

Biodiversity Advisory Group

AGENDA

Notice of Meeting:

A meeting of the Biodiversity Advisory Group will be held on:

Date: Tuesday 8 June 2021

Time: 1.00pm

**Venue: Mayors Reception, 5 Baring Square West,
Ashburton**

Membership

Ashburton District Council:	Cr Lynette Lovett (Chair) Mayor Neil Brown (ex officio) Cr Diane Rawlinson Bert Hofmans (Open Spaces Planner)
DOC:	Ian Fraser and Brad Edwards
Environment Canterbury:	Donna Field (also Whitcombe Landcare Group rep) Janine Holland
Federated Farmers:	Mike Salvesen
Fish & Game:	Jayde Couper and Mark Webb
Fonterra:	Marcelo Wibmer
Foothills Landcare Group:	Gen de Spa
Forest & Bird, ACCT:	Val Clemens and Edith Smith
Forest & Bird Society:	Mary Ralston (also Awa Rata reserve rep)
Kānuka Trust:	No person specified
Mt Somers Walkway Society & Lake Heron Conservation Society:	Barry Austin
Synlait:	Michael Edmondson
QEII Trust:	Alice Shanks
Water Zone Committee:	Bill Thomas

Biodiversity Advisory Group

Timetable	
Time	Item
1.00pm	Meeting commences

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1 Apologies**
- 2 Extraordinary Business**
- 3 Declarations of Interest**
- 4 Previous Minutes & Actions**
 - Confirmation of minutes 2/02/21
- 5 Reports and Presentations**
 - 5.1** Canterbury Biodiversity Champions – Advocacy within communities
- 6 Agency Updates**
 - Forest and Bird**
 - Harris Reserve Submission to ADC LTP (*appendix 1*)
 - Planting Day 9 September
 - Casual infill planting
 - Wilding day at Lake Heron
 - Domain Development Plan ADC LTP 2015 (*appendix 2*)
Former aviary area. Sequential native planting and ecosystems
Island native area management

Biodiversity Advisory Group (Unconfirmed)

Minutes of the Biodiversity Advisory Group held on Tuesday 2 February, commencing at 1.08pm at the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton.

Present: Councillors Diane Rawlinson (Chair), Bert Hofmans (ADC); Steve Fabish (ADC); Val Clemens (Forest & Bird and ACCT), Mike Salvesen (Federated Farmers); Barry Austin (Mt Somers Walkway Soc. & Lake Heron Conservation Soc.); Donna Field (ECan & Whitcombe Landcare Group); Alice Shanks (QEII Trust); Ian Fraser (DOC); and Brad Edwards (DOC).

In attendance: Aisling O'Reilly (Governance Support - minutes); Angela Cushnie (Kānuka Trust and Water Zone Committee), Richie Owen (Mt Hutt Ski Area), Justin Legg (MHV Water)

1 Apologies

Mayor Neil Brown, Cr Lynette Lovett, Jayde Couper, Gen De Spa, Mary Ralston, Marcelo Wibmer and Edith Smith.

Austin/Field Carried

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil

4 Confirmation of Minutes – 8/12/20

That the minutes of the Biodiversity Advisory Group meeting held on 8 December 2020 be taken as read and confirmed.

Clemens/Austin Carried

*Ian Fraser and Brad Edwards arrived at 1:12pm
Moved to agenda item 7 as Richie Owen was running late.*

7 Agency Updates

Department of Conservation (Brad Edwards)

- Over the past 18 months DOC have been working closely with runaka Arowhenua to form a relationship and together are working towards creating a river management plan for the Rangitata (Rakitata). A working group called the Rangitata Restoration Working Group has been formed.
- There will be some workshops with the residents who live along the river to see how they can draw these people into the project.
- This will be an ongoing project. There is no specific timeline.
- The working group have created a vision statement with a set of objectives under this. There are action points cascading out of this. Vision is to restore the

mauri of the river. This is the vision for Arowhenua also. This is central to the project. Great opportunity to take the story of the Arowhenua out to the rest of the community.

- Barry Austin advised that Ecan have been awarded a lot of money to restore the flood damage of the river and asked if this will hinder what the group have to do. Brad advised that ECan are on the same page and the flood works restoration is a part of the conversation.

