

REPORT OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL, HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, ON TUESDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2010 AT 4.04 PM.

PRESENT His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks JP), Crs Bolger, Davis, Dixey, Dixon, Gardyne (from 4.10pm), Grant, Harvey, Heller, Highsted, McLennan and Sharp.

IN ATTENDANCE The Chief Executive (Mr Steve Parry), General Manager, Corporate Services (Mr Russell Duthie), General Manager, District Assets (Mr Paul Withers), Roading Manager (Mr Murray Hasler), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Asset Manager, Utilities (Mr Ross Haslemore), District Arts and Heritage Curator (Mr Jim Geddes), Library Manager (Mrs Jane Robinson), Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Tracey Millan) and four members of the public in the gallery.

1. SOLID WASTE CONSULTATION (10.15)

A memo had been received from the General Manager, District Assets on the consultation process to be undertaken about the regional solid waste (recycling) proposal. An on-line web page together with extensive media promotion was planned.

The Statement of Proposal that complied with Section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002, was also received.

The General Manager, District Assets presented a navigation demonstration of the website to assist residents in making an informed decision about recycling.

Cr Gardyne now attended the meeting at 4.10pm.

Cr Highsted queried if the opinion tab on the website was sufficiently highlighted for residents to understand that if they used the website to make an opinion, they were not making a submission.

The Manager said a disclaimer was included at the bottom of the page to inform users that an opinion was not binding.

The Chief Executive suggested stating on the form that an opinion was not a submission.

In response to Cr Heller, the General Manager referred back to the words used in the disclaimer on the recycling website, that choices made on progress would heavily influence the Council's ultimate decision on whether to introduce a two bin recycling service. He said using the consultation process only captured people prepared to write a submission. This way the Council could also capture and digest opinions from people who would not otherwise file a submission.

Cr Heller said some people did not have access to computers and he thought the Council was being a bit presumptuous in telling the elderly to visit the library to access the recycling website. He thought a mail out system should be organised asking people for their opinion.

Cr Highsted thought a mail out system was a good idea to reach the elderly as they would probably be the most affected.

Cr Harvey thought it would be imperative for Councillors and Council staff to make themselves available to listen to resident's opinions at stakeholder meetings and at public places.

Cr Heller said when looking at previous trends with the LTCCP process on recycling issues, people were more likely to respond to a yes/no vote, rather than file a written submission.

In response to Cr Dixey, the Manager said the recycling document was a proof of a full paged advert that would be placed in the local Newslink. It would not be distributed to householders.

Cr Gardyne wondered if the email address could be anonymous or voluntary.

The General Manager said on the opinion meter email addresses would be anonymous unless people selected the option for their address to be stored for future contact. The submission form however would still require a name, as usual.

His Worship acknowledged Cr Heller's ideas about wanting other methods of distributing information to the community and receiving feedback.

He congratulated the General Manager on the website initiative; it was another useful tool to gauge resident's opinions and to receive input.

Cr Grant wondered if a provision for opinion feedback could be included in the Newslink advertisement.

The General Manager agreed that could be a good option.

Cr Davis thought the website was a very good initiative and it embraced the new age as most households now had computers, with the exception perhaps of the elderly. A back up plan "B" was required to help inform all residents.

Cr Harvey thought the recent newspaper article that included four case scenarios, probably equated to most residents. The website was a great idea, but not for the computer illiterate.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Graeme Sharp, seconded by Cr Doug Dixey THAT the Council extend the advertising in the newspaper to include the four scenarios and a coupon cut out for residents to state their opinion and return to the Council office.

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Cr Davis said it needed to be stated in the information document that recyclables need to be rinsed.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr McLennan, seconded by Cr Bolger, THAT the report be received,

AND THAT the Council approve the release of the consultation documents for the regional solid waste proposal for public notification and the invitation of submissions.

2010/02

In response to Cr Dixon, the General Manager confirmed that the \$161.05 proposed increase in rates was in addition to the \$80 solid waste fee already included on the annual rate demand.

In response to Cr Heller, the General Manager, Corporate Services confirmed the proposed figure of \$161.05 was correct and GST inclusive.

Cr Heller said he currently put his weekly grass cuttings in his Paddy's bin. Mr Derek Angus had made comments in the Southland Times disputing that green waste was not able to go

to Kings Bend. He said there were no conditions on the landfill concept, so wondered why WasteNet was saying no green waste was allowed in the bins.

The General Manager said there had been much debate over green waste being accepted at landfills. WasteNet colleagues had explained that the consent stated green waste was not permitted at the Kings Bend landfill. It was not exactly stated on the consent, but was on the schedule. The reality for the current proposal was that no green waste would be permitted in the bins, as was the case now.

Cr Grant said he had read a newspaper article recently that quoted the Manager of Kings Bend explaining how electricity would be produced from methane at Kings Bend, and stating that the dumping of green waste at the landfill did not pose a problem.

Cr Heller said he thought people were being bulldozed into the no green waste concept, when it was not 100% correct to begin with.

His Worship asked Cr Heller if he had carried out any research, other than reading opinions in the newspaper.

Cr Dixey wondered why it was necessary to charge ratepayers to dump green waste at the transfer station. A solution might be to waive the charge.

The General Manager said the green waste required extra processing. The Council also needed to be mindful of people from outside the Gore district coming to dump their green waste if there was no charge imposed.

Cr Dixon thought the Council never had enough green waste for its town gardens.

The Parks and Recreation Manager said the Parks Department had fallen short of green waste over the last couple of years. However, not all green waste was suitable for chipping for the gardens.

In response to Cr Harvey, the Chief Executive said the issue of staffing at the transfer station was still in the negotiating stage. Staff had been briefed and would be kept informed.

Cr Dixon wondered what the consequence would be to the Council if nothing was done about recycling.

The General Manager said the Government wanted to promote its target to have no landfills by 2020. It was on track, and landfill dumping was being actively discouraged.

The meeting closed at 4.41 pm.