

Community Services Committee

AGENDA

Notice of Meeting:

A meeting of the Community Services Committee will be held on:

Date: Tuesday 17 November 2020
Time: 9.30am
Venue: Council Chamber
137 Havelock Street, Ashburton

Membership

Chairperson	Angus McKay
Deputy Chairperson	Carolyn Cameron
Members	Leen Braam Lynette Lovett Diane Rawlinson Mayor Neil Brown (ex-officio)

11 November 2020

Community Services Committee

Timetable	
9.30am	Meeting commences

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1 Apologies**
- 2 Extraordinary Business**
- 3 Declarations of Interest**

Minutes

- | | | |
|----------|--|----------|
| 4 | Community Services Committee - 8/10/20 | 3 |
| 5 | Ashburton Youth Council – 7/10/20 | 5 |
| 6 | Biodiversity Advisory Group – 6/10/20 | 9 |

Reports

- | | | |
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| 7 | Ashburton Domain aviary | 13 |
| 8 | Cemetery fees and charges | 17 |

Business transacted with the public excluded

- | | | |
|-----------|--|------------|
| 9 | Minutes 8/10/20
Section 7(2)(h) Commercial activities | PE1 |
| 10 | Covid-19 Economic Recovery Advisory Group – 14/10/20
Sections 7(2)(a) & (h) Protection of privacy of natural persons and Commercial activities | PE2 |
| 11 | Caring for Communities Welfare Recovery Group - 6/10/20
Sections 7(2)(a) & (h) Protection of privacy of natural persons and Commercial activities | PE6 |
| 12 | Caring for Communities Welfare Recovery Group - 3/11/20
Sections 7(2)(a) & (h) Protection of privacy of natural persons and Commercial activities | PE8 |

4. Community Services Committee – 8/10/20

Minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on Thursday 8 October 2020, commencing at 9.30am, in the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton.

Present

His Worship the Mayor, Neil Brown; Councillors Angus McKay (Chair), Carolyn Cameron, Leen Braam, Lynette Lovett and Diane Rawlinson.

Also present:

Councillors Liz McMillan, Stuart Wilson.

In attendance:

Hamish Riach (Chief Executive), Steve Fabish (GM Community Services), Jane Donaldson (GM Strategy & Compliance), Bert Hofmans (Open Spaces Planner), and Aisling O'Reilly (Governance Officer).

Presentation:

Sarah Wylie (Independent Researcher) – 9.35am

1 Apologies

Nil.

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil.

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil.

4 Confirmation of Minutes

That the minutes of the Community Services Committee meeting held on 27 August 2020, be taken as read and confirmed.

Rawlinson/Cameron

Carried

5 Ashburton Youth Council

That the minutes of the Ashburton Youth Council meeting held on 2 September 2020, be received.

Lovett/Rawlinson

Carried

6 Ashburton Community & Social Sector Research Report

Sarah Wylie presented an overview of the report.

That the Community Services Committee receives the report of Sarah Wylie – “Community and Social Recovery Needs and Capacities in Ashburton District in Covid-19 Times”.

Cameron/Brown

Carried

7 Ashburton Domain Development Plan

Due to concern that there had not been enough time for the Committee to see the revised Domain Development Plan it was suggested that the Plan and further debate be deferred until there had been sufficient time to review.

That the recommendation to Council for adoption of the Ashburton Domain Development Plan be referred back to the Community Services Committee.

McKay/Cameron (Lost)

That the Ashburton Domain Development Plan and report be referred to the Council meeting on 29 October 2020.

Braam/Rawlinson

Carried

Business transacted with the public excluded – 10:27am

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:	
8	Minutes 27/08/20	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
9	Covid-19 Economic Recovery Advisory Group 1/09/20	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities
10	Caring for communities Welfare Recovery Group 1/09/20	Section 7(2)(a) & (h)	Protection of privacy of natural persons and Commercial activities
11	CCTV Contract	Section 7(2)(h)	Commercial activities

McKay/Lovett

Carried

The meeting concluded at 10.41am.

