

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA, ON TUESDAY 21 APRIL AT 1PM

PRESENT

Councillors B Cairns (Chairperson), W Doody, B McLaren, N Mealings, S Powell and Deputy Mayor Redmond.

IN ATTENDANCE

Councillors T Bartle and T Fulton (left 2:17pm) (Audiovisual Link)

J Millward (Chief Executive), C Brown (General Manager Community and Recreation), G MacLeod (Greenspace Manager), T Sturley (Community Team Manager), M Greenwood (Aquatics Manager), L Sole (District Libraries Manager), G Stephens (Design and Planning Team Leader), J Borland (Greenspace Strategy and Partnerships Team Leader) B Dollery (Biodiversity Team Leader), H Holmes (Ecologist) and C Fowler-Jenkins (Governance Support Officer).

There were three members of the public present.

1. APOLOGIES

Moved: Councillor Cairns

Seconded: Councillor Doody

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** and **sustains** an apology for absence be received and sustained from Mayor Gordon.

CARRIED

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- Item 4.1** - Councillor Cairns declared a conflict as he was a member of the Food Secure North Canterbury Committee.

3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee held on 17 February 2026

Moved: Councillor McLaren

Seconded: Councillor Doody

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Confirms** the circulated Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee, held on 17 February 2026, as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

3.2 Matters arising (From Minutes)

There were no matters arising.

3.3 **Notes of the Workshop of the Community and Recreation Committee held on 17 February 2026**

Moved: Councillor Powell

Seconded: Councillor Mealings

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** the circulated Notes of the Workshop of the Community and Recreation Committee, held on 17 February 2026.

CARRIED

4. DEPUTATIONS

4.1 **Food Secure North Canterbury** – Nicki Carter, Angela Clifford and Krysten Phillips

A Clifford noted that the Waimakariri District had experienced significant levels of food insecurity, alongside rising food prices in New Zealand and substantial global trade disruptions. She noted that the underlying message had remained consistent for many years, and that the present circumstances signalled an appropriate time to act by bringing stakeholders together. The intention was to determine how food security could be recognised as critical infrastructure within the district. A Clifford emphasised that this work was not novel; similar initiatives were already being replicated across the country, and she observed considerable momentum in this area. Food security as a critical infrastructure was, in her view, essential in the current environment and also contributed positively to regional economic development and social infrastructure. She therefore called for the establishment of a working party on food localisation and food security.

Councillor Doody asked how Food Secure North Canterbury intended to involve farmers and other producers in supplying food. A Clifford considered engagement with the farming sector essential, noting farmers' genuine interest in reconnecting with their communities and contributing to local food provision.

Councillor Powell queried whether fuel-related challenges served as an impetus for strengthening the local food supply. A Clifford responded that this was critical, as current food systems relied heavily on transportation, packaging, and the use of diesel in food production. Any measures that reduced these dependencies would be important as the district moved forward.

Councillor McLaren questioned how adaptable the Waimakariri District's food systems would be in an emergency, particularly if the district were isolated and access to food were limited. A Clifford acknowledged that food exports played an important role in New Zealand's economic success. She explained that the intention was not to remove food from existing supply chains, but rather to establish a parallel system designed to ensure local food provision. A Clifford noted that the current Civil Defence approach to an event such as the loss of key bridges continued to rely on supermarket supply chains with distribution centres located in areas such as Hornby. She also noted that the region did not currently have a robust food resilience or food security strategy capable of responding effectively to a major event such as an Alpine Fault (AF8) scenario.

Councillor Mealings observed that the Food Secure North Canterbury had previously indicated they were undertaking mapping of North Canterbury's food system and asked whether any progress had been made. A Clifford advised that they had completed the mapping and that it was available on the North Canterbury website. The mapping reflected the food system as it existed, including retail outlets, food banks, community halls, and other locations where food could be sourced or processed.

Councillor Cairns requested that a report be presented to Council on Food Secure in the Waimakariri District.