Ian Fraser

- This is now the end of the 6th season in the Rangitata River in terms of predator control work which has been partly funded by ECAN. While things have improved, it is probably not enough. Some LINZ funding will go towards predator control work.
- Recruiting through LINZ funding to hire a 3.5 year position to manage this work. This is all Covid recovery money.

Forest and Bird (Val Clemens)

- Black-Billed Gulls: Edith has been in close contact with the family whose farm has been used as a nesting site. This family has been monitoring the birds and trapping pests. There is also a nesting site at the Arundel Bridge.
- Harris Reserve: the latest planting of Carex secta along the water race went well. Another large area has been sprayed and ripped for future plantings and an enclosure for tiny plants is being constructed. This will house plants such as Craspedia “Wakanui” and the smaller members of the Carmichaelia or native broom family, among others.
- Just before Christmas two members dealt to 40 flowering Russell Lupins and about 250 of their offspring, from near the old rubbish dump in the Hakatere Conservation Park. Some willows, broom and gorse were also treated with herbicide.
- The next Forest and Bird Meeting is Tuesday 16 February at 7.30pm at Sinclair Centre. Ecologist Nick Head will be speaking at this meeting on the topic: *“Battle for the Biome - The Mackenzie Basin - a fraught journey to protection (or not)”*.

With barely a native species to be seen on the road between Christchurch and Timaru, the Canterbury Plains are a stark reminder of the issues confronting nature conservation in low- altitude, low-lying environments of New Zealand. As a result, remaining dryland ecosystems are the least protected and most threatened in the country. This talk provides a recent history of the struggle to protect the internationally significant biome of the Mackenzie Basin.

- Val spoke to the group about the case for a Biodiversity Officer.

The need for this role is obvious when reading the Biodiversity Action Plan which lists 5 objectives and 26 actions needed to support those objectives.

The National Biodiversity Strategy was launched in August 2020 which will begin to increase the work required by ADC. To do this work effectively and efficiently will require considerable expertise.

Selwyn District Council has two Biodiversity Officers, one of whom has a Master’s Degree in Conservation and Ecology. There is a need within council for similarly qualified people.

- Forest & Bird see an opportunity to hold a seminar for people who are looking to do some native planting. Many landowners are very keen to enhance any areas with remaining native plants on their farms, or to plant natives as shelter belts or general enhancement. Natives not only provide resources for beneficial insects (research at Lincoln University has found that ti kouka/cabbage trees

support 19 species of beneficial insects and no insect pests), but also food and shelter for birds. They also don't need trimming every year or two.

- It was suggested that the Biodiversity Advisory Group support the staging of a seminar to provide some of the information people are looking for, ways to support and fund their projects. Topics that could be covered in the seminar:
find Positive reasons for planting natives.
Site selection & assessing environmental conditions at the site.
Site preparation.
Plant selection & where to buy plants.
Best practice planting techniques.
Funding opportunities and accountability.
Record keeping.
Ongoing maintenance, especially weed control.
Support available from milk companies, local councils, etc.
- Volunteers from the Biodiversity Advisory group were sought.
- Alice Shanks mentioned how the planting that is going into the town now is not reflective of the Council's support for biodiversity as there is no native biodiversity being planted. Kowhai is the native plant for this district. Additionally, the trees that were planted in Hinds are the wrong trees for the soil type there.
- Angela Cushnie suggested that this discussion should all be part of the submission to the LTP.

Mt Somers Walkway Society & Lake Heron Conservation (Barry Austin)

- Starting wasp control programme tomorrow. Evidence suggests that the wasps are not as bad as they have been.

Ecan & Whitcombe Landcare Group(Donna Field)

- Ecan have done some water sampling at Lake Clearwater and will now be investigating further. People can now go swimming.
- Have received some funding from Fonterra to do some work on Mt Harding Stream. Looking at doing some restorative work with the mauri of the river here.
- Whitcombe Landcare group have received some extra funding. Wilding pine control is ongoing. Just completed a goose cull which was very successful.
- There was relatively small amounts of vandalism over the summer at Ashton Beach. Some ongoing problems with some people using their bikes.
- Underground beach to bridge run: keep an eye on Facebook for this. Unsure of how to best manage this at this point. Don't want people going down through to the beach and going through the reserve.

General Updates

Lake Clearwater

- Ian Hyde advised that Tangata Whenua, Ecan, FENZ DOC and ADC are very much involved. There are also hut owners involved. There has been a lot of work done by Ecan. It is emerging that there doesn't seem to be an easy solution but there are steps to be taken to improve the situation.