5. Youth Council Minutes – 7/10/20

Minutes of a meeting of the **Ashburton Youth Council** held on Wednesday 7 October 2020, commencing at 4.04pm Council Chambers, Ashburton District Council, 5 Baring Square West, Ashburton.

<p>Present</p> <p>AYC Chairperson Kavan Faoagali AYC Deputy Chairperson Maria Costas AYC Submission Coordinator Maddie Page AYC Councillor Michael Baker AYC Councillor Klara Harrison AYC Councillor John Magyaya AYC Councillor Henry Goodes AYC Councillor Lara Shierlaw</p> <p>ADC Councillor Lynette Lovett ADC Councillor Diane Rawlinson ADC Events Coordinator Verity Jackson ADC Economic Development Manager Bevan Rickerby</p> <p>Visitors</p> <p>Richard Fitzgerald</p>		
1	<p>Apologies</p> <p>AYC Secretary Neil Alombro AYC Media Coordinator Jestena Raj AYC Councillor Klara Harrison (arrived at 4:17pm) AYC Councillor Olivia Fox</p>	
2	<p>Approval of Previous Minutes</p> <p>Motion: That the minutes of the Ashburton Youth Council meeting held on 02 September 2020, be taken as read and confirmed.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Moved: Henry Goodes/John Magyaya Carried</p>	
3	<p>Team Building Activity - Richard Fitzgerald</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We all got up from our seats and the team building game begun. Everyone had to pick 2 people to follow and be equally distanced from, the trick was we had to be silent and no one knew who anyone else picked. - This exercise shows us how everything we do as leaders and people in general, has a ripple effect on everyone around you whether you know it or not and everything around you is more interconnected than you think. - Richard is in a new role with the council. To do with farming and how to bounce back when times get tough 	

4	Guest Speaker - Steve Peseta Absent	
5	Bite Nite Reimagined Wrap Up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 84% Nailed Entertainment • 78% Nailed Atmosphere • 68% Nailed Food + Drink • 84% Nailed Over-all Funness • 91% Nailed Welcoming + Inclusiveness • 46% Learned About A New Culture • We wrote on flip chart papers what were the successes, what were the disappointments, and suggestions for Bite Nite in 2021. ADC Events Coordinator Verity Jackson has these flipcharts Successes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turnout • Games • Weather • Venue • Photography Disappointments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No EFTPOS • No Seating • Sponsors Not Being At Event • More Public Awareness Suggestions 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include Pool • Videographer • Potato Lady, Sweet Treats Person • More Seating • AYC To Get Involved In Sports More • Different Ways To Advertise • Sell Tickets Online • More Signage Around The Night So Attendees Were Less Confused Thursday 15th Of October at NBS Bank To Present Money We Raised \$120 For The Kānuka Trust Ticket Sales - Youth 56, Adult, 71, Family 67 Total Number Of 194 Tickets Estimated People At Bite Nite Reimagined = 600 People There On The Night Giveaways - AYC Councillor Michael Baker How Much Wood Could A Woodchuck Chuck if Woodchuck Could Chuck Wood 187 People Guessed Stella Blacktop - 387 Guess, 385 Amount Sweet and Sour 12 People Balanced For More Than 5 Seconds Mrs Butler - \$30 Chicago Joe's Voucher Tower Of Cups 135 People Participated Natalia -\$40 Speights Ale House Voucher Is The Price Right 95 Forms Alex - 4 Correct, \$50 Phat Duck and Hat	

