

Marlborough District Council

Report and Minutes of a meeting of COUNCIL to hear submissions on the 2010/11 Draft Annual Plan held in the Council Chambers, District Administration Building, Seymour Street, Blenheim on TUESDAY 1 JUNE, WEDNESDAY 2 JUNE, THURSDAY 3 JUNE 2010 commencing at 8.45 am

Present

Mayor A T Sowman (Chairman), Clrs J L Andrews, A D Barker, G S Barsanti, C R Bowers, W O Brice, J Bunting, T R Harrison, G A Hope, P J S Jerram, F D Maher, G Taylor and N W Weetman.

In Attendance

Mr M F Fletcher (Manager, Corporate Finance), Mr M J South (Financial Services Manager), and Ms J R North (Committee Secretary).

Apologies

Mayor Sowman/Clr Andrews

That apologies for non attendance from Clr E I Davidson and non attendance for Thursday 3 June from Clr P J S Jerram be received and sustained.

Carried

C.09/10.534 Council 2010/2011 Draft Long Term Council Community Plan Submissions S360-02

There were 782 submissions received and of those 71 submitters spoke to their submissions. Like last year, the majority of submissions received related to the Grovetown Sewerage Scheme. The number of submissions produced on that subject was 526.

The following is a summary of those that spoke to their submissions.

Doug Irving spoke on future developments for Blenheim. He suggested Council acquiring all that land east of the present town boundary as far as the eastern section of Alabama Road. This could be sold off to developers for house sections and subsequently sold at a reasonable cost for working people alongside the railway and near the meat works area. Also a Blenheim East Primary School be established at the end of Muller Road or between there and Alabama Road, near Mitre 10. This could be in place of Blenheim School and Council should have negotiations with government educational bodies to sort out the schooling requirements for the community of Blenheim.

Consideration of use for the block with the current theatre and shops be retained for retail purposes and the new library and other community developments be relocated to the Blenheim School site.

Mr Irving also submitted on the beautification of the river area near the new combined clubs. He believed there should be a lake established with the building of a weir type dam to lift the level of the water sufficiently to make the lake.

Mr Irving further submitted on solar power, and commented that all new houses being built in Blenheim should be required to install solar water heating as part of the construction cost of the house.

David Dew's submission centred on rates. He submitted that the comment that the rate increase was near the rate of inflation was misleading; the rate increase was about a 33% increase above inflation. At the hearing, Mr Dew commented that the rate increase was actually closer to 50%. He said there was no evidence of zero based budgeting having been undertaken, and said this needed to be demonstrated in detail.

Mr Dew stated that Blenheim and the Blenheim vicinity have for years been subsidising the rest of the District by paying excessive rates, especially for roading. He felt that given the current economic position this had to stop. In particular, grape growers could no longer afford to subsidise others which they have been doing for years. He would like to see a full review of rating being undertaken to address this.

Melissa Sutherland presented Marlborough Showjumping's submission. She advised that it was now becoming urgent for an equestrian park to be developed in Marlborough which could be used by many members of the equestrian community; and to that end they needed a parcel of land to use now, which was relatively flat and preferably free draining, and that was approximately 5 hectares. Access to some form of water supply was also necessary for both the horses and potentially for irrigation. They could do the majority of surface work on preparing the land for horse use. In the short to medium term there would be no requirement of large financial input on Council's part.

Supported by Aaron Davis and Jim Cooke, Mike Pike presented a submission on behalf of all residents and land owners of Marlborough Ridge residential subdivision (incorporating Penrith Park), opposing the proposed targeted landscaping charges referred to in the Draft Annual Plan. Comments included - double charging for same benefit; the current service level was not equitable and no clear demonstration that current budget was inadequate; the balance of services provided to groups of ratepayers needed to be considered; The Marlborough Ridge was a public area and provided benefit to many people in the community. Mr Pike said they wanted the landscaping to be on par with what the rest of Blenheim received.

NOTE: Clr Taylor declared an interest in Mike Pike's submission.

The Picton Historical Society has received a grant of \$15,000 per annum from Council since 2004/05 based on \$ for \$ door sales to a maximum of \$15,000 each year.

Cheryl Cairns on behalf of the Picton Historical Society asked that the \$15,000 capped funding be increased to \$20,000. This increase would assist with the day to day running of the Museum.

Kevin Moseley on behalf of the Marlborough District Brass Band Inc asked that their annual grant of \$10,000 be increased to \$20,000.

NOTE: Mayor Sowman declared an interest in the Marlborough District Brass Band submission.

Alan Stanford, who spoke on behalf of the supporters, asked Council for help to get the first 650 metres of Kenningtons Road sealed. The 11 owners' affected, would be required to pay for the sealing by way of a charge on their rates. Seven of the 11 property owners supported the proposal.

Anne Parker objected to those property owners adjoining the first 650 metres of Kenningtons Road having to solely pay for the sealing. People at the end of the road would get the benefit of sealing with no contribution. Ms Parker also submitted that drainage needed to be fixed on both sides of the road before tar sealing was even considered. In any event she could not afford to pay the increase in rates for the sealing.

The Waikawa Ratepayers and Residents Assn's submission was presented by chair, Brian King. The Association requested funding be allocated in the annual plan for stage one of the proposed

improvements to the Waikawa foreshore car park and retaining wall. They advised they are willing to contribute to costs where possible.

