

Report of a meeting of the Community Services Committee held in the Council Chambers, 29 Bowler Avenue, Gore on Tuesday 22 August 2017, at 5.03pm.

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

In Attendance The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), Chief Financial Officer (Mr Luke Blackbeard), General Manager Infrastructure (Mr Ramesh Sharma), Parks and Recreation Manager (Mr Ian Soper), Transport Manager (Mr Peter Standring), Building Control Manager (Mr Russell Paterson), 3 Waters Asset Manager (Mr Matt Bayliss), 3 Waters Project Manager (Mr Sam Bunting), Senior Corporate Support Officer (Ms Ceri Macleod), Migrant Services Coordinator (Mrs Mihaela Erdelyi), Aquatic Services Manager (Ms Kim Peterson), Events and Promotions Coordinator (Ms Emma Carle) and the District Arts and Heritage Curator (Mr Jim Geddes).

Apology Cr Dickson apologised for absence.

1. REPORT OF THE AQUATIC SERVICES MANAGER – JUNE-JULY 2017

The Committee perused a report from the Aquatic Services Manager.

The Manager said June and July had been very busy, noting this reflected the success of the marketing of programmes and activities via Facebook.

Cr Davis asked how the new Shark Squad coach was settling in.

The Manager said he was settling in very well and was keen to make a positive difference.

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

2. REPORT FROM DISTRICT ARTS AND HERITAGE CURATOR – JUNE-JULY 2017

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

The Chief Executive said it was exciting to see the ongoing progress of the East Gore Arts Centre.

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

3. REPORT FROM MIGRANT SERVICES COORDINATOR

The Committee perused a report from the Migrant Services Coordinator.

The Coordinator drew the Council's attention to the positive increase in migrant enquiries regarding residency.

The Chief Executive said the increase in migrant enquiries represented economic and community development at grass roots level.

Cr Bolger said it was great to see increasing numbers of people being attracted to reside in the region.

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

4. REPORT OF THE LIBRARY MANAGER – JUNE-AUGUST 2017

The Committee perused a report from the Libraries Manager.

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

5. GORE LIBRARY ROOF AND ENTRANCE UPGRADE (SC1581)

The Committee perused a report from the Libraries Manager which provided information on the need to include an upgrade to the Gore library roof and entrance in the Long Term Plan.

The Chief Executive said the library roof needed some decent investment to continue to service the needs of the community. He noted the large degree of outreach work delivered by the library and the range of services it provided, and said it was timely that the Council raised the issue of replacing the roof now, prior to its inclusion in the Long Term Plan. He said that considering the project now did not necessarily mean it had to be completed in the first year of the Long Term Plan.

The Parks and Recreation Manager added there were ongoing problems with leaks in the building. He said a meeting with structural engineers had been held onsite since the committee report had been written. The outcome of that meeting had been the identification of further options including a larger roof structure sympathetic to the precinct, to address the problem from a broader structural perspective, minimise future maintenance issues and maximise durability. He said these options would be considered in the future as part of the Long Term Plan.

Cr Reid agreed there was a need to consider the whole structure from a broader perspective to minimise ongoing problems and noted the need for an angled roof.

Cr Sharp said an angled roof would be preferable to a flat roof.

Cr Beal said minimising the number of corners would help to promote durability and that he supported a 'do it once, do it properly' approach.

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

AND THAT the Council note that an upgrade of the library building to address long-standing deficiencies of the roof and entrance would be included in the draft 2018-28 Long Term Plan for consideration.

6. RFID TECHNOLOGY FOR GORE LIBRARY (SC1581)

The Committee perused a report from the Libraries Manager which provided information on the need to include the introduction of radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology to the library in the Long Term Plan.

The Chief Executive said this requirement formed part of a key service delivered by the Library. He said the cost needed to be factored into any prioritisation process within the 2018-2028 Long Term Plan.

Cr Beale said if the introduction of this technology meant library staff were better able to engage with customers then there was a need for it to be considered.

Cr Highsted said he needed more information on associated costs and that future library usage needed to be taken into account when supporting those costs, but that new technology needed to be considered.

RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Highsted, seconded by Cr D Grant THAT the Council note the benefits of introducing RFID into the District's libraries,

AND THAT the project be included for consideration in the 2018-28 Long Term Plan.

7. REPORT FROM GORE VISITOR CENTRE SENIOR CONSULTANT

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

The Chief Executive said that overall the Visitor Centre was travelling well and it had been pleasing to see the further introduction of new merchandise. He said staff utilising time during the quieter winter months for family visits was proving to be very useful.

Cr D Grant asked for clarification on the wording of the 'Hard Gore' logo.

The Events and Promotions Coordinator confirmed the wording was a play on 'Hard Core'.

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

8. REPORT FROM THE EVENTS AND PROMOTIONS COORDINATOR

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

The Coordinator reminded Councillors that nominations were open for Community Awards and encouraged everyone to put names forward.

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

9. WELCOMING COMMUNITIES NEW ZEALAND PILOT PROGRAMME (SC1476)

The Senior Corporate Support Officer provided an introduction to Welcoming Communities, a government-funded programme that brought together local government and community leadership to make communities more welcoming to migrants. She highlighted key benefits associated with the programme and said this and the following Intergenerational Gore report focused on the need to promote sustainable population growth within the District.

Cr P Grant noted Cr Reid had put herself forward as the Council's representative on the Welcoming Communities advisory group.

Cr Highsted asked what activities would be delivered as part of the programme.

His Worship said the programme would enhance what was already being delivered in that space.

The Migrant Services Coordinator emphasised the focus of the programme was on the community rather than migrants individually. She provided an outline of potential

programmes that could be included as part of the initiative, emphasising it was a work in progress.