	<p>Main issue with games - people did not notice the trailer when driving in.</p> <p>Post who won the giveaways on Facebook and a thank you to those sponsors, use giveaways graphic - AYC Deputy Chairperson/Community Liaison Maria Costas</p> <p>Official Letter to The Businesses To Thank Them - Michael Baker</p> <p>Vendors Indian Minar - Great and Ecstatic Vagabond Chefs - Really Impressed Waffle Lady - Loved the Venue Little Orbits - Loved it a lot of business Yes Chef - Very Happy Eat Cafe - Better if they were in the stadium</p>	
6	<p>2021 Recruitment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maddy Has A Couple of Friends • Majority of AYC Members Are Returning, Henry, Lara, Michael, Ian, John and Maddy • Posters, Put Them Around • Get A Hands on At Customers Service • One Application for Ashburton Youth Council – Eli <p>Advertisement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posters • Posting in Group Chats and Facebook Groups • Newspaper, Radio, Facebook, Instagram • Best Way Is School Assembly and Word of Mouth • School Newsletters and School Notices • Leaflets and Handout at Light Up the Night - Friday the 27th Of November • Orientation Day • Put It on TV In The Library 	
7	<p>Certificates Various Recipients of Certificates For...</p> <p>Bite Nite Reimagined</p> <p>Articles</p> <p>Submissions</p> <p>Thank You to ADC Events Coordinator Verity Jackson For Organising Bite Nite So Well.</p>	
8	<p>General Business</p> <p>3 Articles Written By Thursday 15th Of October Maria - October Meeting Summary Kavan - Why Should People Join AYC? Klara - Bite Nite Reimagined Recap! 200-300 Words</p> <p>Month Of December Light Up The Night - 27th November Buskers Night - 3rd December</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of people for it to perform • Buskers and Market Night 	

	<p>Movie Night - 7th December</p> <p>Wed 20th and 27th Induction</p> <p>First Meeting 3rd February</p>	
9	<p>General Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - District Diary Articles - Neil: September Meeting Wrap Up - Kavan: Why Being Enrolled to Vote and Voting is Important to Youth - Michael: Bite Nite Giveaways - Estimating about 200 to 300 words, due by the 10th of September. - Keep New Zealand Beautiful reminder for Councillors to get involved in the event (on Messenger). - Steve Fabish - Manager of Community services - Restructure of the council, with a new focus on driving with community services. - Very big in bringing all our services together in a coordinated way. - Would love to hear from the Youth Council on what the youth want in our district, when talking about services. - Presentation on what is local government for the future from Steve. 	
8	<p>Wrap Up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Again, really good work at Bite Nite - AYC Chairperson Kavan Faoagali • If you have anyone interested in joining AYC, bring them along next meeting. 	
	<p>Action Point List</p> <p>AYC To Attend Check Presentation At NBS Bank On Thursday 15th Of October.</p> <p>AYC Deputy Chairperson/Community Liaison Maria Costas is to post on Facebook who won the giveaways at Bite Nite Reimagined and thank sponsors for the prizes.</p> <p>AYC Councillor Michael Baker is to send an official letter to the businesses who sponsored to say thank you</p> <p>3 Articles Written By Thursday 15th Of October</p> <p>AYC Deputy Chairperson/Community Liaison Maria Costas is to write October "Meeting Summary" article</p> <p>AYC Chairperson Kavan Faoagali is to write "Why Should People Join AYC" article</p> <p>AYC Councillor Klara Harrison is to write "Bite Nite Reimagined Recap" article</p> <p>200-300 Words</p>	
9	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>Wednesday 4 November 2020, 4:00pm to 6.00pm, Ashburton District Council, Council Chambers</p> <p>Any apologies must be sent to Verity or AYC Secretary prior to the meeting commencing.</p>	
The meeting closed at 5.54pm.		

6. Biodiversity Advisory Group – 6/10/20

Minutes of the Biodiversity Advisory Group held on Tuesday 6 October 2020, commencing at 1.00pm at the Council Chamber, 137 Havelock Street, Ashburton.

Present: Councillors Lynette Lovett (Chair) Bert Hofmans (ADC); Steve Fabish (GM Community Services); Mary Ralston (Forest and Bird and Awa Awa Rata Reserve); Val Clemens (Forest & Bird and ACCT), Jane Riach (Kānuka Trust), Donna Field (ECan and Whitcombe Landcare Group); Alice Shanks (QEII Trust); Ian Fraser (DOC); Edith Smith (Forest & Bird and ACCT), Jayde Couper (Fish & Game); Mike Salvesen (Federated Farmers); and Barry Austin (Mt Somers Walkway Soc. & Lake Heron Conservation Soc.).

In attendance: Aisling O'Reilly (Governance Support - minutes); Lisa Adams (Fonterra) and Marcelo Wibmer (Fonterra).

