

# ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

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**REPORT** and **MINUTES** of a meeting of the **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton, on Thursday 6 May, 2008, commencing at 1.30 pm.

**PRESENT:** His Worship the Mayor, M B O'Malley; Councillors R J Kilworth (Chair), R C Beavan, L J Leadley, I J Burgess, J A Kingsbury, P W Reveley, J Sparks and B A Tasker.

Also in attendance Crs K W P Lowe and J A Everest; Chief Executive, Environmental Services Manager, Senior District Planner, Regulatory Manager and Committee Secretary;

**APOLOGIES:** Crs K L Holmes and N A Brown

**Sustained**

## ***Extraordinary Business***

“That pursuant to Section 7(2)(A) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 the following item be introduced as extraordinary business:

- Submission to Environment Canterbury’s draft annual plan 2007/08

*Reason To meet the consultation timeframe*

Leadley/Burgess

**Carried**

## ***Confirmation of Minutes***

“That the minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 20 March 2008, be taken as read and confirmed.”

Beavan/Sparks

**Carried**

## ***Matters Arising***

### **Methven Skatepark**

It was reported that the Methven skatepark has been re-inspected and the Notice to Fix removed.

## ***Activity Reports***

“That the reports be received.”

Leadley/Tasker

**Carried**

### **Building Consent Authority Accreditation**

The Environmental Services Manager updated the Committee on the accreditation process following the IANZ site assessment over 1–3 April 2008. Eight corrective action requests were issued which are now being addressed by staff. IANZ will return to carry out a reassessment on 3 June 2008, and it is anticipated that accreditation will be achieved soon after that date and before the deadline of 30 June 2008.

The Committee heard that there has been significant staff involvement in the process which has reduced available resources for building consent processing and inspections. Council will be required to have a high percentage of consents issued within the 20 day period to meet the requirements of the Act. Two additional building inspector positions have been created as a result of the process.

### **Fencing of Swimming Pools Act Review**

The Environmental Services Manager has prepared a draft submission in response to the Department of Building and Housing’s discussion document on the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act Review.

Mr McKenzie reported that the submission is seeking increased education on the Act and a clearer definition of 'swimming pool'. It was noted that stormwater treatment and detention ponds currently qualify as swimming pools and consideration this situation by the act has been sought; He noted that Spa Pools were another type of swimming pool that Owners often overlooked the need to fence in accordance with the requirements of the act. Submissions are due on 30 June 2008 and he invited comment from Elected Members, plus a copy of the consultation document and draft submission had been placed on the Council website to assist the public in the matter.

### **Small Villages Development Plan**

It was reported that a Council workshop with submitters to the Small Villages Development Plan was held this morning and a number of people took the opportunity to attend and make comment. A further decision making workshop will be required once staff and consultant recommendations have been prepared as a result of the workshop on 06 May 2008.

### **Christian School Development Contribution**

The hearing panel convened on 16 April to consider the application from the Ashburton Christian School. The hearing was adjourned and will reconvene to hear further evidence from the applicant. A date for this is yet to be confirmed.

### **Methven Trotting Club**

The hearing of the Club's consent application was held in Methven on 23 April. The applicant and three submitters presented and the Panel will release its decision once finalised.

### **Ashburton Railway Station Demolition**

The application to demolish the former Ashburton Railway Station building was notified and 71 submissions were received, 61 of which opposed the proposal. Council has appointed a heritage specialist to review the heritage values of the building and the Commissioner to oversee the process (Mr David Collins) has been appointed. The date for the hearing is yet to be confirmed.

### **Extraordinary Business – Submission to ECan**

The Regulatory Manager tabled a submission on air quality which has been lodged in response to Environment Canterbury's draft annual plan 2007/08. Mr Humphries said that the decision to submit was made following a joint ADC/ECan Air Quality public meeting held on 17 April. The submission supports the inclusion of Ashburton in the clean heat programme and the specific provisions for this district, including the 'good prices' option for those who are not eligible.

The Committee supported that the submission include an invitation to ECan to jointly lobby central government on air quality standards on the basis that these standards have been imposed without sufficient central government funding to enable them to be achieved. It was suggested that allocation of sufficient funding and certainty and affordability of electricity supply is also needed. The submission will further request an extension to the date when standards will be required to be met from 2013 to 2015.

Clarification was sought on how the clean heat project funding was allocated in Ashburton, Rangiora, Kaiapoi and Timaru. The Environmental Services Manager advised that the differences relate to the extent of air quality problems in each area. He said that remedial action is rated over a variable number of rateable properties and this is subject to a targeted rate in each community. ECan will be requested to clearly identify this in the consultation document.

“That Council’s submission to Environment Canterbury’s draft annual plan air quality proposal further seeks consideration of –

- the allocation and availability of sufficient central government funding;
- certainty of supply and affordability of electricity; and
- the date for which the air quality standards need to be met be extended to 2015.”

Burgess/Leadley

**Carried**

**Dog Control**

The Regulatory Manager reported that Council’s contractor has been asked to visit specific properties where problems with dogs have been identified; where dogs are found to be unregistered, infringements are issued.

***Heritage Subcommittee***

A meeting of the Heritage Subcommittee was held on 16 April. The Committee was reminded that forthcoming 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary is a celebration of the Ashburton township being settled and it is not intended to be a district-wide event.

***ALAC Partnership Conference***

Cr Burgess spoke briefly about his attendance at the conference. The Committee heard that the link between liquor outlet density and alcohol related problems was a key focus of discussion. He said that alcohol strategies and policies have been identified as useful tools for local authorities if they are to have any influence on the controls of liquor and suggested that Council should proceed with developing its strategy.

***Business transacted with the public excluded (2.17 pm)***

“That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting:

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48 (1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

Item no	General subject of each matter to be considered:	In accordance with Section 48(1) of the Act, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:	
8.1	Confirmation of minutes -20/03/08 District Plan (Plan Change)	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
8.2	District Plan Change	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

Tasker/Kingsbury

**Carried**

The meeting concluded at 2.48 pm.