

STAFF REPORT

TO: Golden Bay Community Board
FROM: Service Centres Manager
REFERENCE: E855
DATE: 3 September 2006
SUBJECT: September 2006 Report

My report this month will be very brief as I am sure that there will be a lot on the agenda regarding the matter of the final proposal by Council on the representation review.

What I have already advised both Boards, and what needs to be made clear, is that neither myself or Council staff can cast any public opinion on the Council's decision.

I have sought advice from the CEO, also the Local Government Commission and others who affirm that Council staff must not get involved in any of the arguments for or against.

Council staff have to be politically 'cold fish' which in times of great interest and emotion in an issue may be an awkward challenge but it is a fundamental requirement of our job as public servants.

I and my staff however are only too happy to help with anyone wishing to understand the legal processes involved.

The review process is now open for appeal and further objections. An appeal can be made by anyone who has made a submission on the interim proposal of Council and an objection can be made by any person.

Appeals and objections must be received by Council no later than Wednesday 27 September 2006 and they will be then forwarded to the Local Government Commission for determination.

Appeals and objections can be lodged with the Service Centres which is deemed receipt by Council.

No doubt the Golden Bay Board will make a resolution at this meeting so as to formally adopt any appeal it may wish to make.

FROM LAST MONTH'S MEETING

Forum Issues

Incorrect Advertising of Board Meeting Venue

Peter Foster raised the matter of incorrect meeting venue advertised on the web site. I have contacted staff who deal with this matter and hopefully the problem will not recur. Thanks to Peter for noting the error.

MATTERS SINCE LAST MEETING

Roading and Parking

The matter of the signage for a recommended heavy traffic bypass and also the car parking study was referred to the Councils Roothing Asset Engineer (Roger Ashworth).

In regards to the heavy vehicle detour Mr Ashworth is concerned that the level and age of any consultation could mean that residents along Meihana and Motupipi streets may be unhappy with the proposal and asks whether the Board would like further consultation on the proposal to be done before any signage is implemented.

My advice would be that a refresh on the consultation would be necessary unless the Board felt that its previous consultation was sufficiently comprehensive and recent as to make further consultation unnecessary.

On the car parking study, Roger has advised that there is no budget for the study. The matter was however put on the Engineering Services Committee Agenda that was held on 31st August and I should have the response for the Board meeting.

SPCA Letter

The attached letter from the SPCA has raised some concerns regarding the safety of using the former landfill at Rototai for accommodating an animal shelter. The matter has been referred to Council's adviser on such matters (Jenny Easton) and she has expressed concerns that there could still be gasses produced from the former landfill and that these should be tested for in the soil.

The most likely gas is methane which although not toxic is highly flammable and any build-up of gas in an enclosure could pose a risk.

I would assume that the SPCA would need to satisfy Council and themselves that any site was safe for use before proceeding further and the Board may wish to comment on this matter before any response is made.

Rates Rebates

The Service Centres and the Main Office did get put under a lot of additional pressure with the Government's revised rates rebate scheme. The rush was, I presume, because a lot of people thought that they would need to claim before the due date for their rates (31 August). In fact ratepayers have until the end of June 2007 to claim their rebate so anyone who thinks they may be too late can still apply. All in all I believe that staff did a great job in helping, particularly elderly folk, fill out the forms and explain the system.

We did have one grumble that staff could not give them the definitive rebate figure but as final processing was carried out in Richmond it was not possible for us to do that. Nelson City Council did provide an instant processing service but of course they have just one location to receive enquires and they did employ additional staff particularly for this function.

Staff would also like to thank Wendy Earle from Heartlands and Jan Morganti who have also provided a terrific service in helping folk understand the scheme and what they can claim for.

I would ask that the Board resolves to send a formal thank you to these ladies (as well as our own staff) for providing a great effort in helping folk claim their entitlements.

Meetings

On Wednesday 9 August I attended with Cr Borlase a further workshop on the proposed Integrated Health Service for Golden Bay. This was a follow up following the previous public meetings and was to reconsider options in light of the public response. Further meetings are still to be held before any refined proposals can, I presume, go back for further public consultation.

On Friday 11 August Board members received a group of ASEAN government officials. The officials were from Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia and Mongolia.

The group were extremely interested in the governance provided by the Board and in particular matters of environmental protection, tourism and development.

The afternoon was a most enjoyable and worthwhile event and the Board provided the delegates with a selection of information that we have available and that included the new 'Heart of the Parks' leaflet that was discussed by Dave Whittaker at the Board meeting earlier in the month.

Recommendation:

"That the Service Centres Manager's report for September be received."

Bob Askew
Service Centres Manager