Ron Kratz speaking on behalf of the Whatanihi Association requested a grant and/or loan of \$30,000 from Council to assist with the replacement of the Whatanihi community jetty which is located in the Pelorus Sound Hikapu Reach on the west shore between Mahau and Kenepuru Sounds. Access is by boat only to the 36 properties located in that community. The jetty is owned and managed by the Association.

Candy Coe requested on behalf of The Life Flight Trust a grant from Council of \$10,000 and this be ongoing. The Trust acknowledged that they are greatly supported, on an annual basis, by Marlborough residents and businesses. Councillors felt that central government should be contributing more to this excellent air emergency ambulance and rescue service.

Janet Clarke was in despair at the increase in rates; despite the rebate which she gratefully receives. She considers the increase levied on her property outrageous. Mrs Clarke totally objects to paying extra for kerbside recycling, and absolutely begrudges Council supporting the Millennium Art Gallery with her rates. Totally against such a grandiose edifice as the proposed new theatre. Pensioners and others on low incomes cannot afford the current seat prices, let alone a new venue. Mrs Clarke questioned the capital value on her property - her section being only 341 square metres.

Lee Harper personally believed that Marlborough has been extremely slow to promote recycling - he is happy to pay the extra costs associated with this. He felt that there should be one figure quoted for waste management; recycling should not be quoted separately; and he wondered if in the costs the long term price of extending the current landfill had been taken into account if kerbside recycling was not introduced. Mr Harper commented that landfill levies must also be pushing up the ratepayers costs. If councillors were concerned about the cost implication of introducing kerbside recycling, they could find savings elsewhere. Council states 25% as the estimated reduction in household waste going to landfill through recycling - questions why this is lower than other areas of New Zealand. His family do not use their annual allowance of rubbish bags - with kerbside recycling they would use even less. He suggested that Council offered a refund for unused bags each year; could be deducted from the rate charges for the properties who return them.

Bev Doole who resides at Rarangi urged Council to introduce kerbside recycling in Blenheim and Picton. She acknowledged councillors' concern about the rates increase in introducing this, and proposed Council introduce a financial incentive to reward people who recycle. The ones that recycle would not need to use so many rubbish bags, and at the end of the year they could return their unused bags and get a rebate on their rates.

The Marlborough Girls' College Environmental Council was represented by college students, Alyssa Ryan and Josie Broadbent. The Environmental Council expressed their support for kerbside recycling. They are actively working on recycling at school and have systems in place for the recycling and reuse of paper and advised that if kerbside recycling was available to them as a school, it would be a tremendous starting point for their Environmental Council to work with. They were advised that a kerbside recycling scheme would service residential properties only at this stage if implemented.

NOTE: Cllr Jerram declared an interest in the Marlborough Girls' College Environmental Council submission.

The increase and imposition of more taxes on the rubbish collection concern many Grey Power members. President, Jean Wilson submitted that some superannuitants and pensioners cannot pay any increase in rates. The building of the Recycling Centre and the new retail shop are still being paid for by the ratepayer. Many members favour sorting their 'rubbish' and taking it to the Centre themselves and do not want to have extra charges for a service they are doing themselves. Research has shown

that older members of the community should not carry objects in front of themselves when walking as it impairs their vision on where they are placing their feet. By sorting their 'rubbish' many have cut back on the number of bags that they need to put out for collection.

Ron Moore spoke on kerbside recycling and commented that the Resource Recovery Centre is being regularly used by Blenheim residents at no additional cost and now Council proposed charging ratepayers \$48.50 for 9 months in addition to a refuse collection fee of \$61. No details have been provided how this collection is to be made. Mr Moore believed that a promotional education system was needed if Council thought it could reduce the current refuse at the landfill by 25%.

Steffan Browning spoke on the need for Blenheim and Picton to have kerbside recycling implemented and that satellite towns needed to follow soon after. He commented that it was important to the economy to be clean green.

John Brett presented his submission on Registrations of Interest; Kerbside Recycling; Rates; and Consultation and Openness.

Mr Brett submitted that the public have a right to know about the people who represent them - councillors and senior staff. He suggested this could be on the first inside page of the Agenda and any amendments could be made at the time of receiving the agenda. Mr Brett stated that councillors who have an interest should declare it. Councillors responded by saying they do.

Mr Brett is fully convinced that a kerbside recycling service is not required. The Recovery Centre is fully utilised and working very well and in these economic times it should be left as it is. Council should target the ratepayers who wish to pay; the elderly should not be forced into this; there are many forms of recycling.

With regard to rates, Mr Brett felt that maybe a re-think would be justified as Blenheim's proposed rate increase would be in the region of 7.5% and 8.5% which is not affordable in many cases. He would like to see more consultation and openness. He submitted that more information should have been provided to the public on the proposed Blenheim i-SITE spending of \$1.68m; moving the Art Gallery and Library (at what cost), upgrading Lansdowne Park rugby grounds; the new Theatre. Ratepayers are not being kept informed or asked to have an input.

Rex Dovey tabled his submission on Kerbside Recycling; Draft Annual Plan Summary; Destination Marlborough; and Consultation Process.

Mr Dovey was not in favour of kerbside recycling being introduced in the 2010/11 year which would add another 3% increase on rates as Blenheim was already facing an increase for the water upgrade. He felt that it would probably be easier for him to take his recyclables to the recycling centre once a week as he would not warrant a kerbside collection the week that glass was to be collected.

He referred to statements made in the Draft Annual Plan Summary, i.e. "kerbside recycling could reduce by 25% the volume of household waste going to the landfill" - he said this was in fact only about a 5 or 6% reduction; and "across-District rise in general rates and charges of just 2.99% which is very close to the rate of inflation"- he said the rate of inflation is 2% so the increase is 50% above the rate of inflation which he would not call "very close".

