

Council Policy Development Committee Meeting

Minutes of the Policy Development Committee Meeting of the South Taranaki District Council held in the Council Chamber, on 11 May 2009, commencing at 1.00 pm.

PRESENT: Mayor R Dunlop, Councillors I Armstrong, A Beccard, K Bourke, A Hickey, P Johnson, G Lawson, S Rangiwahia and I Wards.

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive (Mr Stevenson), Group Manager Community Services and Development (Mrs Martin), Group Manager Environment and Information Services (Mr Young), Group Manager Engineering Services (Mr McCann), Support Services Manager (Miss Cox), Economic Development and Tourism Manager (Ms Greenhill), Property and Facilities Manager (Mr Sargeant), Parks Curator (Mr Bruce), Economic Development Advisor (Mr Stockwell), Support Services Officer (Miss Malin), Hawera Community Board Representative (Mr Greaves) and Eltham Community Board Representative (Mrs Cave) and one member of the media.

APOLOGIES: Councillors A Ballantyne, D Packer, M Powell and I Smith, Egmont Plains Community Board Representative (Mrs Arlidge) and Patea Community Board Representative (Mrs Dew Hopkins).

RESOLUTION

(Cr Johnson/Cr Bourke)

21/09 PD **THAT** the apologies from Councillors A Ballantyne, D Packer, M Powell and I Smith, Egmont Plains Community Board Representative (Mrs Arlidge) and Patea Community Board Representative (Mrs Dew Hopkins) be received.

CARRIED

1 OPEN FORUM

(a) **Mrs Margaret Miller**

(i) Community Directory Presentation

Mrs Miller advised that she had developed a local directory of businesses, services and products for the retired or elderly and their families in the Taranaki area. The website was called: www.athomecare.co.nz.

The website included information regarding home health care, retirement living, assistance with elderly parents, rest homes, caregivers, support organisations, home help and leisure groups.

Mrs Miller advised that she was the sole owner of the At Home Care business. There was a number of businesses in South Taranaki who had assisted with sponsorship of the directory.

There were approximately 5,000 to 8,000 *hits* on the website each week.

2 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

(a) Council Policy Development Meeting held on 6 April 2009

RESOLUTION

(Cr Beccard/Cr Wards)

22/09 PD **THAT the minutes of the Council Policy Development Committee meeting held on 6 April 2009 be received and confirmed as a correct record of proceedings.**

CARRIED

3 REPORT

(a) Property and Facilities Manager

(i) Future of King Edward Park House

Various options for the future of the King Edward Park house were outlined in the report. The Community Services and Development Portfolio Group and the Hawera Community Board recommended undertaking ground works to open up the hedge and tree area surrounding the house and to use it as additional accommodation for the current Hawera motor camp.

Mrs Martin indicated that the councillors had requested further information regarding the formal recommendation by the Hawera Community Board. She noted that Mr David Bruce, the Council's Parks Curator would be presenting a Development Plan for King Edward Park.

Mrs Martin advised that the King Edward Park house had been difficult to tenant and had been subject to a significant amount of vandalism.

Mr Bruce stated that the Park was one of the most popular family recreation areas in South Taranaki. It had been gazetted as a recreation reserve on 14 March 1876 and in 1902 work began on the development of the Park. Some areas in the Park had become *tired* and had lost their appeal.

Mr Bruce had spoken with a number of Park users who wanted the Park to be a safe and pleasant place to take their families. They were concerned that the abundance of flowers had also slowly dwindled over the years. He noted that his proposal was to remove the *caves* and *hidden corners* where some of the more furtive users had been congregating. He added that graffiti removal took a large part of the Park staff's time to clean up.

Mr Bruce advised that his Plan was an ongoing development proposal which would follow the original design intended for the Park. Safety issues would be addressed especially since the Park was no longer locked at nights. Greater security was addressed through better visibility and the removal of some screen planting. The new design looked to regain colour and openness of the Park and would fulfil the requirements of all generations.

Mr Bruce advised that there were over 120 mature and significant trees within the Park and a number were now showing the demands of old age and were becoming a safety issue. A significant amount of arboreal work would be undertaken and there was a planned rotation of plants proposed. One further issue to be addressed was the quality of the lake water.

