

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THE HEARING OF SUBMISSION TO THE DRAFT 2024-34 LONG TERM PLAN, HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, RANGIORA SERVICE CENTRE, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA, ON FRIDAY, 10 MAY 2024, COMMENCING AT 9AM.

PRESENT:

Mayor D Gordon (Chair), Deputy Mayor N Atkinson, Councillors A Blackie, R Brine, B Cairns, T Fulton, J Goldsworthy, N Mealings, P Redmond (virtual), J Ward and P Williams.

IN ATTENDANCE:

J Millward (Chief Executive), S Hart (General Manager Strategy, Engagement and Economic Development), M Maxwell (Strategy and Business Manager), H Street (Corporate Planner), A Connor (Governance Support Officer) and C Fowler-Jenkins (Governance Support Officer).

1. APOLOGIES

Nil.

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

3. HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS TO THE DRAFT LONG TERM PLAN 2024-2034

NAME/ORGANISATION	
Rhonda Mather	<p>R Mather spoke to her submission and highlighted the increase in Community Facility Fees and the lack of a library facility in the Woodend/Pegasus area. She noted that there had been a significant increase in population in the Woodend/Pegasus area since the approval of the Council's previous Long Term Plan (LTP), and the community felt the lack of a library/service centre.</p> <p>R Mather felt the increase in community facilities fees was unjust as Woodend/Pegasus and Oxford could not be aligned. While both communities had access to community centres, Oxford residents had the use of free public space in the Library and Service Centre. She also commented that the more fees increased, the more Fee Waiver applications would be received, adding a further loss to Council income.</p> <p>Councillor Cairns questioned whether it would be helpful to see the costs associated with the community facilities to rationalise the fees. R Mather believed it may be beneficial; however, she acknowledged that they were a cost to the ratepayer.</p> <p>Councillor Redmond enquired if there were users of the Pegasus Community Centre who applied for a fee discount. R Mather knew of three Community groups that received a fee waiver.</p> <p>Deputy Mayor Atkinson sought clarity on the perceived difference between the Oxford Service Centre and the Woodend Community Centre. R Mather noted that although these centres had similar facilities, it did not mean they should have the same fees. Also, Oxford had facilities within the Oxford Library for the public to use for free, in addition to paid-for facilities, whereas Woodend/Pegasus did not.</p>

NAME/ORGANISATION	
<p>Canterbury Botanical Society (Tom Ferguson)</p>	<p>T Ferguson provided a brief overview of the work being done by the Canterbury Botanical Society and noted the Society often went on field trips to the Waimakariri District due to its proximity to Christchurch. He noted the Society's support of the Council's preference for Option A to implement all actions in the Natural Environment Strategy Implementation Plan. He acknowledged that the Council should not solely undertake this as the Central Government should assist.</p> <p>Councillor Blackie questioned if the Society worked with the Council's Greenspace Team or the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust. T Ferguson advised that the Society did not work directly with the Council; however, it worked with other community groups such as the Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust.</p> <p>Councillor Fulton asked what role the Society played in encouraging the public to participate and volunteer to conserve native flora. T Ferguson explained that the Society provided extensive education on native flora through journals. The Waimakariri District was home to Kanuka dry lands, especially. Once people saw and understood the beauty of the natural environment, they were more likely to participate in native flora conservation.</p>
<p>Gillian Giller</p>	<p>G Giller spoke to her submission, commenting on the importance of the five-crossroads intersection on Rangiora-Woodend Road. She believed the upgrading of the intersection should move forward from the 2028/29 financial year in the LTP. It was a pivotal intersection regularly used by heavy transport, and delays increased. G Giller often cycled along the Rangiora-Woodend Path and felt unsafe riding through the five crossroads intersection.</p> <p>Responding to a question from Councillor Ward, G Giller advised that installing a roundabout at the five-crossroads intersection would help slow traffic and create gaps, resulting in fewer delays.</p> <p>Mayor Gordon noted that G Giller previously made a submission to the Council on biodiversity matters and asked if she had any views on the Council's Natural Environment Strategy. G Giller replied that her preference was to focus on existing vegetation, and the costs of maintaining native plants were very high.</p>
<p>John Coomber and Christine Coomber</p>	<p>C Coomber supported G Giller's submission and highlighted the importance of upgrading the Gressons Road intersection as part of the proposed five-crossroads intersection project. This intersection was a main link to and from State Highway One at Waikuku and was increasingly used by heavy traffic as commercial growth accelerated.</p> <p>C Coomber noted that safety at the Rangiora-Woodend and Gressons Road intersection urgently needed to be improved. Motorists did not seem to understand the importance of the sealed verge at the intersection, as cars were regularly parked along the verge, preventing traffic travelling on Rangiora-Woodend Road from safely passing traffic waiting to turn right into Gressons Road. She, therefore, urged the Council to install yellow no-parking lines and a right-turning lane in this section of Rangiora-Woodend Road to allow for the continued flow of traffic.</p> <p>Councillor Fulton asked if C Coomber was concerned about the effects the proposed changes could have on State Highway One traffic. C Coomber did not believe the requested changes would affect traffic travelling on State Highway One.</p>