He believed the proposed new Blenheim i-SITE looked like a grandiose idea with a panic deadline to be ready for the Rugby World Cup. He asked what will happen to the heritage Railway Station. This building belongs to KiwiRail and is not part of the proposal.

Mr Dovey commented that as only a small percentage of people write submissions to the Draft Annual Plan, it is hard for Council to gauge the true level of support or opposition to the various proposals and

especially on contentious issues such as the introduction of kerbside recycling. Minority interest groups usually get listened to perhaps more than they should because they have the ability to mobilise their members to put in submissions. He felt that one way to find out what the silent majority of ratepayers think about contentious issues could be to send out a questionnaire with the quarterly rate demands.

Margaret Green asked how Council was going to cater for motels to recycle kerbside. Their motel has lot of potential recycling materials during the summer season, and it is very inconvenient to travel to the tip to dump anything except newspaper. Large wheelie bins for glass/plastic would be ideal. She does not want Council to put their head in the sand over implementing kerbside recycling. The proposed scheme covers residential properties only. Commercial businesses will not be levied the new rate and are expected to make their own arrangements.

Mrs Green would like to see the proposal and plans for a bigger Picton library carried through. She submitted that the present building is too small to cater for all community library patrons, in particular in the busy summer months it is unable to cater comfortably for the influx of tourists. There also needed to be more space for storage, filing, staff, guest speakers, display and children's area.

Mike Stoneley presented his family's submission on kerbside recycling. They tentatively supported kerbside recycling, however, they opposed the charges and sought some justification from Council as to why the cost was going to be so high. Their family are committed to the ideals of reducing, re-using, refusing, and recycling. They cannot understand why they can take all their rubbish in a plastic bag away from their gate at a charge of \$77 annually and now it was proposed to have them sort out the recyclable pieces so that they have two piles of rubbish and they are charged the equivalent of another \$65 per year to cart the second lot off.

Mike Stoneley also submitted on dog registration fees. He stated that the proposed increases are exceedingly high at around 16% per category. The increases are well over quadruple the inflation rate. He wondered why such large increases were necessary and asked that the people who set those figures be asked to revisit all their costings.

For the 2009/10 dog registration period Council decided if any non working dog that had been micro-chipped, neutered, dog not classified as dangerous or menacing and that the owner of the dog had not within the previous three years committed any infringement offence, then the registration fee for that year would be \$48.00 (category 1) otherwise the fee would be \$72.00 (category 2). For the 2010/11 dog registration period Council has decided that working dogs will be \$24.00 (up from \$20.00), non-working dogs category 1 - \$56.00; and non-working category 2 - \$84.00.

David Lloyd who has a working dog and will pay \$24.00 in the next financial year was concerned about the continuing increase in dog fees. Are we getting value for money he asked? He felt it was unfair on the non working dog owners whose dogs are not classified as dangerous or menacing, but are not micro-chipped because in a lot of cases they are old, so are facing an increase of \$12.00 to \$84.00. He believed there should be no classification; that there must be a simpler way. He asked that Council look at it again.

In 2009, when Council introduced the new LTCCP development levy charges for subdivision and development, a staged introduction of the new charges was undertaken in recognition of the depressed state of the land development sector and to give some relief to subdividers, etc. The first increment is due on 1 July 2010 when the levy on a two lot subdivision creating a \$150,000 section will go up by \$4,437 (GST incl) and a further \$3,651 on 1 July 2011.

Terry McGrail on behalf of the New Zealand Institute of Surveyors requested that as the conditions that led to the deferment of the full charges have become worse, the charges set down for 1 July 2010

be moved 12 months to 1 July 2011. They proposed that levies remain at current levels and be phased in over three years as proposed starting the process on 1 July 2011.

The hearing (1 June) concluded at 4.10 pm and resumed on 2 June at 8.45 am.

Nicole Evans along with children, Courtney and Mackenzie, spoke on behalf of the Rarangi District Residents' Assn. They would like Council to build and maintain a playground for the Rarangi community. They suggested that Council owned land adjacent to the community centre would be an ideal location.

Destination Marlborough supported and endorsed the proposal for increased grants to fund website development and obtain a government subsidy for an Australian marketing campaign in conjunction with Wellington. General Manager, Tracy Johnston, presented a promotional video.

Destination Marlborough also requested up to \$20,000 from Council to implement improvements to the Picton i-SITE prior to the beginning of next summer season (October). Improvements include - installing a large entrance door and ramp/steps from Auckland Street as the main entrance; provide a prominent roof-top I-SITE sign; remove one of the two north side entrance doors to the i-SITE; internal modifications to improve traffic flows; landscape improvement by Parks and Reserves to improve visibility of the building and its surrounds, refurbish an area for a dedicated retail product display; install queue control.

NOTE: Cllr Bowers declared an interest in Destination Marlborough's submissions.

Ryan Lock asked what had happened to cycle lanes on Redwood Street, also Alabama Road, and Maxwell Road as these were given the go ahead ages ago.

He said that Hawkesbury Road, Brookby Road, and Ben Morven Road have recently been resealed with coarse chip. The cycle - tourism industry and local recreation riders require smooth roads for this prime cycling area. He would like this resealed with bitumen; also asked Council to have a future policy of providing good quality roads - not just the cheapest option.

He also asked Council to consider sealing the currently unsealed parts of Tuamarina Track, and Redwood Pass.

