

STAFF REPORT

TO: Community Services Committee

FROM: Community Services Manager

SUBJECT: **Community Services Managers Report for Meeting of 26 August 2010 – RCS10-08-05**

1. Hope Recreation Reserve

At the last Community Services Committee meeting a working group made up of the Mayor, the Richmond Ward Councillors and the Hope Reserve Management Committee were asked to identify possible alternative sites for the former scout building at the Hope Reserve and to list pros and cons of each of these sites. At that stage a further meeting is to be held at the Hope Hall to explain the various options and then the public would be given the opportunity to make written submissions on the various options identified.

This working group met on 4 August and have identified various sites that could be suitable on the reserve and have prepared a list of pros and cons of these sites. The working group also discussed other options such as lowering the roof of the existing building to reduce the impact on the neighbouring properties.

It is intended to hold a meeting at the Hope Hall in the near future.

For information only.

2. ASB Aquatic Centre

The May and June reports from CLM provided the following highlights:

- Visitor numbers for the month of May were 14,962, up from 13,604 in 2009 and for the month of June the numbers were 14,234, up from 13,824 in 2009.
- The annual visitor numbers for the 2009/2010 financial year were 198,395, which is an increase of 16.8 percent from the previous year
- During June the pool celebrated its one millionth visitor
- The ASB Aquatic Centre Swim Magic swim school was awarded a national prize at the New Zealand Swim Coaches and Teachers Conference.
- During the month of June 657 young people attended the Friday night 'wave raves'.

3. Bequests: Estate E C D Bass

In June we were advised that the late Mr Colin Bass had left the following legacies:

1. A sum of \$2,000 for the Collingwood Museum
2. A sum of \$2,000 for the Collingwood Library
3. The sum of \$7,500 for the Collingwood Marina

A letter of thanks was sent to the trustees of the estate and the various groups benefiting from these bequests have been notified.

4. Libraries Manager

I am pleased to advise that Glennis Coote has been appointed as the Libraries Manager and commenced in her new role on Monday 16 August. Glennis was the Customer Services Librarian prior to accepting the new position and a number of years ago was the Takaka Librarian.

Glennis will be attending the meeting to present her first report as Libraries Manager.

5. Richmond Community Facility Needs Analysis

At the last meeting, Dave Allen from Strategic Leisure New Zealand spoke to the Committee in respect of the Richmond Community Facility Needs Analysis and Councillors were provided with a full copy of the report.

The report stated that the supply and demand analysis was used to help to determine whether existing or planned facilities are meeting, or have the spare capacity to meet, existing or projected demand. The major findings were:

- The mix of facilities available or under construction in Richmond provide venues able to meet identified demand for local purposes with one exception. There was strong demand from respondents to the resident's questionnaire for a cinema in the Richmond area.
- The most apparent gap evidenced by consistent reporting of demand by facility providers was for affordable meeting spaces for small meetings and activity groups generally up to 50 people.
- Additional capacity for meeting spaces is being made available at the Library and Saxton facilities, but these are not widely known or perceived as relevant.
- Current facility providers were unable to identify a local user group requiring a large audience venue in the Richmond area.
- No user groups or organisations were able to be identified through the review of the Found Directory, local newspapers and newsletters, submissions to the Nelson-Tasman Arts Strategy.
- There has been a major expansion in larger venues in the Richmond area including in recent years the redevelopment of Club Waimea and development of the Hope Community Church. In addition, the opening of the Headingly Centre in the near future will increase further the supply available for major gatherings and performances.
- Several major facilities have constraints regarding access because of regular commitments such as Sunday worship at the Church facilities. Grace Church was the only Church that is likely to be available on an occasional basis for use on Sundays as part of a multi-day booking for an event.
- Most facilities had constraints as to the type of activity such a 21st parties and the serving or sale of alcohol, particularly the Churches. Club Waimea and Richmond Town Hall do not have any restrictions. In addition, several of the churches indicated they are unable or reluctant to take on regular long term bookings because of the likely clashes with church events and programmes.

- The redevelopment of the Trafalgar Centre, the Suburban Club and the reopening of the Theatre Royal also provide more options for larger capacity events within the wider catchment.