5. REPORTS

5.1 Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Lizard Enhancement at Kaiapoi Lakes with the New Zealand Transport Agency – B Dollery (Biodiversity Team Leader)

B Dollery spoke to the report, noting that its purpose was to seek approval for a Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) regarding the use of the final Kaiapoi Lakes Reserve area to be developed as a Lizard Habitat for lizards displaced by the Woodend Bypass project. Staff had presented the proposal to the Kaiapoi–Tuahiwi Community Board, which supported the use of the reserve on the condition that a memorandum be established outlining the respective roles and responsibilities for its use.

Councillor Mealings asked how many lizards the reserve could sustainably support. B Dollery explained that the carrying capacity of the site was determined not only by its size but also by the quality of the habitat. Staff initially estimated that a maximum of 250 lizards would be relocated to the site; however, the number continued to increase, with a final total of 381 lizards relocated. The Lizard Management Plan included contingencies for population numbers exceeding initial estimates, and as a result, an additional 38 habitat piles had been created.

Councillor Cairns enquired whether planting was required to encourage insect populations for the lizards to feed on. B Dollery confirmed that planting would be required. Hence, additional funding from the NZTA had been provided, and the Lizard Management Plan outlined all contingencies should the population exceed projections. Operationally, the funding allocated by the Council for enhancing areas of the reserve outside the designated habitat zones had also been covered by the NZTA.

Councillor Cairns further asked whether the site had been checked for any lizards already living there. B Dollery advised that, during the development of the Lizard Management Plan, staff were mindful not to displace any existing population. Prior to drafting the plan, Wildlands conducted a survey to determine whether lizards were present. Some were identified, and this was factored into the plan to ensure that the existing and relocated populations could coexist successfully.

Moved: Councillor Mealings

Seconded: Councillor McLaren

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250902164177.
- (b) **Approves** the Memorandum of Understanding between the New Zealand Transport Agency – Waka Kotahi and Waimakariri District Council to enhance the reserve as a lizard relocation site and wider recreation reserve.
- (c) **Notes** that the works and associated financing by the New Zealand Transport Agency – Waka Kotahi, outlined in the Lizard Management Plan and Memorandum of Understanding, will incur no additional costs for Council, including impact on rates. On completion of the Lizard Management Plan (at least five years), standard natural reserve management by Waimakariri District Council will occur as planned for in the Kaiapoi Lakes Concept Development Plan Ngā Tapuwae O Mua.
- (d) **Notes** that Greenspace staff will continue to work with New Zealand Transport Agency – Waka Kotahi to ensure contractors are sourced to maintain oversight of the works in the area. This is in lieu of the work already undertaken by the New Zealand Transport Agency – Waka Kotahi to design the area, which would have fallen to Council staff in the absence of collaboration.

- (e) **Notes** that the budget identified in the annual plan for the development of the lake area will be used to ensure that the level of service is met across the whole of the reserve, but there is likely to be an underspend due to the input of the New Zealand Transport Agency – Waka Kotahi.

CARRIED

Councillor Mealings commented that the report was comprehensive and that much of the work was already underway. She noted that the proposal would finalise how matters would be managed in the future. She observed that the Council was in a favourable financial position, as it would receive a contribution toward enhancing the lake area. Councillor Mealings further remarked that it was timely to see the completion of a plan first discussed in 1997 for an area long overdue for attention. She supported the motion and looked forward to seeing the project progress.

Councillor Cairns also supported the motion, noting that it was an exceptional report and commented that the historical background provided was particularly interesting.

Councillor N Mealings and Deputy Mayor P Redmond left the Council Chamber from 1:26pm to 2:04pm to attend an urgent meeting.

5.2 **Applications to the Biodiversity Fund Autumn 2026** – K Steel (Ecologist – Protected Areas)

B Dollery spoke to the report, noting that its purpose was to seek approval for the allocation of funds from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund. Several applications had been received in the current funding round. Staff had visited each applicant to assess their proposed projects and the level of funding sought.