Geoff Evans, President of the Marlborough Branch of Federated Farmers presented their submission, along with Alastair Campbell. Key submission points were:

That Council reconsiders its spending plans for the coming year in order to reduce the reliance on rates; that Council focus on efficient provision of local public goods including core infrastructure and its regulatory responsibilities; that Council continue to rely on the use of targeted rates and differentials in recognition that those who benefit from a service ought to pay for that service; that Council go ahead with the proposed increase to the UAGC and that Council seek to fully utilise the 30% cap available to it; that Council fund the operation of the new Aquatic Facility from the geographic areas which benefit the most due to proximity; that Council carefully examine additional funding for environmental policy development to ensure efficient use of existing resources; that Council provide the previous year's figures in the annual plan so that comparison can be made and ensure that all information is presented in an easy to follow manner; that Council fund additional contributions to Destination Marlborough from targeted rates on the tourism industry in recognition that those businesses benefit from such marketing; that Council keep the charge out rates for planners at a minimum in recognition of the ongoing expense to landowners; that Council adopt and implement the Roding Cost Allocation Model (RCAM) outlined in Appendix 1 (of their submission) using this model as a basis for funding roding costs rather than relying on property value as the primary basis.

Federated Farmers recommended that the Council advocate to central government for meaningful reform of local government funding. Alastair Campbell spoke on Council's rating system (it was suggested that capital rating be tried in the rural ward); the Awatere water, and wind machines.

Silvana Santiago of Travel Stop Cyber Café submitted that the Libraries Free Internet Service is being used heavily by overseas tourists wanting to benefit from free internet access for facebook uploads, skype conversations and miscellaneous email communications to the detriment of the community.

The following options were submitted - (a) Manage the service by requiring a 'New Zealand Library Card' for access to all library computers and Wi-Fi access; OR (b) Remove the WiFi service completely as it impinges and clogs up the library resources; OR (c) A further additional charge for internet access could be made for temporary members if the library felt this was appropriate as is presently implemented with CD's and DVD's to offset bandwidth charges.

Marlborough Chamber of Commerce General Manager, Brian Dawson, presented the Chamber's submission on Commercial Activity Rates; and Internet Access at Blenheim Library.

They have a concern about the proposal to charge additional rates to properties that have 'at home' businesses; they do not understand the underlying reason for this proposal. The majority of the additional levy relates to water and sewerage and they question the fact that people who work from home consume more water and/or place additional pressure on the sewerage system compared to other homes. They submit Council must also take in to consideration the make-up of home businesses; many are part-time; many are fledgling operations. They believe in the current economic environment people need to be encouraged to take up business opportunities.

The Chamber remains concerned at the provision of free internet access to all at the Blenheim Library. They submit that if free internet access is provided on the basis of APN and is being paid for by New Zealand residents through their taxes and rates then non-residents should be required to make some contribution if they wish to access this service. They believe the simplest way to do this is to require users of the internet to be members of the library; the cost is only \$10 per month.

Sharyn Sweeney's submission, which was presented by Les Lodewyk, related to the targeted rates charged for residential properties that are used for commercial purposes. She was unhappy with the unfairness of rates charged for some home-based businesses. She submitted that salons have been targeted to pay extra rates and asked what about all the other home-based businesses, e.g. architectural designers, personal trainers, beauty therapists, curtain makers, etc. Does not know how Council has arrived at the figure for the rates on her home-based business.

Les Lodewyk also presented Fiona Agent's submission which supported Council examining its current targeted rating policy for residential and rural type properties that are used for home based businesses. However, asked that a comprehensive and fair policy be adopted to include "all" identified home businesses now and for the future to ensure good and affordable costs across the board.

She would like to see, in the interest of fairness, serious consideration being given to current targeted home businesses being extended a credit for moneys already paid this far until the proposed charges take effect for existing ratepayers and newly identified home based businesses. She would also like an indication of future price increases over the next 5 - 10 year period, i.e. CPI increase only, etc.

Lou Taylor and Helen Norton-Taylor are disappointed with the new home based business rating system. They believe the procedure has not been done fairly and they ask why are only hairstylists being targeted when other home businesses such as lawyers, accountants, chiropractors, masseuses, seamstress, beauticians, builders etc are not. They would be happy to pay if all home based businesses were treated the same.

Alan and Janet Udy of Golden Micro Solutions Limited expressed their concern at the proposal to charge additional rates to residential properties that are also used to run commercial activities. They asked what is the reasoning behind the basic \$60 levy, and what services are being provided by the Council, over and above those that are provided to the residential property that justifies the charge? How is it fair when the Council is already charging rates to the residential property for the use of water and sewerage systems?

Carey White on behalf of the Picton Ward Forum presented their submission on Land zoning; Unoccupied Moorings; Control over Freedom Camping; National Whale Centre in Picton; Kerbside Recycling; CCTV Cameras for Picton; and Picton Ward Forum Funding.

They believe there are areas of significant landscape values that are zoned rural two at present in the Marlborough Sounds needing protection, e.g. The Snout. A workshop should be run to study the recommendations made in the completed Boffa Miskel report with the Picton Ward Forum, Marlborough Landscape Group and Council planners having input in defining the areas.

They submitted that one-third of the consented moorings in Beeches Bay/Wharetukura Bay have never been laid. These consents have five years to be enacted from the time of notification and so if not laid are stopping genuine new mooring site requests from sites that could otherwise be used. They believe the consents should be withdrawn if not completed within two years so as to give other boat owners the opportunity to apply for a mooring site.

