

**BROTHELS LOCATION AND SIGNAGE BYLAW SUBCOMMITTEE  
10 DECEMBER 2008**

**A meeting of the Brothels Location and Signage Bylaw Subcommittee  
was held on Wednesday 10 December 2008 at 1pm**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Sue Wells (Chairperson),  
Councillors Helen Broughton, Sally Buck, Ngaire Button, Yani  
Johanson, Claudia Reid, Mike Wall, and Chrissie Williams.

**APOLOGIES:** An apology for absence was received and accepted from Councillor  
Bob Shearing

**1. CONSIDERATION OF STAFF REPORT – CONTROLS OF SIGNS ADVERTISING COMMERCIAL  
SEXUAL SERVICES**

Terry Moody, Principal Adviser, Environmental Health, presented briefing notes covering:

- Options for the provision of a bylaw covering signage advertising commercial sexual services.
- The Christchurch City Brothels (Location and Signage) Bylaw 2004.
- Analysis of Territorial Authority Bylaws Signage Requirements.

The Subcommittee discussed potential options for the development of a bylaw covering signage advertising commercial sexual services. The following options were discussed:

1. Complete ban on signage
2. No prohibitions other than the City Plan via the bylaw
3. Status quo – existing prohibitions except in specified area in the Central City
  - b. Amend status quo to extend to specified business and industrial zones
4. Restriction only on registered brothels citywide (excluding SOOBs).
5. Restriction only on SOOBs citywide (excluding registered brothels)
6. One consistent regulation across the City.

The Subcommittee held an initial discussion regarding the above options in regard to the Central City area, living zones, small business zones, large business zones, and industrial zones and was mindful of that any proposed bylaw would need to meet the requirements of the Local Government Act 2002, as well as being justified by one of the rationales in the Prostitution Law Reform Act. Staff advised that these rationales for regulating or prohibiting signage of commercial sexual services are whether that it:

- (a) is likely to cause a nuisance or serious offence to ordinary members of the public using the area, or
- (b) is incompatible with the character or use of the area.

To claim a public nuisance requires some consideration of an appreciable interference with a public right which causes damage, injury, discomfort or inconvenience to all members of the public.

In discussion the Subcommittee considered in which of a series of options a prohibition of signage could possibly be justified under these rationales.

Option	Serious offence	Nuisance	Incompatible with character
A defined area in Central City	√	X	?
Living zones	√	X	√
Small business zones	√	X	√
Large business zones	√	X	√
Industrial zones	√	X	?

The Subcommittee instructed staff to provide the following information for the next meeting:

- Further clarification on what issues the Council can control via bylaws
- Clarification of definition of commercial sexual services
- Further details of a possible City-wide regulation
- A possible wider central city area in which a prohibition could be considered that excludes living zones and other 'sensitive' zones.
- Details of the different types of industrial zones as a basis for considering whether prohibition or regulation could be applied to some or all of these.

## **2. NEXT MEETING**

The Subcommittee decided to meet again in February 2009 (time and location to be confirmed).

The meeting concluded at 2.38 pm.