Councillor Doody asked how the Canterbury Grass Project was intended to operate. B Dollery explained that the site was similar to the Kaiapoi Lakes environment, containing numerous large rock piles and supporting a significant lizard population. One of the key issues at the site was predation of skinks by cats. The project, therefore, proposed installing rabbit-proof fencing to deter cats and prevent hedgehogs from entering the area.

Councillor Fulton questioned how successful the establishment of plantings at Eyrewell had been. B Dollery advised that the project related to the same site and that school children had undertaken planting there each year. New Zealand Conservation Volunteers had also been involved in supporting plant survival. Overall, the planting efforts had been largely successful.

Moved: Councillor Doody

Seconded: Councillor Powell

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 260325083582.
- (b) **Approves** the allocation of \$4,608 from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund to Trevor Best for planting on the condition that any areas of wetland on the property are properly defined and permitted activity rules for any restoration activities in areas of wetland are followed.
- (c) **Approves** the allocation of \$1,570 from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund to Matiu Cookson for weed control.
- (d) **Approves** the allocation of \$6,000 from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund to Pamu for predator control fencing and trapping.

- (e) **Approves** the allocation of \$2,200 from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund to Te Kohaka O Tuhaitara for wetland restoration on the condition that the trust works with Environment Canterbury Biodiversity staff to ensure the works undertaken follow expert advice and permitted activity rules.
- (f) **Approves** the allocation of \$16,192 from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund to Environment Canterbury for sycamore control in a Waimakariri District Council road reserve.
- (g) **Approve** the allocation of \$3,217 from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund for Kane Lowther and Kirsten Sadler-Bridge for weed control and planting of appropriate eco-sourced species in a Significant Natural Area.
- (h) **Notes** staff will use predator-free Waimakariri Funding to provide Kane Lowther and Kirsten Sadler-Bridge with six traps and help them organise volunteers to assist with weed control.
- (i) **Declines** funding from the Biodiversity Contestable Fund for Simon Pulley for pond clearance and planting in a Significant Natural Area, and notes that staff will provide feedback to S Pulley that could assist in future applications to the Biodiversity Fund when next advertised.
- (j) **Notes** that this will leave \$40,319 available in the Biodiversity Contestable Fund for allocation in the next funding round in September 2026.
- (k) **Notes** that all application forms and supporting information are available on request.

CARRIED

Councillor Doody thanked staff for the very interesting report. She noted her strong appreciation for nature and expressed that the work undertaken by staff in this area was excellent. Councillor Doody therefore supported the motion.

Councillor commented that it was a comprehensive report and observed that it was pleasing to see staff assessing the success of the initiatives implemented to date to ensure their continued effectiveness.

5.3 **Applications to the Waimakariri Natural Environment Strategy Implementation Fund for Community Organisations** – H Holmes (Ecologist)

H Holmes took the report as read.

Councillor Cairns asked whether staff had anticipated that the funding would be used for wages. B Dollery explained that, when the fund was established, it was intentional that organisations be able to apply for operational funding. Much of the feedback received during consultations with groups working in the natural environment indicated that, while numerous funding sources were available for capital works, there was a significant lack of support for coordination roles and for labour to undertake tasks such as planting. Operational funding had therefore been identified as a major gap for these groups. This fund was designed to provide a measure of support to address that need.

Moved: Councillor Powell

Seconded: Councillor McLaren

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 260325083766.
- (b) **Approves** the allocation of a one-off grant of \$5,000 in 25/26 (from the requested \$10,000) to North Canterbury Community College (Comcol) for a part-time co-ordinator for the restoration project.
- (c) **Approves** the allocation of a one-off grant of \$5,000 in 25/26 (from the requested \$5,184) to Ashley Rakahuri Rivercare Group (ARRG) for one month of ranger wages.
- (d) **Declines** the funding request of \$600 from the Kaiapoi East Residents Association (KERA).
- (e) **Notes** that the fund would be fully allocated if the recommendations are supported and that there was a shortfall between demand and supply of \$5,784.00.
- (f) **Notes** that Comcol are still able to fund the proposed coordinator position with the allocation of \$5,000 out of the requested \$10,000.
- (g) **Notes** that Comcol understands that this is a one-off payment and not an ongoing contribution to operational funding.
- (h) **Notes** that mulch for the KERA project will be provided from a separate budget (\$600 from the WNES Transitional Planting Budget).
- (i) **Notes** that successful applications will be subject to an accountability agreement between the applicant and Council.

