



An ORDINARY MEETING of the ASHBURTON DISTRICT COUNCIL
will be held as follows:

Date: Thursday 29 June 2006

Venue: Council Chamber
5 Baring Square West
Ashburton

Time: 1.30 pm

MEMBERS:

His Worship the Mayor, M B O'Malley
Cr R C Beavan
Cr N A Brown
Cr I J Burgess
Cr D Glass
Cr K L Holmes
Cr R J Kilworth
Cr L J Leadley
Cr K W P Lowe
Cr D N Nelson
Cr P W Reveley
Cr B A Tasker
Cr M J Urquhart

B LESTER
Chief Executive

23 June 2006

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	Ashburton Wastewater Upgrade Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities	50
5.1.3	Finance & Corporate Services Committee – 15/06/06 Property Matters Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities	51
5.2	Contract C477 – Water Services Department Provision of Professional Services Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities	52

Timetable

1.30 pm	Ordinary Meeting Commences – Opening Prayer
2.45 pm	Afternoon Tea

23 June 2006

ASHBURTON DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

FILE NO: 1/3/1
DATE: 29 June 2006
REPORT TO: Ordinary Meeting of Council
FROM: Mayor

4.1. MAYOR'S REPORT

4.1.1 *Snow Event*

On behalf of the Ashburton community I sincerely thank all those who have helped to cope with the aftermath of the June 12 snow event. Because the consequences were so widespread, there is barely a household in our district that has not been touched by damage of some description and it will be some time before normality is restored.

The events of the past three weeks have proved beyond doubt that when volunteer help is needed, it is so willingly and enthusiastically forthcoming in this community I have felt very proud and humbled to witness and be part of this amazing community spirit and I thank you all for your goodwill, patience and understanding.

Special mention should be made of the roading, electricity and communications staff who have worked under intense pressure and in appalling conditions. The snow rakers and helicopter pilots were an inspiration and our welfare groups provided their usual reliable service when called upon, while the availability of hot showers and

washing facilities were appreciated by all. The local media worked overtime to keep us as fully informed as was practicable.

The last word to those who worked, behind the scenes, to manage the relief recovery – thank you sincerely for your professionalism and dedication during a very trying period.

4.1.2 Trustpower Awards

Minerals to Art was a popular winner this year and our thanks to Trustpower for once again sponsoring this event. The opportunity to acknowledge the good work of our volunteer network is always appreciated and provides an excellent educational forum for everyone present.

4.1.3 Ashburton Performing Theatre Trust

It was very disappointing to learn that this project had not won any financial support from central government in this year's funding round. However discussions are still taking place with Government MP's and officials and it is the Trust's intention to still undertake the completion of the project. The visit by the Canterbury Opera Company certainly highlighted our shortcomings in regards to a suitable performing arts venue.

4.1.4 Community Services Expo

This was a joint venture between Ashcross and Safer Community Council and successfully attracted 61 exhibitors, who are very keen to see the Expo repeated next year. The original aim was for groups to assemble in one location and learn about others' activities.

The public were then invited so the public awareness of the exhibitors' activities was raised. A special emphasis was placed on those recent arrivals in our community. We attended a mid-winter Christmas function organised by the Newcomers Network and it is great to see the emphasis on attempting to help these people feel at home in our community.

4.1.5 Calendar

Some of the meetings and functions I have attended since reporting to the last Council meeting on 18 May are as follows:

- 18 May Met with representatives of Ashburton A & P Association
- 22 May Officially opened Rural Women New Zealand Conference in Ashburton
- 23 May Judged Poster Competition at Ashburton Intermediate School
Attended ACL / ADC Liaison Meeting
Attended Ashburton Community Water Trust Meeting
Attended Trustpower Awards
- 24 May Fox F M Radio Talkback
Attended Water Groups Meeting at Rolleston
- 25 May Attended Barrhill Chertsey Irrigators Meeting
- 26 May Met with Electricity Ashburton Trustees
Attended Smokefree Poster Awards at Ashburton Intermediate School
Met with Ashburton College representative
Welcomed Opera Canterbury to their performance in Ashburton
- 29 May Met with Ashburton Trust and Ashburton Performing Theatre Trust
- 30 May Met with representatives from health sector
Guest Speaker at Association of Anglican Women, Ashburton Meeting
Met with Electricity Ashburton General Manager
- 31 May Attended Ecan LTCCP Hearings with CEO, to present ADC submission
- 6 June Attended Lowecliffe School, read book students as part of Book Week
Attended opening of Project C Block at Ashburton College
- 7 June Fox F M Radio Talkback

