

Whangarei District Council Infrastructure and Services meeting - 8th June 2011

[LINK to appropriate Agenda](#)

Chair Cr Greg Martin called the meeting to order at 0900hrs and welcomed all. Apologies were received for Cr Kahu Sutherland, Cr Sue Glen and an early departure for Cr Jeroen Jongejans.

As Group Manager Infrastructure and Services Simon Weston was attending a NZTA meeting, Waste and Drainage Manager Andrew Carvell would be assisting in the meeting in his absence.

Time at 0901hrs and it was Item No.1. Minutes: Infrastructure and Services Committee Wednesday, 11 May 2011 and these were passed with no discussion necessary.

Item No. 2. Still 0901hrs Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) Performance Report – July 2010 to March 2011.

Cr Aaron Edwards, in reference to Item 1.1.3 (pg 7) felt it was time we had a target.

Cr Jeroen Jongejans asked Aaron 'How would you do that?'

Quick as a flash Cr Edwards gave an explicit variety of 'text book' answers to the question and continued with asking Cr Jongejan if there was anything else he wished to know.

Acting CEO Jude Thompson, to her feet, confirmed she had noted Cr Edwards 'points'. *Chief Operating Officer Jude Thompson is acting CEO as Mark Simpson is away recuperating from a heart attack over Queens Birthday weekend. Hope you get well soon Mark and get back to keep an eye on your things, eh?*

Cr Merv Williams, in reference to Item 1.3.3 (pg 7) was pleased to see budgets had been achieved.

Cr Brian McLachlan had concerns at the number of non-achievements in the survey.

Cr Greg Martin confirmed that a new survey would be out in July and that will show the improvements.

Cr Phil Halse said the storms had an impact on performance, directing money away from projects.

Cr Brian McLachlan claimed the problem was not having dollars budgeted for storm damage. *You are right Brian, storms are a regular occurrence, you would think they would make provisions for storms but then again, it's possibly good to have something to blame.*

Cr Aaron Edwards, in reference to Item 3.2.2 (pg 11) wanted an update on this item.

Cr Warwick Syers stated that the tonnage of waste had reduced over the last year.

Cr Shelley Deeming appeared happy claiming 'weren't they aiming for less tonnage anyway?'

Item No.3. 0906hrs. Wastewater Inflow Property Inspections.

Waste and Drainage Manager Andrew Carvell gave an update. They had focused on properties with known storm water ponding issues. Around 2800 properties had been inspected with problems in approximately 9% of properties.

Cr Brian McLachlan queried if they had the resources to fix the difficult problems.

Andrew Carvell claimed they had some storm water choking up issues which are expensive to fix. *Not really answering Brians question is it?*

Cr John Williamson queried if the 2800 properties were the only ones.

Andrew Carvell informed that flow meters were in place to prioritise areas to do further inspections.

Cr Sharon Morgan asked what the reaction had been like from property owners and what their awareness was.

Andrew Carvell replied that reaction had been very good as many were concerned about the effects of these issues were having on the harbour. Most were surprised about their problems when found. *Not many would want to admit knowing their property had an issue and they hadn't done anything about it, now would they?*

Cr Sharon Morgan questioned whether there were steps in place to raise awareness.

Great question Sharon, keep hammering it.

Andrew Carvell believed a campaign was being organized.

Cr Crichton Christie queried the number of flow meters that were being used.

Andrew Carvell claimed there were two types of flow meters. One type for long term; of which about 7 are in the system. There are also 7-8 in the system for short term monitoring. They also have rain gauges. *Maybe they could get another type of monitor. Check this model out.* They also were about to do a press release and update on projects since the norovirus problem. The Hatea storage tank was well underway, there were plans for upgrades at the waste water treatment plant to ensure overflows are to a higher standard and overflows from the network need to be managed. A risk assessment was underway.

The recommendation was passed.

Cr Warwick Syers attempted to ask a question but Chair Martin advised the item was finished. *Warwick, you will have to be a bit quicker next time; It doesn't pay to get caught napping.*

Item No. 4. Whangarei Library e-Books (0914hrs)

Cr Aaron Edwards queried what the implications of loss of electronic data were.

No one present was able to provide can answer to this valid question.

It's now 0915hrs and Item No. 5. New Road Name is moved, seconded and carried with no discussion required.

Cr Shelley Deeming believed the name Cowshed Lane was appropriate.

The old cowshed was on this road according to Cr Martin.

Item No. 6. Transport Corridor Access Management at 0918hrs.

Roading manager Jeff Devine is asked to give an overview. Government parties had access to roading as a right. The onus was on councils to manage the access. They were to plan and coordinate and have a standard for utilities installing services.

Cr Merv Williams queried if council were during the process of laying roads were to provide ducting for utilities at a later date, could charge for that access.

Jeff Devine confirmed that they can charge for access, just like other organizations with facilities available. Eg. Telecom can charge Vodafone for access.

Cr John Williamson explained through his involvement with Maungatapere Water Company he was happy with the quality of the relationship with council during the upgrade of Mangakahia road recently. *Gee John you are so busy being a professional committee person; how do you get the time to discuss traffic infringements with the CEO, to get the charges dropped?*

Chair Cr Greg Martin thanked all for attending and concluded the meeting at 0920hours.

Off to the library for a coffee, tea or orange drink before the next meeting at 1030hrs.