

Whangarei District Council Environment meeting - 14th September 2011

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)

Chair Cr Shelley Deeming welcomes all with a good morning, to all those present at 1030hrs.

Apologies were received for Cr Kahu Sutherland and Cr Crichton Christie.

It was still 1030hrs. and Item No. 1 Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment Committee meeting held 10 August 2011 - (Page1) these were accepted with no discussion taking place.

With the time still at 1030 hrs it was on to Item No. 2 the Environment Group Monthly Report – August 2011 (Page 4) and as Environment Group Manager Paul Dell was struck down with the lurgy, the chair asked Resource Consents Manager, Alistair Hartstone to speak to the report as they proceeded through it. This he willingly did. Cr Sharon Morgan asked if the work done in conjunction with Kiwi Rail and the Community Probation Service, (bullet point 6, page 5) included the spraying of gorse. CEO Mark Simpson rising to his feet claimed “gorse is a thorn in our side and it will be a prickly issue”. *Come on laugh, that was meant to be funny.*

Cr Sue Glen claims she really likes gorse, it is a lovely colour and why don't they put it where the people steal the other plants from.

Cr Merv Williams informed that the CCTV (Closed Circuit Television) was great now the Town Basin was fully covered by cameras. The volunteers are happy with the new equipment and so is the Marina Trust.

Cr Jeroen Jongejans explained he saw two cameras close together and queried if that was for 3D?

Cr John Williamson advised that the Tikipunga Community Safe initiative was up and running. He thanked Owen Thomas and David Palmer for the work they had done. *We actually went up to the Powhiri blessing and opening day at the Whangarei Falls Monday 29th August and didn't see you there John. It was great to see Community ambassadors under the guidance of coordinator Kristi Henare patrolling the carpark at Whangarei Falls and helping visitors with any enquiries and helping keep this area clean and safe. Great work*

CEO Mark Simpson again rising to his feet explained how the Community of Tikipunga had asked for this initiative; it was not instigated by council. *Good call Mark it's not often the community receives the recognition it deserves, maybe you are being a nicer man.*

Mayor Morris Cutforth commented that it was great how the community had got this together. He added that with the new CCTV he hoped they didn't have audio capabilities as they might hear things they don't want to hear. *Can someone tell him he is in a public meeting.....I think he's being a little silly now trying to insinuate that his comment about the 'woodpile' might have been acceptable to some. Do you think it may pay to shut up before you remove all doubt that you do have a "one D ten T" problem?*
Cr Greg Martin claimed people were dumping waste over the side of their boats in the Town Basin.

Cr Merv Williams, to Greg, said you are making some pretty strong statements there; 'yachties are protectors of the environment' and yes we have the capacity to monitor any dumping with the CCTV system.

Cr Aaron Edwards queried the timeline on page 6.

Resource Consents Manager, Alistair Hartstone gave some clarification.

Cr Sharon Morgan queried the rejected applications on page 10.

Alistair Hartstone explained some reasoning.

Cr John Williamson wanted to know more about item x, page 14 Te Hape Village.

CEO Mark Simpson informed that council allocated some budget to solve this problem.

NZTA, Council and Milligan's were to share the expense to address the access.

Cr Brian McLachlan required clarification on Parking (item f, page 15)

Alistair Hartstone gave some clarification.

Cr John Williamson believed we need to understand many of these items (Page 15 item c, d & g) are covered under the RPS. (Regional Policy Statement) He informed there had been many committee meetings for this policy; a draft policy was due next month. There had not been a lot of Regional Councillor involvement in its development.

Cr Merv Williams interrupts with "as long as there is nothing in the woodpile" *There you are Morris someone else taking the micky out of you.*

Cr Shelley Deeming asks "I take it the Regional Council staff are leading the Policy?"

Cr Phil Halse interjects, "If there is ever a case for 'Unitary Authority', this is it. This is the most powerful planning document in Northland"

Cr Merv Williams asked what the timelines were on the gambling policy review (page16)

Cr Greg Martin answered with "a dollar each way." *Can someone please check the water; is it affecting the weaker minds?*

Cr Sue Glen wishes to congratulate the team that has led the upgrade of the airport. If you haven't checked it out, now is a good time to do so. *Ask some of the senior staff what it's like; Don't some frequent it regularly?*

Cr Greg Martin informs that there is a stock problem at Mokau and Oakura. In reference to page 30 Stock Complaints, he believes if they only record 30 last month; he receives

a lot more complaints than that. It's a major problem out there. *I can remember this problem was there in the last term of council; Stan Semenoff stated he was going to go out with some fencing materials and he was going to sort it out. I take it that never happened as it comes up at many meetings as an ongoing issue.*

That's it and Cr Shelley Deeming calls the meeting to a close at 1100 hours thanking all for attending and asks councillors to remain in the chamber.

So it was probably now off to get ready for the rugby; the 1st test of the RWC in Whangarei.