



ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY

JOINT CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL/ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE JOINT CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL/
ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 16 MAY 2001 IN
COMMITTEE ROOM 2, CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL FROM 4.00 P.M.

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PRESENT

Christchurch City Councillors

Crs A Crighton (Deputy Chairperson), D Close, C Evans and C Manning (from 4.15 p.m.).

Environment Canterbury

Crs V Campbell (Chairperson), T K Burke, H G Hay, D R Shand, J M Waters, P Yeoman and R B Johnson.

IN ATTENDANCE

Two Journalism School students.

STAFF PRESENT

Christchurch City Council

J Fletcher, W Brixton and for part meeting L Briggs, A Scoon and D Preston.

Environment Canterbury

J Talbot, M Freeman, E Walker, J Tricker, E Brussovs and for part meeting P Gurnsey.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and sustained from Crs P Harrow and S Wells (CCC).

2. MINUTES OF MEETING – 18 APRIL 2001

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 April 2001, as circulated, were taken as read and confirmed as a true and accurate record with the following amendment. Clause 6 page 6 that Cr P Harrow's vote against the resolution be recorded.

Campbell/Crighton

3. MATTERS ARISING

Reference Clause 3 – Matters Arising in respect to Rolleston Avenue Cultural Precinct, Cr Crighton raised her concern at developments relating to the peripheral bus layover in Rolleston Avenue. She had received complaints from the Arts Centre Management, residents, YMCA Ranui House, cyclists and the Red Bus Company. Reference was made to the number of buses using the layover, 6 to 10 at any one time and the shrouding of additional car parks which affected YMCA business. Noise and diesel fumes as well as safety issues were also raised. Cr Crighton felt that with the addition of the tourist coach flush in spring, the problem would be out of control. Cr Evans urged that Cr Crighton be involved in any process to find solutions. (The Committee noted that this was already accommodated in the 18 April 2001 resolutions.)

Cr Shand responded acknowledging there were problems which had been observed first hand but also improvements such as buses turning off engines while in the layover. She had noted tour buses on the layover site in one case straddling two parks. Environment Canterbury staff were meeting with operators next week and the matter would be discussed.

Fundamentally Cr Shand said there would be no need for a peripheral terminal if the traffic flow was smooth in the Central City and Lichfield Street was two-way as envisaged in planning surrounding the Interchange development. The suggested alternative of through-routing was shown by an actual example to not being a solution to current problems due to additional non-direct travel time.

Other points made in discussion were:

- That it was vital for the Interchange and bus system to be successful.
- Cr Close mentioned some budgeting provision for interim solutions, one suggestion being splitting the layover in two with one part in Gloucester Street.
- Traffic models had shown that Lichfield Street two-way was an integral part of the bus traffic operation and management.

It was agreed that the matter would be considered more in the scheduled reporting planned for the June meeting of the Joint Committee. The Committee believed that the Committee resolutions covered all aspects of concern including the consideration of environmental factors.

4. DEPUTATIONS AND PETITIONS

Nil.

5. GREEN EDGE PROJECT PRESENTATION

Liz Briggs introduced the topic and Dennis Preston, a member of the multi-disciplinary team working on the project. Overall it was noted that the Green Edge project on the western margin of the Estuary was part of the Green Corridor concept.

By way of overheads the concept of the Green Edge was outlined with three distinct blocks being the Bexley Reserve, Oxidation Ponds and the Linwood Paddocks. Concept proposals for each of the blocks were outlined which incorporated active and passive recreation, wildlife habitat and landscape values. Experimental sites for treatment of wastewater and stormwater were also outlined. The formal public consultation phase would begin in June.

The following points were made during clarification and discussion.

- Grazing would continue to be part of the Linwood paddocks management regime.
- Wildlife connections (Green Corridor) were noted with Travis Wetland to the Heathcote and Brooklands Lagoon.
- Estuary and Port Hills views were part of the overall recreation experience.
- The life of the wastewater treatment plant was 30 years.
- The Green Edge project would have continued under the ocean outfall option, however the project had been advanced as part of the overall resource consent process.
- The stormwater treatment would be that currently destined for the Avon River.

