



Ashburton District Council

AGENDA

A **MEETING** of the **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE** will be held as follows:

Date: **TUESDAY** 6 May 2008

Time: 1.30 pm

Venue: Council Chamber
5 Baring Square West
Ashburton

B LESTER
Chief Executive

MEMBERS:

Cr R J Kilworth (Chairman)
Cr R C Beavan
Cr I J Burgess
Cr J A Kingsbury
Cr L J Leadley
Cr P W Reveley
Cr J Sparks
Cr B A Tasker
Mayor M B O'Malley (ex officio)

AGENDA

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30 April 2008

ACTIVITY REPORTS

5. ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

5.1 *General*

Numbers and construction value of building consents has continued to increase throughout the first quarter of the calendar year. Resource consent activity has not been as strong, but major projects have kept the Environmental Services Department busy, including a number of Plan Changes and of course the District Plan Review continues to progress with public meetings to explain the process having been held recently.

5.2 *Building Consent Authority Accreditation*

International Accreditation New Zealand carried out a site assessment at the Ashburton District Council on 1 - 3 April 2008. At the time of the IANZ site assessment, they found that only 67% of our building consent applications were being issued within the statutory time frame of 20 working days. IANZ issued a Corrective Action Request that told us that they would not recommend accreditation for the Ashburton District Council with such a low level of statutory compliance. A total of eight Corrective Action Requests, (CARs), were issued by IANZ as a result of the site assessment, relating to a range of compliance issues. The Building Services Department has consequently placed a greater emphasis on processing Building Consent Applications so that processing times can be improved to increase the level of statutory compliance in anticipation of gaining accreditation as a Building Consent Authority before the deadline date of 30 June 2008. After that date, any council in New Zealand that has not obtained accreditation as a Building Consent Authority cannot issue building consents and act as a Building Consent Authority. Due to the emphasis being placed on processing building inspection delays are currently occurring; Currently we are booked out seven days in advance (seven day delay). In the past we have given priority to public enquiry and inspections - this has reduced staff resourcing for building consent processing and in turn reduced an important measure of statutory compliance – being the 20 working day requirement to grant complete applications. Already we are achieving 95% processing times within the 20 day limit in some weeks, though this has come at a cost to our customers who want to talk with a building official or have them carry out an on-site building inspection.

Staff involved with building regulation at the Council met soon after the IANZ site assessment visit to consider the eight Corrective Action Requests and definite action was identified to address all of the CARs and greatly increase the likelihood of the Council becoming an accredited Building Consent Authority by 30 June 2008. One result of the CARs has been a decision to employ two additional staff to be trained as Building Officials. We are optimistic that the delays in building inspections can be reduced once additional staff resourcing takes effect.

Not everyone has taken the delay in obtaining a building inspection quietly and at times staff have received strong reactions from customers. We hope to communicate to our customers that this delay is a symptom of the Council “gearing up” to meet the increased standards of the Building Act 2004 and that the improved processes are necessary to satisfy the Crown’s requirements to continue as a Building Consent Authority.

I hope that the Council will join me in expressing appreciation for the efforts of the building services staff in developing systems as a Building Consent Authority to satisfy the statutory requirements of the Building Act 2004, they certainly have 'gone the extra mile'.

5.3 Three Legal Claims – Building Services

It is unusual to report that currently the Council is subject to three legal claims, two relating to the Weathertight Homes Resolution Service and a third relating to a commercial building that collapsed in the 2002 snowfall event. In all cases Council's insurer has appointed legal representation to manage the Council's case.

5.4 Ashburton Events Centre

Building services staff will conduct the final inspection at the new theatre this week in preparation to issuing the Code Compliance Certificate for this significant building consent.

5.5 District Plan Review – Ashburton Tour 25 March 2008

A tour of Councillors, staff and consultants took place on this date to view key urban issues of concern plus the Hakatere Hut Settlement. This workshop tour was in preparation for the fourth District Plan Review Workshop to be held on 29 April 2008.

