

**Report of a meeting of the Community Strategy Committee, held in the Council Chambers, James Cumming Wing, 10C Ardwick Street, Gore, on Wednesday 4 November 2020 at 3.35pm.**

**Present** His Worship the Mayor (Mr Tracy Hicks, JP), Cr McPhail (Chairman), Crs Davis, Dickson, N Grant and Reid.

**In attendance** The Chief Executive (Mr Stephen Parry), General Manager Infrastructure (Mr Ramesh Sharma), Chief Financial Officer (Ms Lornae Straith), General Manager Regulatory and Community Services (Mrs Rebecca Tayler), Human Resources and Administration Manager (Susan Jones), Communications/Marketing Manager (Sonia Gerken), Roading Asset Manager (Mr Peter Standring), Project Manager Infrastructure (Mr Hashem Ramezan-zadeh), Community Strategy Manager (Ms Anne Pullar), Facilities Administration Officer (Mr Neil Mair) and Library Manager (Ms Lorraine Weston-Webb).

**Apology** Cr Phillips apologised for absence.

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The Chairman extended a welcome to Anne Pullar who had recently commenced as the Council's Community Strategy Manager.

## 1. GORE CBD AMENITY AND FEATURE LIGHTING PROJECT (SC

A report had been received from the Project Manager Infrastructure updating the Committee on the progress of the investigation into additional lighting around the Gore central business district (CBD) and the potential to highlight street features. Staff had been instructed by the Chief Executive to form a working group and review the existing condition of amenity lights and street features in Gore's CBD, in particular the Main Street.

Staff had undertaken an evening site visit to view existing lighting and to identify possible improvements. A summary of the problems identified and potential improvements were as follows:

- Under verandah lighting was very poor with about half of the fixtures in service – immediate improvement was required.
- Several of the street lights on Main Street were out of service – PowerNet instructed to repair.
- A number of the Belisha beacon (orange ball containing a flashing light) at the crossings were out of service – PowerNet team had been instructed to repair.
- The lighting around the public toilets was inadequate or out of service – local contractor requested to repair.
- No lighting of the ram statue – spot lighting to be investigated.
- Poor lighting of the trout statue – lighting with various colour options to be investigated.
- Poor lighting of the Gore sign by the trout statue – spotlighting to be investigated.
- Investigate illuminating the trees within the Triangle Reserve with various colours.
- Poor pedestrian lighting throughout the Triangle Reserve.
- Some illumination options to be provided for feature buildings.
- Some illumination options to be provided for the public gardens.
- Some illumination options to be provided for the water tower on Hilbre Avenue.
- Some illumination options to be provided for the Gore SH1 bridge. Staff would consult with NZTA.

Details of actions to be taken were also provided.

The Chief Executive said there would be costings and options provided in due course that would be fed into the Long Term Plan for consideration.

**RECOMMENDED on the motion of Cr Davis, seconded by Cr N Grant, THAT the report be received,**

**AND THAT the Council agree to the current project plan and suggested actions with further updates to follow in due course.**

## 2. STREETS ALIVE (SC2941)

A report had been received from the Roading Asset Manager updating the Committee on the progress of the Streets Alive project. It was noted that the funding from NZTA included a timeframe to ensure that the project was delivered by July 2021. The project would enable streetscape improvements to be trialled in Gore. The role of the Council and NZTA was mainly facilitation of the expected improvements. The project had been launched on the Council's engagement hub, "Let's Talk" where there were forums for community ideas and comments. Three public workshops had been held, together with community sector workshops held with Kids Hub, Gore High School, the Senior Citizens Club and business owners. Public drop-in sessions had been held in

September. A team of 12 community members had volunteered and formed a reference group to assist the Council staff throughout the project. The reference group held its first meeting on 12 October. All community feedback and themes had been summarised and analysed against the following funding criteria:

- Improved safety;
- Aligned with an existing Council strategy (Streetscape);
- Reduced vehicle speed;
- Created more street spaces
- Promoted more transport choices;
- Made walking and cycling more attractive;
- Provided easier access; and
- Provided a pathway to permanent change.

Details of the feedback, outcomes of the community engagement and the project plan had been circulated with the agenda. All proposed trials would be monitored for their effectiveness and to obtain community feedback. A long-term plan would then be developed to achieve the ultimate goals of the project. The budget and extent of the NZTA funding would be advised once the plan had been developed.

Cr Reid congratulated the staff on the report and thought the community consultation was really good as was having a reference group involved. The Roading Asset Manager said the project would result in changes which may present challenges for the community. The reference group would be involved with the changes that would be introduced. He emphasised it was a trial and not permanent.

His Worship said it was a worthwhile project. He questioned whether the project could be delivered by July 2021. The Manager advised it was a tight timeline. Ideally the trials would be implemented by February to enable a 3-4 month monitoring period. His Worship asked if the timeline was not met, would the funding be in jeopardy. The Manager expected the budget would have been spent by then. The Council needed to provide a report back to NZTA.

Cr Dickson asked what happened after the trials were completed and whether NZTA would fund any changes that may arise out of those. The Manager said the Council had a roading budget, some of which could be directed to implement any changes. He said some of the trials could last for some years, such as wayfinding signage, street art etc.

In response to Cr Reid, the Manager said pedestrianisation of a section of town was one tranche of work. Cr Reid did not think the retailers would be happy with too many changes being imposed in the lead up to Christmas.

In response to Cr Davis, the Manager said an action plan was being developed that would be released to the public to announce the trials commencing. There had been

a number in the community who had been involved, but he acknowledged there would be some who were unaware of the project.

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

The meeting concluded at 3.59pm