

REPORT OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE ON TUESDAY 20 NOVEMBER, AT 4.34 PM.

PRESENT His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks, JP), Cr Davis (Chairperson), Crs Beale, Bolger, Dixon, Gover, D Grant, P Grant, Highsted, Redhead, Sharp and Watt.

IN ATTENDANCE The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), Corporate Services, (Mr Russell Duthie), General Manager, District Assets (Mr Paul Withers), Roading Manager (Mr Murray Hasler), 3 Waters Asset Manager (Ms Sarah Dowling), Planning Consultant (Mr Keith Hovell), Communications Co-ordinator (Mrs Sonia Gerken), Corporate Support Officer (Mrs Tracey Millan) and one member of the public in the gallery.

Cr Davis called for any conflicts of interest. None were received.

1. WATER SUPPLY PROJECT (8.17.2)

A memo had been received from the General Manager, District Assets regarding the water supply project that had been approved in the Long Term Plan (LTP) 2012-2022.

The General Manager said the Council had time to take a long term approach on how it was going to manage its water issues going forward. District metering required attention now and would give an indication of which area to work on initially for identifying leaks. He wanted to prepare a report about leakage so the Council could understand better the concept of it.

In response to Cr D Grant, the General Manager said four meters would be purchased and located in particular zones, hopefully in the next year, to enable better monitoring of water.

In response to Cr Redhead, the General Manager said as outlined in the Long Term Plan, the plan was to find another 5000m³ per day for use in case of large growth in the area. The Mataura Conservation Order restricted where the Council could get water from, so water harvesting was the way to go. The order also prohibited a dam being

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constructed. A storage facility that could hold a substantial volume would be required to bank water to use in dry times. A feasibility study needed to be worked through to look at the geological features. He was not aware of any water harvesting operation in New Zealand at present. Water was ponded in some areas. It was a practice carried out overseas and could be considered down the track if required.

Cr P Grant said there was a large area of ponds, not yet operational, being built on the south bank of the Rakaia River for irrigation purposes. He asked if the district did harvest water in the future, would all water be taken from that source?

The General Manager said although staff were not very far through the thinking process yet, but because of intensive treatment processes required for surface stored water, the river would be the most likely source.

Cr Sharp said if the leaks were identified and fixed, the problem would go away. To lose 40% of water was huge. He suggested putting in steps to find the leaks immediately.

The General Manager said it was important to understand the concept of leakage. A normal accepted level was 20%. It did not mean that 40% of water was being lost through holes in pipes. That was why he had proposed a report. It encompassed all water lost from the source to the tap and included leaks in homes and behaviours, such as sprinklers being left on overnight.

Cr Highsted asked if the recommendation referred to the total \$188,000 being redirected to the development of a water strategy. He would be uncomfortable with that level of funding being redirected without a formal proposal.

The General Manager said it was not the intention to use \$188,000 on a strategy. The next step would be to scope a feasibility study and come back with a cost to the Council before it proceeded. The Council was not looking for a new source now. A strategy needed to be developed. There had been a shift in thinking around what the funding had been initially allocated for and the direction it would now take.

Cr Highsted supported that and said the recommendation needed to reflect the General Manager's comments.

In response to Cr Davis asking how much of the allocated funding from the LTP would be needed for a water strategy report to be completed, the General Manager said he did not know.

A strategy would require a reasonable level of detail for short term activities.

Cr Watt commended the multi-pronged attack and rain water storage idea, but was dubious about the compulsory water idea. New dwellings and buildings that captured roof water would only make up a small percentage of water captured and he asked if domestic captured water could be calculated.

The General Manager advised calculations had not been carried out. It would be within the scope of the working party to do that.

Cr Bolger suggested a short term approach of using metering to decrease leakage and maximising the take from bores.

Cr Beale said he thought \$60,000 to install four meters was a priority.

Cr Highsted suggested a further report come back to the Council in the form of a water strategy.

Cr Sharp suggested residents in particular areas of the town could be asked to refrain from using water overnight, so that leaks could be identified.

Cr Beale said the meters would need to be installed first.

The General Manager said toby taps at the street could potentially be causing leakage.

Cr Davis said metering the entire district made sense.

The Chief Executive said the idea of a strategic plan in principle that could encompass short, medium and long term directions could be developed. It would give confidence to both staff and the Council. It was important to make holistic and integrated decisions to remain effective downstream.

Cr Highsted wanted clarity around funding. He would like to see what a strategy would look like and the costings around that.

Cr Davis asked how long it would take for an overall set of work to come back to the Council.