CARRIED

Councillor Powell supported the motion, noting that the work being undertaken was impressive, and thanked staff for their efforts and for the work being carried out in the community through the funding provided.

Councillor McLaren also supported the motion and expressed that he was satisfied that the question regarding wage funding had been resolved.

Councillor Cairns observed that it was unusual for the Council to fund wages; however, he acknowledged that securing funding for wages was often difficult for community groups. He was pleased that the Council was taking a flexible approach with this fund and supported the motion.

Councillor Doody expressed her pleasure that the Council was able to provide this support, noting the importance of planting and the positive impact that increased vegetation would have on the environment.

5.4 **Welcoming Communities Stage One Accreditation** – T Sturley (Community Team Manager)

T Sturley spoke to the report, noting that at a recent meeting, the Council adopted the Welcoming Communities Plan as a framework for welcoming newcomers to the Waimakariri District. This report sought approval to apply for Welcoming Communities Accreditation. She highlighted that the Council had already met four of the five criteria required for Stage One accreditation, with the final step being the Mayor's signing of a Statement of Commitment. T Sturley further advised that progression through the subsequent phases of the Welcoming Communities Accreditation process could be

undertaken within existing Community Development budgets. Achieving accreditation would align the Council with a recognised best-practice model and provide opportunities to connect with initiatives being undertaken in other communities across the country.

Councillor Cairns sought clarity on the likely increase in funding required. T Sturley confirmed that the increase would not be significant, noting that external funding avenues existed for larger-scale projects. She observed that progression to Stage Two accreditation would include an allocation of approximately \$9,500 for activities, followed by an additional \$2,000 for professional development.

Councillor Powell questioned how onerous Stages Two, Three, and Four accreditation would be. T Sturley explained that the Council had initially been cautious about pursuing accreditation because staff had understood from other communities that the administrative requirements were substantial. However, after reviewing the updated process, staff now understood that the focus going forward was primarily on documenting the stories, initiatives, achievements, and challenges associated with the programme. T Sturley noted that staff were confident the requirements were now more manageable.

Moved: Councillor Cairns

Seconded: Councillor McLaren

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 260408092138.
- (b) **Approves** the application for Welcoming Communities accreditation.
- (c) **Notes** that four out of five steps of Stage One Welcoming Communities accreditation have been undertaken.
- (d) **Notes** that the final step to complete Stage One Welcoming Communities accreditation criteria is the signing of a Statement of Commitment by the Mayor and Council's Chief Executive, along with community partners.
- (e) **Notes** an expectation that the Statement of Commitment signing may take the form of a small ceremony attended by the Mayor, the Chief Executive, the Waimakariri Welcoming Working Group and appropriate senior staff and management, dependent on availability.
- (f) **Notes** that moving through further phases of Welcoming Communities accreditation can and will be done utilising existing Council budgets.

CARRIED

Councillor Cairns commented that he appreciated the aspiration to operate to best-practice standards, noting that such a benchmark was one that any Council should set for its projects. He thanked staff for the report and observed that linking with other councils already undertaking this work was a logical and beneficial approach.

Councillor McLaren commented that at each census, Rangiora had recorded one of the highest proportions of residents of European descent, which had decreased only marginally over time. Hence, it would have been easy for the Council to adopt a narrow view of cultural diversity. Councillor McLaren expressed pride and optimism that the Waimakariri District had developed such a mature Welcoming Communities approach, which he believed reflected positively on the district's future.

Councillor Powell thanked staff for the work undertaken and acknowledged the commitment of A Claassens and the Community Team, who developed the Welcoming Communities Plan and were now progressing toward accreditation. She noted that gathering the information required to demonstrate that Waimakariri was a welcoming community was a valuable step.

Councillor Doody supported the motion and congratulated staff on their work.