1 Apologies

Mayor Neil Brown, Cr Diane Rawlinson, Janine Holland, Bill Thomas and Gen de Spa.
Austin/Field Carried

2 Extraordinary Business

Nil

3 Declarations of Interest

Nil

4 Confirmation of Minutes – 4/08/20

That the minutes of the Biodiversity Advisory Group meeting held on 4 August 2020 be taken as read and confirmed.

Smith/Field Carried

5 Reports and Presentations

5.1 Fonterra update – Marcelo Wibmer presented:

- Updated on what Fonterra are doing in the Ashburton District.
- Biodiversity is not at top of list as Fonterra has other items that are high risk on farms right now.
- Reports to have seen a mind-set change with farmers in the last 5 years and they want to contribute to the biodiversity.
- Some are planting biodiversity on their boundaries around Canterbury.

5.2 Craspedia – Val Clemens presented:

- This plant has only 2 individuals left in the wild. Have them at the Harris Reserve and QEII covenant. One of most endangered plants left in the country.

- Landcare are doing DNA testing on 104 plants at Wakanui to see if they have been pollinated by native plants. Each one is individually labelled.
- Highlights the care that needs to be taken with these plants. An example of how precarious our local biodiversity really is.
- Do know that they have some pure Wakanui plants growing – this is a small number. Will work to build up the numbers.

Edith Smith presented on dryland vegetation:

- Looked at native vegetation at Ashton Beach as a result of ADC looking to find a safer option for motorbike riders in this area.
- Potentially the dryland biodiversity hotspot of Ashburton District.
- There are a large amount of exotic grasses growing here which is a threat to the native vegetation.
- Explained how NZ fescue is growing in this area.

6 General Matters

Nil

7 Agency Updates

Donna Field, Whitcombe Landcare Group

- Working with LINZ, Boffa Miskill and DOC on weed management programme. \$300,000 Pete Caldwell from Boffa Miskill has taken over the management of the programme from DOC Liz Gunning due to increase in budget funding from LINZ.
- There is also another funding round with an unknown amount of money from LINZ. A meeting is planned for early October to discuss what it will look like.
- Trapping project is up and running for the 2021 season.
- We are waiting to hear from the Trust Powers Rakaia River Biodiversity Enhancement Fund on project funding for the Rakaia Gorge Guardians project. This is a joint project between land owners, ECAN, Selwyn District Council. At this stage ADC is offering moral support for the project via Bert Hofmans.
- Pigs increasing in area exponentially.

Donna Field, Environment Canterbury

- Work in the Ashburton River is in full swing with spraying being done, trapping starting and birds to be found.
- There will be a survey of the Ashburton River on the 21st November.
- Work is continuing to be done at river mouth with walking tack being put in by D and E. There has been some vandalism and we will continue to monitor how to manage it.
- Looking at nest stages for improving the instream habitat for the spring system, continued signage and bird viewing platform developed.
- The surface water team combined with fish and game are going to do a hapua monitoring project looking at water quality and fish species.
- On the land management front we are going to start a campaign on making sure people with winter grazing have consent to farm.

Kānuka Trust

- Since our last meeting we provided our planting equipment for 17 volunteers from the Hinds community to plant 120 plants at Hinds domain.

- Our Hinds School mudfish project has continued with 350 plants being planted by the Piwaka class and some Hinds and district Lions volunteers at the property of Bob Ellis.
- We have rescheduled the Beneficial Bugs field day to Thursday 22nd October, please email kanukatrust@outlook.com for details.

Bert Hofmans, ADC

Ashton Beach

- Met with ECan, DOC and Forest & Bird regarding motorcycle park at Ashton Beach;
- Report taken to Council 24 Sept 2020 to provide feedback on preliminary consultation;
- Council approved additional funding of \$27k for the project;
- Weed control work expected to be undertaken in the next couple of weeks in fenced biodiversity areas.

Wakanui Beach

- Planting day 3 September 2020. Planted approximately 250 plants in areas 'a' and 'b'. School unable to participate. Assisted by volunteers, ECan staff, Forest & Bird members, and Wakanui Beach Crew.

Lake Camp

- 2020/21 work programme has been prepared and circulated;
- Planting day proposed this Friday;
- Pest control organised for the following week (14 October 2020).