Planted tree at Borough School – Arbor Day

- 9 June Officially opened new public toilet block
Attended Community Services Expo in Ashburton
Met with new owners of Methven Resort
Met with representatives of Kickstart Programme
- 20 June Welcomed Christchurch School of Medicine students to the district
- 21 June Fox FM Radio Talkback
Met with Hon Don Brash and representatives of Mid Canterbury Rural Relief Trust
Met with Hon Rick Barker at ADC
- 23 June Met with Prime Minister in Ashburton re snow event
- 24 June Attended Newcomers Network social function
- 26 June Met with Mid-South Canterbury Trust members in Ashburton
Attended Ashburton Community Water Trust Meeting
Attended Ashburton Art Exhibition
- 27 June Attended Ashburton Resource Centre Trust Board Meeting
- 28 June Attended R D R Directors Meeting

BEDE O'MALLEY
Mayor

ASHBURTON DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

FILE NO: 1/3/3
DATE: 29 June 2006
REPORT TO: Ordinary Meeting of Council
FROM: Chief Executive

4.2. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

4.2.1 Snow Event ³/₄ 12 June 2006

This event has tied up significant time and resources of the Council in the two weeks following. Work is continuing, focussing on rural support.

We will be undertaking a number of debriefs over the next few weeks and will look to report fully to Councillors at the conclusion. While there are always areas to look for improvements, I was pleased how the Council responded in respect of roading, and undertaking to keep water supplies operating in difficult circumstances. I would see the availability of further back up generation as one area for Council to review.

Key concerns have been the extensive damage to the electricity network. This has taken some time to fully fix, and resulted in a number of welfare issues. The communications network and the response to the event will also be subject to the review.

While our prime focus was communications within the district with the many agencies involved in response and recovery, and efforts to keep our community informed through telephone contact, radio stations and the print media, I was surprised how little the appreciation was of the event beyond the immediately affected area. I believe this was largely due to the network television's initial response – just another snow in Canterbury.

The cost to Council of the event is yet to be finalised. A regional workshop is to be held to consider recovery

related to welfare.

4.2.2 Kate Valley

I attended the hearing at Amberley on Tuesday 20 June to present Council's position in support of the application. I tabled a further report in response to the transport report prepared for the application. This information is on file. I believe the presentation went well. A question I received from the Commissioner related to the continued drivers for councils to minimise residual waste. I considered these to be legislative, financial as well as community driven.

The hearing has been completed and we await the decision.

4.2.3 Medical Students

We again hosted a group of 5th year medical students in the week of 20 June. This time there were seven students. The presentation was undertaken by the Mayor, Mr John McKenzie and myself. There did seem to be a genuine interest in rural issues, including GP's.

4.2.4 Electricity Ashburton Shareholder Committee

One of the Council appointee's term is about to expire. In the past, the Executive Committee has undertaken this process, with a recommendation coming back to the full Council. The Council appoints three of the seven committee members.

RECOMMENDATION

<p>“That the Executive Committee undertake the appointment process with a recommendation to come back to Council.”</p>
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4.2.5 Ashburton Contracting Limited Liaison Meeting

This meeting was held on 23 May, with a subsequent report back to the Finance and Corporate Services Committee on the Statement of Corporate Intent.

The Company is continuing to workshop a Strategic Plan. I have had input into this, to date focused on Council procurement policies / restrictions.

B LESTER
Chief Executive

ASHBURTON DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

FILE NO: 1/8/1
DATE: 29 June 2006
REPORT TO: Council
FROM: Community Consultation Manager
SUBJECT: Adoption of 2006 – 2016 Community Plan

4.6 ASHBURTON DISTRICT COMMUNITY PLAN 2006-2016

4.6.1 SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to recommend that the Ashburton District Community Plan for 2006 – 2016 be adopted by the Council, with changes arising from public submissions.