Ashburton District Council (Bert Hofmans)

- Bert updated on the process for the LTP in regards to the creation of a Biodiversity Officer role. Submissions will open in mid-march for about 4 weeks.
- It was discussed that individual submissions from each group should be done and that if the Biodiversity Advisory Group want to make a submission, Crs

Rawlinson and Lovett will exclude themselves from the submission as they cannot then be part of the decision-making process if they make a submission.

- **Biodiversity Field Trip**

Places to add to the itinerary:

Plantation Road	
Harris Reserve	
Swamp Road	Alice Shanks to speak at this area
Ferrimans Road	Edith Smith to speak at this area
Carr's Farm	Glenys Carr to speak at this area
Ashton Beach	Bert Hofmans to speak at this area

It was agreed that a half day would be enough time. A day in March will be suggested. Aisling O'Reilly to come back to the group with this.

Reports and Presentations

Mt Hutt Ski Area

- Richie Owen presented on the trapping programme at Mt Hutt.
- Trapping programme now in its third year. Had seen a decline in Kea numbers which was a concern.
- Formed a sustainability group and got funding to start with 50 traps. Trapping is all done on a volunteer basis.
- Since doing this they have had a sighting of one Kea over a number of weeks.
- Have gone around the schools in Mt Hutt and spoken to them about trapping and why Mt Hutt Ski are doing this.
- Started a replanting programme. Got these trees from DOC in Geraldine. Staff volunteers and planted all of these.
- Angela Cushnie stated that there seems to be a lack of cohesion in terms of doing work with the schools. Would be good to try and get some more connectivity around this and is looking for some leadership. Need a hub for our predator control programmes. Kānuka Trust have put an educator in place. The more of this that can be done, the better but need a collection place of the things all the groups are doing.

Agency Updates (continued)

Water Zone Committee & Kānuka Trust (Angela Cushnie)

- Draft work programme has gone in. Working more towards community engagement.
- It is timely to acknowledge Lachie Ashton and the key role he had in getting the Carters Creek project going.
- Kānuka Trust have employed an educator to start their Footprint Project
- Will be working with Ashburton College at a Champions of Change Youth Hui. Hoping to time this in with Youth Council.
- Hinds Reserve Board have started doing some native planting.

Next Meeting

Tuesday 6 April 2021 at 1pm.

The meeting concluded at 2:50pm

5.1. Canterbury Biodiversity Champions 2021

Environment Canterbury hosted a meeting of the Canterbury Biodiversity Champions on Friday 14 May. The meeting provided an opportunity for councils to catch up on where each are at with their Long Term Plans, particularly in respect to Biodiversity.

From the meeting the participating councils have been asked for feedback on the following questions –

Advocacy within Communities	
What does success in our role look like in the community?	The Ashburton District community values and cares for biodiversity and accepts the shared responsibility to work together to ensure it is sustained and enhanced, both now and into the future.
What is our community asking for? (in relation to biodiversity)	Leadership accompanied by sufficient resourcing from the Ashburton District Council to implement all of the objectives of the Ashburton District Biodiversity Action Plan.
What needs to change in our community?	Greater awareness and understanding of the importance and uniqueness of our local biodiversity.

Advocacy within our Region	
What can we do together as councils?	Take a coordinated approach to the implementation of the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy.
How can we provide support from a governance perspective?	Provide leadership and resourcing for the implementation of the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy.

Advocacy within New Zealand	
What's our role at the national level	Advocate for strong leadership at national level. Leadership means identifying national priorities and actions, and taking an active role in their implementation.

7. *Agency Updates*

Ashburton District Council

- Ashton Beach – DoC are still processing the wildlife permit application.
- Lake Camp – had a positive meeting with ECan staff onsite regarding potential funding for wilding conifer removal.
- Planting Natives 101 – progressing the planning and preparations for this day (Friday 2 July 2021).

Lake Heron Conservation Society

- Trapping has continued on a monthly basis, the number of animals being caught shows no sign of declining ranging from 30 to 61 each month. April numbers included:
 - 17 Hedgehogs
 - 4 Cats
 - 4 Stoats
 - 2 Rats
 - 9 Ferrets
 - 2 Weasels
 - 1 PossumThe number of ferrets was above normal, and can't be explained. The new double traps are working well and often result in a double kill.

