

## 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 3 December 2009, commencing at 1.29 pm.

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

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

Mr M Nordqvist, MCB Chairman, attended the meeting.

### **Confirmation of Minutes**

“That the minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 22 October 2009, be taken as read and confirmed.”

Leadley/ Burgess

**Carried**

### **Road Closure – Ashburton Car Club**

“That the following road be closed to ordinary vehicular traffic from 9.00 am to 6.00 pm on Saturday 5 December 2009, for the purpose of allowing the Ashburton Car Club to hold a Standing and Flying Quarter Mile Street meeting, subject to the conditions set out in the report: CHERTSEY ROAD, between Wards Road and Taverners Road.”

Leadley/Kingsbury

**Carried**

### **Rangitata Land Care Group – Application for Grant**

1. That the report be received;
2. That the application for a grant be declined for the reasons set out in the ‘Background’ section of this report; and
3. That the applicant be encouraged to apply for funding for a programme of noxious plant control for the remaining balance of the Long Term Council Community Plan, when submissions on the Annual Plan are next sought.”

Mayor/Tasker

**Carried**

Cr Sparks abstained from voting.

“That the Environmental Services Manager enters into discussions with the Rangitata Landcare Group and discusses how we can support the Rangitata Landcare Group and lobby ECan, LINZ and DoC to perform professionally the role in the river bed that they are mandated to do.”

Mayor/Kingsbury

**Carried**

### **Proposal for a Dog Exercise Area – Methven**

The Regulatory Manager advised the Committee that there was approximately \$260,000 in the dog reserve account and that some of the funds are historical funds from the hydatids programme. Cr Sparks asked if there would be infrastructure going in as well as fencing etc. Cr Kilworth advised that permission to develop and funding would be accessed through an alternative council committee. Maintenance will be conducted by Parks as it is currently.

- “1. That the report be received.
2. That the funding be released from the dog reserve account; and
3. That following granting of a resource consent, the exercise area be established.”

Sparks/Tasker

**Carried**

**Activity Reports**

“That the reports be received.”

Burgess/Sparks

**Carried**

**Building**

101 building consents issued in November with value of \$10.4million.

**Planning**

On Plan Changes to the District Plan, Mr Stevenson advised that 5 further submissions had been received on the Village Green Plan Change and one further submission on the Carters Estate Plan Change, the period for both ending on Friday 27 November.

With regard to resource consents, the number of resource consents issued has increased in October relative to July, August and September reflecting an increase in applications for subdivision consent. With regard to an application for subdivision by Methven Trotting Club, negotiations are continuing on the provision of recreational reserves.

The proposed upgrade of Baring Square East is progressing with consultation open days held on Saturday 28 and Monday 30 November at the market in West Street car park and at 328 East Street (a correction to the report which refers to West Street) respectively. There was a good turnout on the Saturday but it was quieter on the Monday with less pedestrians on East Street than expected, possibly due to the rain. Mr Stevenson reported that the options were now displayed in the foyer of the Council entrance for public comment.

The next step is for a preferred design to be prepared for Baring Square East, which will be presented to the Town Centre subcommittee. December 17 was suggested as a tentative date, which was confirmed by Cr Leadley.

Cr Tasker requested that there be discussions on the proposed cycle way. Mr Stevenson assured the Committee that Mr Robertson and he will report back at the next Town Centre Subcommittee meeting.

Mr Stevenson referred to staff training provided by Cavell Leitch and advised that training will be programmed at a future date for Councillors on the RMA and recent amendments.

The Mayor requested an update report on Art Gallery/Museum at the Council meeting on 17 December. Mr Stevenson advised that he would liaise with other Council staff on a report explaining what has happened since June and an indicative timetable for processing the resource consent application.

**Joint ADC / ECan Working Group on Air Quality**

The Regulatory Manager provided the Committee with an update on the Working Group’s progress with improving air quality in Ashburton.

- “1. That the report be received;
2. That the Committee recommends that the enforcement option set out in this report be endorsed by Ashburton District Council; and
3. ADC in partnership with ECan retains full involvement with enforcement on air quality issues”.

Burgess/ Reveley

**Carried**

The Mayor left the meeting at 2:30 pm to attend a Water Strategy meeting in Christchurch.

### **Regulatory**

Cr Brown questioned if the salmonella cases were related to the dairy industry outbreak.

Mr Humphries reported that they are not as it is a different strain of salmonella.

Mr Humphries reported that cases of disease have dropped nationally.

### ***DOC Presentation***

Mr George Hadler, Field Centre Manager, DoC, Geraldine / Ruakapuka office, attended the meeting at 2:45 pm to speak about local DoC issues.

- Outlined issues affecting the Ruakapuka Area, including Ashburton District.
- Additions in last few months:
  - New land behind Mt Hutt now come to DoC
  - Work at Hakatere Station,
  - Te Araroa trail from Manuka and Seagull Lakes, through to Rakaia River
- Every thing seems to be going well in the two parks, with significant and ongoing issues with vandalism.
- O Tu Wharekai Wetlands: high level of community involvement. Funding used for willow control, monitoring indigenous species in the area, predator trials, water quality work

Cr Kilworth asked about Rangitata Landcare Group. Mr Hadler was unsure of exact figures but estimated that DOC was putting in approx \$10-20,000 per annum. Funding will continue annually as long as the Rangitata Landcare Group continues. He said that this part of the river is probably the best example of braided river bed in the world.

Cr Lowe questioned pines in Lake Clearwater area that generate a wilding pine problem. Mr Hadler commented that significant work had been carried out recently to eradicate the pine trees in that area.

No plans to establish any self registered or official camping grounds within Hakatere Park at this stage. Would be supportive of extending camping ground at Lake Clearwater to allow Council to put in extra toilets.

Pig releases have been significant recently. MAF, Police and DoC have had discussions on how to manage this problem. Haven't specifically spent large amounts of money on pig control.

The meeting concluded at 3.20 pm.