At the time this report was prepared, changes to the Community Plan were being reviewed by the Council's Auditors, and some further changes to the Community Plan may be recommended as a result of this process. Audit New Zealand staff are expected to advise staff of any changes considered necessary for compliance by 26 June 2006.

Minutes 7 & 8 June Pages 17-32

~~4.6.2 RECOMMENDATION~~

~~"That the Ashburton District Community Plan for 2006-2016 be adopted by the Council, with any changes considered necessary by the Chief Executive."~~

SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATION FOLLOWS THIS REPORT

4.6.3 BACKGROUND

Consultation on the Community Plan was undertaken from 13 April to 15 May 2006. 107 submissions to the Community Plan were received, and these were considered during May and June 2006. A number of changes were agreed to as a result of these submissions.

The major changes to the Community Plan are outlined on pages 3-5 of the Community Plan, with some further minor changes also made. The Council also intends to undertake consultation on a number of issues (shown on pages 5 and 6 of the Community Plan) over the coming year as a result of submissions.

4.6.4 OPTIONS

The Council's available options were considered as part of the consideration of submissions. The Council is required to adopt a Community Plan by 30 June 2006.

4.6.5 STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

The Council is required to adopt a Community Plan for the years 2006- 2016 and to include an opinion from the Auditor General on the Community Plan in this document.

4.6.6 CONSULTATION

Consultation on the Community Plan has been undertaken which included public meetings, advertisements and a submission hearing. The Council has signalled in the Community Plan that further consultation will be undertaken on a number of issues arising from submissions to the Community Plan.

4.6.7 STRATEGIC LINKS

The Community Plan, District and Development Plan are the Council's main strategic and long term planning documents. Information in the Community Plan will be revised in future years through the Annual Plan process and the achievement of performance targets will be reported in the Council's Annual Report.

4.6.8 FINANCIAL

Revised financial and rating information is included in the Community Plan.

A K JARMAN

Community Consultation Manager

ASHBURTON DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

FILE NO: 1/8/1
DATE: 29 June 2006
REPORT TO: Council **[SUPPLEMENTARY RECOMMENDATION]**
FROM: Community Consultation Manager
SUBJECT: Adoption of 2006 – 2016 Community Plan

4.6 ASHBURTON DISTRICT COMMUNITY PLAN 2006-2016

Audit has approved changes to the wording of the Community Plan to reflect changes to the microchipping requirements. This needs to be specified in the Council resolution, along with a reference to including the Audit opinion. The revised recommendation follows and the Audit Opinion is attached.

RECOMMENDATION

“That the Ashburton District Community Plan for 2006 – 2016 be adopted by the Council (including the Opinion of the Auditor General tabled at this meeting), and that relevant sections of the Community Plan be revised to reflect changes to micro-chipping requirements included in the Local Government Law Reform Act 2006.”

The text that has been revised is shown below. The Council’s Auditors have agreed that these changes are acceptable.

Page 10 – Regulatory Environment

The Dog Control Act requires first registered dogs to be micro-chipped from 1 July 2006, onwards working dogs are exempt from this requirement. The Council is responsible under this Act for maintaining a database of all dogs in the district and it is expected that the Council will be levied to recover the cost of maintaining a national dog database. The Council, along with a number of rural local authorities, opposed the introduction of the microchipping requirements for all dogs originally proposed by the Government, as being unworkable and imposing unnecessary expense on dog owners. The Council recently hosted a meeting of a number of South Island local authorities at which it was decided to write to the Minister of Local Government requesting that the requirement that all dogs be micro-chipped be withdrawn. The Local Government Law Reform Act was passed in mid 2006, and an exemption was provided from micro-chipping for working dogs in the Act.

Page 172 – Animal Control

Current and Future Trends and Issues

The Dog Control Act 1996 and amendments in 2003 and 2004 have stringent requirements and responsibilities for dog ownership. The amendments have allowed for increased fines for dog owners whose dogs are involved in serious incidents.

Under the Act, councils are to report annually on their dog control policies and practices. The report is to contain certain specified information such as the number of dogs registered, the number of dogs declared dangerous, and the number of disqualified owners. Dogs first registered on or after 1 July 2006, are required to be micro-chipped under the Dog Control Amendment Act 2003. Working dogs are exempt from this requirement. The Council will also be required from 2006 to participate in a national dog database.