The report then discussed opportunities for partnering in the development of a new facility but concluded that these were limited. As an alternative the report stated that the Council could consider partnering through an access agreement with one or several facility owners to meet the need for affordable meeting spaces in Richmond and the hire of facilities for not-for-profit for community purposes that meet certain criteria.

The report stated that, through the evidence to date there is no need in the short to medium term for the development of a convention or community facility able to host performances and functions. However, there is a demand for a cinema of some scale and type to be determined.

The recommendations from the report were:

- 1/ That Council establish the most effective means of establishing and maintaining a single repository on information on facilities available for community hire that can be accessed through the internet, phone and counter service.
- 2/ That Council investigate the viability of establishing partnerships with one or more facility owners to secure community access options for a specified number of days per annum for not-for-profit community purposes.
- 3/ That Council consider establishing a fund to assist with hire of facilities for not-for-profit community purposes that meet merit criteria.

So as to progress this matter the committee may wish to form a working group to consider the recommendations made by the report's writer and also what, if any, role Council needs to play in the provision of a cinema within the Richmond area.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Chair of Community Services Committee and the Richmond Ward Councillors be asked to consider the findings of the Dave Allen Strategic Leisure report, and the need for a cinema in the Richmond area, and report back to the Community Services Committee in due course.

Should any Councillors require a further copy of the report prepared by Strategic Leisure please contact either Tara or myself.

6. Request to have garage access through a Council reserve

At the last meeting the attached report was considered and the recommendation contained in the report was passed.

Since then I have been advised that Mr Wilkes had expected that he would be given the opportunity to speak to Councillors before a decision was made. Mr Wilkes was given an opportunity, after the recent meeting at the Hope Reserve, to speak to the Mayor and Councillors on the Working Group. While this was of some

help Mr Wilkes asked if he could speak to the Community Services Committee as well.

Therefore Mr Wilkes' is likely to be speaking during the public forum and as a result the Committee may wish to reconsider the decision made at the July meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT after hearing Mr Wilkes case during the public forum at the meeting of 26 August, the Committee will need to decide whether they wish to confirm the resolution CS10-07-10 from the July meeting of the Committee or whether this will need rescinding and a new resolution passed.

7. Achievements of the Community Services department over the term of the current Council

As this is the last meeting of the Community Services Committee for the current Council term I thought it appropriate to remind Councillors of some of the achievements affecting this department over the last three years. These include:

- Murchison Sport, Recreation and Cultural Centre opened in 2008
- Major upgrades of the Motueka Recreation Centre, due for completion in September 2010
- A Learn to Swim Pool at the ASB Aquatic Centre, due to open in September 2010
- Major upgrade and extension to the Richmond Library, opened in July 2010.
- New Takaka Library opened in early 2008
- Significant increase in the library 'new book' budget over the last two financial years
- Collingwood boat launching area developed
- Motueka Top Ten Holiday Park and the Pohara Top Ten Holiday Park both having major upgrades to camp facilities
- The Riverview motorcamp and the Collingwood motorcamp both having some upgrades to facilities
- Major upgrade of the Motueka Service Centre
- Purchase of land for new pensioner cottages in Richmond
- Significant planning for the Mapua waterfront park
- Major developments at Saxton Field including the new cricket oval, the new athletics all weather track, the cricket utility building, the new hockey/softball pavilion and the new Saxton Stadium
- There are also many smaller projects that have been greatly appreciated by the community and these include playground upgrades, upgrade to the Pohara Hall, the building of the tea house at Decks Reserve, a new pavilion at the Lord Rutherford sports fields, the extension of the Selwyn Street walkway, the Richmond Estuary walkway development, the reopening of the Labyrinth Rocks park, the many recreation programmes and community

events that have been held, and the Waimea River Park management plan development.

There would be many many more projects that would not have been mentioned in this report but this will show Council that a great deal has been achieved throughout the last three years.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the members of the Community Services Committee for their support and direction over the last three years, and in particular Cr Bryant in his role as Chair of Committee and also wish all Councillors standing for re-election all the best for their election campaign.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Community Services Manager Report RCS10-08-05 be received

LL Kennedy
Community Services Manager