Mount Somers Walkways Report

Gorse and broom spraying has finished for the season, the whole of the Stour Valley has once again been covered with some patches high on the tops being dealt with. Saddle Hill is going to be Hele Sprayed in the spring and maybe some areas around the mine. DOC has had a look and will give us a report.

A difficult season for wasp baiting as the season didn't warm up until very late. The traps were reset late March after reports of large numbers along the warm spots of the track to Woolshed Creek Hut and a good kill was achieved.

Bird numbers along the track appear to be increasing so it appears we might be winning. An animal trapping programme will be increased this winter which should also help.

Appendix 1

Ashburton Community Conservation Trust (Inc)

May 11th 2021

The Ashburton Community Conservation Trust (ACCT) was established in 2008. The Trust Deed specifies the majority of the trustees must be Forest and Bird members and the Trust's meetings be chaired by the Forest and Bird chairman. Part of the Trust's objects is to protect and restore the natural vegetation of the Ashburton area.

At that time the District Council owned a 11.3 hectare property, including a 2 hectare QE11 Covenant site at 409 Lovetts road which was not suitable for the purpose it was originally purchased for. A lease was drawn up between the Trust and the ADC with the objective of enhancing the existing QE11 covenant site and planting the other 9 hectares with vegetation typical of the area 150 years ago. The lease required the Trust to manage the property for at least five years from June 2010.

In the ensuing years the trustees have acquired a great deal of knowledge about dryland biodiversity and the skills needed to develop the site as it appears today. Management plans were produced and were regularly reviewed. This development has created opportunities for volunteers, community groups and schools to work at and identify with the Reserve and has required considerable management time and effort. This effort has extended to thirteen years, considerably more than the five years expected under the lease agreement.

While the tenure of the Harris Scientific Reserve is unlimited, the planting programmes are nearing their conclusion after fourteen years. With this in mind, the Trustees are considering theirs and the Council's future role at the reserve. They would feel more confident about the future if there was a permanent Biodiversity Officer Ecologist appointed to the staff who would have the knowledge and experience needed to manage this significant dryland vegetation reserve.

The Trustees strongly advocate for the appointment of a Biodiversity Officer Ecologist as advocated in the Council's Long Term Plan.

While the Harris Reserve is a site where native vegetation is being restored, is open to the public and appreciated by the few people who visit, 409 Lovetts Road is quite out of the way for most. "To bring the native biodiversity to the people" is a key value of the recent Domain Development Plan and today we have a great opportunity to meet this value by creating a native garden in the former aviary area. This site could feature our district's native plants and ecosystems in sequential plantings starting from alpine to the foothills, to braided rivers, to the plains and the coast. These would be set in natural landscaping suited to each of the five areas. The site would include attractive informative panels along pathways to educate the public and children about the Mid Canterbury native biodiversity.

An experienced biodiversity officer would lead a project such as this and Ashburtonians and visitors alike would learn to appreciate our indigenous biodiversity.

Appendix 2



Royal Forest and Bird Protection
Society of New Zealand Inc.
Ashburton Branch:
PO Box 460,
Ashburton 7740

Edith Smith
Ashburton Forest and Bird
P O Box 460
Ashburton

7th May 2015

Ashburton District Council
P O Box 94
Ashburton

SUBMISSION TO THE ASHBURTON LONG TERM PLAN 2015 - 2025

The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society's objectives are to preserve and protect indigenous flora and fauna and natural features and landscapes of New Zealand and their intrinsic worth for the benefit of all people.

Environmental Sustainability

A key issue identified in the Council Consultation Document is environmental sustainability and it states that our district is predominantly agricultural.

The item gave no recognition to the natural undeveloped areas of the district's environment which is increasingly under pressure from land use changes. Council has a responsibility to look after the natural environment too.

For example the Hakatere Ashburton River optimum 10 cumec flows should be a priority when the stock water races are closed. It seems unlikely that the abstractive impacts on the river will be resolved anytime soon through the CWMS. Therefore the closure of the water races is a great opportunity for the Council to show its commitment to the natural environment of the river and return all the stock water to the river as races are closed.

We believe greater awareness of the value of environmental wellbeing and biodiversity would help the community understand that our natural heritage is also an important part of our community.

It is with this in mind that I request that the Councillors consider our submission.