5.6 New Zealand Historic Places Trust – Heritage Tour 7 April 2008

The Ashburton branch of the Trust hosted this tour of heritage sites for Councillors and staff on the above date, the tour was very successful and served to remind those present of how we are surrounded by the history of our district.

5.7 Fencing of Swimming Pools Act Review

The Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987 is being reviewed by the Crown, a discussion document is available on the Department of Building & Housing website, (www.dbh.govt.nz), submissions close on 30 June 2008 and I have prepared draft submission that addresses technical difficulties in administering this act. A copy of the draft submission is available upon request.

5.8 Small Villages Development Plan

Persons who have lodged comment forms on the draft Small Villages Development Plans in November 2007 have been invited to attend a workshop meeting of the Environmental Services Committee on 6 May 2008. It is intended that the Committee can hear directly from these persons before making policy decisions on the content of the Small Villages Development Plans. These plans will then contribute to content for the District Plan Review.

5.9 Christian School Development Contribution Objection

Trustees of the Ashburton Christian School Trust presented their objection to the amount of development contributions that the proposed Christian School building consent has attracted, on 16 April 2008. The hearing was adjourned to enable reconsideration of the matter and the Trustees have signalled that they wish the Hearings Panel to be re-convened to conclude the hearing of their objection.

5.10 Methven Trotting Club Private Plan Change

Submissions to the Methven Trotting Club Private Plan Change were heard on the 23 March in Methven. The applicant and three submitters presented to the Hearings Panel. The Panel will release their decisions to the applicant and all submitters once finalised.

5.11 Ashburton Railway Station Demolition Application

The application was notified and 71 submissions have been received. Four supported the proposal, six did not state whether they supported or opposed the proposal and 61 opposed the proposal

Council has commissioned a Heritage Specialist to review the heritage values of the building and furnish a report to the Council on how the heritage values relate to the District Plan. The Council Planners will then prepare a report and recommendations and this will be supplied to all submitters and the Commissioner prior to the hearing. Depending on the content of the submissions the Heritage Specialist may be called upon to provide technical expertise for input into the Planners Report and potentially at the hearing.

No date has been set for the hearing at this stage.

5.12 Regulatory Department

The following is a summary of the key activities carried out by the Regulatory Department over the reporting period:

- **Staff**

Leanne Copland has replaced Naomi Waghorn as the Animal Control Systems Officer.

- **Food safety**

Twenty three food premises were inspected and graded. Most displayed a Good or Excellent standard of food safety, five premises falling below these standards have been instructed on requirements and will be re-inspected.

One mobile shop and two Hawker licence applications were processed.

- **Nuisances**

- A total of 62 noise complaints were received; 10 noise directions were issued. One stereo was seized.
- Three complaints relating to cats.
- Six complaints of smoke nuisance were received.
- Four complaints of refuse dumped on domestic dwellings have been investigated.
- One complaint relating to wandering poultry was received.

- **Hairdressers**

Three hairdressers were visited.

- **Camping Grounds**

Four Camping Grounds were visited.

- **Disease**

Over the period the following disease notifications were made to the District Health Board. None were passed to Ashburton District Council for further investigation, hence it is assumed that no cases were found to be related and considered to be outbreaks.

Disease	Number	Remarks
Campylobacter	7	
Salmonella	4	
Lead Absorption	2	Awaiting more information from District Health Board
Gastroenteritis	2	
Leptospirosis	2	

5.13 **Animal Control**

- **Registration status**

Since the last meeting 20 dogs unregistered from last year have been identified and registered.

The annual breakdown is as follows:

Category	Number
Dogs registered in 2007/ 2008	6515
New registrations	1001
Dogs re-registered from 2006/2007	5514
2006/ 2007 registered dogs not accounted for	139
Percentage re-registered in 2007/2008	97.75%

- **Court Cases**

Since the last meeting two cases have been taken to court for dogs attacking persons. One case has been resolved and resulted in a prosecution for a failure to keep a dog under control, however the prosecution for the dog attacking a person failed as the witness could not positively identify the dog which bit him. Another prosecutions for a dog attacking persons was sent for diversion through Restorative Justice, however the defendant refused to cooperate and will now appear in court on 19th May 2008.

