

Notice is hereby given that an extraordinary meeting of the Gore District Council will be held in the Council Chambers, 29 Bowler Avenue, Gore, on Tuesday 31 May 2016, at 4.00pm



Stephen Parry
Chief Executive

25 May 2016

Agenda

1. Confirmation of minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Gore District Council held on Tuesday 17 May 2016.
2. Consideration of submissions received to draft 2016/17 Annual Plan.

MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 BOWLER AVENUE, GORE ON TUESDAY 17 MAY 2016 AT 3.15PM.

PRESENT His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks, JP), Crs B Highsted, C Bolger, P Grant, D Grant, N Davis, G Page, G Sharp, and A Gover.

IN ATTENDANCE The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), General Manager District Assets (Mr Paul Withers), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Chief Financial Officer (Mr Luke Blackbeard), Communications/Promotions Manager (Sonia Gerken) and nine members of the public in the gallery.

APOLOGIES Cr D Byars, R Beale and S Dixon apologised for absence.

RESOLVED on the motion of Cr Gover, seconded by Cr P Grant, **THAT** the apologies be accepted.

His Worship extended a welcome to those present. He clarified that the purpose of the hearing was to listen to the submitters and ask questions if required. It was not a forum for any debate.

The Chief Executive had advised that submissions to the draft Annual Plan consultation document had closed on 29 April. A total of 20 submissions had been received and eight had indicated they wished to be heard. A copy of the submissions had been circulated.

Submission from Sally McIntyre

Mrs McIntyre had advised she was unable to attend the hearing.

Submission from Mark Copland and Peter Hargest

The submission was presented by Peter Hargest. He apologised for the absence of Mark Copland. Mr Hargest thanked the Council for listening to its ratepayers and holding a hearing, as some councils had opted not to this year under the new legislation.

In the submission, Messrs Hargest and Copland expressed concern about the difference in rate increases across the three rating areas, in particular the rural sector's 4.79% compared to the district average of 4.27%. It was contended there were no added benefits for rural ratepayers therefore the proposed increase should be rejected.

The submission called for an independent inquiry into the Council's Cooper's Well protection project and issues with the Sharp Family Trust. Mr Hargest said a landowner's property rights must be maintained, otherwise the Gore District was at risk of becoming like Albania.

The submission also questioned the Council's application of the UAGC and it falling below 25%.

There was support for the Council's preferred options for the Regional Heritage Rate and Home Heating Loan Scheme.

Mr Hargest voiced concern about the lack of visibility at pedestrian crossings in Gore, caused by overgrown trees. He was also concerned about groups of people dawdling on the pedestrian crossings, and young people riding their bicycles across.

Cr Sharp thanked Mr Hargest for raising the pedestrian crossing visibility issue. Cr Sharp said two Gore Police sergeants had also raised this issue with him.

Cr Bolger said he wanted to address Mr Hargest's assertions about the disparity between rural and urban average rate increases. Cr Bolger asked Mr Hargest if he realised one percent of rates equated to \$118,779 (GST inclusive) for urban ratepayers and \$43,485 (GST inclusive) for rural. He also asked Mr Hargest if he was aware that a rural property, of the same value, would pay between \$2000 and \$2500 extra for their rates in the Central Otago District, compared to \$464 in the Gore District. Cr Bolger asked Mr Hargest why he did not support the Council given it has such a rural friendly rating system compared to other councils

Mr Hargest questioned what rural ratepayers were getting for their 4.79% rate increase. Rural ratepayers would be happy with the same service at the same rates as last year, he said.

A copy of the submission is attached and forms part of these minutes.

Submission from Federated Farmers of New Zealand (Southland Province)

The submission was presented by Bernadette Hunt, John Gardyne and Jeremey McPhail. In its submission, Federated Farmers asked for the Council to review spending, prioritise core services, and seek to find efficiencies in its operations.

Mrs Hunt asked that the Council aim for at least 3 years of no rate increases.

The submission requested the Council increase its use of the UAGC to at least 27 percent. It was contended that the Council's assumption ratepayers in higher value properties can afford a higher rate increase was incorrect.

Mr Gardyne said an average dairy farmer was making a loss of \$200 a hectare, while sheep farmers were also being hit very hard. The Council needed to watch its costs very carefully.

Mr McPhail acknowledged a change in roading and gravel road maintenance, which he said was a positive. He questioned whether lower value properties were owned by people on lower incomes. He contended it was hard to know who actually owned these properties.

He noted the historic low for interest rates, saying it must be in the Council's favour.

His Worship assured Federated Farmers the Council treated shifting the system of rates very seriously and took a lot of time deliberating any changes. With regard to debt funding, His worship believed the Council had made considerable change, which would generate quite a lot of saving for the community as time went on.

