



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

TO: Environment & Planning Committee

FROM: Michael Higgins, Chairperson

REFERENCE: S611

SUBJECT: **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – REPORT EP08/07/07** - Report prepared for Meeting of 17 July

Following the hearing of submissions to the draft Annual Plan, there were a few spare days to catch up on things and I took the opportunity to spend an evening in a Police Patrol car, 7.00 pm to 3.00 am Saturday night. It was a bit wet, a cold winter's night and there was no particular drama. We spent the evening attending to callouts, people concerned about activities occurring and affecting them. There were no speeding tickets, but a lot of radar checks. A number of cars were stopped and matters raised. A close liaison was maintained with younger people grouping in rather flash cars, they did not go too late because it was a cold night. I observed the Community Patrol at work, and was surprised at the effectiveness of the security cameras. I saw the last late bus travelling Nelson to Richmond. It was near full of passengers. There were a lot of young people on foot even on this cold night and quite a bit of alcohol induced behaviour. We travelled a lot between Nelson and Richmond, checking on parole compliance and calling on houses where concerns existed.

At 3.00 am it was clear to me that we had spent the night keeping people out of trouble. I was surprised at the speed that Police spotted problems, and the willingness people being spoken to had in getting things right. I was impressed by the speed in which Police linked individuals they felt a need to approach, to issues, where they lived and fitted in our community. Taking up this opportunity has been a long time coming for me, and I am pleased to have experienced it.

I note that our agenda today includes reports on "end of season water metering", "dairy compliance" and a "review of ground water policy". It will be interesting to consider these issues following an unusually dry season.

The Annual Plan round this year has included some difficult issues. It may be, that with many being affected by changing economic circumstances, our forthcoming LTCCP review will include equally difficult issues. I find our Council good to be a member of, because we face the issues and get on with the job.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Michael Higgins', with a horizontal line underneath.

Michael Higgins
Chair, Environment & Planning Committee