Assumptions for the Future

The number of dogs registered in the district has fluctuated over recent years with a general trend for an increase in dog numbers. While it is expected that increased population will result in increased urban dog ownership, changes to

farming in the district are likely to have a greater impact on dog ownership.

The Dog Control Amendment Act has increased requirements being placed on the Council to record information about dogs and increase monitoring and other requirements which are intended to improve public safety. It seems probable that the additional expense involved in micro-chipping newly registered dogs will have some adverse effect on registration numbers, though it is difficult to predict how much of an impact this is likely to have.

In light of this uncertainty, the Council has assumed that future dog registrations numbers will not increase but remain at similar levels to those today. However, the cost of carrying out this activity is expected to increase due to the new requirements of the Dog Control Amendment Act. These increased costs have been taken into account when preparing the budget for this activity.

A JARMAN
Community Consultation Manager

ASHBURTON DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

FILE NO: 3/13/1
DATE: 29 June 2006
REPORT TO: Council
FROM: Finance Manager
SUBJECT: Setting of Rates for the 2006 / 07 Financial Year

4.7 SETTING OF RATES FOR THE 2006 / 07 FINANCIAL YEAR

RECOMMENDATION

“That the Ashburton District Council set the following rates under the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 on rating units in the district for the financial year commencing on 1 July 2006 and ending on 30 June 2007.

All section references are to sections in the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002. All amounts are GST inclusive.

- *The definition of connected and serviceable is contained in Council’s Funding Impact Statement and Rating Policy.*
- *The definition for the amenity rating areas is contained within Council’s Funding Impact Statement and Rating Policy.*

Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC)

A uniform annual general charge of \$91.00 per separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit, set under section 15(1)(b).

General Rate

A general rate set under section 13(2)(a) of 0.000458 cents in the dollar of capital value on every rating unit.

Roading Rate

A targeted rate for roading services set under s16(3)(a) and 16(3)(b) of \$0.000848 cents in the dollar of capital value on every rating unit.

Library Rate

A targeted rate for library services, set under s16(3)(a) and 16(4)(a) of \$53.80 on every separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit (excluding vacant sections).

Water Supply Rates

The following differential targeted rates are set under section 16(3)(b) and 16(4)(b) for each water supply. In each case the differential categories are:

- (1) connected rating units
- (2) serviceable rating units

The targeted rates are set as a fixed amount per separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit.

	Connected	Serviceable
Ashburton	\$254.00	\$127.00
Methven	\$250.00	\$125.00
Rakaia	\$226.00	\$113.00
Fairton	\$435.00	\$217.50
Hakatere	\$741.00	\$370.50
Hinds	\$535.00	\$267.50
Mayfield	\$599.00	\$299.50
Chertsey	\$359.00	\$179.50
Mt Somers	\$449.00	\$224.50
Dromore	\$1,067.00	\$533.50
Winchmore	\$1,354.00	\$677.00
Lake Hood	\$676.00	\$338.00

In addition to the above targeted rates, a targeted rate for water supply, set under section 19, of 45 cents per 1,000 litres of water consumed in excess of 90,000 litres per quarter, to any rating unit defined as a metered supply. Metered supplies are defined as extraordinary connections and non residential connections. This rate is levied on a quarterly basis.

Wastewater Rates

The following differential targeted rates are set under section 16(3)(b) and 16(4)(b) for each wastewater (sewage) disposal. In each case the differential categories are:

- (1) connected rating units
- (2) serviceable rating units

The targeted rates are set as a fixed amount per separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit.

	Connected	Serviceable
Ashburton	\$242.00	\$121.00
Methven	\$170.00	\$85.00
Rakaia Maintenance Rate	\$246.00	\$123.00
Rakaia Loan Rate	\$337.00	\$168.50

The following uniform targeted rates set for wastewater pan charges under section 16(3)(b) and 16(4)(a) of a fixed amount on each pan or urinal (after the third) on every rating unit connected to the wastewater scheme:

Ashburton	\$80.70
Methven	\$56.70
Rakaia Maintenance Rate	\$82.00

Waste Collection Rates

The following targeted rates are set under section 16(3)(b) and 16(4)(a) for waste collection as a uniform fixed charge per separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit in each area to which the service is provided:

Ashburton Urban	\$32.00
Ashburton Inner Central Business Area	\$64.00
Methven	\$47.00
Rakaia	\$30.00
Hinds	\$40.00
Mayfield	\$80.00
Mt Somers	\$50.00
Lake Clearwater	\$23.00
Rangitata	\$23.00

Ashburton Community Pool Rate

A targeted rate for the Ashburton community pool under section 16(3)(b) and 16(4)(a) of \$7.00 per separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit within the Ashburton township area.

