

COUNCIL 23. 2. 2012

5. REPORT OF THE ELECTORAL OFFICER – ELECTION OF ONE COUNCILLOR FOR THE BURWOOD/PEGASUS WARD AND ORAL DECLARATION BY COUNCILLOR

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Regulation and Democracy Services, DDI 941-8462
Officer responsible:	Electoral Officer
Author:	Clare Sullivan, Electoral Officer

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of the report is to report the outcome of the Election of one Councillor for the Burwood/Pegasus Ward held on Friday 10 February 2012 and to appoint Councillor Peter Beck to the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board.

SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE

2. Peter Beck (Independent) was declared elected to the position of Councillor for the Burwood/Pegasus Ward.

ELECTORAL ROLLS

Residential Electors

3. The residential electoral rolls used for local authority elections are drawn from the Parliamentary rolls, utilising data supplied to each local authority by the Electoral Enrolment Centre in Wellington.
4. As at 16 January 2012 (when the roll closed) the number of residential electors enrolled in the ward was Burwood/Pegasus Ward 39,443.

Ratepayer Electors

5. The franchise also extends to:
 - Persons owning property in the city, but residing elsewhere
 - Corporate bodies (who are entitled to appoint a “nominal occupier”)
 - Persons living within the city who own other city property in other communities elsewhere to their place of residence (electors in this category being entitled to claim additional Community Board votes only).
6. Persons and organisations in this category must make application for enrolment. If on the ratepayer roll then they are automatically sent voting documents. 27 persons were enrolled as non-resident ratepayer electors for this year’s elections.

INFORMAL VOTES/BLANK VOTES

7. In some cases, votes cannot be counted because:
 - (a) The voter’s intention is unclear (classed as informal votes); or
 - (b) The voter has left the issue completely blank.
8. Separate records were kept of votes which fell into either of the two foregoing categories. These statistics disclose that there were few truly informal votes.
9. In all cases, votes were allowed where the voter’s intention was clear, notwithstanding that they had marked the voting document in a way which was different to that prescribed.

PROCESSING OF VOTING DOCUMENTS ON RECEIPT

10. I would like to thank the Council for allowing me to utilise the provisions of the Local Electoral Act 2001 permitting the processing of the voting documents throughout the voting period. It provided considerable logistical advantages in terms of getting an early result out.

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ROLL SCRUTINY, PRELIMINARY COUNT AND OFFICIAL COUNT

11. This year, I engaged the same independent election services provider (electionz.com) as the former Electoral Officer had used, to undertake the following processes:

Roll Scrutiny

12. This process involves marking electors' names off the roll as the voting documents are returned, to ensure that no elector votes more than once (this could occur through, for instance, an elector exercising an ordinary vote and then also exercising a special vote). This part of the election process is carried out electronically, by "reading" the bar code shown on the returned voting document. This is done through the window of the return envelope, and the envelopes are not opened nor the voting documents extracted until after the roll scrutiny has been completed.

Preliminary and Official Counts

13. After the return envelopes had been put through the roll scrutiny process, they were then opened and the voting documents extracted. The votes cast were then recorded electronically.
14. A progress result (which included approximately 98 per cent of the votes) was released at 12.30pm on election day, with the preliminary result being released at 3.27pm on election day. The declaration of the results of the official count was made on Wednesday 15 February 2012. Mr Beck who was successful in the preliminary count was declared elected as a result of the official count.

SPECIAL VOTES

15. Special voting documents and accompanying special voting declarations were issued to 19 persons with 17 being subsequently allowed and included in the official count. Special voting was available at 53 Hereford Street, the Shirley Service Centre and the New Brighton Library.

COSTS

16. As some charges are not yet to hand, it will be some time yet before the final cost of the elections is known.

APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLOR AS A MEMBER OF THE BURWOOD/PEGASUS COMMUNITY BOARD

17. A Community Board may include members appointed by the Council. Those members must also be Councillors representing the ward in which the Community Board is situated. The number of Councillors must be fewer than half the total number of Community Board members.
18. If the Council wishes to appoint a Councillor to be a member of a Community Board it is necessary for the Council to resolve to appoint each ward Councillor to the Community Board.

ORAL DECLARATION BY COUNCILLOR

Sample attached (**Attachment 1**).

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council receive this report and appoint Councillor Peter Beck to the Community Board which is situated in the Burwood Pegasus Community.

Sample



DECLARATION BY COUNCILLOR

I, _____, declare that I will faithfully and impartially, and according to the best of my skill and judgment, execute and perform, in the best interests of the City of Christchurch, the powers, authorities, and duties vested in or imposed upon me as a member of the Christchurch City Council by virtue of the Local Government Act 2002, the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, or any other Act.

DATED at Christchurch this 23rd day of February 2012.

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Signed in the presence of:

.....
Robert Parker
MAYOR

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A J Marryatt
CHIEF EXECUTIVE