- **Dog Control Act Infringement Notices**

Ten infringement notices have been served since the last meeting making a total of 24 since 1 July 2007.

- **Pro active monitoring**

In order to deal with a number of issues the animal control contractor has been instructed to target specific areas of the District for whole day visits. Although this is manpower intensive it does allow a large number of issues to be dealt with at once.

- **Dog and stock control reports**

The relevant report for March 2008 is attached.

Pages 33-36

5.14 **Water Monitoring**

IANZ visited and were very complimentary about the standards maintained in the laboratory by Richard Durie. The laboratory has been re-accredited.

Good results have been have been achieved across all public supplies in the District.

5.15 General Inspections

- The Methven “Skatepark” has been re-inspected by the relevant departments and the Notice to fix removed.
- Charlotte Spilman has been trained in the use of “E Justice” electronic infringement system. This will allow more effective processing of Infringement Notices.

In the reporting period, the following inspections have been carried out:

- Six warrant of fitness audits.
- Twenty one complaints of littering/illegal dumping were received. Eleven investigations of illegal dumping activities were carried out and 16 Infringement Notices issued. A particularly bad case was found in the Chertsey area where a pit on a Council reserve had been used for dumping by a number of individuals. One individual has already paid the \$400 infringement and removed their rubbish, five more individuals are being pursued regarding this particular case.

J McKENZIE

Environmental Services Manager

ASHBURTON DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

FILE NO: 6/9/44
DATE: 6 May 2008
REPORT TO: Environmental Services Committee
FROM: Heritage Subcommittee
SUBJECT: Unconfirmed Minutes of Meeting – 16/04/08

6. HERITAGE SUBCOMMITTEE

REPORT AND MINUTES of a meeting of the **HERITAGE SUBCOMMITTEE** meeting held in the Councillors Lounge, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton, on Wednesday 16 April 2008, commencing at 1.00 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors R Beavan (Convener), J Sparks and B Tasker.
In attendance Assistant Planner, C Yates.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Michael Hanrahan.

Confirmation of Minutes

Viv Ranson should be amended to be Viv Hanson.

“That the minutes of the Heritage Subcommittee Meeting held on 29 February 2008 be taken as read and confirmed as amended”.

Tasker/Sparks

Carried

Matters arising from Minutes

Menorlue

Cheryl Yates reported that a cheque for \$3,128 and letter were forwarded to the Applicant on 9 April 2008.

Review on Heritage Grant Policy

Cheryl Yates asked to send a letter to Beverley Officer New Zealand Historic Places Trust (Ashburton) branch to invite a representative from that organisation to be part of the review committee.

Terms of Reference

Cr Rod Beavan indicated that he was working on this and will be reporting back at a later date.

Linz

Cr Bev Tasker reported she is yet to follow through with this matter and complete her report.

Agenda Items

Turton 150th Anniversary

Cr Jac Sparks reported that Pam Burdett accepted the invitation to be part of the committee. Barbara Jaine is away at this stage but an approach would be made.

Michael Hanrahan reported he was yet to approach Liz Quaid.

Michael Hanrahan reported that Don Wilson accepted the invitation to be part of the committee.

Cr Bev Tasker reported that Rita Wright had declined to be part of the committee but would be available if there was something she could do to assist.

There was a general discussion about other people who may be interested in being a part of this committee and Jac Sparks was requested to approach Hugh Eaton.

The purpose of this Committee is to share the workload in co-ordinating all Heritage Groups and various organisations to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Settlement of Ashburton Town.

It was agreed that the title of 150th Anniversary of Settlement of Ashburton Town was to be used rather than Turton 150th Anniversary. The founding document being Licence to Mr Turton to have an Accommodation house which is turn began the settlement of the town itself.

It was suggested that the date for the celebration should commence on 31st October and continue right through the month of November 2008.

Cr Bev Tasker to approach Sandra Curd or Tim Lovett of the A & P Association to see if they would be interested in being a part of the Celebration and whether they had set a theme at this stage for the Ashburton Show.