Other

- Billion Trees media release completed 30 Sept 2020 – ADC website, social media, District Diary and Councils e-newsletter + Mid-Canterbury Federated Farmers newsletter (TBC);
- Met with SDC staff regarding stock water race and biodiversity.

Ian Fraser, DOC

- Rangitata and Rakaia trapping and outcome monitoring programmes in full swing. 36 cats, 112 mustelids, 175 hedgehogs caught since traps opened in July in the Rangitata. 8 cats, 17 mustelids, 36 hedgehogs in Rakaia.
- Outcome monitoring for wrybills and black-fronted terns in the South Branch of the Hukatere River is underway to support ECan's trapping programme.
- Management of the Braided River Flagship Programme in the Upper Rangitata and Rakaia has passed from DOC to Boffa Miskell Ltd on behalf of LINZ. This is a result of LINZ's 4-5 fold increase in funding of that programme.
- Restoration planting at two sites in O Tu Wharekai (Ashburton Basin) has continued, with 110 plants at Lake Heron with Ara institute and further planting planned at that site with Mt Somers schools and at Lambies Stream site next month.
- The Governance Group for the Rangitata Restoration Project (part of DOC's Nga Awa project funded through Budget 2018) has been established. The group includes Te Runanga o Arowhenua, ECan, LINZ and DOC. A stakeholder forum, including representatives from territorial authorities, Fish and Game, recreational user groups etc. will be established in the next few months. DOC is working with our key delivery partners – Te Runanga o Arowhenua and the Upper Rangitata Gorge Landcare Group – to support the fencing and restoration bid submitted under the governments' Jobs for Nature programme.

- DOC are in early discussions with ADC forester Terry O'Neil regarding the larch plantation within the Awa Awa Rata Reserve with a view to harvesting the trees and allowing the area to revert to native vegetation.
- Continued and increasing issue with off-road vehicle incursions in O Tu Wharekai which negatively impact on biodiversity and other park users. We are developing a plan to try manage the issue, and are likely to approach ADC for their help with specific issues in the next couple of months.
- As part of DOC's predator-free 2050 project, we are keen to get in touch with volunteer trapping groups in the ADC area to offer our support and help track the efforts of volunteers in this space.

8 Next Meeting

Tuesday 6 October at 1pm.

The meeting concluded at 2:49pm

7. *Ashburton Domain Aviary*

Author *Bert Hofmans, Open Spaces Planner*
Activity manager *Steve Fabish, Group Manager Community Services*
General Manager *Steve Fabish, Group Manager Community Services*

Summary

- The purpose of this report is consider the closure of the aviaries within the Ashburton Domain.
- It is recommended that the Council commence rehoming the aviary birds over the next four months in order to close the aviaries by the 29th of March 2021.
- Consultation on the Ashburton Domain Development Plan included 36 submissions on the future of the aviaries. Submissions were either in support of upgrading the aviaries or removing them completely. No submission supported retaining the aviaries as they currently exist.

Recommendation to Council

1. **That** the Ashburton Domain aviary be closed at the end of the current contract term being 29 March 2021.
2. **That** staff work with the Aviary contractor to begin a programme of reducing and rehoming bird stocks in accordance with the guidance provided by the SPCA and with priority given to placing birds at other Council aviaries.
3. **That** the site is redeveloped in accordance with the Ashburton Domain Development Plan.