Amenity Rates

Targeted rates for amenity services under section 16 (3)(b) and 16(4)(b) are as follows:

Ashburton Urban Amenity Rate

0.000352 cents in the dollar of capital value on every rating unit in the Ashburton township area to meet the costs of stormwater and reserve board funding.

Ashburton Inner CBD Street Cleaning Rate

0.000757 cents in the dollar of capital value on every business rating unit within the Ashburton inner central business district (CBD) **as defined by Council maps**, for the provision of additional street cleaning.

Ashburton CBD (Expanded) Conveniences Rate

0.000331 cents in the dollar of capital value on every business rating unit within the Ashburton expanded central business district (CBD) **as defined by Council maps**, for the provision of public conveniences.

Ashburton Business Amenity Rate

0.002706 cents in the dollar of capital value on every business rating unit within the Ashburton township, for the provision of the following services:

- Parks and Open Spaces
- District Promotion & Visitor Industry
- Transportation - Footpaths
- Solid Waste Collection

Ashburton Residential Amenity Rate

0.000697 cents in the dollar of capital value on every non business rating unit within the Ashburton township, for the provision of the following services:

- Parks and Open Spaces
- Transportation - Footpaths

Methven Business Amenity Rate

0.003662 cents in the dollar of capital value on every business rating unit within the Methven township rating area (as defined by Council Maps), for the provision of the following services

- Parks and Open Spaces
- Transportation - Footpaths
- Public Conveniences
- Solid Waste Collection

- District Promotion & Visitor Industry

Methven Amenity Rate

0.000458 cents in the dollar of capital value on every rating unit in the Methven township area to meet the costs of stormwater services, and reserve board funding.

Methven Residential Amenity Rate

0.001604 cents in the dollar of capital value on every non business rating unit within the Methven township, for the provision of the following services:

- Parks and Open Spaces
- Transportation - Footpaths

Rakaia Residential Amenities Rate

0.000460 cents in the dollar of capital value on every non business rating unit in the Rakaia township area for the provision of the following services:

- Parks and Open Spaces

Rakaia Business Amenity Rate

0.002368 cents in the dollar of capital value on every business rating unit within the Rakaia township rating area (as defined by Council Maps), for the provision of the following services

- Parks and Open Spaces
- Solid Waste Collection
- Public Conveniences
- District Promotion & Visitor Industry

Rakaia Amenity Rate

0.001975 cents in the dollar of capital value on every rating unit in the Rakaia township area for the provision of the following services

- Stormwater
- Transportation - Footpaths
- Reserve Board Funding

Rural Amenity Rate

0.000092 cents in the dollar of capital value on every rating unit in the rural area, excluding the townships of Methven and Rakaia, for the provision of the following services:

- Parks & Open Spaces
- Transportation - Footpaths
- Emergency management

Hinds Stormwater Rate

0.000190 cents in the dollar of capital value on every rating unit in the Hinds township area for the provision of stormwater services.

Methven Community Board Rate

A targeted rate for the Methven community board under section 16(3)(b) and 16(4)(a) of 0.000187 cents in the dollar of capital value of all rating units within the Methven township area.

Methven Community Pool Rate

A targeted rate for the Methven community pool under section 16(3)(b) and 16(4)(a) of \$12.60 per separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit within the Methven township area.

Montalto Stockwater Rate.

A targeted rate under section 16(3)(b) and 16(4)(a) of \$382.50 per rating unit within or connected to the Montalto stockwater scheme, and \$12.40 per hectare of land within or connected to the Montalto stockwater scheme.

Methven/Springfield Rate

A targeted rate under section 16(3)(b) and 16(4)(a) of \$395.90 on all rating units connected to the Methven/Springfield stockwater scheme.