They wished to have a consistent national ruling on Freedom Camping especially for 'sleeper only' type vans. They are looking at costings for the development of a National Whale Centre in Picton and when known they will make a more formal presentation to Council. The Forum supports recycling for Picton but has several concerns. Many of the residents in Picton already have bins, which they hoped they would be able to use again if kerbside recycling was implemented. They think the collection route should cover the same area as Green Earth Trust, i.e. out to Whatamonga Bay. They also had a concern with the cost. The Forum requested that security cameras be installed in the CBD of Picton. Last year the Forum received \$20,000 and to date approximately \$3,000 has been spent. They felt that the next financial year's funding should be reduced by half and re-evaluated in subsequent years.

NOTE: Clrs Bowers and Weetman declared an interest in Picton Ward Forum's submission.

Margaret McHugh asked a number of questions relating to the number of staff employed by Council; staff wages budget for 2010/11; the Chief Executive's contract; Council's performance; revenue received or budgeted for cafes/restaurants using open public space for dining purposes; un micro-chipped dog fees; \$50,000 for the Arts Society and the Heritage Society; relocation/expansion of the Picton Library. She referred to staff hourly rates going up from \$93 in the 2008/09 year to \$145 for the 2010/11 year.

Ms McHugh would like to know when Council was going to totally ban any form of freedom camping. She feels that it is important to recycle; the home owner/tenant should have the choice of kerbside or doing their own at the transfer station. The plastic and glass should be collected at the same time, not every second week. In a tabled submission she stated that many submissions were against kerbside recycling. She felt that be it right or wrong, Council must listen to their concerns.

Ms McHugh believes the \$1.68M for a new Blenheim i-SITE is unnecessary in today's financial climate - why not preserve at least one heritage building in the town. There does not appear to be any contact details in the latest telephone book re both i-SITES. She finds it hard to digest giving \$70,000 for a new website to Destination Marlborough when the two i-SITES in the summer season are so busy, under-staffed and keep valued customers waiting. She would support \$50,000 going towards the update/revamp of a website; the other \$20,000 going towards Picton i-SITE refurbishment. She would like to see the website be more tourist focused rather than wine orientated. Destination Marlborough

must place more emphasis on the Marlborough region and in particular Picton as a destination not a gateway or a passing through whistle-stop. They must support more signage welcoming and encouraging visitors into the Picton down town area and less in showing them how to get out. The Picton i-SITE office requires a large entrance of welcome to their site.

She believes that an elected councillor should be sitting on Destination Marlborough's board along side other nominated members. Ms McHugh spoke against the increase in dog registration fees; and Picton Library. She referred to the flag flying outside the entrance notifying customers that it is a library. She found that bizarre and the sandwich board alerting customers that they sell coffee at \$2.00 a shot while cafes a short distance down the street are empty.

Michael Cambridge spoke on behalf of Marlborough Forest Industries Assn. They wished to see Marlborough promoted as New Zealand's first carbon neutral region; and they would like to see Marlborough's carbon footprint updated to highlight Marlborough's leadership in sustainability.

Tirimoana Anakiwa Residents Assn's submission was presented by Michelle Hotham. They submitted that there are several areas around the Bay, at both Tirimoana and Anakiwa where the foreshore is being eroded. They needed assistance from Council in terms of both funding and expertise to ascertain the best long term strategy.

Anakiwa and Tirimoana jetties needed dredging to maintain adequate water access. They would also require funding from Council to assist with this.

Both the Anakiwa and Tirimoana boat ramps are only usable for a few hours either side of high tide - for most of the day it is not possible to use either boat ramp. If dredging was carried out around the Tirimoana jetty the material could be used to extend the existing ramp into deeper water. They asked if Council was able to expedite the consent; construction would possibly be arranged locally.

The Tirimoana jetty has had some work done on it recently but later in the year it would require some more maintenance.

Caroline Harvey and David Baird, along with supporters Juliet Wiseman and Beryl Bowers, of the Picton Pool Centre Trust, requested Council agree to a site from the four most suitable sites they have identified for an indoor heated aquatic centre in Picton. They also asked for commitment in terms of timing for this project. They are willing to work with Council to find further ways of reducing the costs of the project. They will be able to start fundraising when the site is finalised and when the Council's commitment is confirmed.

NOTE: Ctrs Bowers and Weetman declared an interest in the Picton Pool Centre Trust submission.

Paul Millen, chair of BikeWalk Marlborough Trust, presented priority projects that BikeWalk Marlborough supported and recommended for the 2010/11 year. They requested that specific funding for walking and cycling initiatives of \$100,000 continue for the 2010/2011 year; that the level of funding allocated in the Marlborough Regional Transport Strategy and LTCCP for walking and cycling facilities over future years be retained or increased to enable Action Plan objectives to be implemented in reasonable time frames; and that Council convey to central government that funding for walking and cycling be increased to achieve a more balanced and sustainable approach to transportation infrastructure.

Paul Millen advised that he had been involved with Bike Walk Marlborough for 10 years and was now stepping down so he could pursue other interests which required his time.

Rick Edmonds of the Linkwater Settlers and Hall Committee asked for further funding of \$50,000 for the 2010/11 year from Council for the Link Pathway Project. Previous funding from Council of

\$55,000 has been given in support for the pathway's construction. The Marlborough Sounds Link Pathway between Picton and Havelock is planned to be approximately 38 kilometres long over a ten year period. Over 10 kilometres have been constructed so far.

