

Whangarei District Council Infrastructure and Services meeting - 13th July 2011

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)

Chair Cr Greg Martin called the meeting to order at 0900hrs and welcomed all.

Apologies were received for Cr Warwick Syers, Cr Jeroen Jongejans and Cr Brian McLachlan.

Time at 0901hrs and it was Item No.1. Minutes: Infrastructure and Services Committee Wednesday, 8 June 2011 and these were passed with no discussion necessary.

Still at 0901hrs. Item No. 2. Whangarei Wastewater Treatment Plan: Extreme Wet Weather Flows

Cr Crichton Christie claimed it was a good update, the public should be confident that we have moved forward at a good pace. We have taken on board with what they have said. Group Manager Infrastructure and Services Simon Weston explained that the report was providing the committee with updates on the Resource Consent process. There were a number of options for council to consider. Option 3 appears to be favored with the motion to come forward and start construction on the works.

Cr Sharon Morgan wanted some clarification on last paragraph on page 4.

Simon Weston explained it needed to be read in conjunction with other items.

Crichton Christie gave added clarification to Sharon's question *as he appeared to understand what she said more than Simon did.*

Simon Weston gave further clarification to the question fielded by Crichton.

Crichton Christie asked if it was the harbour quality that was of concern

Simon Weston emphasized that the Northland Regional Council was looking at harbour water quality, not just waste water.

Cr Aaron Edwards required some clarification (on pg 5. paragraph 6) re the determination of "acceptable". *Very good Aaron and they probably don't know what is or not acceptable and to who?*

Cr Merv Williams agreeing with Simon Weston's comment and hoped the project with the NRC is for harbour quality. *Gee, no one seems to know who is chairing this meeting as it goes from one to the other but the banter is broken when the chair realises this and* Cr Greg Martin asks if Crichton Christie wants a right of reply to which he replied 'No'

Item No.3. (0910hrs.) Solid Waste Services.

Cr Phil Halse had indicated to the chair that he wished to move this item. *Would you wonder why?*

Cr John Williamson, *about to put a spanner in the works*, with an amendment for a feasibility study. *Phil Halse doesn't look very happy about this at all.* John believed that if they were serious about a full rate review this amendment would assist as the commercial ratepayers were being disadvantaged at present. *Some of John's reasons appeared to be quite valid, but Phil-in still didn't look impressed.*

Cr Aaron Edwards confirmed that he wished to support John's amendment.

Cr Shelley Deeming wanted to argue this amendment and was it to cover the whole district as there could be some financial implications.

Cr Merv Williams believed the environment and recycling had changed over the last 5 years and they needed to check with the waste companies about their plans or ideas.

Cr Phil Halse, wanted to speak to the motion as he had made it, explained the land fill had consents for 30 years (which was hard to get). We were leaders in Waste Disposal and had our staff to thank as they had a good handle on it. We have a new facility that appears to be on track for the long term, not the short term. *Lucky Sgt Syers isn't here as he's a director that leaves the room when this is discussed; well he certainly has this time for a change as he's not here.* We are leading the country on waste disposal, he repeats.

Cr Aaron Edwards requested what were they discussing, the amendment or motion.

Cr Greg Martin confirmed it was the original motion as Phil Halse had moved it Group Manager Infrastructure and Services Simon Weston commented that they had to get a good balance; the CBD (Central Business District) is dealt with in a 'very tailored fashion', probably a much wider issue than that raised, is recycling.

Cr John Williamson insisted 'that's what a feasibility study would thought up'

Cr Crichton Christie explained that some in the CBD would have boxes and boxes of stuff. It would be difficult to do a proper study as every shop would have to be consulted with. He would prefer to sit down and come up with some solutions to advance this.

Were we prepared to go down that track.

Cr Greg Martin said that he agreed.

Cr Kahu Sutherland informed that we must protect the system we have in place as we have spent a lot of money on this. We must protect our partners in this. Our recycling was 2nd to none in New Zealand. *What are we 'world famous' in Whangarei?* Perhaps it's time to expand.

Cr Phil Halse, has his right of reply, claiming Tauranga is behind in recycling. *Gosh Phil isn't that where [Paul Dell](#) came from, did he not sort recycling out before he left? He won't like that comment, he left a box unticked before departure.*

The amendment was voted on and with only 2 supporting it John Williamson and Aaron Edwards, it was lost.

Cr Aaron Edwards wished to speak to the original motion; Cell phones and computers are accepted but are they recycled?

Simon Weston claimed he was not sure. *Good to see an honest answer, normal Simon style; straight to the point.*

Cr Aaron Edwards informed that Cebec recycle, disposing responsibly, not putting toxic items into the ground.

Simon Weston assured that they will bring back a discussion response to the group.

Cr John Williamson claimed to support Aaron Edwards and was happy this is an alive issue, not going to die with the loss of one amendment. *We look forward to further investigation into responsible recycling rather than try to make money out of filling a hole.*

Item No. 4. 0935hrs. Update on New Water Source for the Whangarei City Water Supply Area

Cr John Williamson wanted it noted that he was moving away from the table as he was a director of a water supply company ([Maungatapere Water Company Limited](#))

Cr Phil Halse spoke to the motion suggesting a change to the recommendation.

Cr Aaron Edwards believed the focus should be on conversation of water first and supply second.

Cr Crichton Christie commented that there are three things you can't get away with without long term planning; water, parks and arterial routes. The land for the Wilsons dam had been purchased many years before being needed.

Cr Merv Williams was pleased we had a security of supply; he was not sure about Phil Halse's change to the motion. We should have a dam as future sources.

Cr Kahu Sutherland felt they should take the No.3 (Ngunguru River Dam) out of the recommendation to leave all options open. Times are changing; weather patterns, population etc., take out any reference to it. *Kahu you are right, one should always leave your options open.*

The recommendation was passed.

It's now 0943hrs and Item No. 5. Barge Showgrounds – Toilet Block Upgrade and Proposed New Ablution Block (page13)

Cr Crichton Christie believed a time should be included in the recommendation giving both council and the Whangarei A & P Society some security.

Item No. 6. 0946hrs. Waipu Disabled Parking

Cr Shelley Deeming moved the motion and Cr Phil Halse seconded it. *They do like to be seen as proactive in their area and it recorded. Just take note they always move and second items for Bream Bay. Must like the pats on the back at community coffee meetings.*

Cr Shelley Deeming made comment that it was important to have disabled parking outside a doctor's surgery.

Item No. 7. 0946hrs. New Road Names.

No discussion was entered into and the recommendation all received so it was over and out.

Chair Cr Greg Martin thanked all for attending and concluded the meeting at 0946hours.

No time for a coffee or tea before the next meeting at 1030hrs. as there was a presentation about 'Paint it Red 2011' so we sat and watched this.