

STAFF REPORT

TO: Community Services Committee
FROM: Community Services Chair
REFERENCE: C785
DATE: 21 July 2005
SUBJECT: Chairperson's Report

Councillors will note that the DILs report, circulated at the last meeting, is on the agenda for this meeting. Matters which were queried will be addressed and clarified by the Manager.

Civics education - Sandra Hartley has obtained a Local Government New Zealand publication which outlines the purpose and operation of local government in New Zealand. LGNZ is working on developing a curriculum item with the Education Department for use in schools. While this is a useful book, it focuses on local government rather than civics and is hardly light reading for your average school student. Much more imagination will need to go into any development of curriculum material.

The visit today from Richmond Rotary Club will be a useful insight into the work of this group. I would suggest that we have a regular agenda item of presentations from community groups who are working with Council, to keep us up to date with just what worthwhile work such groups are doing. As pointed out in the budget discussions, many of these groups undertake work which saves Council and ratepayers significant expense.

I would certainly like to see presentations from the various Keep 'XYZ' Beautiful groups when we meet in the respective areas.

Similarly, Councillors will recall the suggestion that Youth Council members be invited to attend when we are in the relevant area. In those areas where there are no local Youth Council members I suggest that the local secondary school be invited to send perhaps two senior students and/or a senior teacher.

Following a recent consent hearing I think it would be a valuable exercise to have an update presentation on Council's walkway strategy and objectives. With increasing development in the district we all need to be aware of what the end game is and how this fits into planning residential and rural residential development.

I met last week with Craig Milburn from Port Macquarie-Hastings Council, Australia – this followed the visit there by David Ward earlier this year. This was an interesting discussion showing many similarities in the issues faced by local government in both countries. The area has a similar population base to the Tasman-Nelson region and the projects they are currently pursuing have much in common with those under discussion or development here – including a combined facility for Arts, Heritage and Performing Arts as well as a Regional Archive facility. I have a copy of Port Macquarie-Hastings Council's Social Plan if Councillors are interested in seeing the analysis of issues, activities and outcomes it covers.

P K O'Shea
Chairperson

<http://tdctoday:82/shared documents/meetings/council/committees and subcommittees/community services committee/reports/2005/rcs050908 report chair.doc>