Mr Bruce referred to the future of the Park house which had been originally designed to be for the Park caretaker. The existing house was in a good external state with a neutral design and had a number of potential uses. It was proposed to open the house grounds up to make it more visible which would include the lowering of the surrounding hedges to a maximum of 1.8 metres in height and the removal of the garage.

Mr Bruce advised that that the proposal included the option to reinstate the use of part of the nursery.

Councillor Beccard did not support retaining the King Edward Park house. He considered that to build a backpacker facility adjacent to the house meant it would be too far away from the existing campground area and would be difficult to operate. He noted that there were still a number of safety issues at night in the Park. He supported the proposed plan for the development of the Park. He noted that the ongoing maintenance costs for the existing house could be significant over the next ten years.

Councillor Johnson noted that the present custodians of the Hawera motor camp had supported using the house as an addition to their accommodation portfolio. He noted that while he supported the proposed plan for the Park there was still a number of issues in the Park at night and the Maori wardens patrolling the area was only a short term solution. He suggested that a liquor ban could be imposed between the hours of 10.00 pm to 6.00 am daily.

Councillor Bourke supported the retention of the house noting that it was valued at \$300,000 and it was a significant asset. She acknowledged the forward thinking of the entire Plan for the Park.

Councillor Wards requested clarification regarding pre-determination by the councillors if they agreed to the recommendations within the report when it would become a submission to the Ten Year Plan. Mr Stevenson clarified that the recommendations were made by the Hawera Community Board and had been supported by the Community Services and Development Portfolio Group. He suggested that the councillors could support the Board making a submission to the Ten Year Plan. He noted that the Officers required some direction regarding the future of the house and whether it should be retained.

Councillor Wards suggested that if councillors debated whether the house would be retained then they would need to address how the upgrade would be funded. The Mayor suggested that the Council could provide some direction as to whether to retain the King Edward Park house.

Some councillors considered that if the house was not required for a caretaker then it should be removed. They considered that it was pointless to mention the valuation of the house as the house could not be sold for the market valuation. They considered that the Park should be improved if the house was removed.

Some councillors considered that further investigation into the future of the house was required and it should be retained until further investigation occurred.

RESOLUTION

(Cr Armstrong/Cr Rangiwhia)

23/09 PD

THAT the King Edward Park house be retained in King Edward Park until the Development Plan for the Park had been finalised and agreed upon by the Council.

CARRIED**4 INFORMATION REPORT****(a) Economic Development and Tourism Manager****(i) Quarterly Tourism Report**

Two components were included in the Quarterly Tourism Report. The first being a progress report on the Taranaki Tourism Strategy that Venture Taranaki Trust had been contracted to implement. The second component highlighted key activities the South Taranaki i-SITE Visitor Centre had undertaken by 1 January 2009 to 31 March 2009.

Ms Greenhill highlighted that following a request from the councillors, comparable data from Manawatu, Clutha and Selwyn districts had been included. Those districts had a similar commercial accommodation capacity to South Taranaki. She noted that South Taranaki data showed 11% growth whereas the other regions had declined.

RESOLUTION**(Mayor/Cr Beccard)**

24/09 PD **THAT the Economic Development and Tourism Manager's Quarterly Tourism Report be received.**

CARRIED**5 ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED****RESOLUTION****(Cr Armstrong/Cr Rangiwahia)**

25/09 PD **THAT pursuant to Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the reasons in the minutes the public be excluded to enable discussion on:**

5.1 Information Reports**(a) Economic Development Advisor****(i) Economic Development Quarterly Report****(b) Economic Development and Tourism Manager****(i) South Seas Traders Progress Report****RESOLUTION****(Mayor/Cr Rangiwahia)**

26/09 PD **THAT Mr Nigel Ogle be invited to remain for the public excluded discussion relating to the South Seas Traders Progress Report.**

THAT Mr Stuart Trundle and Mrs Anne Probert be invited to remain for the public excluded discussion relating to the Economic Development Quarterly Report.

CARRIED

6 RESUME IN OPEN MEETING

RESOLUTION

(Cr Lawson/Cr Wards)

29/09 PD THAT the Council Policy Development Committee resumes in open meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting concluded at 2.43 pm.

Dated this day of 2009.

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CHAIRPERSON