Cr Bolger said the Council was very careful with managing its debt.

Cr Highsted said that during the budgeting process, the Council took into account the challenges the rural sector were facing. He asked the submitters where they thought the Council could make savings and cut levels of service. He also asked if they could give examples of what are other councils were doing that the Gore District Council was not.

Mr Gardyne said the biggest difference was spending on parks and reserves. While Gore looked nice, there is probably room for movement on the budget for this activity, he said.

Cr Sharp said he agreed with the submitters' comments about spending on parks and reserves, and rural roads

A copy of the submission is attached and forms part of these minutes

Submission from Elaine Lintern

Mrs Lintern presented her submission, which supported the Council's preferred option for the Home Heating Loan Scheme and Regional Heritage Rate. She opposed the new food safety fees.

She said a lot of people in Mataura struggled to find work and now they were expected to replace their wood burners. Not many people in her situation could afford it.

His Worship thanked Mrs Lintern for coming and making the submission. There has been a lot of discussion with Environment Southland about this issue, and the Council has pushed back quite a lot. He asked Mrs Lintern if she saw a role for the Council in providing loans for home heating.

Mrs Lintern said she did not believe there was a role for the Council to play.

Cr Bolger asked Mrs Lintern if she was aware of the rate rebate scheme. Mrs Lintern said she was but did not believe she qualified.

✶ A copy of the submission is attached and forms part of these minutes

Submission from Paul Horner, Southland Museum and Art Gallery

Southland Museum and Art Gallery Manager Paul Horner presented the submission. He supported the application to increase funding to the regional heritage rate by \$15.06 in the coming year to provide an additional \$600,000 of operational funding to the museum.

Mr Horner said the request for extra funding was primarily about making a difference with the extensive collection at Southland Museum. He spoke about the various unique aspects of the collection, and how it was not being utilised at present. The significance of the collection was such a responsibility and the workload considerable, however, there has just not been sufficient funding to ensure it was correctly documented and displayed.

Mr Horner said it was estimated there was about 20 years of work for one person to catalogue. SMAG was a museum for the entire province, not just an Invercargill one, he said.

A copy of the submission is attached and forms part of these minutes

Submission from the Southland District Health Board

Public Health South professional leader in Allied Health Janice Burton spoke to the submission.

Information about external influences on a person's health, the application of health in all policies, and smokefree environments was circulated.

Ms Burton said the Council has the potential to influence a range of community health outcomes. She encouraged the Council to consider supporting a part-time community development role to gain further advantage from the work the Gore Social Sector Trials was doing.

While acknowledging the Council's Smokefree signage at local playgrounds, parks etc, Ms Burton urged the Council to formally endorse the Government goal for Smokefree New Zealand 2025.

His Worship acknowledged the points raised and thanked Ms Burton for her submission.

A copy of the submission is attached and forms part of these minutes

Submission from Gore Kids Hub Charitable Trust

The submission was presented by Bronwyn Grant, Bernadette Hunt and Shelley Lithgow.

The Kids Hub requested financial assistance from the Council to build a specialist playground for children under the age of five years that will also cater for children up to the age of 12

years. The Trust saw the publicly accessible playground as an essential part of the strategy to make the Kids Hub a true 'one stop shop' for the community.

The Kids Hub handed out supporting documents to councillors, which featured financial information and images of the new playground.

Mrs Grant said since the Hub opened it was thriving, with a large increase in the number of families and individuals using the many services offered. 'Play Hub', the name given to the new playground, would include specific play equipment and items that children living in Southland could relate to.

Mrs Grant said the Trust was \$234,788 short of funding for Play Hub. Other funders were being approached and the Trust was also going to hold a major concert called Home Straight, at the Southern Field Days site. There would be 4000 tickets available and if all sold, the Trust would be able to cover its funding shortfall for the playground.

Mrs Grant said the Trust estimated the Council's contribution, including staff time, had been about 2% of the total value of the project. She noted that by supporting the Play Hub with funding, the Council would be meeting its Community Outcomes and the philosophy behind the Rural City Living branding.

Cr D Doug congratulated the group on its presentation. He was sure there would be quite a few comments when the Council deliberated the request.

Cr Sharp asked whether the Trust would support diverting expenditure on existing playgrounds nearby and putting the money into the Play Hub. Mrs Hunt said the Trust would definitely support such a move.

Mrs Grant said the playground was accessible by the public at all times.

Cr Davis congratulated the Trust, and said the women had certainly made a very strong case.

📎 A copy of the submission is attached and forms part of these minutes

Submission from CCS Disability Action

Mary O'Brien did not attend the meeting

The meeting concluded at 4:54 pm



GDC Draft Annual Plan hearing – Southern District Health Board (Southern DHB):

Southern DHB appreciate this opportunity to address the council on its submission which was compiled by the health promotion and health protection teams at Public Health South.