The Linkwater Settlers and Hall Committee's proposal is that Council recognise that the development of the Link Pathway will create a regional asset and that Council agree to holding ownership of the pathway on behalf of the Marlborough community.

Furthermore that Council accept responsibility for underwriting the cost for ongoing maintenance; that the repairs and maintenance be monitored and managed by Marlborough Roads and that they co-ordinate the necessary work by the communities along the route and/or local contractors. Funding options for maintenance included an annual fund raising event and/or that a \$50,000 per annum allocation be made for maintenance by Council to Marlborough Roads to disburse to various community groups and contractors to undertake any maintenance work required along the route.

Janet Davidson on behalf of Ngakuta Bay Community Association Inc advised that residents sought an established and defined footpath be built on Queen Charlotte Drive along the length of the straight road in Ngakuta Bay; and this include a footbridge attached to the existing vehicular bridge on Queen Charlotte Drive at the western end of the Bay.

They also requested consideration of a 30km/hour restriction through the Bay during peak holiday periods.

Barabara Stuart from NZ Landcare Trust and two Rai Valley farmers spoke on behalf of the Rai Valley Catchment Group. The Group submitted that Council should invest in a riparian fencing programme that will assist, encourage and enable landowners to protect and enhance waterways in the region. THEY commented that other regional councils use this mechanism for the purpose of creating biodiversity corridors, in stream values and to improve water quality. It was advised that most of the farmers have done their fencing, however, the Group would like Council to fund those farmers who have not fenced.

Monyeen Wedge speaking on behalf of Queen Charlotte Sounds Res Assoc's submission on a number of issues, tabled further information. Mrs Wedge stated that an automatic height restriction waiver for existing homes must be linked to a specific maximum height/weight ratio so that building safety is not compromised. It was recommended that an addition be made to the amendment to the LTCCP 2009/2019, namely that Council will positively work with all appropriate bodies to ensure that guidelines are set that ensure alternative and sustainable energy supplies are encouraged. In addition consent costs be waived or minimised in relation to existing building alterations.

Mrs Wedge commented that there was disquiet about visitors who were not local ratepayers using the library for internet services etc. An "economic" analysis needed to be conducted and if the conclusion was that "benefit" is obtained at a cost to the ratepayer then a percentage of total library cost needed to be charged to "casual visitors".

The Association also submitted on Levels of Service in the areas of Emergency Management; Water Supply; Solid Waste Management; Resource Consents; Environmental Policy, Events Management; and Harbours; Issuing Building Consents subject to waivers etc; Environmental Health - proactively work with DoC and other councils to take to government national standards (by law) re freedom camping and control of its adverse effects; Animal Control - bi annual mail outs to non permanent residents in the Sounds; Port Marlborough - would like a definitive statement as to whether legally Port Marlborough is primarily a Council controlled organisation.

Mrs Wedge also spoke to Picton Ward Forum's submission with regard to access to Picton for shopping for those with boat access only residents. She stated that new jetties for use by Sounds'

residents needed signage with phone number to enable residents to arrange use. Whilst Mrs Wedge acknowledged that Port Marlborough owns the Picton jetties she said that it is a Council controlled organisation and as such she submitted that the Local Government Act must be given weight to. She recommended that Council suggest to Port Marlborough to give due weight to its obligations as per a CCO. That it will involve itself in regular discussions with the Picton Ward Forum and at a first meeting the matter of improving and policing the public berthing at Picton feature on the agenda.

Lil Broadhurst presented two submissions on behalf of the Awatere Settler's Association. Mrs Broadhurst advised that they were close to a final draft of a plan for the redevelopment of the Awatere Memorial Hall. They would like to see the redevelopment of the Awatere Hall put into the Draft Annual Plan 2010/11, and also requested that Council commit to a timeframe for commencement of the redevelopment.

Awatere Settlers Assn and Awatere Community Activities are in the process of winding up and forming a trust. They asked that the amount of \$6,500 that was paid to the Awatere Community Activities for the rent of their information office be transferred to the Awatere Community Trust. They sought funding from Council as follows: - Shade for swimming pool - \$6,713 (GST excl); Seating (10 benches) for Swimming Pool - and upgrade the interior of the Information Office - \$3,500.

Stoney Acre is an accommodation facility in Seddon catering primarily to vineyard workers both from the RSE Scheme and travellers on working holidays. Robert Kirkham stated that whilst Seddon residents have been very supportive of these workers, there is a need for ongoing programmes which will assist the itinerant workforce to adjust to living in New Zealand communities. The planned upgrade of the Awatere Memorial Hall and surroundings would provide much needed facilities for running both support programmes and leisure activities for both the local community and itinerant vineyard workers.

Kate Sinclair also spoke in support of the redevelopment of the Awatere Memorial Hall and hoped the upgrade would be viewed in a positive light for the future of their community. She would like to see more use of the hall for travelling shows.

Seddon School principal, Tania Pringle, advised that the Seddon School fully supported the proposed concept of upgrading the memorial hall to become a multi-purpose facility for community use. The present roll of the school is 107 and it is one of the biggest users of the current hall in Seddon.

Jasmine Orchard advised that the Ballet User Group was passionate about the proposal to upgrade the Awatere Memorial Hall which could potentially provide amazing facilities for everyone in the community. For the ballet user group they are faced with several issues that hinder their usage of the current hall. The stage, lighting, changing facilities, sound, storage and seating are all problem areas.

The hearing (2 June) concluded at 5.20 pm and resumed on 3 June at 8.45 am.