NAME/ORGANISATION	
<p>Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi Community Board (Jackie Watson)</p>	<p>J Watson spoke to the Kaiapoi-Tuahiwi Community Board's submission and elaborated on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board supported Option A for the Natural Environment Strategy. • The Board felt the Council needed to investigate further the level of investment in the Southbrook Sports Club and should also investigate possible partnerships with sports clubs. • J Watson emphasised the need for hydrotherapy at the Kaiapoi Aquatic Facility as there was a growing need. • The Board supported the upgrade to the Trevor Inch Memorial Library. However, the Council should consider the efficient use of funds to allow for maximum benefits and outcomes. • The Board agreed there was a need for further investment into flood resilience and improvements and requested that Community Boards have input into flooding matters. • The Board supported Option A for the Rangiora Eastern Road Link; however, if New Zealand Transport Agency/Waka Kotahi (NZTA) funding was not forthcoming, the Council should instead consider Option C. • The Board supported the Waimakariri Arts Strategy and requested some of the resources be made available for administration, compliance requirements and promotion of the Waimakariri District's art galleries. • The Board requests that the Council consider establishing an in-house Traffic Management Team, which would reduce costs in the future. This team could also assist community groups with traffic management for events district-wide. • The Board supported improvements to Norman Kirk Park that would enable it to become a viable, vibrant event space in Kaiapoi. Several successful events have already been held in the park, and any improvements would be eagerly welcomed. • The Board also supported the development of a Mixed-Use Business Area in Kaiapoi and commended the Council for its support of the developer. <p>Councillor Redmond sought the Board's view on the proposed average rate increase. J Watson stated the Board was happy the proposed rate increase was under 10%.</p> <p>Councillor Redmond then questioned whether the Board felt the market square proposed in the Mixed-Use Business Area was appropriate. J Watson believed it would be a good location for a market square; however, the Board was not concerned if one could not be developed.</p>
<p>Morris Harris</p>	<p>M Harris took his submission as read. However, he noted that the Southbrook Sports grounds were unsuitable, especially in winter. He felt the A&P Showgrounds may be a better facility for the Council to invest in. He supported the extension of the Trevor Inch Memorial Library to include the Civic Centre and the Rangiora Museum, as this would reduce the need for minor refurbishments and the leasing of further buildings to house staff.</p> <p>M Harris agreed that the Council should mitigate flooding. However, he did not believe establishing a permanent Infrastructure Resilience Team was the solution.</p> <p>M Harris supported planning for the future development of the Rangiora Eastern Link Road. However, he was not supportive of all Waimakariri ratepayers bearing the cost as the road would only be used by some.</p>

