

Report of a meeting of the Community Services Committee, held in the Council Chambers, 29 Bowler Avenue, Gore, on Tuesday 12 June 2018, at 4.05pm

Present His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks, JP), Cr P Grant (Chairman), Crs D Grant, Beale, Bolger, Davis, Dickson, Gardyne, Highsted, Phillips, and Reid.

In Attendance The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), Chief Financial Officer (Mr Luke Blackbeard), General Manager Regulatory and Planning (Dr Ian Davidson-Watts), General Manager Infrastructure (Mr Ramesh Sharma), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Transport Manager (Mr Peter Standing), 3 Waters Asset Manager (Mr Matt Bayliss), Project Manager Infrastructure (Mr Hashem Ramezan-zadeh) Communications/Marketing Manager (Sonia Gerken), Principal Planner/Consultant (Mr Keith Hovell), Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Suzanne Lucas) District Arts and Heritage Curator (Mr Jim Geddes), Events and Promotions Coordinator (Ms Emma Carle), Aquatic Services Manager (Ms Kim Peterson), Tourism/Visitor Centre Senior Consultant (Renatta Hardy), Building Control Manager (Mr Russell Paterson) Animal Control Administrator (Mrs Rowena Burnby), and Junior Planner (Ms Fran Davies).

Apology Cr Sharp apologised for absence

1. REPORT FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS/MARKETING MANAGER

The Committee perused a report from Communications/Marketing Manager.

Cr Davis asked if the range of merchandise on sale at the Visitor Centre had been expanded.

The Manager responded that each off season one or two items were added to the range.

His Worship commented that there was a good presence from the Gore District Council at TRENZ and he congratulated those involved.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Phillips, seconded by Cr Dickson, THAT the report be received.

2. REPORT FROM THE PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER

The Committee perused a report from the Parks and Recreation Manager

The Manager advised the Committee that Vic Herring the caretaker at Dolamore Park, had tendered his resignation after 30 years service to the Council. It would be effective from November.

In relation to Dolamore Park forestry harvest, the Manager said the area would be replanted next winter.

Cr Dickson asked if there was an opportunity to change the current colour of the Council flags as she thought they were insipid.

The Manager said the flag colour was within the colour palate that fitted at the time. The design and how the flags were printed had resulted in a colour that was not as bright as other advertising material.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Reid, seconded by Cr Gardyne, THAT the report be received.

3. REPORT FROM THE LIBRARY MANAGER

The Council perused a report from the Library Manager

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Bolger, seconded by Cr Davis, THAT the report be received.

4. REPORT FROM GORE VISITOR CENTRE SENIOR CONSULTANT

The Council perused a report from the Visitor Centre Senior Consultant.

Cr Reid asked the Senior Consultant if she had received further communication from Mr Chen the Taiwanese tour operator who visited Gore recently.

The Consultant said that she had been in contact with Mr Chen and was gathering ideas for tour visits. She had talked to accommodation providers along with other tour operators in preparation for the next season.

Cr Dickson referred to the table in the report which identified the reasons people visited the Centre and asked for clarification of the "other" category?

The Consultant explained the Centre was there to service local residents as well as visitors and answered all manner of questions.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr D Grant, seconded by Cr Philips, THAT the report be received.

5. REPORT FROM THE EVENTS AND PROMOTIONS COORDINATOR

The committee perused a report from the Events and Promotions Coordinator.

The Coordinator commented that further to her report, an event survey designed to capture information on people visiting during the 2018 Country Music week, had returned more than 200 replies.

The Coordinator said that the entrants in the Freeze Ya Bits off Busking competition enjoyed good weather and she had received positive feedback. She also commented that only 20 buskers entered but said that systems were in place to attract more participants next year.

Cr D Grant asked the Coordinator if she had any ideas as to why there were so few participants.

The Coordinator explained that there had been a lot of changes to the competition from previous years and she thought the introduction of online entries may have created some confusion. She mentioned that auditions for the Gold Guitars had conflicted with performance times.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Reid, seconded by Cr Dickson, THAT the report be received.

6. REPORT FROM THE AQUATIC SERVICES MANAGER

The committee perused a report from the Aquatic Services Manager.

Cr Bolger noted the increase in swim school enrolments and enquired if there was a particular reason for this.

The Manager said the swim school coordinator was very proactive.

Cr Reid enquired if enrolments were restricted to within the District.

The Manager confirmed that the classes were open to all.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Highsted, seconded by Cr Davis, THAT the report be received.

7. REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT ARTS AND HERITAGE CURATOR

The Council perused a report from the District Arts and Heritage Curator.

Cr Davis asked if the closure of the Southland Museum had impacted the Gore Heritage Centre

The Curator responded he had been acting in an advisory capacity regarding some of the services that might be provided. He also noted an increase in weekend visitors which could be attributed to the museum closure.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr Bolger, THAT the report be received.

The meeting concluded at 4.26pm