Andreja Phillips believed that Council was doing some great things; she asked that they be continued and expanded, e.g. walk and cycle ways, reserves, parks, Wither Hills farm park etc; 'Tui to Town' biodiversity project, native forest regeneration etc; support for individuals and households through worm farming, composting etc; waste management - continue kerbside recycling efforts; reduction of waste to landfill etc.

She would like Council to introduce new projects that will enhance the region's overall sustainability and support all ecosystems - she gave examples of how to achieve this; and would like Council to introduce a truly sustainable and holistic approach to all Council decision making processes. She submitted true sustainability is achieved by being aware of and adjusting all our actions and consequent effects on our environment. Therefore, the prime focus in governance has to be on the

entire ecosystem; decision making has to adopt a long-term view and look at truly sustainable solutions and outcomes and not just 'isolated quick fixes'.

Ron Heberd introduced further information with regard to his submission and that of the Awatere Settlers Water Committee on the Awatere Water Supply. They objected to the proposed increase to \$1.61 (from \$1.20) per cubic metre, as no treatment was in place and 22.73% was allowed for running costs.

Alan Neeson felt that the proposed increase to \$1.61 from \$1.20 was an outrageous amount especially as the new treatment plant will not be working for a year. He cannot see why they should pay for treated water which they do not receive, not living in Seddon. He asked how did Council expect water consumption to increase (and thereby provide more income) if Council increased its cost with no added benefit to the end user.

Rex Dodson tabled further information in respect of his submission. He also objected to the proposed increase in water charges from \$1.20 to \$1.61 per cubic metre which increase is to pay for the running costs of Seddon Township's water treatment plant. He considers it wrong to claim this increase before the plant is up and running.

He submitted that historically the Awatere Water Scheme was built as a livestock water supply. The present Council activities and charges are moving to ensure stock farming will become history in their district. Livestock do not need treated water and livestock water is a large part of usage.

Flaxbourne Community Irrigation Limited thanked Council for its financial support to date. Kevin Loe on their behalf urged Council to continue to financially support them through the next two years to ensure any proposed scheme did not get fragmented and risked being under built. They therefore requested from Council further funding of \$99,500. Mr Loe gave an update of where the project is at.

Bob Nicolle, President and Peter Diack, Vice President of the Marlborough Golf Club asked for full rates relief for the 2010/2011 financial year. The Club had over the last two years invested all reserves and revenue into capital development of infrastructure for the benefit of future generations using the club's facilities. The club was granted a 50% 2009/10 rates remission totalling \$2,778.46 excluding the bar area which was fully rated.

NOTE: Clrs Barsanti and Taylor declared an interest in the Marlborough Golf Club's submission.

Graham Gosling of the Endeavour Park Pavilion Society requested the continuing support of Council for the proposed Endeavour Park Sports and Events Centre by Council pledging to provide similar financial support as provided to the Giesen Centre development in Renwick. He was supported by Steve Mitchell of Sport Tasman who spoke of his experience having been involved in the development of Moutere's new centre. Mr Mitchell advised that he could see a need for a new facility at Endeavour Park.

Ngati Toarangatira Manawhenua Ki Te Tau Ihu Trust represented by Tracey Williams, submitted that as their Ancestral Urupa, located on Maori Island in Grovetown is on private land, they receive no benefit from Council in relation to curator's fees or maintenance. As iwi members are ratepayers in their own right and a portion of the rates that are paid to Council are used for cemetery maintenance, they requested that Council make provision in the 2010/11 Draft Annual Plan to grant \$12,000 per annum (\$1,000 per month) towards maintenance and upkeep of the Urupa.

Pam Woodward, President and Steve Austin, General Manager of the Marlborough Historical Society asked Council to support the establishment of a Whaling Heritage Storage and Display Facility adjoined to the Marlborough Museum buildings at Brayshaw Park until a whaling museum is established. Quote from Robinson Construction is \$100,550 (GST excl).

They would like Council to consider assisting with insurance costs of \$10,000 per annum or the Society's insurance be combined with that of Council owned assets. They submitted that other groups in Brayshaw Heritage Park recently received assistance with insurance. It was noted however that the Groups that received assistance are situated on Council land.

They asked ask that Council grant \$17,355.11 for the installation of new security cameras in the public display areas of the Marlborough Museum. They asked that Council consider including visitor and community satisfaction with Marlborough Museum in its surveys of ratepayers and visitors. They would also like to see increasing attention paid to the landscaping at the entry to Arthur Baker Place.

Peter Tester requested on behalf of Brayshaw Heritage Park Administrators Inc funding of \$40,000 spread over two years, i.e. \$20,000 (2010/11 year) and \$20,000 (2011/12 year) to assist with the overall planning of Brayshw Heritage Park including landscaping. The planning project would include - what type of landscaping needed to be done, what security measures needed to be taken, lighting, signage, new public toilets and plans for future development.

Greg Smith on behalf of DeLuxe Group Limited opposed the proposed landscape charges. They submitted that the people with the higher land values are already paying far more than their fair share in sewer, Wairau River and general rates. Effectively they are subsidising those with lower land values in the same vicinity. If a subdivision needs the extra visits by Council gardening contractors then the extra rates that they are already paying, should be deemed to cover this.

SoundFish's submission presented by Eric Jorgensen advised they have been carefully managing funding from Council received in 2007 (\$48,944) to cover their operating costs and the commissioning of the characterisation report. SoundFish is grateful for the level of administrative support being received from the Council in terms of monthly committee meeting costs and newsletter copying and collating.