Health in All Policies (HiAP):

PHS is the main source of expert public health advice in the Southern DHB. We recognise our responsibility to work in partnership to achieve lasting change and improvements in the health and wellbeing of people in Eastern Southland. A good relationship with council would enable us to discuss priority health issues to realise positive health outcomes through a HiAP approach.

Health begins where we live, work, learn and play.¹ New Zealand research has shown that “the strongest influences on people's health come from factors outside the health system. They include the social, cultural, physical and economic environments in which people live.”²



The Determinants of Health (1992) Dahlgren and Whitehead₃

This diagram illustrates factors which affect health and wellbeing:

- The central green dot are personal characteristics
- The red individual lifestyle factors include behaviours – such as the food we choose to eat, the physical activity we undertake, whether we smoke and drink alcohol
- The orange represents family, friends and wider social networks – all protective factors for health and wellbeing
- The darker blue sections are living and working conditions – this includes access to opportunities such as education, to facilities – water and sanitation and to essential goods – food and fuel
- The lighter blue section includes general socio-economic, cultural and environmental conditions such as availability of work and transport

¹ Robert Wood Johnson Foundation 2010 - A new Way to talk about the determinants of health.

² Public Health Advisory Committee (2004), The Health of People and Communities - A Way Forward: Public Policy and the Economic Determinants of Health, p.8

³ The Determinants of Health, Dahlgren, G and Whitehead, M model, retrieved from: <http://www.bridgingthegap.scot.nhs.uk/understanding-health-inequalities/introducing-the-wider-determinants-of-health.aspx>

The GDC has the potential to influence a range of community health outcomes by planning for a healthy environment where people live, work, learn and play. The Gore Social Sector Trial has demonstrated what various agencies working together can achieve in terms of improving wellbeing outcomes for young people in this area. We would encourage council to consider supporting a part-time community development role to gain further advantages from this work.

PHS can provide public health advice and assist in the development of strategies and policies to enable a HiAP approach to be applied. PHS plans to hold HiAP workshops for stakeholders, including Territorial Authorities, later this year.

HiAP approach Case Study: Smokefree Environments

We acknowledge the GDC's support of smokefree environments by signage in local playgrounds, parks and sports fields. This is a good beginning, and we recommend Council develops a smokefree environments policy to support this work in enhancing the wellbeing of its community.

PHS would be very willing to work in partnership with council in the following ways:

- We offer support for councils in developing and implementing smokefree policies through the Smokefree Environments Sub-committee of Smokefree Murihiku.
- We can share good practice from other areas in New Zealand. Waitaki District Council used its Annual Planning process to consult on developing a smokefree policy to support its smokefree environments signage work. It was encouraged by the response, and has developed a smokefree policy which sits within their Reserves Management Plan.
- A Health in all Policies approach to supporting the Government's vision for Smokefree Aotearoa 2025 has been embraced by eight city and district council areas since 2013. Palmerston North City Council is a leader in adopting smokefree policies for some centre city streets, and for the seating on those streets. The initial 2013 policy included bus stops, council events and the outdoor spaces at Council-owned venues. The Council used the innovative approach of changing their *Signs and use of Public Places* bylaw to require businesses using sidewalk seating to have smokefree signs and to not provide ashtrays. They also have included smokefree criteria as part of contract conditions for anyone accessing Council funds for events. \$10,000 has been set aside each year to support the project.⁴
- We can share overseas examples of good practice – Melbourne has successfully introduced seven smokefree areas including laneways. Their public consultation process showed a clear majority supported smokefree areas, and a "Breathe easy in the city" campaign is showcasing the policy.
- Finally, we would encourage the council to formally endorse the government goal for Smokefree New Zealand 2025. This would *not* commit council to investment, but to leadership and ownership of smokefree policy and supportive communications.

Janice Burton
Public Health South

⁴ UoO_Race to smokefree blog_ Revised 14 Dec



The Trust has the following funds available thus far for the building of the Public Playground (refer handout flip side) – Total Cost of Playground \$362,925.41

- Total Paid for Playground for overseas equipment currently made and stored in Christchurch \$54,458.25
- Sponsorship in the bank from local businesses and organisations secured \$73,679.
- Fundraising in 2016 – SIT Cottage \$7,000 (March), Trail Bike Ride (10th April) - \$4000, Mud Run – (30th May), Chelsea Winter – (26th June), Buy A Brick Rerun (ongoing this year), Tendering Road Name.

