He did not like bulbous kerbs as they had been linked to cyclist accidents in the past.

Cr Bolger asked The Manager for clarification on the second part of the recommendation.

The Roading Manager added a satisfactory conclusion would be for the driveway owners still to be able to access their driveways safely without hindrance. He invited Councillors to go and view the accesses themselves.

Cr Bolger reiterated that the Council's priority needed to be safety, not convenience.

Cr Dixey suggested speed restrictions at certain times during the day, as was the case in bigger cities throughout the South Island.

His Worship asked The Manager if road markings instead of a bulbous kerb were an option.

In his view The Manager thought that road marking would not slow traffic down, and might even be illegal. He thought the physical presence of the raised kerbs was what slowed the traffic down. It would be dangerous if a person stood out on the road on painted lines.

His Worship said he was very much in favour of the trial, but results should go back to the Council before anything was set. He thought that a crossing could set a false sense of security, especially near corners. He encouraged Councillors to have a look at the site.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Harvey, seconded by Cr Grant, THAT the Council approve a sand bag trial set out of the proposed kea crossing on Robertson Street, Gore, and return results to the Council for a final decision.

The meeting closed at 6.14 pm.

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