A targeted rate under section 19 of \$33.00 per 1,000 litres of water supplied in excess of 12,000 litres to any rating unit within the Methven/Springfield stockwater scheme.

General Stockwater Rate

A targeted rate under section 16(3)(b) and 16(4)(a) on all rating units within the general stockwater scheme in accordance with the following factors:

- a) \$32.90 in respect of any race, aqueduct or water channel not exceeding one hundred and sixty one metres in length, and
- b) in respect of any race, aqueduct or water channel exceeding one hundred and sixty one metres in length the sum of 20.0 cents per metre for every metre where the same passes through, along or adjacent to or abuts the land of such occupier or owner, and
- c) the sum of \$40.90 for each pond service, pipe service, ram service, pump service, water wheel or windmill, and
- d) the sum of \$20.40 for each dip service or extension pump service using water from the Council's water race system.

Due dates for payment of rates

That all rates will be payable in six equal instalments due on:

- 20 August 2006
- 20 October 2006
- 20 December 2006
- 20 February 2007
- 20 April 2007
- 20 June 2007

Where the 20th of a month in which rates are due does not fall on a working day, rate payments will be accepted without penalty up to and including the first working day after the 20th of that month.

Penalties

That the Council delegates to the Finance Manager to apply the following penalties on unpaid rates.

Under section 58(1)(a), a penalty of 10% on any instalment or part thereof that has been assessed after 1 July 2006 and which is unpaid after the due date.

Under section 58(1)(b), a further penalty of 10% on any unpaid rates and penalties to unpaid rates owed owing as at 30 June 2006, if unpaid as at 31st August 2006.”

PL BRAKE
Finance Manager

ASHBURTON DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

FILE NO: 6/4/1
DATE: 29 June 2006
REPORT TO: Ashburton District Council
FROM: Environmental Services Manager
SUBJECT: Draft Dangerous, Earthquake-Prone and Insanitary Buildings Policy

4.8 DRAFT DANGEROUS, EARTHQUAKE-PRONE AND INSANITARY BUILDINGS POLICY

4.8.1 SUMMARY

The Council has initiated a Special Consultative Procedure to implement a Dangerous, Earthquake-Prone and Insanitary Buildings Policy as required by the Building Act 2004. The Special Consultative Procedure has now been completed and the Environmental Services Committee has considered oral and written submissions in its decision making. The Committee has now prepared a final draft policy for the Council to adopt. That final draft policy is included with the agenda, along with the Committee's minutes of 18 May 2006.

4.8.2 RECOMMENDATION

- | |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That the report be received.2. That Council accepts the recommendation of the Environmental Services Committee Hearings Panel and adopts the draft Dangerous, Earthquake-Prone and Insanitary Buildings Policy.” |
|--|

4.8.3 BACKGROUND

The Special Consultative Procedure was commenced in March with a closing date of 24 April 2006. Six submissions were received and two of those submitters have asked to be heard. The Environmental Services Committee sitting as a Hearings Panel has deliberated on the final content of the policy. The Building Act 2004 requires that every territorial local authority adopt such a policy by May 2006. The effect of adopting the policy in the following month has been that the Council could not act during the period from 1 June 2006, until the policy was adopted.

4.8.4 OPTIONS

There are few options available to the Council, other than to prepare a policy on dangerous, earthquake-prone and insanitary buildings.

4.8.5 STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

Section 131 of the Building Act 2004 requires the Ashburton District Council to adopt a policy on earthquake-prone, dangerous and insanitary buildings by 31 May 2006. The Act has, as its aim, the reduction of the level of risk to the public over time.

This will involve costs to the Council, building owners and the community and therefore care needs to be taken with the policy development and implementation.

4.8.6 CONSULTATION

A Special Consultative Procedure has been conducted. This topic has been well publicised by the Council and the media. The implications of the legislation and resultant policy has been widely promulgated.

4.8.7 STRATEGIC LINKS

The Long Term Council Community Plan recognises the importance of economic growth, a healthy and safe environment, heritage preservation, plus that all statutory obligations are met.