In his right of reply, Councillor Cairns noted that he had moved to Kaiapoi in 2005 and had immediately recognised how welcoming the community was. He reflected on Kaiapoi's long history as one of New Zealand's most significant trading posts over many centuries, observing that it had always been a welcoming area. He stated that seeking accreditation to strengthen this welcoming approach further was a logical progression.

5.5 **Appointment of Community and Recreation Member to the Rangiora High School Performing Arts Feasibility Study Working Group** – J Borland (Greenspace Strategy and Partnerships Team Leader)

J Borland took the report as read.

Councillor McLaren asked whether staff had a sense of what would be required from the Committee representative. J Borland advised that the indication was that the appointed member would work alongside the school as it established a working group, with the intention of remaining informed about proposed initiatives and reporting back to the Committee.

Moved: Deputy Mayor Redmond Seconded: Councillor Mealings

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 260326084430
- (b) **Notes** the Committee's direction to staff provided at the 17 February 2026 workshop to provide a report seeking appointment of an Elected Member to work alongside Rangiora High School as they progress a performing arts feasibility study.
- (c) **Appoints** Councillor B McLaren as the Community and Recreation Committee representative to work alongside Rangiora High School towards the proposed feasibility study.
- (d) **Notes** that the appointment of an Elected Member does not represent a financial commitment from Council towards this project.

CARRIED

Councillor Mealings stated that she believed Councillor McLaren's knowledge and experience would make a valuable contribution to the group.

Councillors Doody and Cairns supported the motion and congratulated Councillor McLaren on his appointment.

5.6 **Aquatics April Update** – M Greenwood (Aquatics Manager)

M Greenwood spoke to the report, noting that its purpose was to update the Committee on the Aquatic Facilities year-to-date progress. He advised that attendance continued to recover following the maintenance closure of the Dudley Aquatic Facility; however, numbers were still approximately 1,000 lower than at the same time in 2025. M Greenwood also provided an update on promotional activities, including the season wrap-up for the Oxford Pool. He noted that it had been a mixed season, largely due to the changeable summer weather. The final day had been particularly successful, with 126 dogs attending the dog pool party.

Councillor Cairns enquired whether there was a minimum number of lifeguards required to be on duty at the Oxford Pool. M Greenwood advised that there were always two staff members present, because one person might need to call an ambulance while the other attended to the patient. At times, staffing increased to three, generally during crossover periods. He added that the Council was required to comply with break-time provisions and that a number of operational factors, including plant maintenance tasks, also influenced staffing levels.

Moved: Councillor Doody

Seconded: Councillor Cairns

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 260402090035.
- (b) **Notes** total customer attendance of 22,508 customers for the month of March 2026. This is down 1,014 (3.9%) from the 26,522 customers recorded in March 2025.
- (c) **Notes** a better-than-forecast year-to-date income result of \$1,185,251 attributed to strong interest in Learn to Swim programming.
- (d) **Notes** completion of successful promotional activities with our easter promotion, attracting 176 entries.
- (e) **Notes** a successful season at Oxford pool, balanced by sometimes challenging weather.
- (f) **Circulates** this report to the Community Boards for their information.

CARRIED

Councillor Doody commented that it was a good report and she was pleased that the Oxford Pool was performing well.

Councillor Cairns noted that he was impressed with how quickly staff had progressed the promotional activities. He noted that he looked forward to seeing further promotion of the pools to increase their visibility.

5.7 **Libraries Update to April 2026** – L Sole (District Libraries Manager)

L Sole to the report as read and highlighted the main points.

Councillor Cairns asked whether the libraries had become so popular that staff were finding it difficult to accommodate all the programmes they were seeking to deliver. L Sole explained that staff distributed events and programmes across different locations and were increasing their offerings within local communities so that residents did not need to travel. Given the district's size, the community expected this level of service, and staff were doing their best to meet those expectations.

Councillor Cairns observed that the pop-up library was a trial and asked what the long-term intention was. L Sole noted that the pop-up library aimed to engage with outlying communities that might not easily access library services. As part of the trial, staff had, for example, met residents in Cust who lacked transport. Staff were also assisting people with online registration, which helped partially reduce demand for in-person library services.

