



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

TO: Environment & Planning Committee

FROM: Richard Kempthorne, Chairperson

REFERENCE: S611

SUBJECT: **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – EP07/02/10** - Report prepared for 7 February Meeting

Welcome to the first Environment & Planning Committee meeting for 2007.

I have been challenged this January, while on holiday in the UK, to reconsider residential development.

While traveling around the UK it was clear that there were distinct edges between urban and rural zones. Towns are intensively developed and then stop, when rural zoned land starts.

This was apparently a conscious decision around 1960 when there was a lot of residential development happening everywhere. There was an introduction of "green belt" legislation where the town ended and the "green" rural zone began.

I compare this with what we see when driving around our district and almost any other in New Zealand where the rural landscape is increasingly broken up by urbanised areas.

As we traveled I was also struck by the difference between some well developed, attractive and people-friendly urban centers and others which lacked form and aesthetic appeal.

I am challenged that we should facilitate lively and efficient urban environments while leaving rural zones relatively free from the cross boundary effects of residential neighbours, allowing those living and working rurally, to operate farming and forestry businesses to their full advantage.

I look forward to making significant progress in the planning programme this year and welcome any comments on priorities set out in pages 5 to thirteen.

Richard Kempthorne
Chair, Environment & Planning Committee