4.8.8 FINANCIAL

The Building Act 2004 implies significant financial liabilities on the community to ensure that unsafe buildings are upgraded or removed. Staff and elected member time, plus legal costs have been expended. The Council will also need to address the extent that contributions towards assessment of buildings and safety of Heritage Buildings will be made. An increased amount of \$50,000 has been provided for in the draft Long Term Council Community Plan for a three year period to increase Heritage Grants. The Funding Policy may also require amendment to reflect the need to recover costs in some instances from building owners.

J MCKENZIE

Environmental Services Manager

ASHBURTON DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

FILE NO:

DATE: 29 June 2006

REPORT TO: Council

FROM: Community Consultation Manager/ Corporate Services Manager

SUBJECT: Consultation on Fluoridation of Water Supplies

4.9 CONSULTATION ON FLUORIDATION OF WATER SUPPLIES

4.9.1 SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is recommend a consultation programme and timeframe on the issue of fluoridation.

4.9.2 RECOMMENDATION

- “1. That Council commences preliminary consultation as outlined in the Consultation Timetable and Programme included in this report to establish whether fluoride should be included in each of the respective water supplies in the District (excluding the Methven supply).
2. That, if following preliminary consultation on the issue of fluoridation, there is sufficient support for a proposal to be developed, that this be developed and included in the 2007 /2008 draft Annual Plan for public consultation.”

4.9.3 BACKGROUND

The Council received a submission from Community and Public Health requesting that the Council consider reintroducing fluoride into district water supplies during consultation on the Council’s 2006 -2016 Community Plan.

Further local data was provided in this submission on dental decay in the period since 2002 when fluoride was removed from the Ashburton water supply.

4.9.4 OPTIONS

Consultation Options were discussed during Community Plan meetings in June 2006, and it was agreed that

these would be further investigated by staff and reported back to the Council. Options available to the Council are included below.

The high level of public interest and strength of public feeling in previous discussions regarding fluoridation indicate that although the issue is not significant in terms of a financial impact on the Community, it may well be significant to the Community.

If this issue is considered significant by the Council, then the Council is required to undertake the Special Consultative Procedure outlined below under section (B).

A. Preliminary Consultation

The preliminary consultation options set out below are not a statutory requirement, however they will provide the Council with adequate information to be able to decide whether to proceed to develop a statement of proposal on the issue of fluoridation, and to be able to frame this proposal.

Survey of Water Supplies

Undertaking a survey would help to establish the level of public support for fluoridation in various areas. Relevant questions would be:

- to establish whether the respondent is connected to a water supply and to which supply if this was not already known
- to establish whether the respondent supports or opposes the introduction of fluoridation
- additional questions could also be asked as to why the respondent supports or opposes fluoridation
- information on the cost of fluoridation per connection (for the relevant supply area) could also be provided

The Ashburton urban water supply has a large number of connections (7,479) and it is recommended that a random telephone survey be undertaken to ascertain support for fluoridation. There are a further 2,051 connections across the district, of which 874 are in Methven. As the Methven supply is already fluoridated and the submission requested that the Council consider introducing fluoride into supplies it has been assumed that this supply would not need to be surveyed (however Methven could also be surveyed if the Council wished to).

It is recommended that a postal survey be carried out to ascertain support for fluoridation amongst the 684 properties connected to water supplies other than Ashburton, Rakaia or Methven. The cost to carry out a telephone survey of Ashburton water users is estimated at between \$7,000 - \$7,500 (plus GST). The additional cost to survey Rakaia properties is less than \$500. Therefore it is recommended that both Ashburton and Rakaia be surveyed via telephone.

The above surveys would provide the Council with information on support for fluoridation amongst users of Council water supplies. If the Council proceeded to stage B of the consultation process, this would provide the wider community with an opportunity to comment on the issue of fluoridation.

Other Consultation

The Council also has the option of holding public meetings on this issue at this stage of the process. Alternatively, parties for or against fluoridation may wish to organise their own meetings to present their views on the issue. It should be noted that if there is sufficient support for fluoridation for the Council to develop a proposal on this, and this was included in the 2007 / 2008 Annual Plan, then this issue would be covered as part of these meetings also.