Deputy Mayor Redmond asked whether extending library opening hours might alleviate some of the space constraints staff had described. L Sole noted that, when compared with other growth councils, Waimakariri Libraries were particularly restricted in their weekend hours. He advised that options were available and that staff were committed to conducting a formal review.

Deputy Mayor Redmond then asked whether staff viewed the pop-up library as a means of distributing demand. L Sole explained that the mobile service was limited in what it could offer, as it could not carry many books. While staff could offer assistance and engagement through the service, it did not significantly reduce the overall demand for books.

Councillor Powell asked whether demand for the Tinker Zone was increasing, and L Sole confirmed that it was well utilised.

Moved: Councillor Mealings

Seconded: Councillor Powell

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 260204020236
- (b) **Notes** high community engagement with the annual libraries survey, with space issues at Trevor Inch Memorial Library and limitations of existing opening hours being key themes. A total of 842 responses were received, representing a significant increase from previous years (591 responses in 2024 and 324 in 2023).
- (c) **Circulates** the report to the Community Boards for their information.

CARRIED

Councillor Mealings commented that it was marvellous to hear about the initiatives taking place within the libraries. She noted that the depth and breadth of programmes and outreach across the Waimakariri District were impressive, with a wide range of activities appealing to many different groups within the community.

Councillor Powell expressed her appreciation for reading about the work occurring in the libraries and remarked that the level of community engagement was outstanding.

Councillor Cairns commented that the new design for the seed desk, built by J Clements, was highly innovative.

Councillor Doody noted that it was a joy to see what children were achieving in the libraries and added that she enjoyed looking through the seed box.

In her right of reply, Councillor Mealings remarked that she appreciated the report's summary of libraries' role, noting that they played an important part in challenging economic times by providing freely accessible community spaces where people could connect, share resources, and build practical skills.

6. PORTFOLIO UPDATES

6.1 Greenspace (Parks, Reserves and Sports Grounds) – Councillor Brent Cairns

- The NCF playground in Kaiapoi was well underway in terms of construction.
- The new innovative playground in Currie Park playground, Kaiapoi, had signage installed. The signs were good and well worth reading, helping visitors understand how they could use the space.
- General Landscape Fund Review - During the last Long Term Plan process, the Woodend–Sefton Community Board requested a review of the General Landscape Fund. Greenspace staff had been liaising with each Community Board to begin discussions on the scope and direction of the review. Each of the Community Boards received an annual fund that could be allocated to projects within their area. These projects were typically small-scale interventions intended to enhance community wellbeing and were identified either through staff advice or community feedback. The total fund could be allocated to a single project or divided across several initiatives. Previous projects had been varied, including seating installations, public

artwork, and planting. Once staff had gathered feedback from all Boards, the next step would be to prepare a report for elected members.

- Parks Maintenance - Staff continued to monitor the impacts of the fuel crisis and rising costs of materials and services, with no significant issues identified at this stage. Annual bedding plants had been replaced around the town centre. Delta had also explored procuring alternative battery-powered equipment. The first frosts would provide an early indication of reduced grass growth, typically resulting in a decrease in mowing frequency and allowing staff to redirect efforts to other tasks. Autumn sports field renovations had been completed, including decompaction work and broadleaf spraying. This period was particularly busy for the operations team as summer sports clubs wound down and winter codes prepared to start their seasons.
- Anzac Day - Preparations for Anzac Day were well underway, with contractors visiting key locations to ensure they were ready for the day of remembrance. The Council's contractor and staff took great pride in supporting this annual event, recognising its significance to elected members, the community, and the strong ongoing relationship with local RSAs.
- Mandeville Concept Plan - The Mandeville Concept Plan was nearing agreement with the Mandeville Sports Club (MSC) Committee, with staff scheduled to attend a meeting with the Committee on 22 April. The plan provided a roadmap for the future layout of the Domain and offered a framework for the MSC to work towards. The MSC had been working with its member clubs on the plan for the past year, and it was now close to a form they were comfortable supporting. The intention was to present the plan to the Oxford–Ohoka Community Board and the Community and Recreation Committee, followed by wider public engagement.
- Community Facilities - Staff had progressed several key projects, including improvements to the Council's AED network across facilities and the replacement of the projector at the Oxford Town Hall. This was an exciting period for the facilities team and the wider Council, given the strong customer-facing nature of the work and the pride the team took in delivering high-quality outcomes.
- PARS - Public engagement on the PARS project had been completed. The consultant was now working with key staff to analyse the findings and test an emerging draft with the Steering Group. Overall, the programme remained on track for inclusion in the draft 2027–2037 Long Term Plan.

