

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT and **MINUTES** of a meeting of the **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton, on Thursday 22 October 2009, commencing at 1.30 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors R J Kilworth (Chair), L J Leadley, B A Tasker, I J Burgess, J A Kingsbury, P W Reveley and J Sparks.

Also in attendance Crs K L Holmes, K W P Lowe and J A Everest; Environmental Services Manager, Building Services Manager, Regulatory Manager, Senior District Planner, Community Planning Manager and Community Services Officer.

APOLOGIES: His Worship the Mayor, M B O'Malley; Cr R C Beavan (lateness)

Confirmation of Minutes

Reference to Cr Reveley being also in attendance was deleted.

“That the minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 10 September 2009, as amended, be taken as read and confirmed.”

Tasker/Leadley

Carried

Matters Arising

Alcohol in our Lives

The Committee acknowledged that there was considerable work done on this topic and congratulated everyone for their input.

1. That the Environmental Services Committee receives the submission.
2. That the Environmental Services Committee adopts the submission and forward to the Law Commission.”

Burgess/Kingsbury

Carried

Activity Reports

“That the reports be received.”

Leadley/Burgess

Carried

Building Services

The Building Services Manager outlined the consequences of voluntary Property Information Memoranda which becomes effective from 1 February 2010.

Plan Changes

- G & A McPhail – Hearing to be scheduled. Outstanding issues from one objector have been resolved.
- ASCV – Two further submissions received.
- Carters Estate – Six submissions have been received.
- Village Green (Skevington & Ruane) – Over 40 submissions received, the majority being in support of the Plan change.

District Plan Review

The Town Centre Subcommittee has considered the Ashburton town centre concept plan and is supportive of moving forward.

The planning pages on the Council's web site will be updated in the near future with access to the up to date District Plan and FAQs.

Resource Management Act

It was reported that the RMA (Streamlining and Simplifying) Amendment Bill took effect on 1 October 2009. A summary of key changes was included in the Committee's report.

The Senior District Planner and the Community Planning Manager have prepared a submission on the Water Strategy. Issues to address have been identified including the need to understand the legal status of documents proposed in the strategy.

Resource Consents

The proposed Gallery & Museum consent application is still on hold with further information being prepared by Opus.

District Plan Review

Cr Kilworth explained that as part of the District Plan review the zoning of open spaces and reserves was the preferred approach over designating sites, as zoning provided for greater community participation through the resource consent process. There are over 80 parks and reserves, many of which are designated, which allows the Council to make decisions on their use and development as landowner. The District Plan process provides for community input and enables the Council to understand what the community value in their open spaces.

It was also emphasised that the assessment of the feasibility of sites for a sport stadium is a separate process to the District Plan review and the latter did not provide for a stadium without resource consent.

Environmental Health

The Regulatory Manager reported that information is being made available to the public on the need to report concerns about unsanitary housing.

Ashburton's air quality level exceeded its acceptable level on 14 September due to windblown dust. These occurrences adversely affect compliance with the NES and ECan has been reminded of the need to address this with central government.

Reference was made to the differing compliance requirements between ECan and central government.

Cameras are being trialled in areas where frequent littering is occurring. The Committee will be kept informed of this.

Animal Control

Two Court cases are pending in relation to infringement fines.

Reports of dogs fouling on Methven streets will be followed up by the Regulatory Manager.

Monitoring is continuing to determine whether unregistered dogs are being kept on properties throughout the district.

District Licensing Agency

The Committee received the minutes of the District Licensing Agency meeting held on 10 October 2009.

The meeting concluded at 2:19 pm.