Cheryl Yates undertook to check Ashburton Tourism calendar of events, Information Centre and Ashburton Online to see what is happening in November 2008.

Michael Hanrahan reported about a book launch possibility about that time.

Cheryl Yates to get a date for the next District Diary and liaise with Cr Rod Beavan regarding an article on the proposed celebration.

Cheryl Yates to get an updated list of heritage organisation for the Committee.

Ashburton Plunket building

Cheryl Yates reported on the application for heritage grant for the repair of the underside of the verandah on the Plunket Building on Victoria Street. Further information had been requested from the applicant including comment from NZ Historic Places Trust in Christchurch. There was a discussion on how the damage had occurred, the previous resource consent and whether building consent would be required. When this information is available it will be brought back to this committee for evaluation.

Longbeach

Cheryl Yates reported that a letter had gone out to Longbeach Estate for the flourmill and waterwheel restoration project complete with the cheque for \$5,000. The Committee requested that a further letter be forwarded to Longbeach Estate stating that the grant was to be used for the proposed roof repairs to the old Flour Mill.

General Business

Ashburton Glassworks

A very general discussion was held regarding the Glassworks particularly this was one of the building the bus tour took the Council past.

Holy Name Church

Michael Hanrahan reported that the seismic strengthening work has been carried out and the ladder is in place. There will be further restoration work to take place and this work is likely to involve the heritage sub committee at a later date.

St Andrews

Cheryl Yates reported that following an article in the newspaper about the proposed 150th Anniversary, Betty Buchanan had telephoned and offered St Andrews Presbyterian Church as a venue for a Church Service to mark the occasion.

The Committee requested that Cheryl Yates approach the Ministers Association to invite them to participate as well.

NZ Historic Places

Michael Hanrahan reported on NZ Historic Places Trust Walking Trail proposal.

Michael Hanrahan reported on Photos of Heritage Buildings and storage of these. He had recently been to a seminar of Black and White photos over Digital and the Best Practice.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Subcommittee will be held at 1 pm on Thursday 8 May 2008 – Councillors Lounge.

Cheryl to book a room and send out notice. The purpose of meeting will be to introduce the new people and have a round table discussion on the 150th Anniversary celebration. A list of ideas and suggestions would be appreciated.

The meeting concluded at 2.30 pm.

ASHBURTON DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

FILE NO: 6/8/1 1/3/2
DATE: 6 May 2008
REPORT TO: Environmental Services Committee
FROM: Cr Burgess
SUBJECT: ALAC Partnerships Conference 2008

7. ALAC PARTNERSHIPS CONFERENCE 2008 **Local Government – Planning For Alcohol in the Community**

Held at the Rutherford Hotel, Nelson on April 10 and 11, 2008

As in Queenstown in 2006, this Conference identified Local Government as a key player in planning for alcohol, and ultimately reducing alcohol-related harm. There are three main Acts that determine the planning, regulatory, and enforcement functions of local government which relate to the availability and use of alcohol.

This conference set out to showcase work that has been done in the area of planning for alcohol in the community, and more specifically how Local Government and other organisations can use the legislation to better plan for and control the sale, supply, and consumption of alcohol in their communities.

In particular the conference set out to highlight:

- Champions of changing the drinking culture – the role of local authorities in changing New Zealand’s drinking culture.
- Using the tools we already have – how to effectively control alcohol through the Local Government Act, the Resource Management Act, the District Plan and the Sale of Liquor Act.
- Make the links – examine the link between alcohol use, public safety, and perceptions of safety.
- Alcohol Strategies and Liquor Policies – critical factors for developing sustainable policy interventions.

The opening address on Day 1 was given by **Rachel Reese, Deputy Mayor of Nelson City**. Ms Reese, who incidentally is a first term councillor, asked the question ‘Is Planning Appropriate?’. Ms Reese told the conference that 46% of violent offending in Nelson City was between the hours of 11- 00 pm and 3.00 am. (Source Nelson Police). Ms Reese said that she sees changes, but only as awareness is heightened.

