

STAFF REPORT

TO: Golden Bay Community Board
FROM: Service Centres Manager
REFERENCE: E855
DATE: 31 March 2006
SUBJECT: April 2006 Report

FROM LAST MONTH'S MEETING

Note due to the close proximity of meetings correspondence referred to other departments has not yet been returned as of the date of writing this report.

Discretionary Funds Status

As at the end of February this Board's Discretionary Funds stood at \$3586.00. This is just 28% of the budget spent. Note that the term Sundry Expenses is used in the accounts (copy of transactions attached to the Boards Info Pack).

Footpaths and Bikes Colouring Competition

Changes to the template as required by the Board are underway and the dog is to be replaced with a (colourful) parrot. The matter of prizes was not resolved at last month's meeting and the advice was to look at three age groups with a 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each group with cash prize of \$50.00 1st; \$30.00 2nd and \$20.00 3rd. A resolution from the Board therefore to allocate \$300.00 from its discretionary funds is required.

Didymo Signs

The proposed Didymo alert sign under the 'Welcome to Golden Bay' sign at the top of Takaka Hill was referred to Council's Planner for comment. The sign would require resource consent and approval of Transit NZ as an affected person.

Costs for resource consents currently are in the order of a deposit of \$580.00 and if Transit objected limited notification costs would require \$1800.00 deposit. I have already advised the Chairperson of this matter and await the Board's decision whether it wishes or not to proceed with making application for resource consent.

An alternate would be to overlay the existing "Don't Litter Golden Bay" sign which is off the road and appears to be on land owned by AD Harwood Ltd. As this sign may have existing use rights the Didymo sign I believe could be placed over the top of

that sign and as the effects would be similar to the sign already there, no resource consent would be required.

Ex Environment Centre Property

Further discussions with senior management have taken place but at this time any decision either to purchase or lease seems remote.

ENERGY ISSUES

I attended the first day of a two day 'Energywise Forum' held by the Energy Efficiency Conservation Authority (EECA) which included some guest speakers who had very sobering opinions regarding fossil fuel depletion and carbon emissions situation.

The substance of the report was referred to senior management team and the team is looking at the possibility of a working group to focus on these issues although sadly a great deal of what's happening is beyond this Council or this country. Nevertheless it doesn't stop each one of us making an effort to conserve energy.

You will note that at last month's meeting Board Resolution GB06/0323 stated:

**THAT the GB Community Board requests that the Chief Executive Officer obtains information on the potential effects of rapidly increasing fuel costs on Golden Bay's social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being in the present and the future, as provided for under S42 of the LGA 2002.
CARRIED**

I would advise that any report from the CEO would have to be tempered with the wide variance of viewpoints on the matter of energy costs. From the forum (and talking to participants during break times) a range of views were put forward, and I quote:

"Easily exploitable oil fields have now all been found"

"We have reached the end of cheap (almost free) oil"

"Demand for oil continues to soar whilst production has plateau-ed"

"There is 40 years of oil left"

"There remain trillions of tons of hydrocarbons in tar sands that could be used for oil needs"

"When fuel reaches \$3.00 per litre, then bio-fuel production will be cost effective and replacement energy options will develop"

"New Zealand only uses 0.2% of the worlds oil demand but per capita is as energy hungry as the big energy users such as USA"

I am attaching in the Boards info pack the Powerpoint Presentation Notes of Matt Simmons who heads up International Investment Bankers to the Energy Industry which provides one viewpoint on the potential energy challenges for the future.

I also attended a session organised by EECA on the initiative to subsidise the cost of home insulation for those on low incomes. There are about a million homes in New Zealand built prior to the requirements to install insulation and this programme is as much about improving health and well being as it is conserving energy. Further discussion are being held with Council staff on this matter and I have written to the EECA coordinator of this initiative asking whether the initiative could be altered to include a more broader programme for all older un-insulated houses and also to look at improved energy savings for new homes. (Copy of email attached to Board's Info Pack. Note I have not received a response to date.)

TARAKOHE INCOME

I can advise the Board that leases for facilities at Port Tarakohe are being pursued and that your proposed resolution to support Council's efforts in pursuing formal charges for wharf facilities and the fuel depot at Port Tarakohe is now no longer required.

COLLINGWOOD HISTORIC CEMETERY

I have been able to confirm with John Mason of DOC that the cemetery and lookout is owned by the Department of Conservation. The matter of the maintenance of the cemetery is also being looked into by DOC.

STAGE 2 SEAL WIDENING, LIGAR BAY

Letters to Engineering Services have been sent noting the Board's support for an on-site meeting to discuss issues and options. The current situation is that no resource consent has yet been issued and construction would not commence until around this time next year.

DEVIL'S BOOTS ROAD

Copy of map already circulated by email to the Board is attached in the info pack.

STAFF BRIEFINGS

Members need to identify four topics for staff briefings, to take us through to the August meeting.

COUNCIL MINUTES

I have included relevant extracts (in the Board's Information Pack) since the Boards March meeting for information.

Note that some minutes may be unconfirmed.

Recommendation:

“That the Service Centres Manager’s report for April be received.”