6.2 **Community Facilities (including Aquatic Centres, Multi-use Sports Stadium, Libraries/Service Centres, Town Halls and Museums)** – Councillor Bruce McLaren

- He attended three of the pop-up libraries during the first phase, at Pegasus, Woodend, and the Oxford A&P Show. He commended the initiative and expressed hope that staff would continue to build on its success.
- He noted that the aquatic facilities were outstanding. He attended the recent dog pool event, which hosted 126 dogs; while lively and energetic, the atmosphere remained positive and well-managed.
- The first meeting of the North Canterbury Museums Liaison Group is scheduled for 2 May 2026.
- He attends the monthly committee meetings of the Kaiapoi Museum. The primary issue raised concerns access to the archives area above the workroom.
- Planning was underway for the Rangiora Town Hall centennial celebration, scheduled for 5 September 2026.
- He expressed support for the Pegasus Community Centre project, noting that it would be an excellent facility and could serve as a strong model for other community centres across the district.

6.3 Community Development and Wellbeing – Councillor Shona Powell

- Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ)
 - Placements tracking well with 31 sustainable placements so far toward meeting the contracted 35 placements for the 25/26 year to 30 June.
 - Business Breakfast – well attended with good feedback and some viable opportunities with local employers.
 - The Weekly Job Opportunities hub continued to have regular attendance from around 25 young job seekers. Support included CV preparation, Interview Skills, Driver Licensing, and personal development.
- Homelessness - Staff were continuing to work with the pastoral network and providers on the proposed model.
- Volunteer Expo - 31 Community Groups were represented, and around 100 potential volunteers engaged with the exhibits. All groups reported high levels of interest.
- Welcoming Communities – the plan now adopted, the Committee approved staff progressing the application for formal accreditation as a 'Welcoming Community':
 - English Language Classes continued to operate, with two classes each Saturday, with good attendance.
 - Global Locals of Waimakariri -
 - attended prizegiving for Race Unity Poster competition on 31 March.
 - monthly socials continued.
 - A midwinter multicultural dinner was being planned.
- Waimakariri Access Group
 - held their annual awareness training around accessibility for 26 staff and elected members on Thursday, 12 March 2026—very good feedback received.
 - Also, training was held with CDEM volunteers to help them consider accessibility and how to cater for this in emergency evacuation situations.
- Youth
 - Youth Action Plan - report would be presented to the Council in June for adoption as the strategic document to guide youth development over the next three years
 - Planning continued for the annual Youth Futures Employment Expo to be held in August. This typically attracted an audience of over 2,000 and around 70 exhibits.
- Local Transport – staff were continuing to work with local providers on a planned approach to local solutions to transport. This was particularly important, given the current fuel crisis, youth unemployment, social isolation and challenges around housing people of limited means.
- Food Security
 - Food Secure North Canterbury had good attendance at "Grow and Tell", edible garden and farm trails over two weekends in March, with support from staff in promotion and planning.
 - Good presentation from Food Secure North Canterbury to the Community and Recreation Committee around establishing a working party on food re-localisation and food security.

- Other items of interest:
 - Citizens Advice Bureau North Canterbury had slightly reduced their hours to 9.30am to 3.30 pm.
 - Upcoming community fundraising events include:
 - The Big Breakfast Fundraiser for Big Brothers Big Sisters of North Canterbury –Wednesday 13 May 7am to 8.30am, Rangiora Baptist Church.
 - Abbeyfield Auction of Promises – Saturday 16 May 7pm, Rangiora RSA.