The General Manager said he envisaged a scope that would include a breakdown of those options included in the report into the feasibility on the optimisation of the existing wells and water harvesting in the longer term so the overarching scope could be seen and the detail of

what it might cost to develop a strategy. Options could be included for the Council to consider.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Watt, seconded by Cr Gover, THAT the report be received,

THAT investigation begin on improving the efficiency and capacity of existing facilities,

THAT the Council approve in principle the development of a water strategy,

THAT scope and the cost of developments of that strategy be the subject of a report to be considered at a further meeting,

AND THAT a further report be provided explaining network leakage, district metering, the cost of installing district metering with a view to condensing the four year programme into one year.

In response to Cr Bolger, the General Manager said the plan had initially been to install one meter this year, however hopefully that could be ramped up to see what the cost would be.

His Worship said it needed to happen as soon as possible.

Cr Gover asked if it would be possible for a report to come back to the next Council meeting.

The Chief Executive said if that timeframe was not possible, the item could be left to the Emergency Committee to deal with over the holiday period.

2. UPDATE ON RACECOURSE ROAD SEWAGE ISSUES (9.21)

The Committee perused an update report from the Planning Consultant updating it on sewage issues in the Racecourse Road area, together with a copy of the report provided to the Council in December 2011.

The Consultant advised he had written to all property owners in the Racecourse Road area and advised them of what was in the report. He had not received any replies received to date, however His Worship and staff had received some positive feedback, that it was good to be kept in touch.

Cr Watt said he had thought that the issue had been resolved when it had been decided to put in a pipe to take sewage away. Now the Council was relitigating the issue again.

The Consultant said that had been the preferred option, however a final decision to go in that direction had been deferred, pending the Growth Strategy and given the delay with that, it was something that required resolution sooner rather than later.

Cr Dixon said whether the area got bigger or not, the pipe still needed to go in.

Cr Davis said there would be a cost and it would be up to the Council as to how that would be dealt with.

The Consultant said it was hoped that the matter would be dealt with in the New Year.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr P Grant, seconded by Cr D Grant, THAT the Council note the work being undertaken with regard to sewage disposal issues in the Racecourse Road locality AND THAT a further substantive report be submitted to the Council as soon as practicable.

3. REPORT FROM ROADING MANAGER (2.1.7)

The Committee perused the report from the Roading Manager.

In response to Cr Davis, the Manager said after a promising start with weather, work was still proceeding but had been slowed due to recent wet weather.

In response to Cr Dixon asking if weeds in the Main Street of Mataura could be attended to, the Manager said weed spraying had been affected by weather. It had commenced again in Gore and spraying in Mataura was on the programme to be completed.

In response to Cr Davis, the Manager said that information updates on capital improvements were provided to the Mataura Community Board members. The Board could also be updated on spraying jobs.

In response to Cr Redhead, the Manager said the last stage of the assessment for the sandbag trial in Irk/Fairfield Street would be carried out that week. The busy period was fast approaching, so dependent on the method used, the final stage could be carried out after Christmas.

In response to Cr Watt referring to a member of the community who had submitted to the project suggesting that parking be removed from both sides of the intersection, the Manager confirmed some submissions received had suggested that. That would be recommended to the Council. The islands were a safe option for pedestrians and provided the opportunity to double up with signs.

In response to Cr Dixon, the Manager said the cost of the project was in the proximity of \$20,000.

In response to Cr Davis, the Manager confirmed a 65% subsidy could be claimed through the minor works programme of the New Zealand Transport Agency.

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

4. POMONA STREET STREETScape REVIEW REPORT (3.32)

A report had been received from the Roding Manager advising the Council of the outcome of the report undertaken by traffic engineer company Gabites Porter, which was received together with copies of the report presented at the May Council meeting regarding the two options and a report made to the Council Operations Committee in August.

The Manager said the consultant also looked at the appropriateness of the Streetscape Strategy in relation to the Pomona Street issue. His findings were in line with what had been suggested previously.

A copy of an email received by Cr Beale, from the Roding Manager regarding the cost estimates for islands to be installed in Pomona Street, was tabled.

Cr Beale said he had gone door knocking and had spoken with Pomona Street residents. He had gauged that residents who had been dissatisfied six years ago had either tidied up their street frontages at their own cost or moved on, which meant the street now looked a bit like a checkerboard. It needed tidying up.

He said the other issue was the cost. He doubted whether the east end of Pomona Street would benefit from an island, but thought it would be a good idea at the Robertson Street end. He thought Anzac Street could be looked at too. Residents did not think that their own vehicles caused parking issues. They thought large events at the Calvin Church, particularly in the winter, did with people parking their vehicles over driveways and on grass verges and created bottleneck issues with traffic.

In response to Cr Davis, the Manager said there had not been any issues or complaints raised by school bus companies.

Cr Davis said the Streetscape Strategy encouraged buses off those residential streets. She asked the Manager if islands would encourage bus companies to do that.