Bob Askew

**FROM THE MINUTES OF THE ENGINEERING SERVICES MEETING MEETING 16
MARCH 2006**

4 TRANSPORTATION

4.1 Asset Management Report

Cemetery Road stopping hearing has been held and Trafalgar Road hearing will be held on 6 April 2006.

A draft submission will be forwarded to Transit's ten year plan, with a request to be heard.

A letter has been received from Land Transport New Zealand confirming that it is not possible for new special purpose roads to be approved under the Land Transport Management Act.

**Moved Crs O'Regan/Inglis
WK06/03/04**

**THAT the withdrawal of special purpose roads be brought to the attention of all local MPS, Minister of Conservation and Minister of Transport, expressing Council's displeasure at the decision. The Mayor and Chief Executive Officer be requested to take the matter to a Zone 5 meeting.
CARRIED**

6 UTILITIES MANAGEMENT REPORT

Note matters relevant only to Golden Bay included

Mr Cuthbertson presented the report which updated progress on capital projects, work undertaken in obtaining resource consents and investigation work on noted projects.

Installation of ultra-violet disinfection unit is complete at the Collingwood wastewater treatment plant. Electrical control systems and control building have been installed.

Mr Cuthbertson advised that a report will be presented to the next Engineering Services Committee meeting on refuse/recycling covering volumes of material diverted and where expenditure is related to budget and how it is funded.

Mr Thomson said the contract with Streetsmart has not changed, they still pick up glass and it is their responsibility to consider disposal options. Prices have changed and it is prohibitive to ship it to Auckland.

Mayor Hurley doesn't believe Council will meet zero waste commitments and he considers private enterprise should be doing refuse collections, not Council.

**Moved Crs Riley/King
WK06/03/07**

**THAT the Utilities Asset Manager's report for March 2006 be received.
CARRIED**

**FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES MEETING MEETING 22
MARCH 2006**

3 GOLDEN BAY HOUSING TRUST PROPOSAL

Mik Symmons (Secretary of the GBHT), Linda Barnes (Chair of GBHT), Keith Preston (Consultant) and Christine McQuillan (Housing New Zealand) were in attendance.

Mr Kennedy spoke to the report in the agenda, which included further information including the wellbeing of the community, community housing account, and concerns about the future of the cottages if the Trust was wound up.

Cr O'Shea reminded Councillors that they had recently requested a report on using Council equity for other purposes and a subsequent council policy, which could assist in this decision.

Cr Borlase advised that he was a Trustee of the Golden Bay Housing Trust, and would not be taking part in any voting.

In answer to Councillors questions, Keith Preston said the Trust could pay the Council a 5% fee for the management of the council cottages; the objective of the housing trust is to encourage younger families to move back into Golden Bay; they had received grants from Housing New Zealand to establish the Trust etc; the equity from the council flats would enable the Trust to access up to \$2,000,000.

Christine McQuillan also addressed questions and advised that Housing New Zealand's funding is for local government to upgrade and develop more housing, and for community organisations to grow the community housing sector; rentals of such housing had to be less than market; if the Trust was given permission to sell the housing stock and the mortgage was repaid, Housing New Zealand could give Council the first right of refusal to buy back the cottages. She was happy to have matters clarified by her Department's lawyers.

Moved Crs E E Henry/M J Higgins

THAT in relation to the request to sell four Golden Bay Council cottages to the Golden Bay Housing Trust, that the Special Consultative Procedure be initiated so that Council can gain public feedback before a decision is made.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12.30 pm and resumed at 1.20 pm.

Committee members expressed their opinions on this proposal.

Cr Henry, in her right of reply, pointed out that the Committee should not lose sight of the goal, which was the lack of affordable housing in Golden Bay, and she considered that the Special Consultative Procedure would fill in the gaps and be

seen by the public as addressing concerns. In conclusion, Cr Henry said that if Council expanded its housing for the community it would add to the workload of Council, and they would not be able to provide as many houses in Golden Bay as a community partnership could.

A division was called for:

Cr King – against
Cr Higgins – in favour
Cr Kempthorne – in favour
Cr Bryant – against
Cr Riley – against
Cr Wilkins – against
Cr Norriss – against
Cr Currie – against
Cr O’Regan – against
Cr Inglis – against
Cr Henry – in favour
His Worship the Mayor – against
Cr O’Shea - against

The motion was therefore lost.

**Moved Crs T E Norriss/R Kempthorne
CS06/03/03**

THAT:

- 1 The Chief Executive provide a report to Council on implications of using council equity to assist the financing of outside organisations;**
- 2 A staff report be prepared addressing the following issues:**
 - (i) Trust Deed concerns;**
 - (ii) The protection of future ownership of these cottages should they be transferred to the Housing Trust;**
 - (iii) Pros and cons of Council keeping the cottages and uplifting Housing New Zealand funds for housing development.**

CARRIED

4.6 Takaka Library

Mr Kennedy spoke to this report, which outlined the reasons for the need for a new library in Takaka.

Committee members expressed concern about the necessity of a new library at this time, and the increase in costs. Members agreed that a site visit would be valuable.

**Moved Crs E E Henry/J L Inglis
CS06/03/09**

**THAT the report lie on the table until after a site visit.
CARRIED**