Total remaining to find - \$234,788.16 (as at May 2016)

In Summary:

- We would like the GDC to make provision in your annual plan for a contribution to the public playground in light of the fact that this is a fairly significant capital works project which has largely been funded independently of the Council. Also it contributes to the vision of the Gore District Council in its ten year plan.
- We need your assistance financially because we still have a considerable amount of money to raise and whatever contribution you make reduces the fundraising required by the volunteers driving this project since the start almost two years ago.
- Gore District residents will benefit from having a recreational facility that encourages families to spend time together, have fun together and for our pre-school and primary aged children to develop a sense of themselves through experiential learning.



Gore Kids Hub

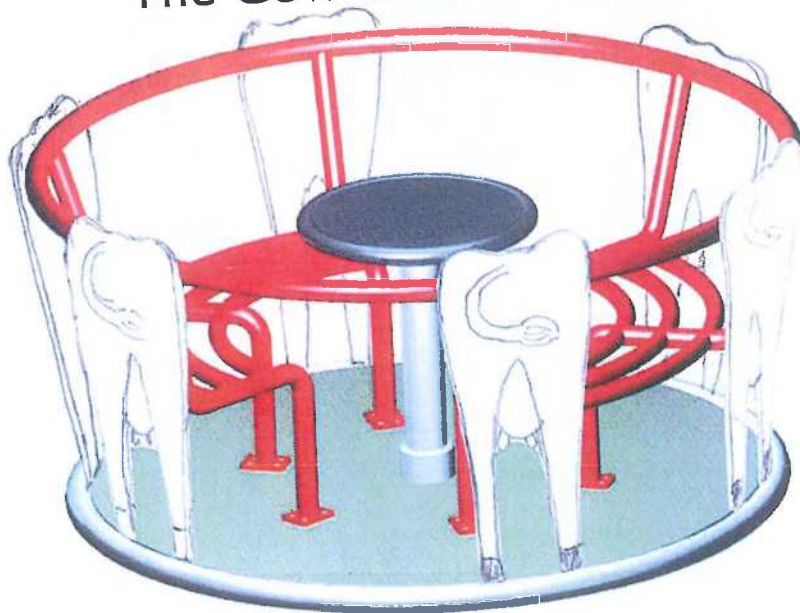


Playco Equipment Ltd - FREEPHONE 0800 76 46 76



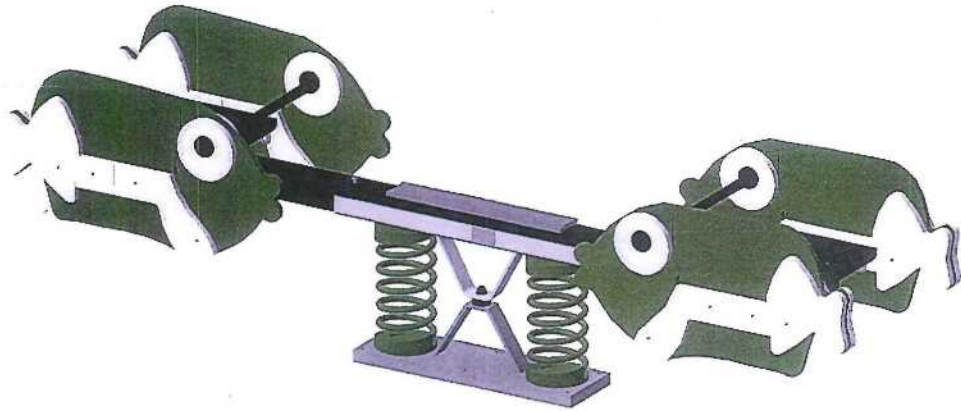


The Cow-shed Carousel



See-saw bridge





Gore Kids Hub
DATE: 22/06/2015
QUOTE No: 23090

Perpetual Charitable Fund of Southland



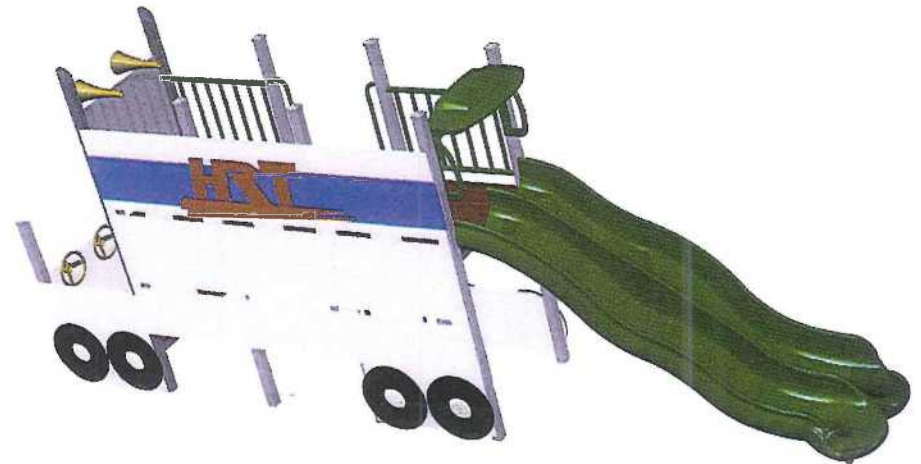
"OUR BUSINESS IS CHILD'S PLAY"



