

CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
MISUSE OF MOTOR VEHICLES SUBCOMMITTEE

Held in the No. 3 Committee Room, Civic Offices
on Friday 17 June 2005 at 3pm

PRESENT: Councillor Bob Shearing (Chairperson), Councillors Sally Buck, Barry Corbett, Carole Evans and Norm Withers.

STAFF PRESENT: Jane Parfitt (General Manager City Environment).

IN ATTENDANCE: Brian Palliser (New Zealand Automobile Association), Derek Erasmus (New Zealand Police), Lachy Garrick (New Zealand Police Sydenham), Marion Bishop (representing David Carter MP), Jonathan Gillard and Richard Raymond (Noise Off), Yani Johanson (Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board), Mike Mora (Riccarton/Wigram Community Board), Sue Stewart (representing Tim Barnett MP), Penny Clark (Heritage Hotel), Tim Nicholls (Hotel Off The Square), Derek Anderson (Chair, Cathedral Square Stakeholders Subcommittee), and Roy Hughes.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received and accepted from The Mayor, Councillor Graham Condon, Tim Barnett MP, David Carter MP, Steve Batey, Sergeant Trevor Pullan, Brian Wearing and Dave Henderson.

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman, in opening the meeting, thanked all present for agreeing to assist the Committee in its investigations. Councillor Shearing then explained the background to the establishment of the Subcommittee and also the reasons for the Council's decision not to introduce a ban on vehicles in Cathedral Square.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: 14 APRIL 2005 "BOY RACERS AND NOISY CARS STAKEHOLDERS"

The minutes of the above meeting were circulated with the agenda for information.

3. SUBCOMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Consideration was given to the terms of reference which were amended as follows:

1. To work through the issues of vehicle noise and report back to the Council by 31 August with options for future action.

2. To formulate appropriate procedures for lobbying Central Government, preferably through Local Government New Zealand.
3. To share information with Police.
4. To formulate and promote options for change.
5. To investigate and report back on current motor sport and related activities and assess potential options for the future.
6. To monitor consistency with existing strategies.
7. To monitor restricted areas to determine the effects on other areas of the city.

4. **DISCUSSION TOPICS**

The meeting endorsed the list of “big picture” strategy issues to be taken into account in addressing this issue as follows:

- The potential impact on increase of residential developments
- The central city revitalisation programme and its success
- What are appropriate commercial uses of heritage buildings and can appropriate noise attenuation measures be put in place?
- The possible impact on pedestrian safety.
- The role of other agencies (e.g. police) to monitor and regulate problems and whether existing powers suffice.
- The requirement for proper consultation with the public and affected stakeholders about any proposed changes.
- The impact on changes in shifting, not solving, the problem and the creation of precedent and expectation of similar treatment by others.
- Is there an impact on Civil Liberties?

5. **REPORTS**

Enforcement of Existing Powers

The Police representatives reported on the current policing of noisy vehicles and the boy racer legislation advising:

- Fifty to sixty notices had been issued per month since February 2005 in respect of noisy vehicles compared with five to six for the same period last year.
- Three hundred vehicles had been seized since the Boy Racer legislation came into force. This legislation was considered by the Police to be an effective measure for addressing the problem.

At this point, Clayton Cosgrove joined the meeting by telephone from Wellington.

Jonathan Gillard

Jonathan Gillard reported on the current campaign seeking tighter rules relating to the modification of exhaust systems including warrant of fitness controls and empowering the Police to “green sticker” vehicles if, in the opinion of the apprehending officer, the vehicle did not meet the warrant of fitness standard.

An approach had been made to the Government’s Regulations Review Committee seeking the introduction of the Australian Standard relating to wide bore exhausts.

Clayton Cosgrove

Clayton Cosgrove reported on recent developments at Government level in respect of this issue as follows:

- An amendment to the Land Transport Act, currently awaiting Royal assent, contained two key provisions: an increase in infringement fines and the introduction of demerit points with each offence attracting ten demerit points.
- The Minister of Transport had requested the Ministry to investigate the implementation of an objective noise level test. The Minister hoped to be in a position to make a definitive statement on this issue in the next two months.
- The introduction of compulsory third party property damage insurance. Clayton Cosgrove was optimistic that the Government would support this option.

Mike Mora

Mike Mora reported that Steve Batey had obtained support from the Regional Council for the development of a track and related facilities on CRC land adjacent to the Waimakariri River.

Richard Raymond – Noise Off

Richard Raymond advised that Noise Off is to be established as a charitable trust to operate nationally as a lobby group with the objective of reducing noise.

6. REPORTS FOR NEXT MEETING

Staff were requested to arrange for the following reports to be submitted to the next meeting:

- The effect of the changes on the Port Hills, including the removal of the remaining burn out areas.
- The effect of the bans in Hornby.
- Operating hours for licensed premises together with comparative data from Dunedin and Auckland.
- A copy of the Christchurch City Liquor Control Bylaw.

7. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held at 2pm on Friday 15 July 2005 in the No 3 Committee Room, first floor, Civic Offices.

The meeting concluded at 4.25pm.