The Manager said although islands would encourage companies to utilise the Kitchener Street route, economics might still prevent that.

Cr D Grant said the Gabites Porter report was comprehensive. He suggested the Council work with the Calvin Church. It could be as simple as strategically placing cones on the areas of concern. The report did not support the idea of paving or asphaltting the grass verges.

In response to Cr Grant, the Manager said the costs included “teeing” or straightening up the ends of the street for better driver visibility. It would create a conventional intersection. He said although it would reduce costs, if a left and right turning lane were put on both sides, it would considerably narrow the lanes. If the lanes were painted without islands, it would increase the length that pedestrians would cross. Designs were still to be decided by experts.

In response to Cr Davis, the Manager said the costs provided in the email to Cr Beale would be eligible for a 65% subsidy from the NZ Transport Agency.

Cr Bolger said he like the idea of islands for safety reasons. However, removing the slip lane could encourage buses to go down to Kitchener Street, which was already congested. He asked if the slip lane could be retained and a speed bump installed.

The Manager said those details were still to be determined. In the Streetscape Strategy, it supported the shift down to Kitchener Street. The timing of congestion was not likely to coincide.

In response to Cr Beale, the Manager agreed that the seal at the east end of Pomona Street would be widened to allow for delivery vehicles at Bin Inn. That would increase the cost by approximately \$5,000.

Cr Dixon said he did not think that buses were a problem. A bit more parking was all that was required.

Cr Highsted said he travelled in the Robertson Street area on a daily basis and there was lots of congestion. If a traffic island was put in he thought lots of students could potentially gather on it and cause a hazard. He preferred a slip lane with a straightened corner.

The Manager declared a potential conflict of interest as he was a member of the Calvin Church.

In response to Cr Highsted, the Manager said the car park at the back of the Calvin Church was sometimes not used at funerals due to people not wanting to drive past a hearse. Representatives of the

Calvin Church and funeral directors could discuss and come up with an alternative parking area for a hearse.

He said Birch Lane was currently the only street that had resident only parks and those parks were not policed by a parking warden. The restriction could be a good deterrent to visitors to the district, not to park in that area, if installed.

Cr Davis said resident only parking could create a new problem for the Council.

Cr Beale said residents reported there were often near miss accidents with motorists and student pedestrians on Pomona Street. He suggested the Council could write to the two local high schools asking them to remind students to take care and be mindful of vehicle traffic.

Cr Redhead declared an interest in the Calvin Church.

Cr Redhead said he watched students crossing the streets from his kitchen window. Young people seemed to be unaware of traffic. It reflected a youth culture. He thought a shortening of the width of the Pomona Street intersection was required. Students gathering on an island could also create another safety problem. He was also concerned about potential congestion moving to Kitchener Street and around to Robertson Street. There did not seem to be a problem with parking on Sundays as parishioners utilised the Robertson Street parks that teachers utilised during weekdays.

Cr Davis suggested a traffic management plan, covering ideas such as temporary signage, could be put in place for large gatherings.

The Manager said he had been discussing such measures with the Calvin Church.

Cr Gover was happy to move the recommendation subject to the resident only parking paragraph being removed.

In response to Cr Davis, the Manager said a cost was not yet available for the kerb and channel. It would be a cost to ratepayers as the upgrade to the street would be in line with the Streetscape Strategy.

Cr Highsted said the original petition of residents of Pomona Street had been about the number of vehicles being parked on their grass verges. He did not want to rush to delete an option.

Cr Gover agreed.

In response to Cr Sharp, His Worship said the Council was voting about whether to consult with residents about the options for Pomona Street.

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

THAT the Pomona Street property owners be consulted on whether:

the status quo remain OR,

THAT “Resident Only Parking” restrictions be introduced on sections of the street in conjunction with the status quo,

THAT the current grass plots and street trees be protected by concrete perimeter kerbing,

THAT Council roading staff liaise with the Calvin Church to develop a contingency plan to deal with neighbourhood parking during large events,

AND THAT intersection splitter islands be designed and trialed using sand bags at the intersections at each end of Pomona Street.

5. REPORT FROM THE 3 WATERS ASSET MANAGER (8.56)

The Committee perused the report from the 3 Waters Asset Manager.

In response to Cr Watt, the Manager advised an Otama Water Scheme meeting had been scheduled and advertised to be held in December. The new text messaging service would be utilised to advise Otama residents.

She said the Jacobstown project had been a good learning exercise for staff. There had been a lot learned around the way pipes were interconnected.

In response to Cr D Grant, the Manager confirmed that one pump could now be shut down while the other one was fixed, but for what length of time, still had to be determined. One pump had been shut down the previous week whilst a valve was repaired.

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

The meeting closed at 5.59pm.