Large Structure
DATE: 14/08/2015

QUOTE No: 23213

Gore Kids Hub Charitable Trust



EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

31 MAY 2016

2. REPORT ON SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED TO DRAFT 2016/17 ANNUAL PLAN

(Memo from Chief Executive – 24.05.16)

A total of 20 submissions were received on the Council's Consultation Document which profiled the key features of the draft 2016/17 Annual Plan. Seven submitters appeared before the Council at a hearing held on 17 May.

- 1 This report provides staff comment, from an operational perspective, on the submissions received to assist the Council in its deliberations at the Extraordinary Council meeting scheduled for 31 May 2016. These comments need to be read in conjunction with the minutes of the Annual Plan Hearing which are attached to this report, together with the written submissions which have been previously supplied to Councillors.

Feedback on issues contained in the consultation document

The consultation document contained three specific issues in which the Council sought feedback from the public. The Council's preferred choice on each issue was disclosed in the consultation document to assist the public in forming a view on whether to support the proposed course of action or indicate support for other options provided in the document. Looking at the feedback received from each issue:

a) Increasing Southland Regional Heritage Rate

Of the 12 submitters that provided feedback on this issue, 11 supported the Council's preferred option of not providing any additional funding to increase the Regional Heritage Rate. Apart from the Southland Museum and Art Gallery, which would be a direct beneficiary of any increase in the Regional Heritage Rate, there was only one other submitter that supported an increase in the rate.

b) Food Safety Fees

This issue was a little less decisive, with only eight submitters expressing a view. Five submitters were in support of the new fees being introduced as a result of changes to food safety regulations, while three did not agree with the new fees.

c) Home Heating Loan Scheme

The option of partnering with Environment Southland to provide a low interest loan scheme to enable people to convert to cleaner and Regional Air Plan compliant forms of heating in their homes, was the most evenly contested of the three issues contained in the consultation document. 13 submitters expressed a view on this matter. Of this total, seven were in

support of the Council's proposed position of not partnering with Environment Southland to enter into a loan scheme, while six submitters expressed support for this concept.

In relation to individual submissions received on topics outside of the three main issues in the consultation document, the following comments and observations are made:

Sally McIntyre

The submitter has questioned the actual percentage of the UAGC used in the collection of rates forecast in the draft Annual Plan. The Chief Financial Officer provides the following comments on how the UAGC is calculated:

The Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 requires that certain rates must not exceed 30% of total rates revenue. Section 21 sets out that the total of the Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) and any other targeted rates set on a uniform basis must be less than 30% of the total rates revenue.

The Southland Regional Heritage Rate is a uniform targeted rate for the purposes of section 21 and therefore must be included.

The regional heritage rate formed part of the UAGC for several years until it was split into a uniform targeted rate in 2009/10 LTCCP in the interests of transparency. Since then, this rate has always been added to the UAGC to calculate compliance with section 21. Generally, when the UAGC as a percentage of rates is discussed, the conversation centres on the section 21 calculation. For example there is often a request for the "UAGC" to be increased to the 30% maximum. What is meant in that context is that the value of all uniform rates be increased to the 30% maximum.

In order to aid clarity in the future, staff will refer to the total of uniform rates when discussing the 30% maximum instead of describing it as the maximum for the UAGC.

Mark Copland and Peter Hargest

The submitters questioned why funding of depreciation had not resulted in large build-up of funds that could be accessed to avoid taking out large loans for the likes of desludging of the Gore Oxidation Ponds or proposed upgrading of the Civic Administration Building. In response the Chief Financial Officer makes the following observations:

The Council does rate for depreciation. As this is a non-cash expense the cash collected is used to pay for:

- *Interest,*
- *Capital work,*
- *Loan repayments*

The requirement to fund any surplus is transferred to a reserve. If the total of interest payments and capital work in any year exceeds the rates collected for depreciation in any given year the shortfall would be funded by borrowing. If the total of interest exceeds the rates collected for depreciation then the shortfall is funded by rates or fee and charges.

It is important to remember that Councils have only had the requirement to balance their budgets (or fund depreciation) for the last 16 years. The examples of the oxidation ponds and the civic Administration building raised by the submitter have a much longer life than the period the Council has been funding depreciation on these assets.

The submitters were correct in expressing the view that using this mechanism helps to level out the lumpy nature of capital expenditure. Depreciation funding has reduced the borrowing requirements for capital expenditure. The following table shows the amount of capital work and loan repayments made over the last ten years. It also shows the amount of borrowing. Had depreciation funding not been available the borrowing, or rates increases would have been higher.