The first of the Keynote Speakers was **Mr Gerard Vaughan, CEO of ALAC** who likened perception as being ‘a view of the world from somebody else’s mountain’. Mr Vaughan spoke of ALAC’s 5 year strategic plan (2008 – 2013) which is available in booklet form. He spoke too of Community Actions and Community Programmes, drinking environments, large scale events, and services and settings.

Liquor advertising, in particular TV and magazine advertising were subjects of comment, some overseas (California) research was touched on. Mr Vaughan was the first of many speakers who spoke of ‘**outlet density**’ i.e. the numbers and proliferation of liquor licenses in New Zealand.

This is a subject that was scarcely heard of at Queenstown just two years ago, but it is obviously now a major concern, as it surfaced regularly throughout this conference.

The new range of ALAC Adverts which are clearly designed to shock, were shown to delegates.

The next Keynote address was delivered by **the Hon. Damien O'Connor, - Associate Minister of Health** who spoke from the perspective of the Justice and Health Departments.

Mr O'Connor spoke of alcohol as a dilemma, and questioned whether it was good or bad. He spoke of the equation between harmful and the social use of alcohol, and the dilemma between liberalising and regulating the sale of liquor. Alcohol Strategies, the conference was told, were critical to the control of liquor sales. Comparisons were made between industry advertising and the new ALAC advertisements.

On the matter of under age and binge drinking the minister said that responsibility laid with us all, and that it is essential that the culture is changed. Mr O'Connor told the conference of a more recent Government initiative whereby it would be an offence for any person to supply liquor to a minor which would then be drunk in a public place. This would **not** apply to parents or guardians because government has decided that 'would be a step too far'. He also spoke of the '3 strikes you're out' law which applies to licensees who, should they transgress three times, will lose their licences.

Advertising does increase the use of alcohol Mr O'Connor said, but he questioned just how effective it might be to ban advertising which targeted youth, when that same youth could be reached via the internet or by texting or blogging. On the National Alcohol Action Plan the minister said that more action and less planning might be more appropriate.

The Resource Management Act does allow local government to consider issues pertaining to the sale of liquor and that the RMA might be used to consider issues around social and health matters. Mr O'Connor concluded by talking of the use and abuse of alcohol, the culture surrounding the sale and control of liquor, and questioned whether at the end of the day a review of the sale of liquor act might be more appropriate.

The next Keynote address was delivered by **Dr Tanya Chikritzhs PhD**, who is a senior research fellow at the National Drug Research Institute, Curtin University, in Perth, Western Australia.

Dr Chikritzhs also spoke of **outlet density** and spoke of outcomes from a feasibility study using data collected in 2000 / 2001. She told the conference that alcohol policy determines, in fact predicts alcohol related harm, and spoke of self-regulation vs deregulation, and supply and demand. Serious reported assaults are consistent with increases in **outlet density** that also impacted on homicides, and child abuse.

All of the evidence gathered in Australia indicates that **outlet density** contributes positively to police reported assaults, drink driving, road crashes, hospitalisations, and deaths. These numbers are based only on reported models. Surprisingly the strongest harm indicators are gathered from the sales of beer, but it might be a factor that Australian beer is generally stronger than New Zealand's standard strength beers. As in New Zealand supermarkets are permitted to sell alcohol 24 / 7 but in addition to sales of wine and beer our Australian counterparts also sell spirits which of course includes RTD's. Dr Chikritzhs hesitated to compare Australia's problems with our own, but thought that anecdotally at least, the problems are similar.

Next up was a presentation delivered by **Dr Paul Quigley** of the **Wellington Hospital Emergency Department** who spoke of a focus on youth alcohol and other presentations at the emergency Department. Some startling statistics were presented by Dr Quigley, for example.

- 40 % of all admissions are under 20 years of age.