Background

The current situation

1. The Aviary was constructed by the Ashburton Rotary Club in 1965. The day to day operation of the aviary including animal welfare is contracted to Talbot Security Group Limited. There is no mechanism for early termination other than a breach of contract by the contractor. The contract expires on 29 March 2021.
2. The annual maintenance cost of the aviary is in excess of \$36,000 p.a.
3. The current bird stocks consist of:
 - Cockatoo 2
 - Budgies 6
 - Rainbow Lorikeet 8
 - Cockatiel 13
 - Lovebirds 4
 - Peacock/Hen 2
4. The estimated market value of the birds is estimated at \$9,000.
5. Many people now consider aviary's to be outdated and inconsistent with animal welfare values. Despite this, the aviary remains a significant attraction to the Domain and is particularly popular with young families.
6. The Council received 36 submissions calling for the Aviary either to be significantly improved (14), re-sited (2) or removed all together (20).
7. The draft Ashburton Domain Development Plan (ADDP) proposed upgrading the aviary and wildlife gardens to increase linkages with the central hub space and playground areas, and to increase the opportunities for interaction through informal 'nature play' elements, technology and interactive design features.
8. Following submissions, hearings, and deliberations, the adopted ADDP proposes in the short term to remove the existing aviary and expand the wildlife garden into this area (Project 4, page 24 of the ADDP). The plan also proposes a new modern walk-through and immersive aviary in the longer term (2042-45).
9. Given the popularity of the aviary, confirmation of the following proposed course of action is sought from Council:
 - Birds rehomed by end of March 2021;
 - Aviaries closed and buildings either removed or repurposed April–July 2021;
 - Existing wildlife garden expanded into the area July –September 2021.

Options analysis

Option one – Status Quo – retain aviaries

10. In this option the aviaries would be retained in their current form and the current service levels and standard of care maintained until such time that they are replaced by an upgraded aviary/wildlife garden as part of the Ashburton Domain Development Plan.
11. The aviaries would continue to provide an attraction for visitors to the domain although it is unknown what level of satisfaction visitors have with their experience of the current aviaries.
12. The annual operating cost of \$36,000 would continue until March 2021 when it is likely that a new tender for maintenance services will need to be established.
13. The Council will continue to receive concerns from some members of the public as to the welfare of the birds.
14. While there are some in the community who will be pleased to see the aviaries removed, there will be others in the community who view the aviaries as an attraction, in particular for young children.
15. A new immersive walk-through aviary is not proposed until 2042-45 in the ADDP.

Option two – remove aviaries

16. In this option the aviaries will be removed at the conclusion of the existing maintenance contract on the 29th March 2021. The aviaries would be progressively destocked with birds being re-homed under the guidance of the SPCA with a preference for the birds to be donated to other existing well managed Council aviaries.
17. Under this option, Council will have a reduction in correspondence relating to animal welfare concerns.
18. It may be more difficult to reintroduce an aviary into the Domain once the existing aviaries have been removed.
19. Some members of the public may consider that they have not been adequately consulted on the future of the aviaries given the draft DADDP did not initially propose their removal.

Legal/policy implications

Ashburton Domain and Gardens Reserve Management Plan

20. The Ashburton Domain reserve management plan includes the following policy:

11.5.1 The Ashburton Domain and Gardens will continue to include a range of gardens and birds to provide interest and educational opportunities to visitors of the Domain.

21. The policy does not necessarily require an aviary and increasing trees attractive to desirable birds would be another way to implement this policy.

Financial implications

22. It not anticipated that there will be any costs associated with the re-homing of the birds. The cost of demolishing the buildings and the reinstatement of the site will be offset by a reduction in annual operating costs of \$36,000 per annum. The on-going savings will also off-set some of the additional operational costs associated with the proposed improvements to this area.

Requirement	Explanation
What is the cost?	The cost of retaining the aviaries is in excess of \$36,000 p.a. Demolition will be funded from maintenance and operating savings.
Is there budget available in LTP / AP?	Yes
Where is the funding coming from?	Rates Funded
Are there any future budget implications?	No
Reviewed by Finance	Not required as no impact on existing budgets.

Significance and engagement assessment

23. The matter is not considered significant.

Requirement	Explanation
Is the matter considered significant?	No
Level of significance	Low
Level of engagement selected	1. Inform – Consultation on the draft Ashburton Domain Development Plan has taken place and 36 submissions were received on the topic of the aviary. A formal hearing has taken place and Council adopted the ADDP in October 2020.
Rationale for selecting level of engagement	The aviary is not a strategic asset as it is not vital to the well-being of the Ashburton community. The removal of the aviaries will potentially affect all visitors to the Ashburton Domain.
Reviewed by Strategy & Policy	Toni Durham, Strategy and Policy Manager

8. Cemetery Fees and Charges

Author *Bert Hofmans, Open Spaces Planner*

Group manager *Steve Fabish, Group Manager Community Services*

Summary

- The purpose of this report is seek adoption of new cemetery fees. Fees are required for new services that have not been offered before. The adjustment of an existing fee is also proposed.