	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
Total capex	5,611	4,287	4,206	3,215	4,367	4,721	3,628	5,783	5,231	3,149	3,542
Total depreciation	4,806	4,952	4,820	4,621	4,362	4,260	3,978	3,767	3,595	3,552	3,300

The submitters also expressed concern at the Council's actions in proceeding with a designation of land surrounding Coopers Well's and the consequential legal disputes that arose with the Sharp Trust. The submitters believe that "there should have been a much better way". However, the submitters do not disclose what that better way may be in terms of ensuring that enduring protection in respect of the use of land where the Council draws its principal source of water, can be secured.

Whilst the submitter lamented at the hearing about the erosion of private property rights, it needs to be emphasised that any loss of rights via a lawful designation process attracts a commensurate level of compensation for the land owner.

The submitter has called for an independent enquiry into how the Council got itself into conflict with the ratepayer concerned. This call has been made despite the Council releasing all relevant information on this matter to the news media in the interest of full transparency. I would therefore suggest that should this call intensify and the Council consider an independent enquiry is justified then the cost of that enquiry be funded by the Rural Special Fund. This suggestion is made as it appears that hitherto, the bulk of concern expressed on this matter has come from rural sector interests.

Federated Farmers of New Zealand (Southland Province)

The submitter seeks cost efficiencies with the Council earning for at least three years of no rate increases and lifting the level of the use of the UAGC back to at least 27% of rates collected. These are political matters where no operational comment is required. That stated if there was an appetite to have no rates increase for the next three years, given the commitments the Council has to an extensive capital works programme, a reduction in the services would be inevitable to achieve this objective.

Southland Museum and Art Gallery

The Southland Museum and Art Gallery (SMAG) is seeking support from the Council to increase the Regional Heritage Rate by \$15.06 (including GST) to provide a funding boost of \$600,000 to the operations of the Museum and Art Gallery. The clear response from submitters on this issue has been to not support an increase.

Further, our own Arts and Heritage Curator has posed several concerns and questions about the submitters request and governance and management issues that have beset the organisation over the years. Arguably, as the District Curator contends, these issues have led to the current state where SMAG has a number of unresolved issues that need to be meaningfully addressed.

It is hard not to escape the impression from this vantage point, that a comprehensive review of the role, strategy, governance and management of SMAG should be undertaken before funding requests are entertained by this Council at least.

Southland District Health Board

A generally supportive submission, with the Board promoting the Council's participation in a partnership with Environment Southland to introduce a low interest home heating loan scheme.

In addition the Board has recommended the Council develop a smoke free outdoor spaces policy and the Council consider becoming accredited as an international safe community. If the Council wished to explore these concepts further, I would suggest a separate staff report on each issue be prepared.

Gore Kids Hub Charitable Trust

Like a tornado sweeping up everything in its path, the Gore Kids Hub Charitable Trust has galvanised the community with its energetic and imaginative fundraising endeavours. The Trust has achieved an incredible amount with its unique concept in a relatively short space of time. However, without a key financial contribution from the Council it appears that the completion of its playground to put the finishing touch to a compelling preschool facility, will be someway off.

The Trust has stated that it has raised \$117,137 towards the completion of the public playground which is estimated to cost \$362,925.41. It is hopeful that a Council grant of some substance can be utilised as a spring board to enable other philanthropic trusts in the region to contribute in a similar manner.

One of the key factors that sets the Trust apart from perhaps other worthy submitters to the Council annual plan or long term planning processes in the past, is that it is providing a facility which is conventionally regarded as being part of a Council's core business. The playground with its innovative design taking on board local features within the district will undoubtedly be much appreciated asset to the District. Given this fact and the strong community wide appeal for what the Trust has achieved, there appear to be strong reasons for the Council to make a grant of some significance to push this exciting project to the finish line.

A grant could be funded by way of a one off rate increase, taking out a loan or exhausting a reserve set aside for this specific purpose. The latter course of action is favoured. The reserve in mind is financial contributions that have been taken via various developments in recent years for the purpose of providing enhanced developments on Council reserves. Currently the Council has \$96,000 in a reserve contribution fund. A grant therefore of \$100,000 is suggested with the funds being obtained via the positive reserve contributions balance with the additional \$4,000 to be obtained via other contributions on commercial and industrial developments over \$500,000 that are likely to arise over the forthcoming year.

The key point to emphasise is that this suggestion/recommendation would have no impact on rates for the forthcoming year and beyond.