- The majority of admissions are young females. Presently females account for 54 % of alcohol related admissions...Projections are that females will soon be 60 % of admissions with male admissions making up the other 40 %.
- For any of these young people to reach the E.D. is considered serious as some are discovered unconscious...80 % arrive by ambulance, and 90 % arrive after 10.00 pm.
- On average, each of these young people require 8 to 12 hours in the E.D.
- Of 39 patients in the 10 – 15 year age bracket, 13 were male and 26 were female.
- Many of these young people, particularly female arrive at the E.D. exhibiting injuries associated with self harm. 25 – 30 % of young intoxicated females presenting to the E.D. have indulged in some form of self harm.
- Dr Quigley told the conference there is growing evidence that simple interventions can make a difference, especially if such intervention is made before the patient becomes alcohol dependant.

There was a heavy Police presence at the conference, and the next Keynote speaker was **Superintendent Bill Searle, the National Manager of Community Policing** who spoke of alcohol misuse as a key challenge in N.Z. Police's Strategic plan. Alcohol misuse has high direct costs for police and is a driver of Police work.

Police, Supt. Searle said, are refreshing their Community Policing approach. Community policing is both a community centred philosophy and an approach to dealing with community-related crime and safety problems. Supt. Searle spoke of the NZ Police Alcohol Action Plan and the four objectives within that plan.

- 1 Minimising alcohol related crime and road crashes.
- 2 Tailoring responses for special events and population groups
- 3 Community Policing development. 250 new community police are being added to the force.
- 4 Invest in research and evaluation. (Support of Police Workforce).

Supt. Searle also spoke of the need to prevent YATA (Youth Access To Alcohol), of local solutions to local problems, and improvements to the Alco Link programme. CPO's (Controlled Purchase Operations) nationally were showing a reduction in violations of 20 %.

The presentation concluded with a reference to the Sale Of Liquor Act in relation to **Outlet Density**.

The next presenter was **Dr John Wren** who is the **Research Programme Leader, Public Health Intelligence, Ministry of Health**, whose keynote address was '**Outcomes Monitoring: Mission Impossible – unless you choose to accept – is there any choice**'. Questions posed in the abstract:

- How do we know our alcohol harm minimisation programmes are working?
- Is it a 'Mission Impossible' to monitor effectiveness?
- Do we have any choice about monitoring our programmes?
- How do we monitor?

The presentation briefly addressed these questions. Tools for thinking about 'how to' monitor public health programmes were introduced and examples from an ALAC Outcomes Monitoring project on how data from a range of sources might be used to monitor programme effectiveness were provided.

Reference MOH Website: 'Logic Model and Outcomes Monitoring' and 'How to Monitor for Population'.

Monitoring said Dr Wren should be ‘SMART’ which equals ‘Specific, Measurable, Appropriate, Reasonable, and Timed’.

Manukau City is seen as an authority which has been ‘fighting back’ against alcohol related harm via their Alcohol Strategy of 2002, and a Liquor Control By-law in 2005. The next Keynote Speaker was **Su’a William Sio**, who is **Deputy Mayor of Manukau City** and our newest **(Labour List)**

Member of Parliament whose address was Alcohol and Local Government, from an elected member’s perspective. Su’a William Sio told the conference that outlets were not permitted near schools in Manakau, but that previously there were concentrations of liquor outlets in the wrong places, i.e. in relation to vulnerable people. Price cutting also in relation to location was mentioned for the same reasons. Mr Sio also believes that changes are necessary to the Sale of Liquor Act in relation to **outlet density**, and that communities wish to be heard. Mr Sio also believes that in addition to the RMA as it stands, local body consents should also be necessary, and that the NZ Police should be given more powers to control the problems associated with the misuse of liquor.

Many speakers at the conference spoke of the tools available to Territorial Local Authorities to control liquor outlets. For example the RMA might be used to consider amenity effects such as noise, traffic, character of the building, effect on streetscape, etc, social effects and economic effects. Few of these speakers however were prepared to say that these tools would be successful, or without serious challenges.

