

Whangarei District Council District Living Committee meeting - 8th February 2012

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Chair Cr Shelley Deeming welcomes all with a good morning, to all those present at 1030hrs. No apologies were received.

It was still 1030hrs and Item No. 1 Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment Committee meeting held 14 December 2011- (Page1) these were accepted with no discussion taking place.

With the time at 1031hrs it was on to Item No. 2 District Living Group Monthly Report December 2011 (Page 4)

Cr Shelley Deeming advises that they will go through this item, as always page by page, for any discussion to take place.

Cr Merv Williams asks information in regards to the employment of a community advisor (page 5)

Cr Sharon Morgan seeks more information in regards to why bike and skateboard offences are so high (page 22)

Cr Merv Williams explains that there had been a couple of confiscations of skateboards and bicycles; with their mode of transport taken away having an impact on their behavior.

Isn't it strange that there appears to be nothing mentioned in this agenda, about Mr Dells meeting (January 22nd or 24th 2012) in regards to a new race track and facilities being offered to the speedway people if they move to a new location or risk losing their present site if they are not compliant to their requests? Is this the new site at Gomez Road?

It was 1035hrs and Item No. 3 District Living Group Monthly Report – January 2012 (Page24)

Group Manager District Living Paul Dell gave some details and explained that 5 out of 39 sites had signs of contamination (page 24) and council was working on changing the wording of signs to keep the public informed.

Cr Sharon Morgan queried the figures (page 24) in relation to 9 consents or 19% were new build houses confirming many were renovation work consents.

Cr Kahu Sutherland made comment (page34; item xi) regards Northpower and their friendly way in working through this Plan Change.

Paul Dell made comments on dog attacks (page44) explaining many were family pets that had caused some issues. There had also been a lot of press about bad situations with joggers and dogs off leads. He advised they were working with their communications team about walking dogs on leads.

Check out the item on page 34, Xii Commercial Centre at Southdale. Is this about closing the end of Rewarewa Road off, like originally muted to aid access to the developments at the end of Southend Road? Could this be goodbye to Mr Norman?

Cr Brian McLachlan had some queries about dogs running free.

Paul Dell explained there was an excellent 'dog park' and he would investigate more on dogs on leads in public places.

Paul Dell continued, *surprise surprise*, in regards to the good job Gail and Hoki were doing as our City Safe Community Officers.

With the time now at 1049hrs it was on to Item No. 4 Policy for Undertaking Enforcement Action under the Building Act 2004 (Page 48)

Group Manager District Living Paul Dell advised that this item was to inform and adopt a policy to be able to serve infringements; this was similar to RMA (Resource Management Act) policy. *On many accounts doesn't serving infringements seem to really make some in council feel really worthwhile? Is it all about dollars or educating people to do things in a better or more responsible manner? Ah, I think it's all about dollars.*

Paul explains that the table on page 52 sets out the infringements.

Cr Crichton Christie comments that he accepts this as a policy, but it is only about 3 weeks before a man is unable to fit a window or repair a roof in his house without being certified. *I wonder how many here we could arrange to be certified without too much fuss? New regulations on the 1st March mean they must be Licensed Building Practitioners. He believed council needed to look at this in a very lenient way and not drag people through the hoops. Most problems are not caused by home handyman builders.*

Cr Phil Halse claimed that New Zealand had the best reputation in the world for DIY. (Do It Yourself) He sympathised with Cr Christie on this as he himself was a trained carpenter. *Gez now you tell us, could you build a bridge or a museum?*

It was 1103hrs and Item No. 5. Review of District Living Group User Charges (Page 55)

[Supplementary Agenda Item 1 Additional to Item 5](#)

Shelley Deeming was quick to ask "Excuse me, are we all at this meeting?" directed to Cr Crichton Christie and Cr Kahu Sutherland sidelined having their own little discussion. *She must have got the drive from Greg's earlier meeting comment to two other councillors.*

Shelley continued asking Group Manager District Living Paul Dell to go through this item page by page. Cr John Williamson had a query about dog attacks and late registration fees for dogs. *These are all on page 67 for those that wish to check.*

Time now at 1118hrs and Item No. 6 National Environmental Standards for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health (Page 83)

Cr Shelley Deeming advised that they could only receive this report.

Group Manager District Living Paul Dell gave a brief on the item.

Cr Shelley Deeming explained that all their submissions were sent away to government and no notice was taken of them. *Tut, tut, isn't that what happens to submissions; no one seems to take any notice. It's just a tick the box requirement set down by government to make it all look good to those naive enough to accept it as being kosher.*

Cr Phil Halse believed it was foolish to pay for a policy that we lose money on; it cost more to implement than to recovery. *Could I name a few projects of a similar nature regarding cost recovery or benefits?*

Cr Crichton Christie insisted that they should be working more closely with Mayor Brown (Far North District Council) *Will that mean there will be another take over Kaipara bid?* Crichton continued that it would cost the average lifestyle owner \$5000-00 for them to tell them their gorse is o.k.

Cr Brian McLachlan said there was a problem with people put at risk with contaminants and they must address this problem. Brian continued, with interjections fielded from Phil Halse, "If we talk about costs we need to talk about benefits". "The issue is there are contaminants out there and we have to deal with it, SIMPLE", thrusting back into his chair with his hands on his head. *Don't let them rattle you Brian.*

Cr John Williamson had a query regarding the retirement village in Fairway Drive which was an orchard before being developed.

Team Leader District Plan, Nick Williamson explained there were 4 cases in Whangarei for potentially contaminated sites. He gave some details how the Ryman Healthcare site process was undertaken resulting in an all clear.

Cr Phil Halse, in his right of reply, claimed we continually accept this type of legislation. It should be done on our District Plan. Government speculates that everything is contaminated; it shouldn't be rammed down our throats as it goes against all privileges of all New Zealanders.

So, that's it, all over till the next episode, with Cr Shelley Deeming calling the meeting to a close at 1131 hours and thanking all for attending.