Environment and Biodiversity in the Ashburton Domain

Forest and Bird acknowledges that the Ashburton Domain is a significant asset to our district and the wider community and is valued for the park like features and recreational open space it contains.

When we submitted this to the Reserve Management Plan in 2013 we were advised that our recommendation, which is now our submission, could be created on the native section on the domain island. We appreciate the native wilderness of the island and acknowledge the *laissez faire* management plan there, but it is a conglomerate of non ecosourced native plants which is not what we have in mind in this submission.

The Harris Scientific Reserve which is managed by the Ashburton Community Conservation Trust, set up by Forest and Bird is 10 kilometers from Ashburton. Because it is a scientific reserve, the general public has limited access to it. The reserve will eventually be an arid shrublands landscape with dryland vegetation from the plains. In time it will be a place for the public to visit with information panels and species lists but we do not expect it to have anywhere near the visitor numbers that are attracted to the Domain.

The Ashburton Domain Management Plan objectives include: (Quote)

1. Feature gardens and animal displays

The development of further features and displays, both of long and short term in nature, include the holding of educational events shall be encouraged. This shall include Council and public initiated features and displays.

2. Education

To encourage and develop the provision of educational information and displays within the Domain.

Council will work with educational institutions and community groups in the provision of information and experiences about the Domain, the flora and fauna and its important role within the community”.

OUR SUBMISSION:

Ashburton Forest and Bird requests consideration be given to the creation of an Ashburton District native plants and ecosystems garden in the domain. We envisage a series of large linked gardens featuring four of the outstanding habitats of the Ashburton District such as the high country, foothills plains and coastal habitat.

A feature such as this would not only meet the objectives of the Domain Management Plan but also meet the District Council responsibilities towards the Canterbury Biodiversity Strategy, in particular:

Goal 3 which aims to increase the integration and sustainable use of indigenous species in modified environments (eg farm, urban and lifestyle blocks) and

Goal 4. Enhance public awareness, understanding and support of biodiversity.

This would be an ideal way to celebrate the next 150 years

Similar examples in Canterbury

1. Department of Conservation Motukarara Nursery:

An example of the type of garden we are suggesting is the specimen garden at the Department of Conservation nursery at Motukarara. These gardens display the native vegetation found in various places in Canterbury and include the coastal area, Banks Peninsula, the plains, wetlands and the high country. They give the visitor a picture of which particular species to plant to suit each environment and habitat in the Canterbury. The trees and shrubs are well established now and there are a series

of pathways throughout with appropriate information panels to explain where the species came from. DoC also has information pamphlets about each habitat to inform the visitors.

2. Mount Somers Village Green:

Another example and closer to home is the award winning Village Green in Mount Somers which is representative of the different ecosystems and landscapes from the foothills to the Ashburton Lakes and beyond. The design of the Green is creative with large locally sourced rocks of greywacke and limestone among an interesting display of local plant species portraying the original ecosystems and the habitat.

The Village Green is a place for people. There is seating to relax and enjoy the plantings, the pathways and waterways. Some rocks form access to interesting corners of the garden while creating a sense of adventure for young (and older) visitors. This was a visionary idea and as it matures will be a real feature of Mount Somers township.

Our Vision for the Ashburton Domain:

We believe within the Domain Management Plan there is an opportunity to create an Ashburton District native garden feature in which people can walk, sit, explore and play. At the same time they can discover and appreciate the native ecosystems that belong here in the Ashburton District yet in many cases are almost lost to the area.

The Domain is an ideal setting because of its central locality and it is well known and already a popular place to visit.

We suggest that there might be four sections which would meld from one to another in a sequential plan and each would have appropriate planting and landscaping depicting for example the high country, foothills, plains and coastal areas.

Being part of the Domain there would be hands on expertise available to develop a plan, propagate locally sourced plants, and care for the more vulnerable plants specimens that remain in the district.

1. **High Country:** For example the high country could reflect the Ashburton Lakes and adjoining mountain and hill country with planting of tussocks and shrublands and wetland plants around a lake water feature. The higher country could feature rocks and scree, dracophyllum and celmisias among many other native plants that inhabit those areas.
2. **Foothills:** This would connect with the high country which could include the small trees such as griselinia, various hebes, rata and feature a group of larger trees such as the beech and matai. There could be a water feature to emulate the Sharplin Falls and Boyers stream.
3. **The Plains:** On the plains the theme would be a dryland vegetation landscape with the water feature representing a braided river.

