

5. DEPUTATIONS BY APPOINTMENT

5.1 Christchurch and Canterbury Tourism - Frank Ash

Mr Ash introduced himself as the Banks Peninsula Tourism Manager and gave a PowerPoint presentation to the Board regarding the Christchurch-Little River Rail Trail.

Mr Ash pointed out that he had no conflict of interest over the rail trail and that his interest was purely professional as a promoter of Banks Peninsula. The theme of his presentation was cyclists crossing State Highway 75 at the Little River Hotel and the means by which the Board could petition Transit New Zealand for the speed restriction in that locality to be lowered. He pointed out that requests could be made to the Director of Land Transport for a review of a speed restriction where there were changed circumstances adjacent to the road. The community would be consulted on the issue as part of the review.

The Board asked that a copy of the presentation given by Mr Ash be forwarded to staff who were investigating options for the final stage of the rail trail.

5.2 Police Deputation

Inspector Dave Lawry, Senior Sergeant Stu Munro and Senior Constable Steve Ditmer were in attendance at the meeting.

Inspector Lawry introduced himself as the new Southern Area Commander, an area that encompassed Selwyn and Banks Peninsula. He said he believed Community Boards were an ideal group for the police to communicate with the community and that Boards and the police needed to use that relationship. He also addressed the Board regarding consultation on the Police Act review, outlining the main themes of the review.

Board members then posed some specific questions relating to liquor bans and population based funding for police services. Inspector Lawry noted that one, two and three-man police stations were not factored into calculations for population based cover so with Akaroa being a two-man station it was excluded from the population criteria.

It was suggested that Inspector Lawry should attend Community Board meetings quarterly as a means of keeping in touch with the Board.

Senior Sergeant Munro reported on further appointments that had been made to his staff which would allow for more cover of the Akaroa-Wairewa area when the local policemen were on leave etc. In reply to a question, he noted that the boundaries for cover from the Akaroa station had been pulled back to Prices Valley in recognition of the travelling time involved in attending incidents any further afield than that, so localities closer to Lincoln were now covered from that station.

5.3 Stock Control – Animal Control Team Leader, Mark Vincent

The Animal Control Team Leader updated the Board on the steps being taken to address stock control issues in the Akaroa/Wairewa area. He reported that staff were developing a network of local farmers to assist in identifying the owner(s) of stock which was on the road, as well as talking to the previous Stock Control Officer who had a fundamental knowledge of the area.

Mr Vincent said he did not believe that the police had a role to play in stock control and he would be speaking with Police Communications to request that calls concerning stock on roads were forwarded to Council officers rather than to the local police.

He also reported that Christchurch City Council staff would soon have delegated authority to enforce the Banks Peninsula Stock Control Bylaw and that he would then be addressing the continuing issue of dairy cows using Pigeon Bay Road. He noted that where there was sufficient evidence of breaches of the bylaw, staff would take prosecution action.

Mr Vincent also noted that the main highway to Akaroa was a Transit road and therefore currently Council staff did not technically have any legal authority to deal with stock on the road. He would be contacting Transit to arrange for staff to get that authority.

He also briefly reported on dog control which he said was not considered a problem in the Akaroa-Wairewa area. He noted that Council was currently reviewing its dog control policy.

Senior Constable Ditmer, who was still present at the meeting, commented that Council officers seemed to be on the right track in regard to stock control. He requested a copy of the database of local farming contacts once it was finalised, so that police could also use it for stock control issues.

5.4 Community and Public Health - Kathryn Russell

Ms Russell was in attendance at the meeting to discuss the Lake Forsyth algal bloom issue. She showed members a copy of the warning sign which was to be used to notify the public on the dangers of the bloom. The sign would be permanently erected at eight sites around the lake to give a general warning, and altered during times when the algal toxin was present. She said this was considered a more conservative approach, as it was difficult to define how much toxin was present at any particular time, and that the reaction of individuals to the toxin also varied greatly.

Ms Russell noted that Community & Public Health were responsible for media releases on the toxin and she undertook to consult with the Board on the list of who should be notified when it was present.