Recommendation to Council

- 1. That** Council adopts the cemetery charges and fees proposed in *Table 1* of this report.

Background

The current situation

1. Council recently opened the extension to the Ashburton Cemetery on Seafeld Road. For the first time in the District's history, natural and Muslim burial options are being provided. There are currently no Council fees for these services.
2. The cemetery extension has also changed the way in which we provide for conventional burials. Traditionally, plots were 1.2m wide but these have been increased to 1.4m to cater for increased body sizes. This new plot size is now being applied to other cemeteries across the District. Adjusting the current plot purchase fee to reflect this change is also proposed.
3. Proposed charges and fees are set out in *Table 1* below.

Fee/charge to be changed	New or existing charge	Proposed fee	Reason for change
Burial plot with concrete beam i.e. 'conventional plot'	Existing	Purchase of plot fee increased from \$1,421 to \$1,657	Change to the service. The fee increase reflects the increased conventional plot widths.
Natural burial - Adult	New	Purchase of plot \$1,657	New service within the Ashburton Cemetery extension area. This is the same fee as a conventional burial plot. Natural burial plots don't require a concrete beam but are considerably larger than a conventional plot.
Natural burial - Child	New	Purchase of plot \$414	New service within the Ashburton Cemetery extension area. Natural burial plots for children are approximately a quarter of the size of adult plots.
Muslim burial - Adult	New	Purchase of plot \$1775 Interment fee \$1,981 (including fee for Muslim board)	New service within the Ashburton Cemetery extension area. Fees are higher than those for conventional burial plots and interments. This is because Muslim plots are wider than conventional plots and also require a concrete beam. Interment is also more complicated than a conventional plot.
Muslim burial - Child	New	Purchase of plot \$887	New service within the New service within the Ashburton Cemetery extension area. The

		Interment fee \$1,981 (including fee for Muslim board)	plot area required for children is approximately half of that required for an adult. Interment is also more complicated than conventional interments.
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Table 1 – Proposed Fees and Charges

Options analysis

Option one – Do not set fees or delay setting fees until the adoption of the Long Term Plan 2021-31

4. Having no fees for Natural and Muslim burials is not preferred as these services are currently provided in the new cemetery extension and the public are aware of their availability. This approach would be inconsistent with Council's Revenue and Financing Policy.
5. Delaying the introduction of the fees until the adoption of the Long Term Plan would require these services to be temporarily suspended. This option is not preferred as it exposes Council to some reputational risk without any identifiable benefit.

Option two – Recommend the adoption of the fees by Council (recommended).

6. This is the preferred option. It recognises there may be public demand for these services prior to the adoption of the Long Term Plan 2021-31 and provides certainty for staff and the public regarding the cost of these services.

Legal/policy implications

Ashburton District Council Cemeteries Bylaw 2017

7. Cemetery fees are charged under the Burial and Cremation Act 1964 and the Ashburton District Council Cemeteries Bylaw 2017. The bylaw requires all fees payable in respect of cemetery usage to be fixed by resolution of the Council.

Revenue and Financing Policy 2018

8. The policy requires cemetery operating and capital expenditure to be funded through a mixture of the general rates (20%) and fees and charges (80%). This recognises that cemeteries provide both private and community wide benefits.

Financial implications

Requirement	Explanation
What is the cost?	No cost if the recommendation is adopted.
Is there budget available in LTP / AP?	If Council does not charge for these services costs, would have to be met from Open Spaces budgets.
Where is the funding coming from?	As above
Are there any future budget implications?	As above
Reviewed by Finance	Not required

Significance and engagement assessment

Requirement	Explanation
Is the matter considered significant?	No
Level of significance	Medium – not significant
Level of engagement selected	1. Inform – one way communication
Rationale for selecting level of engagement	The wider community will be informed of Council's decision through the usual media channels.
Reviewed by Strategy & Policy	Toni Durham; Strategy & Policy Manager