Forest and Bird already has knowledge of suitable plants to propagate from which are locally sourced. These would re-create a plains dryland vegetation garden.

4. **The Coast:** The Coastal planting would include flax, plagianthus, NZ iceplant, shore bindweed, oioi and sedges with coastal features such as the stony beach and lagoon.

The Public Appreciation

Throughout the garden there would be places featured to play and climb and explore as well as sites to sit and enjoy part of Ashburton's natural history.

Alongside each of the feature garden areas there could be a series of educational panels to explain the special character of each of them

A lesson and activity plan could be developed so that teachers bringing classes to the gardens will have all the material available to them to guide the children.

It is many decades ago with the foresight of early settlers, the Domain was originally planted with exotic trees. At that time there were dismissive comments about the original native vegetation but now we realise how important our native biodiversity is to our environment.

The Domain has just celebrated 150 years and the district has a great opportunity to be visionary once more and create a series of gardens representing the native vegetation and ecosystems that once existed in Ashburton so much of which, has been lost over time.

Action: That council considers providing funding for the development of this natural history feature in the Domain.

Forest and Bird wishes to be heard in support of this submission

Yours sincerely
Edith Smith

Attending the Hearing for Forest and Bird
Val Clemens
val.clemens@xtra.co.nz

Biodiversity Advisory Group

Terms of Reference

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the advisory group is to:

- Coordinate the implementation of the Ashburton District Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Maintain partnerships between local and regional organisations with an interest in the management of indigenous biodiversity.
- Provide a forum for discussion and community-wide promotion of biodiversity.

Membership

Representatives on the working group were invited based on their organisation's participation in developing the Canterbury Regional Biodiversity Strategy, and/or their ability to contribute to the implementation of the Ashburton District Biodiversity Action Plan.

Membership of the Advisory Group is:

Mayor, Neil Brown (ex officio)	ADC
Cr Lynette Lovett (Chair)	ADC
Cr Diane Rawlinson	ADC
Bill Thomas	Ashburton Water Zone Committee
Gen de Spa	Foothills Landcare Group
Alice Shanks	QE II
Mary Ralston/Edith Smith/Val Clemens	Forest and Bird
Edith Smith/Val Clemens	Ashburton Community Conservation Trust (ACCT)
Mike Salvesen	Federated Farmers
Mark Webb/Jayde Couper	Fish and Game
Donna Field	Whitcombe Landcare Group
Donna Field/Janine Holland	ECan
Ian Fraser/Brad Edwards	DOC
Michael Edmundson	Synlait
Marcelo Wibmer	Fonterra
<i>[No person specified]</i>	Kānuka Trust
Barry Austin	Mt Somers Walkway Society & Lake Heron Conservation Society
Mary Ralston	Awa Awa Rata Reserve
Vacant	Open Spaces Manager, ADC
Bert Hofmans	Open Spaces Planner, ADC

Speaking rights will be granted to one member of each of the advisory group member organisations at each meeting.

Membership of the group may be amended to include representatives from other organisations. This will be at the discretion of the Ashburton District Council.

To form a quorum, the attendance of representatives from at least 6 of the advisory group member organisations, in addition to at least two ADC local representatives, is required.

Representatives from other organisations may be invited to attend advisory group meetings as the need arises.

Meeting Frequency

Meet five times a year.

Delegations

The representatives on the working group are expected to:

- Meet to coordinate the implementation of the Ashburton District Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Form project groups where appropriate to work towards specific actions in the Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Share information, both on organisational initiatives and collaborative initiatives, to support better decisions and knowledge of biodiversity.
- Communicate and consult with one another in a flexible and open way.
- Maintain confidentiality where appropriate.
- Represent their organisations' policies.
- Respect other organisations' governance and policy approaches and priorities in the district / region, and seek a consensus approach to work with these.

Reporting

The Ashburton District Biodiversity Advisory Group will report to Council.

Costs & Expenses

It is acknowledged that being a member of the advisory group will involve a commitment of members' time and energy, and will involve travel to Ashburton District Council to attend meetings. These costs will be met by the organisation(s) or group(s) that members represent. Costs of meetings and associated catering will be met by Ashburton District Council.

Meetings will generally be held in the Council meeting rooms, and may be held in other venues throughout the district as appropriate.

Adopted

9 April 2020 (*Amended 8/12/20*)