It should also be noted that it is quite likely that tree playgrounds in the vicinity of the new Kids Hub playground may become redundant in the near future. Should that arise and a public consultation process support a closure and divestment of the assets, revenue from the resulting land sales could be generated. By way of background the three playgrounds concerned with their respective current rating land valuations are as follows:

Playground	Rating land valuation (2013)
Sword Street	\$85,000
Moa Place	\$110,000
Merlin Place/Broughton Street	\$76,000

CCS Disability Action

The Council's Parks and Recreation Manager makes the following comments in regard to this submission:

The submission requests that the Council adopt "Universal Design Principles" when undertaking any site maintenance or upgrade. Current practice is that in any form of upgrade requiring of a building consent - accessibility is a requirement under the Building Act 2004 and its updates and is therefore implemented as a matter of course. Other situations arise from time to time where members of the public forward a request for assistance of note either a shortcoming or opportunity for improvement. Most recently this has been applied at the Gore Aquatic Centre with an additional accessibility hoist and disabled change infrastructure installed for patrons with accessibility challenges.

Where accessibility becomes more challenging is in the outdoor recreation space. In this sphere often recreational opportunity is by design - challenging. Not only from a user's perspective but also from that of spectators. To enable complete accessibility in these area could prove cost prohibitive to the overall projects - to the extent that the project may well not proceed at all. At this point there has to a mature conversation and calculated compromise made - for the greater community good. This is particularly pertinent when expending a public purse.

In terms of the District having an ageing population concentrated in the suburban areas, Council officers are aware of this demographic fact taking cognisance of the focus on the outdoors a lot of these residents have or have had. This is particularly relevant in the area of Parks and Reserves where there is strong resident interest and engagement. This engagement extends to accessibility within the district reserves wherever possible but not where it may contravene a national standard.

Elmer Curry

No operational comment required.

Joan Whyte

The submitter implores the Council to not introduce fluoride into the Council's water supplies. The issue of fluoride in municipal water supplies is to be addressed via forthcoming legislation which will place a responsibility for making this decision with District Health Boards. If the legislation comes to pass, ultimately a District Health Board can direct Councils in a specific region to fluoridate water supplies.

Toimata Foundation

A supportive submission on the Council's involvement in the EnviroSchools programme. A grant of \$5,000 is included in the forthcoming budget as in previous years.

On-Site Effluent Treatment National Testing Programme - Rotorua

The submitter seeks a grant of \$1,500 to assist with the ongoing development of its onsite effluent treatment national testing plant in Rotorua. The

Building Control Manager believes that the Rotorua trials would provide limited benefit to Southland New Zealand given the difference in the climate, soil types and temperature.

These factors along with the strong call from submitters to exercise restraint in its spending, would suggest that funding of this initiative is not a priority.



Memo

To: Chief Executive

From: District Curator

Date: 24 May 2016

Subject: SMAG Request for an Increase in Operational Funding

Thank you for the copy of Paul Horner's submission to the Annual Plan, outlining Southland Museum and Art Gallery's request for an increase in the Regional Heritage Rate. There are two issues that Council need to consider in this instance:

- 1) Is the requested financial contribution justified?
- 2) If so, is the Regional Heritage Rate an appropriate mechanism for funding that contribution?

I believe that the proposed schedule of work is certainly justified, but our concern is that much of the proposed action is remedial. We feel that there has been a long period of neglect, and a long-standing under-resourcing of collection management practices within the museum. This has been exacerbated by an on-going lack of specific knowledge on the part of the museum's governance and management entities.

SMAG is governed in one sense by the Southland Museum & Art Gallery Trust Board, but managed by the Invercargill City Council. Given that Gore District Council is not represented on the either governance or management structure of the museum, it has not been in an informed position to assist with, or influence, the on-going management of this collection. While collection items may have relevance to Gore District, and may well have been sourced from here, Gore District is not technically a 'co-owner' of those items – unlike Southland District and Invercargill City who are represented on the museum board. To this end we have had no influence over the collection's governance, or input into its on-going management.

My personal feeling is that 'remedial action' in relation to the collection is the responsibility of those parties who are charged with its care. Gore's status within the fabric of the museum has been minimal (at best) and we have never been clearly informed about the substance and significance of collection holdings based in Invercargill that are pertinent to our district.

I feel that the unhealthy state of the museum's collection relates primarily to the way the director's position at SMAG has been progressively down-graded to that of a 'part-time manager' – particularly in light of the very necessary professional guidance that is required to direct the management of any museum collection.

My understanding of the Regional Heritage Rate is that it was established in good faith as a vehicle to ensure the equitable sustainability of museums across Southland; and a mechanism for prioritised development within the sector. I feel that while Paul Horner's proposal to increase the level of this rate has been presented with the best of intentions, it is the rate's instigator - Southland Regional Heritage Committee - that is the only appropriate conduit for 'collectively' lobbying constituent councils for 'collective' rate increases - not individual museum trust boards. Such action can create a dangerous and ultimately uncontrollable precedent.

