

CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

REPORT OF A COUNCIL SEMINAR MEETING

**Held on Tuesday at 27 February 2007
in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices
commencing at 1.30pm**

- PRESENT:** Councillor David Cox (Chairman),
Councillors Graeme Condon (until 2pm), Councillor Barry
Corbett (absent from 2pm to 3.15pm), Councillors Carole
Evans, Pat Harrow, Bob Parker (from 3.30pm), Bob
Shearing, Gail Sheriff, Sue Wells (until 2pm) and Norm
Withers
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Yani Johansen, Chris Mene, Claudia Reid and Stewart
Miller (Community Boards)
- APOLOGIES:** Mayor Gary Moore, Councillors Helen Broughton, Sally
Buck and Bob Parker (for lateness)

1. HEALTHY CHRISTCHURCH 2007

Evon Currie, Kathryn Cannan, Selwyn Maister, Jane Cartwright and Alice Ann Wetzell of the Steering Committee were present for this item.

Councillor Carole Evans introduced the topic and background aspects to the Healthy Christchurch Charter.

A publication "Leading the Way" and the Healthy Christchurch Charter was tabled.

Selwyn Maister provided a powerpoint presentation covering:

- Health impacts
- Obesity trends among US adults

Evonne Currie continued, covering:

- Crash course
- Healthy Christchurch priorities
- Areas of Council influence
- Take home messages
- Requests

A publication titled "Report to Healthy Christchurch Signatories 2005 – 2006" was tabled.

The opportunity was then provided for questions and comments.

- There was need to know what the District Health Board's priorities were.
- A footnote needed to be added to the likes of Portfolio Agendas to remind us of our obligations.
- How could Community Boards become more involved?
- Where were the "hot spots" around Christchurch?

2. POLICY REGISTER REVIEW

Rochelle Hardy provided a powerpoint presentation covering:

- Recap
- Recommended approach
- What we are trying to achieve
- What should be on the register?
- What is on the register?
- Seeking consensus on

Questions and comments were made on:

- The current document was very wordy, overburdening, needed a cull.
- Updated policies, staff positions, references to policies could be eliminated. They should be short, sharp and clear, non-ambiguous and easily administered. There were items in there which were certainly not policies.
- The policy document could be backed up by the Procedure Manual.
- Was there a better way to make the Code of Conduct more meaningful, what input would Community Boards have.
- There was need to check each policy item to ensure that it is not redundant.

3. FIRE BYLAW BRIEFING

Alan Bywater introduced the briefing and was followed by Terry Moody who referred to his report circulated with the agenda.

Problems arose that there was residential, semi-rural, and rural areas to contend with.

The Banks Peninsula area itself presented particular problems.

Another point was that of changing weather patterns, whether a particular month was a high risk month.

In summary, the bylaw only deals with the control of fires involving vegetation.

Questions and comments were asked in respect of:

- What if the bylaw is ultra vires?
- What was the situation being utilised in enforcing, extinguishing of fires, in 44 gallon drums.

- What procedure needed to be adopted to change the bylaw
- Was there a solution for dispensations
- There was different needs in Banks Peninsula due to the distances involved and the amount of green based material.
- A return could be made to having two periods of two-months each where fires could be lit pending upon appropriate weather conditions prevailing
- Was the way forward by dispensation and delegation.

Outcome:

The following course of action was suggested:

1. Council officers be delegated the authority in the City to grant dispensations including no fees to be looked at
2. Staff bring a report to the Council seeking approval to dispense with the present Fire Bylaw 2006
3. Request at the same time a further report for the Council's consideration on a new bylaw focussing only on the management of vegetation fires (as a fire hazard) throughout the City.

The seminar concluded at 3.40pm