Cr Davis said she welcomed the pilot and noted she would be curious to see whether it made a difference on completion and how it would be funded moving forward.

His Worship agreed anything that could be done to encourage and retain migrants was good for the community.

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

THAT the Council endorse its involvement in the Welcoming Communities New Zealand Pilot Programme,

AND THAT Cr Reid be appointed to the Council's Welcoming Communities advisory group, with the support of the Senior Corporate Support Officer as the nominated staff member.

10. INTERGENERATIONAL GORE (SC1752)

The Senior Corporate Support Officer introduced the report, which provided an introduction to and the need for an intergenerational programme that focussed on the District's aging population. She emphasised that meeting the needs of current and future elderly residents was essential in meeting the opportunities and addressing the challenges associated with an aging population.

The Chief Executive said it was a timely report and exciting in terms of what could come out of the project, given the desires of the older population in wanting to continue to maximise their involvement in the community.

His Worship the Mayor noted the Council needed to understand the local population was aging, and aging more quickly than in other areas of the country. He said the Council needed to view an aging population as fact locally and embrace the associated outcomes.

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

AND THAT the Council note a working group would be established to identify priorities and proposals and report these back to the Council.

11. REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER

The Committee perused a report from the Parks and Recreation Manager.

Cr Davis asked for an update on repairs to the clock tower.

The Parks and Recreation Manager said a failure in one of the narrow fins on a corner of the structure had caused some of the window panes to crack. He said the problem would be addressed once a solution was identified and costs were known. Anything urgent would need to be dealt with and funded retrospectively.

Cr P Grant passed on his congratulations to the parks and reserves team for the high standard of the garden areas in Main Street.

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

12. SPORT SOUTHLAND - ANNUAL REPORT

The Committee perused a report from the Parks and Recreation Manager. The Manager complimented Martin Mackereth and his team in the work they did for the District.

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

13. MUSLIM BURIALS (SC1538)

The Committee perused a memo from the Parks and Recreation Manager outlining the nature and extent of discussions regarding Muslim burials to date, and presenting options and recommendations moving forward. He noted the recommendations had been approved by representatives of the Muslim community. He said that scoping work completed at the Charlton Park and Pukerau cemeteries had subsequently identified Pukerau as the preferred option for Muslim interment.

Cr Beale asked whether there were any health concerns from Council staff in working within the interment means proposed.

The Parks and Recreation Manager said no health concerns had been raised or were likely to be an issue.

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

AND THAT the Council resolve to embrace as custom and practise the following assessment of options in relation to Muslim burial in Gore District Cemeteries and instruct staff to implement as follows:

- **Burials are required to align with current and existing cemetery policies, guidelines and bylaws.**
- **Accept separate berms with correct and specific orientation be permitted.**
- **Mourners are not allowed to enter the grave, instead, can correctly place the deceased in a casket or vessel to be in turn placed in the grave.**

- Council schedule of fees and charges to apply
- Should additional cost be incurred because of practices being different to traditional European burial methodology, additional cost be charged on a cost recovery basis.
- General maintenance standards are that of a lawn cemetery.
- Families may undertake manual grave fill-in.

AND THAT Council staff work with the Muslim community to have an ability to deliver this service as soon as practicable.

14. JOSEPH STREET – STREET TREES – POST CONSULTATION (SC1542)

The Parks and Recreation Manager introduced a report outlining the outcome of the Joseph Street tree removal consultation. He summarised the steps completed prior to arriving at the decision to remove and replace the trees.

A copy of the communications plan and the flier produced to assist residents had been circulated with the agenda.

In response to Cr Highsted, the Manager said he was confident the likely cost of the tree removal and replacement would be covered within existing budgets.

In response to Cr Reid the Manager said residents had not been notified of the outcome of the consultation as yet.

In response to Cr Davis, the Manager said the replacement trees would lose their leaves and that residents had been advised of this as part of the consultation. He said resident views had been canvassed on the nature of tree leaf fall, but that the absence of the elm tree catkins had been identified as a clear benefit of replacing the trees.

In response to Cr Beale, the Manager said he would investigate options for wood disposal and recycling.

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

His Worship complimented the Manager and Council staff involved in the process and said a good outcome had been achieved.

15. GORE DISTRICT TRAILS FEASIBILITY STUDY (SC1949)

The Parks and Recreation Manager introduced the feasibility study and pointed out that this was an 'acceptance in principle document' to give direction to the community. He provided an overview of the breakdown of funding, the focus group and public meetings that had been held. He said the trails were primarily for local users but noted the associated tourism potential.

A copy of the feasibility study had been circulated with the agenda.

In response to Cr Highsted, the Manager said a trail to Mataura was feasible going forward but had not been progressed through the want of a champion.

Cr Highsted asked what would be involved in reviewing bike use on the footpath network and whether this should be reviewed to maximise the use of existing networks.

The Transport Manager said that dual use could be investigated pending a safety review and the development of guidance around that.

His Worship whether there was a law against riding a bike on the footpath.

The Transport Manager said he was unable to confirm this.

His Worship said the Council needed to look into the use of bikes on footpaths and investigate the feasibility of adding existing footpath infrastructure to the network, to maximise the value of existing infrastructure and minimise the cost of additional provision.

Cr Highsted asked for a report on the potential dual use of footpaths.

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

AND THAT the Council adopt the 2017 Gore District Trails Feasibility Study.

16. REPORT FROM COMMUNICATION/PROMOTIONS MANAGER

The Committee perused a report from the Communications/Promotions Manager.

The Chief Executive drew the Council's attention to recent media coverage that had noted the success of the Gore brand resonating throughout the region.

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

The meeting concluded at 6.13pm.