

16. 8. 2007

**AKAROA-WAIREWA COMMUNITY BOARD
2 MAY 2007**

**An extraordinary meeting of the Akaroa-Wairewa Community Board
was held on Wednesday 2 May 2007 at 11am**

PRESENT: Stewart Miller (Chairman), Steve Lowndes, Bryan Morgan and Eric Ryder

APOLOGIES: An apology was received and accepted from Bob Parker

The Board reports that:

PART C – DELEGATED DECISIONS

1. ANNUAL PLAN SUBMISSION

Board members discussed issues they wished to raise under the Council's 2007 Annual Plan.

The Board **resolved** that it make the following submission to the Annual Plan:

1. Project Reserves Funding

The Board acknowledges that funding to be provided under Council's Community Development Strategy will not be available for the 2007/08 year due to the adoption of the strategy being postponed. It wishes to confirm through this process that in the interim year, the \$20,000 Project Reserves Funding will still be available for the Board to allocate for capital projects on local reserves. The Board has used the funding in this current year to support reserve projects initiated by volunteer groups and considers the funding important in continuing to support these groups.

2. Akaroa Wharf – Extensions & Upgrade

The Board wishes to support a proposal for the addition of two floating pontoon landings on the Akaroa Wharf.

The Akaroa Wharf is an integral component of the tourism and fishing industry in Akaroa. It is also fundamentally important to recreational harbour users citywide. In consultation with commercial users of the wharf, a proposal has been formulated that would see two floating pontoon landings added to the existing structure. These landings would hugely improve the safety elements surrounding the embarking and disembarking of passengers patronising Akaroa tourism operations as well as other recreational and commercial users. Even more importantly, the landings would provide disabled access to vessels using the wharf. Such access is currently not available, therefore denying disabled persons access to these facilities.

Building two pontoons, one on the northern side of the wharf and one on the southern side, would provide safe, all weather access to the wharf. It would also alleviate some of the congestion currently experienced at the wharf due to the increasing tourism operations wishing to use the facility. This includes the increasing use of the wharf through cruise ship visits to the Akaroa Harbour.

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3. Little Akaloa Wharf

A sum has been allowed under Schedule B attached to the Memorandum of Understanding to assess the condition of the Little Akaloa Wharf, with a view to establishing a scheduled maintenance programme. A full assessment of the wharf has been ordered. However, preliminary observations indicate that extensive work will be required on the structure to bring it up to a safer condition for use by the public.

There is strong interest from the local community in this project, with residents indicating that addressing the current state of the wharf is a high priority to them. Consultation has been carried out with a commercial user of the wharf who has indicated his company still requires use of the structure.

The Board also strongly supports this work being carried out.

4. Reserves

The Board sees two specific issues as priorities in terms of open space expenditure in the Akaroa-Wairewa area over the next year.

(i) Development Plans

Several of the reserves in the Akaroa-Wairewa area have Management Plans in place. Staff have noted however that there are no Development Plans which would normally sit alongside the Management Plans and act as a working document. The Board believes it is important for these plans to be produced so that development and maintenance can be progressed on these reserves.

(ii) Walkway Development

Staff have commissioned a Walkway Strategy for Akaroa and have recently received a draft which outlines several options for extensions to existing walkways and plans for a wider walkway network within the Akaroa Harbour Basin.

Walking has been identified as one of the most popular forms of recreational exercise by both the local community and visitors to the area. It is also recognised that as a recreational pursuit, walking has one of the highest number of participants nationwide. The Board enthusiastically supports the expansion of the walkway system in and around Akaroa and believes that this is a priority for reserve funding in the immediate future.

5. Road Safety – Western Valley Road

The Board has repeatedly, over many years, asked for a footpath to be constructed on Western Valley Road, Little River. The Little River School is located on this road, which has a speed restriction of 70kph for approximately half its length and 100kph for the balance. The road is used by children walking to school. Because there is no footpath, the children often walk on the road.