NAME/ORGANISATION	
	<p>Councillor Brine asked if M Harris was aware of any upgrades to the A&P Showgrounds, and M Harris noted that the changing sheds had been refurbished recently.</p> <p>Responding to a question from Councillor Ward, M Harris acknowledged the traffic congestion through Southbrook and Woodend; however, he believed there were better solutions than planned.</p> <p>Councillor Redmond sought M Harris's views on the state of Skew Bridge. M Harris believed that the bridge needed urgent upgrading and should be prioritised over the Rangiora Eastern Link Road development.</p>
<p>Waimakariri Access Group (Shona Powell, Monique Fleming and Caroline Spollen)</p>	<p>M Fleming noted that the Waimakariri Access Group (WAG) was a collaborative advocacy group to ensure disabled people's voices were heard, as one in four people in New Zealand had a disability.</p> <p>C Spollen from the Chris Ruth Centre highlighted the need for a mobile adult hoist at Council Aquatic Facilities. The Centre's clients struggled to access the warmer pools safely, and the changing facilities also did not cater to adults with disabilities. Only one wet chair was available at the Dudley Park Aquatic Centre, and the ramp into the pool was too steep. The Council previously agreed to fund an adult hoist; however, the funds were needed for maintenance costs.</p> <p>M Fleming advised that WAG supported the Waimakariri Youth Council's submission to install permanent Boccia and Bocce court markings at MainPower Stadium. The inaugural North Canterbury Inclusive Sports Day held last year highlighted the level of interest in these sports.</p> <p>M Fleming noted that the lack of access to public transport is a significant limitation for people with disabilities. She suggested that the Council, in conjunction with Environment Canterbury, should audit the accessibility of Waimakariri bus stops. WAG also believed that the number of disabled carparks needed to increase, be longer and wider, allowing wheelchairs to exit out the side and rear of vehicles, and allow for longer parking times for users.</p> <p>M Fleming requested that reversible core board signage be available at all Council public-facing facilities for staff use. This would allow intellectually impaired community members to communicate with council staff independently.</p> <p>There were no questions from elected members.</p>
<p>Te Kohaka o Tuhaitara Trust (Joseph Hullen)</p>	<p>J Hullen took the Te Kōhaka o Tūhaitara Trust's submission as read and thanked the Council for its ongoing support of the Trust. He noted that the Trust valued its good relationship with the Council. J Hullen advised that the Trust supported Option A of the Natural Environment Strategy.</p> <p>There were no questions from elected members.</p>
<p>Joe Holland</p>	<p>J Holland noted that he was not supportive of the Council's draft LTP, as it focused on expenditure and included plans for over-expenditure and further ratepayer indebtedness. The government, including local authorities, wished to force the debt-enslaved communities to implement a system based on universal income and a social credit system.</p>

NAME/ORGANISATION	
	<p>J Holland commented that the Council and its families would be remembered for the initiatives they implemented, such as unnecessary land acquisition, unsustainable rate rises, and 15-minute cities. If the Council continued in its current direction and did not listen to the people, they would leave the Council system and create their own parallel system. Standing Orders or prescriptive Central Government entities would not regulate the proposed system.</p> <p>J Holland called for open and honest debate on public concerns, which would lead to openness, transparency, and trust in public figures. He was concerned that people questioning the Council were being branded as conspiracy theorists. He urged the Council to attend public meetings and engage with residents.</p> <p>J Holland noted that the climate changed naturally, and the Council should invest in alternative solutions for clean and sustainable energy for the Waimakariri community.</p> <p>J Holland believed that the Council should, on record, undertake to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Never again place restrictions on Waimakariri residents for not having documentation such as a vaccine passport. • apologise to the people for the implementation of restrictions. • poison the community with fluoride. • support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. <p>J Holland advised that he would withdraw his consent to the Council as a living man, including withdrawing his financial contribution in rates, and would actively encourage and support as many other people as possible to do the same.</p> <p>Following a question from Councillor Redmond, J Holland stated he did not support using debt to fund capital works and infrastructure.</p> <p>Councillor Redmond further enquired about what alternative sources of funding infrastructure were proposed. J Holland commented that there were no alternative sources of funding. The Council would, therefore, have to work to regain community support and host Community Action Days. He believed that the Council's debt was unsustainable.</p>

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.33AM.

CONFIRMED



Chairperson
Mayor Dan Gordon

4 June 2024
Date