

REPORT and **MINUTES** of a meeting of the **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton, on Thursday 3 May, 2007, commencing at 1.30 pm.

PRESENT: His Worship the Mayor, Mr M B O'Malley; Councillors R J Kilworth (Chair), R C Beavan, L J Leadley, B A Tasker, K W P Lowe, M J Urquhart, D Glass and I J Burgess.

Also in attendance Crs P W Reveley, N A Brown and D N Nelson; Environmental Services Manager, Senior Planner, Environmental Health Officer, and Committee Secretary.

APOLOGY: Cr K L Holmes

Sustained

Confirmation of Minutes

“That the minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 22 March, 2007, be taken as read and confirmed.”

Beavan/Lowe

Carried

Matters Arising

BNZ building

The Environmental Services Manager reported that he has responded to formal notice from the owner of the BNZ building at Rakaia that the building is to be demolished. A two month objection period follows.

Dog Control Policy and Procedures Reporting

- “1. That the report be received.
2. That the Committee adopts the report on the conduct of the Council’s policy and procedures as they relate to dog control.”

Leadley/Burgess

Carried

Litter Act 1979 (S13 & 14) – Infringement Notice Provisions

The Environmental Health Officer reported that litter infringements are currently issued in accordance with Council’s Bylaw. He recommended the adoption of sections 13 and 14 of the Litter Act which will provide a better legal basis and will allow flexibility to use the Bylaw or the Act.

The Committee heard that representatives of ECan, NZFS, NZ Police, DOC and Fish and Game met with the Environmental Health Officer recently to discuss a combined approach to reduce illegal dumping in the Ashburton district.

- “1. That public notice be given of Council’s intention to adopt the provisions of Sections 13 and 14 of the Litter Act 1979.
2. That subject to public notification being given, the Committee recommends to Council that the provisions of Sections 13 and 14 of the Litter Act 1979 be adopted.”

Tasker/Lowe

Carried

Private Plan Change – Methven Trotting Club

RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

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| <p>“1. That the report be received.</p> <p>2. That the Committee recommends to Council that it accepts the proposed Methven Trotting Club Plan Change for public notification.”</p> |
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Glass/Lowe

Carried

Carters Terrace Subdivision – Naming of Right-of-Way

“That the new right-of-way serving five lots, being consent SU060113, be named Braam Lane.”

Leadley/Beavan

Carried

Activity Reports

“That the reports be received.”

Glass/Mayor

Carried

Building Activity

Statistics for April 2007 were tabled showing a 22% increase in LIM processing since April 2006. In the same period the total number of building consents has increased by 19%, with a 28% in value.

The Mayor took the opportunity to report on the recent visits to this district by two MPs, David Benson-Pope, Minister for the Environment, and Clayton Cosgrove, Minister for Building and Construction. Both Ministers spoke favourably about the development in the district and performance of Council.

The Environmental Services Manager updated the Committee on the building consent accreditation process. Ashburton is part of a cluster group of upper South Island councils which has been formed to share resources and skills. Application to the Building Consent Authority for accreditation will be lodged in June 2007.

NE Ashburton Business Park Plan Change

It was reported that Transit NZ requires a private agreement with Council on the intersection upgrade. The Environmental Services Manager confirmed the importance of having this agreement in place before proceeding with the hearing, which is now unlikely to be held before late July / August this year.

Town Centre

The Environmental Services Manager reported that a presentation from Boffa Miskell was scheduled for 22 May, however the consultant is unable to meet this timeframe and has asked that it be deferred until after July.

Resource Consent Hearings

Hearings will be held for the Ashburton Christian School consent and the Ashburton Range Users Association consent on 4 and 11 May 2007 respectively.

Bylaw Review

The Committee will be updated at its next meeting on the Bylaw review process.

The Consultant Planner attended the meeting at 2.20 pm.

Items transacted with the public excluded (2.20 pm)

“That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting, namely – 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:
10	Geo-preservation sites	Section 7(2)(i) Conduct of negotiations

Glass/Tasker

Carried

The Committee resumed in open meeting and adjourned for afternoon tea at 2.45 pm.

The meeting resumed at 3.14 pm.

ECan Presentation

ECan representatives, Cr Angus McKay, Andrew Willis and Richard Ball, were welcomed to the meeting to update the Committee on the Canterbury Regional Policy Statement review and the Biodiversity Strategy for Canterbury.

- **Canterbury Regional Policy Statement Review**

ECan commenced the process 12 months ago and has received feedback on the scoping paper. The draft policy papers have been circulated to territorial authorities and consultation is underway with key stakeholders. ECan is looking to notify the document in late June 2009.

The Committee was presented with issues from the chapters of the Plan on natural hazards; settlement, transport and versatile soils; and natural features and landscapes.

The Committee indicated that Council would be likely to accept ECan’s recommendation of a minimum requirement of risk management, possibly based on a national direction, however it will be seeking to retain local autonomy to ensure the best outcome for this community.

- **Biodiversity Strategy for Canterbury**

A Willis updated the Committee on work to date following the establishment of an advisory group last year. The Group is developing a process for working with key stakeholders in the region and the completed strategy will be presented to Council in July / August this year. Council’s representatives on the Advisory Group are Cr Glass and the Parks Manager, D Askin.

The presentation and meeting concluded at 5.00 pm.