Two ladies from **DLA Phillips Fox, Sally Dosser and Kerry Anderson** presented a paper which considered these ‘tools’ and highlighted the problems associated with the use of the various options. The first option considered was the creation of bylaws and the creation of district plan provisions to impose controls on liquor outlets. There are many problems cited should this option be considered and the presenters felt this could be a long and expensive procedure without any guarantee of success. Changes to the District Plan were also considered and the inherent problems associated with such a move were examined. These two experts appeared to have scant confidence that the options considered would be successful and highlighted that to have any chance of success robust research was essential. The paper concluded by saying:

“It needs to be acknowledged that it will be difficult, even with compelling and unequivocal evidence to promote a plan change that relies purely on the social effect (eg alcohol related harm)”. and further: “If research link can be established then once one district plan has proceeded through the plan change process, it will make it easier for other TLA’s to follow suit. The first one will be the most difficult.

It might be that any changes may have to come about through changes to the Sale of Liquor Act, and at this time that would appear unlikely.

Facilitated Workshop. Guidelines for Developing an Alcohol Strategy.

Workshop: *Hear and share experiences in planning for alcohol in your communities. An interactive workshop for discussing how to go about developing an alcohol strategy and how to ‘keep one alive’*

It is strongly being suggested that to have any influence on the controls of liquor TLA’s must develop an alcohol strategy. This was emphasised in the address delivered by the Hon Damien O’Connor. A National Alcohol Strategy has been developed by the Ministry of Health and may be viewed at <http://www.moh.govt.nz/publications/nationalalcoholstrategy>).

An extensive paper produced by ALAC was released to the conference detailing step by step guidelines for developing alcohol strategies. This paper set out seven key steps toward a local alcohol strategy, which interestingly drew on crime reduction, and alcohol and drugs agencies in the UK.

I have this paper among much printed matter from the conference, and it will be freely available to interested parties.

The next presentation was from **Melissa Gregan** and **David Coom** of the **Problem Gambling Foundation**, and the title of their paper was *Planning for alcohol: Making gambling legislation and public health work in your favour*.

The purpose of the presentation is to provide people working to reduce alcohol related harm with tools and lessons taken from gambling legislation and public health. Melissa and David spoke of a 'sinking lid' policy in Manakau whereby venues that closed were not re-consented. Reference was also made to the moratorium introduced by Christchurch City.

Next up was **Jennifer Lamm** who is the **Resource Management Planner, Auckland Regional Public Health Service** whose presentation was entitled **Local Government and planning for alcohol in the community**.

ABSTRACT

In recent years, alcohol has become easier to access. The number, type and location of licensed premises in an area are of increasing concern to communities. Despite the Resource Management Act's purpose of enabling "people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being and for their health and safety", planning legislation and rules do not appear to consider:

- The likely effect of granting a licence on the amenity of the immediate or general neighbourhood.
- Whether there are any established alcohol-sensitive land uses for which granting of a licence might be negative.
- Whether there are any cumulative planning effects of multiple licensed premises that might be a relevant consideration.
- Whether Council has any plan changes or variations in train that could or should influence the granting of a licence.

It is suggested that a report that considers these issues should accompany a resource consent application. The provision of such a report (which could take the form of a Health Impact Assessment report) could be a statutory requirement in the Public Health Bill, which would be consistent with other jurisdictions, for example in New South Wales.

The penultimate session was comprised of three concurrent presentations each of which featured three different presenters, so obviously nobody could take in more than three of these. I chose to take in three diverse subjects in three different locations.

- **Culture & Alcohol – 'the what, where, when, how, and how much'...Wendy Moore from ALAC.**
- **Liquor Licensing by Territorial Authorities...Bill Gebbie from the Office of the Auditor General.**
- **Operation 'Mellow Yellow'** a presentation on the initiative of using bright yellow jackets in Manukau in the wee hours to simulate authority. They say it works. Presented by **Sgt. Gavin Campbell, NZ Police & Paul Radich, Manukau DLA.**

The final session was a **Panel Discussion & Wrap Up**. I sat in for part of this but then had to do a runner as I had a plane to catch. Once again, the conference was informative and interesting. It was quite different from the previous conference in Queenstown with quite different themes being discussed and debated. I did enjoy the experience, and I would like to thank the Ashburton District Council most sincerely making my attendance possible.

CR JIM BURGESS