They now requested funding of \$18,375 from Council to extend the characterisation report with a view to defining an integrated management plan for the Marlborough Sounds.

Chris Davies' submission was on Energy Efficient Homes and Blenheim i-SITE. He fully supported the amendment to the LTCCP 2009/2019 which will enable ratepayers to take advantage of government subsidies for insulation, clean heating and solar water heating in their homes. He feels that double glazing should also be included as part of any package. He also thinks that converting to solar hot water and better central heating should be added into the rates - minus any lump sum paid and a small interest charge. Should the home be sold before the loan is paid - say over a 10 - 15 year period then the loan is discharged at point of sale so that funds can be maintained.

With regard to the proposed new Blenheim i-SITE, he felt it would be money better spent if the Blenheim Railway Station was redeveloped or modernised rather than spending \$1.68M on just an i-SITE.

Grenville Robinson presented ACC's submission. They submitted as follows: Community Facilities - Level of Service Indicator: Provide reserves and amenities which are perceived as safe. Harbours - Level of Service Indicator: Effective public education to provide a safe environment for all users. Land Transport - Level of Service Indicator: Provide a safe transport infrastructure.

ACC encouraged Council to work towards accreditation under the World Health Organisation International Safe Communities model and consider committing appropriate resources to this process to support cross-organisational collaboration. This model provides an approach to injury prevention and safety promotion by creating an infrastructure in local communities for addressing injury prevention initiative through building of local partnerships.

Liz Barker requested that Council establish rules and regulations regarding rubber lined dams. They have very slippery services which makes it very dangerous for people and animals if they fall in as they cannot get themselves out unaided. She submitted that the dams must be fenced to a standard of being both animal and people proof - particularly child proof.

She asked that Council work with the grape industry to show leadership and secure these dam sites from access by people and animals. Mrs Barker stated that it appeared the Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992 is not necessarily being implemented. Some dams might even come under the Swimming Pools Act. If it needs action from central government then she would like to see Council lobbying them.

On behalf of Cuddon Cycling Marlborough, Sturrock Saunders made a presentation along with Pete Halligan, Chris Ginders, Duncan Mckenzie, and three student cyclists on a proposed new outdoor cycling velodrome and BMX complex. The current facility at Athletic Park is unsafe and unsatisfactory with repairs estimated to be in the region of \$70,000 being required. They sought Council taking ownership of the new cycling velodrome and BMX complex; a figure of \$2.5M had been forecast. They suggested consideration be given to the zoned recreational site that adjoins the mountain bike park for the velodrome and BMX complex. Cuddon Cycling Marlborough Club has a capital fund it will provide of some \$60,000. In addition to this they will seek funding support from SPARC; Community Trusts; approved contractor contributions; commercial sponsors; and club fundraising activities. They would appoint a Board and Council represented on that.

A letter was tabled from Cycling Ireland advising of their support of a new 250 metre velodrome. Funding dependent, Cycling Ireland High Performance Unit would be interested in sending their elite and national squads to Blenheim for winter training and event build ups.

Nette and Mike Bradley presented Shark Nett Whanau Trust's proposal of the Barnicoats Heritage Trail. The Trust supported, and was participating in, the construction of a bike/walk pathway from Havelock to Cullen's Point. Stage one of this project is to complete the pathway to the Shark Nett Gallery and café location with stage two going onwards to Cullen's Point. Along that pathway from the Kaituna Bridge to the Shark Nett Gallery a road reserve strip has been cleared of scrub and vegetation to create a heritage trail along the pathway to acknowledge a visit by the first Europeans. Car parking and potential freedom camping sites have been made available on road reserve.

The Trust requested that provision be made and approval be given by Council for Shark Nett to landscape the road side reserve to the same standard as Picton, Blenheim, Renwick and Seddon instead of Havelock receiving a zero budget towards their town's beautification of their entrance and exit ways. Costs for completion of site development for road reserve are \$47,736.00 (GST excl). This estimate includes the \$8,000 to complete the pathway along the shoreline of the road reserve by Gills Construction.

ATTENDANCE: Cllr Brice withdrew from the hearing (3.00 pm).

Cliff Smith submitted that the proposal in the Draft Annual Plan for water charges for the Wairau Valley Water Supply Scheme was flawed for various reasons; those were stated in his submission.

Tim Hutchinson also spoke to his submission on the Wairau Valley Township Water Supply. He would like to address the feasibility of having access to the amount of water by cubic volume over a period of a whole year rather than four equal quarterly amounts as the situation is at present. In a further tabled submission he asked two questions - Can Council consider changing the current billing policy of charging the minimum \$62.50 per quarter to an annual minimum charge of \$250.00 and can Council also consider retaining the current charge of \$0.56 per cubic metre?

Council provided a 50% subsidy from district-wide reserves to assist Grovetown residents towards their sewerage scheme. The Grovetown community was advised of the loan rate payments proposed to fund the scheme. The loan is repayable over a 20 year period (including interest).

Mike Bell, Yvonne Wratt and Jeff Hynes spoke at the hearing. Their submissions had asked that Council consider contributing more funding to the Grovetown Sewerage Scheme or that Council should not expect a 7% interest return on the share of the asset the Grovetown community had already been asked to pay for.

Yvonne Wratt spoke of affordability and the hardship that some of the residents were experiencing in Grovetown. She was advised that Council staff had provided information on the Grovetown community that could have been used to design a targeted assistance scheme for genuine hardship cases in Grovetown and present it to Council for consideration.

The hearing (3 June) concluded at 5.15 pm.