Key Points in SMAG's Submission:

While data entry and cataloguing is a crucial component in preparing the collection for an ultimate museum redevelopment, why has this not been addressed on a special-research-project contract basis in the intervening years? We note with interest that throughout the tenure of SMAG's succession of 'managers' there has been no contestable funding support applied for (or granted) to assist in this from key agencies such as Community Trust of Southland, ILT Foundation, or the Southland Regional Heritage Committee itself.

We are also very concerned that in the event of suitable funding becoming available to engage advanced collection management and exhibition development services; there is no specialist leadership in place within the museum staffing structure to adequately manage these. Without a very clear and detailed aim in view for a redeveloped museum, and without the inspired and capable leadership of a highly experienced museum director, specialist staff will be 'flying blind'.

Natural History/Anthropology:

These are two areas of collecting and expertise that are beyond the resources of other museums in Southland. Of all the services that SMAG has the potential to provide at a provincial level these are the most pertinent and useful. While there was at one time a personal professional interest shown in the Gore area from past SMAG director Russell Beck, there has been no subsequent history of meaningful local engagement with SMAG – even when the museum's former Southland Anthropologist's position was partially funded (1975 to 1996) by Gore. Indeed, it was the SMAG Trust Board's resolve to disestablish that particular position that facilitated GDC's withdrawal of funding support for that institution in the 1990s.

It could be argued that had SMAG and ICC continued to employ both a Southland Anthropologist and a fully qualified museum director, the museum's collection might not be in such dire need of remedial support.

Overview:

One important thing that I had always hoped the Southland Regional Heritage Committee would address is a clear acknowledgement of the disparity between ICC, SDC and GDC contributions to Southland museums (plural). If this was clearly articulated, the professional museum sector (and especially the SMAG Trust Board) could see that ICC has not been providing the optimum level of support and management befitting a museum with a collection of this size. The Regional Heritage Rate is currently viewed as a fair apportionment, but the current levels of local UAC's vary dramatically – particularly when placed within a per-

head-of-population context. To my mind the local UAC contribution to host museums is as equally important and relevant to this discussion as the regional UAC - and ICC's support in this area could be justifiably found wanting.

In the event of GDC not supporting SMAG's request for an increase in the Regional Heritage Rate, the SMAG Trust Board will of course see Gore District as 'not pulling its weight'. However GDC does pull its weight in several regional capacities:

- a) For many years our staff members have provided a significant level of pastoral care to the volunteer museum sector in Southland – picking up from the void left by departing SMAG director Russell Beck.
- b) Our department has lobbied for, and helped establish, the Roving Museum Officer's position and we have remained the primary professional support for that person (even though the incumbent officer works out of Invercargill). We are also essentially leading discussions and scoping around the establishment of a Regional Storage Facility & Museum Service which, if enacted, will assist SMAG and the SRHC catchment enormously.
- c) Gore District continues to host collections of regional significance, and continues to interpret histories of significance to wider Southland. Our regional UAC - which is apportioned as our share of the Regional Heritage Rate certainly acknowledges this, but the level of our local UAC articulates a very major contribution to Southland's heritage.

Brief Response:

I fully support the basic sentiment behind Paul Horner's submission, and agree that considerable remedial action is required to fully document and secure the museum's collection. Given that GDC is neither a governance or management partner of the museum, our responsibility is unclear. If the prescribed work is to be funded and enacted, I am worried that SMAG doesn't have the necessary institutional knowledge or professional resources to ensure that the work is done to exacting and potentially useful standards.

Given the very uncertain nature of SMAG's redevelopment, I'm unclear about the curatorial briefs that are driving the need for natural history and anthropology specialists at this time. The rationale behind SMAG's submission is very 'thin' at best and I would query a number of items:

Collections:

What is the proposed time-frame for recording and storing the collection? If two collection technicians are engaged, where are they deployed after the task is complete – given that the museum already has a registrar's position established for recording and managing incoming items (\$100k)? If there is are significant cataloguing, storage and materials cost for the duration of the cataloguing project, how can SMAG justify that on-going budget once the remedial work is complete (\$100k)? What is the rationale behind the 'catch-up for increased present operation costs' (\$100k)?

Curators:

Surely 'exhibition development' and 'curator' costs (\$240k) go hand-in-hand with a clearly defined operational vision for a new (or radically redeveloped) museum? We have yet to see the plans.

RECOMMENDATION:

Council cannot realistically entertain an annual financial contribution to a trust board run museum that doesn't have GDC representation at a governance level, and where Council (or their advisors) have no input into its operational management.

Given GDC's pivotal role within the Southland Regional Heritage Committee, Council should engage with the other elected member representatives to formulate a protocol around the Regional Heritage Rate - with regard to Annual Plan submissions from individual museums.