The Board believes that is a critical safety issue and asks that it be identified as a priority for expenditure under the road safety budget, or Council's footpath budget

6. Little River Town Centre Development

When the development of the Little River town centre took place it was planned to include additional kerb and channel work plus safety works and traffic calming measures. This work was never completed. The Board has recently met with Transit New Zealand in an effort to have the speed restriction through Little River lowered. Transit has indicated agreement to this, but has also pointed out that traffic calming measures are needed to physically slow drivers down. The Council would be required to fund any traffic calming measures.

The Board requests that the Council support initiatives to have this project completed.

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7. Birdlings Flat Sewerage Disposal

Property owners in Birdlings Flat are currently required to obtain a resource consent from Environment Canterbury to install a septic system. The Wairewa Runanga has opposed the issuing of these consents because of concerns over contamination of Lake Forsyth which is a traditional food gathering area. Property owners are now embroiled in a lengthy process with no assurance of obtaining consent to install septic systems. This is severely restricting development at Birdlings Flat.

Community members have petitioned the Board to ask that the Council take an active part in trying to negotiate a way through the current issues. The Board has agreed that the solution to sewerage disposal at Birdlings Flat may need to be through a community response to the current problems, specifically through the installation of a reticulated sewerage system for the settlement.

There is funding in the LTCCP for investigative funding into the development of Birdlings Flat. The Board has asked that the Council bring this funding forward so that these investigations, which could include a feasibility study into sewerage disposal, can be carried out in the coming financial year.

8. Okains Bay Museum

The Okains Bay Museum Trust Board has made a submission to the Council asking for additional funding as it is endeavouring to put the management of the Museum on to a more professional footing and funding is required to support day-to-day operating expenses. The Trust has sought the Board's support of its submission.

In Schedule E of the Memorandum of Understanding increasing the financial support for Okains Bay Museum is listed as an issue/initiative, with a note that "*Funding and support for Okains Bay Museum may have to be reviewed in the medium term.*"

The Board recognises the citywide, and even national, cultural significance of the Museum, and wishes to support its requests for additional funding, whether through the LTCCP process or through a metropolitan grant.

9. Akaroa Health Centre

The Banks Peninsula District Council historically supported primary health care in the community by providing health centre facilities in Akaroa and Diamond Harbour. The Akaroa facility is now critically short of space for the practise to be able to function at its optimum.

As a joint objective the Board wishes to "*recognise the need to retain and enhance core community services to Banks Peninsula communities*". The Board has identified the support and retention of rural health services as one way of helping to achieve this objective.

The Board wishes to submit that a sum be allocated to a feasibility study into the Akaroa Health Care facilities so that the current situation can be professionally appraised and a suitable recommendation made to Council. The Board believes the study should investigate what is needed to provide an acceptable medical service for the Akaroa community, how any extensions could be reflected through increased rental and the possibility of sharing the cost of any extensions with other health care stakeholders.

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Board members also raised the following issues outside the Annual Plan submission process and asked that staff provide some feedback in reply to their queries:

10. Railway Yard - Little River

Members raised the issue of the land at the back of the Railway Station in Little River in regard to the finishing point for the Christchurch-Little River Rail Trail. It was suggested that the land, which was currently owned by Council as a freehold property, would be better to be gazetted as a reserve. Staff were asked to report back to the Board with options for the gazetting of this land as a reserve.

11. Christchurch-Little River Rail Trail – Maintenance Budget

Members noted that Banks Peninsula District Council had allocated an annual sum (\$4,000-\$8,000) for its share of the maintenance of the Rail Trail. Staff were asked to ascertain if that funding was still available in the Council's budget.

Members also questioned the wisdom of installing a toilet for the Rail Trail at Catons Bay which was only some 2km from Little River where there were already public toilets. They suggested that the toilet should instead be installed at Birdlings Flat.

12. Banks Peninsula Tourism – New Information System

Banks Peninsula Tourism have recently demonstrated an innovative new system to provide information to travellers using mobile telephones and a GPS process which identifies local landmarks and then provides relevant information to the users.

The Board wishes to support the development of this technology for use on Banks Peninsula and endorses moves by Banks Peninsula Tourism to introduce the system.

The meeting concluded at 12.35pm

CONSIDERED THIS 23rd DAY OF MAY 2007

**STEWART MILLER
CHAIRMAN**