Resolved

That the information be received.

Campbell/Waters

6. SEA LETTUCE (This item was taken after Item 7)

Mike Bourke spoke to his report and provided an overhead presentation which included the following points.

- Sea Lettuce was a green algae ulva which grew prolifically (28% per day).
- The main problem occurred when it broke away and settled in the inter-tidal area where it rotted and produced odour.

- Growth conditions were heightened by water clarity suitable substrate, e.g. cockle beds and nutrient in water flow.
- The common perception that wastewater discharges promoted sea lettuce growth had largely been dispelled by a NIWA study which showed that removal of wastewater discharges would decrease sea lettuce proliferation by 20%. The NIWA report had been subjected to a sensitivity analysis.
- In respect to addressing the problem, the City Council could continue 3-4 pick-ups on the eastern shore. The sheer volume this year precluded pick-ups along Humphries Drive.

In response to a question about such problems in other centres, Tauranga was cited. They had removed wastewater and two years later had the biggest algal bloom on record.

- It was thought that the blooms were a combination of El Nino and nutrient welling up in the water.

Resolved

That the information be received.

Johnson/Burke

8. COMPOSTING PLANT – MONITORING RESULTS (This item was taken prior to Item 7)

James Tricker spoke to his report which was an extract from Environment Canterbury's annual monitoring report. He outlined the two main issues which were dust and odour and the history from 1997/98 to the present in respect to dealing with problems. The following points were made:

- Dust guidelines were based on NSW and UK codes based on 30-day frequency. The site had only exceeded the slight nuisance level, i.e. 7.5 grams per square metre once on a gauge facing away from the site.
- Complaint numbers had trailed down from 43 in 1999 to currently about 32, these all largely from one complainant.
- In terms of odour some complaints may have been due to sea lettuce or the Transfer Station rather than the composting plant. Management of the principle odour contribution, lawn clippings had been modified.

Simon Collin, Christchurch City Council advised in management equipment and process improvements including:

- Deodorising spray use.
- Unscreened compost sales – screening, bagging off-site.
- 80% grass clippings dumped due to residual herbicide.
- Shelter planting grown.
- An in-vessel trial being carried out.

It was noted that any complaints should be referred to Environment Canterbury's Pollution Hotline. Cr Evans enquired about health protection of compost plant staff, information would be provided. It was noted that worm farms were not able to handle the volume of material due to their speed of conversion.

Resolved

That the information be received.

Johnson/Burke

9. OWAKA ROAD

The Committee noted the report which included improvements to site security with on-site representation during open hours and video surveillance proposed in closed hours. Christchurch City Council and Environment Canterbury staff had met to discuss management of such sites on the western fringe of Christchurch yesterday. A co-operative approach had been agreed, in order to protect groundwater recharge zones.

The Committee noted that Paparua County had issued a land use consent for the site in 1986.

Cr Burke raised the perceptual problem of Envirowastes parent company, Fulton Hogan, carrying out water quality testing. Mike Freeman explained Environment Canterbury's process in cases where self-monitoring occurred. The results were typical of such sites.

Resolved

That the information be received.

Burke/Johnson

10. WET WOOD

Phil Gurnsey spoke to his report explaining that while Environment Canterbury could deal with acquisition and sale of wood under the Transitional Regional Plan, it was precluded from carrying out land use activities under the Resource Management Act. Dry wood was more efficient and a 1999 survey revealed that 93% of people met the 30% dry weight (25% wet weight) standard. The Proposed Air Plan had reduced the standard to 25% dry weight, 20% wet weight.

In terms of complaints for the year ended April 2001 only two of the 97 complaints had not been satisfactorily resolved. In both cases the wood had been replaced.

Resolved

That the information be received.

Burke/Johnson

11. CLOSURE

In declaring the meeting closed, the Chairperson noted that the Chair would revert to Cr Crighton at the next meeting and thanked the Committee for its tolerance, staff and the Christchurch City Council for its hospitality.

Cr Burke thanked the Chair for her work.

Cr Crighton responded on behalf of the Christchurch City Council.

The meeting closed at 5.45 p.m.