Other interested parties, such as Community and Public Health and opponents of fluoridation, may also wish to provide the public with information supporting their views. In addressing the issue of fluoridation the Council would also need to consider issues of impartiality in that Community and Public Health is both a submitter advocating for the reintroduction of fluoridation and also holds information regarding the health impact of the removal of fluoride. This issue is probably best addressed through the Council focusing on surveying the community (and advising the media when the survey will be undertaken), and leaving parties for and against fluoridation to make their case to the community independently.

It should be noted that if the Council was to progress to the stage of developing a proposal on fluoridation, the Local Government Act 2002 requires that this proposal include an assessment of the social, economic, cultural and environmental impacts of the proposal. This would require that the Council includes some information on the effects of fluoridation, although how potential positive and negative effects were presented would require further discussion

closer to the time.

B. Statement of Proposal (Statutory Consultation Process)

If the Council considers this issue to be significant and there is sufficient public support for fluoridation, then for the Council to develop a proposal affecting some or all of the district's water supplies, a Special Consultative Procedure would need to be carried out before a decision could be finalised. This is the same consultation process that is required for an Annual or Community Plan and requires:

- The development of a statement and summary of the proposal (and an assessment of the social, economic, environmental and cultural impacts of this and other options)
- Public notice and a consultation period of at least one month
- The opportunity for submitters to present their views through a hearing

A draft timetable for consultation on fluoridation is shown below (this assumes that the Council does wish to undertake preliminary consultation). It is proposed that the Council begins surveying the community on fluoridation in mid August. This would give interested parties a timeframe of six weeks in which to raise awareness of their views on the issue. This timetable also assumes that there is sufficient staffing in house to carry out the work associated with this process.

Consultation Timetable and Programme

Timeframe	Action
Preliminary Consultation	
Mid August 2006	Council commences telephone/ postal survey of water users
Mid September	Surveying completed
October	Survey results reported to Council. Council gives direction regarding if a proposal should be developed.
Statutory Consultation	
November/ December	Draft Proposal developed and considered by Council.
April/ May 2007	Draft Proposal included in Annual Plan for public consultation Submissions on fluoridation considered at Annual Plan hearings and meetings
June 2007	Council adopts Annual Plan and final proposal on fluoridation

On the timeframes above, there would not be sufficient time for the consultation process (including a hearing on this issue) to be completed in 2006, so it is recommended that consultation be undertaken as part of the 2007 / 2008 Annual Plan process.

The issue of the Council undertaking a referendum of the issue of fluoridation was also raised in previous discussions. Aside from a situation where the Council wishes to divest itself of a water supply, there does not appear to be any provision in the Local Government Act 2002 for the Council to choose to undertake a referendum on significant issues instead of carrying out the consultation process described above (e a referendum would need to be undertaken in addition to the Special Consultative Procedure).

4.9.5 STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

If the Council considers this issue to be significant then the consultation process outlined in (b) above needs to be followed to meet the requirements of the Local Government Act. This process need not be undertaken if

preliminary consultation indicates that there is not sufficient support for a change from the existing situation to be considered.

4.9.6 CONSULTATION

Consultation options and issues are discussed above.

4.9.7 STRATEGIC LINKS

The 2006 – 2016 Community Plan indicates that the Council intends to undertake further consultation on fluoridation as a result of a submission to the Community Plan.

4.9.8 FINANCIAL

The Council included \$10,000 in the 2006/2007 year to undertake consultation on fluoridation. The estimated cost of undertaking a telephone survey of Ashburton and Rakaia water users is up to \$8,000 (plus GST). Postage and other costs would also be incurred, but these would not exceed the \$10,000 budget provided.

Water services staff are currently developing estimated ongoing costs per supply associated with fluoridation, and this may be ready to report at this meeting.

The Ministry of Health has funding available to contribute to the cost of capital works to subsidise the cost of fluoridation which the Council would need to apply for if it wished to proceed with fluoridation. This subsidy can cover 50% of this cost of installation, however can cover up to 100% of the cost of capital works at the discretion of the Minister of Health. Community and Public Health has advised that in the information provided that they would recommend to the Minister that installation costs be fully subsidised, and also advised that the two schemes which have lodged applications to date (Kaikohe and Kaitaia) have received a 100% subsidy. It is unclear whether a higher subsidy rate would be likely to be granted for small rural water supplies.

A K JARMAN

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