Councillor Cairn asked whether, in relation to the Waimakariri Access Group, there had ever been consideration of taking volunteers to practise boarding buses. Councillor Powell advised that such consideration had occurred and that an attempt had been made to establish a programme with Environment Canterbury; however, no progress had been made. He noted that a similar initiative was underway in Christchurch and that information had been circulated to members.

He added that having a bus available in Waimakariri for this purpose would be beneficial, as feedback from some individuals indicated uncertainty about the process. They wished to learn, in a low-pressure environment, how to board the bus, complete their ticketing, and make their way to a seat.

6.4 **Arts and Culture** – Councillor Brent Cairns

- A new arts educational business had opened on High Street, Rangiora. Offering pottery and stitching/quilting/sewing workshops.
- FOLD gallery in Rangiora was set to close in June.
- Art installations
 - Mainpower Stadium sculpture - The artist had been presented with a contract but had not yet signed it. Concern over increased export prices for essential materials, which she was investigating.
 - Howard Kippenberger Sculpture - Report to go to the next Rangiora-Ashley Community Board meeting with two submissions for consideration. The Waimakariri Public Arts Trust had recommended a preferred option.
- Supporting Arts Organisations
 - Waimakariri Public Arts Trust:
 - Recruitment of new trustees was in progress.
 - Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and Trust had now been signed.
 - Public Arts Framework document:
 - Awaiting feedback from the Waimakariri Public Arts Trust and Policy.
 - A draft will be presented to the Committee.
 - The intention was to launch at the Arts Forum.
 - Waimakariri Community Arts Council
 - Working closely with Waimakariri Community Arts Council to clarify and improve processes (in conjunction with Libraries).
 - Art Collection Trust
 - Working through a few processes as advised by the lawyer to ensure the correct process of the disestablishment of the trust and transfer of art collection and funds to the Council.
 - There was considerable work to be done relating to cataloguing the art collection and the public art, and an application for a student from the University of Canterbury to undertake this through the PACE programme had been submitted. It is hoped this will occur in semester two this year.

- Arts Strategy Activation Plan - Working on this. Would be meeting with key stakeholders to develop a draft plan. An important early event in activating and reviewing the plan is the Arts Forum
- Arts forum - Dates set for 27 and 28 August at John Knox, Rangiora. Waimakariri Arts Trust (the Kaiapoi Expo trust) had agreed to sponsor the event, donating funds to cover venue hire and catering. Community stakeholders will have input into the forum programme.
- Regional partnerships - Initial steps undertaken to extend/build relationships with Creative New Zealand and Regional Arts organisations around the country, in preparation for likely restructuring in the distribution mechanism of Creative New Zealand funding.

6.5 **Property – Deputy Mayor Philip Redmond**

- The Council had declined to investigate some opportunities to purchase property in Kaiapoi, which were not strategic.
- Townsend Road, the staff were looking at a revised approach to dispose of that property. There was a report to be presented at the 5 May Council meeting for a decision.
- The Council was negotiating under the Public Works Act to acquire a property in Woodend. A report would be presented to the 5 May Council meeting.
- Subway in Kaiapoi required earthquake strengthening, and the tenant was vacating in June and was relocating behind the Paper Plus in Kaiapoi.
- There was some forestry harvest coming up in Moderates Road, Baird's Road, Loburn Domain, Woodend Beach Road and the corner of Beach Road and Ferry Road, which the Council's property team administered.
- Staff had been supporting work with the Blake Street carpark project, the eastern link and transfer station options.

6.6 **Housing – Councillor Wendy Doody**

- Housing for older people had 90.18% occupancy. She outlined the reasons why.
 - Tyler Courts had numbers five, six, seven and eight vacant for refurbishment to bring them up to standard.
 - Number ten Tyler Courts was scheduled to be tenanted.
 - Unit 28 had been identified to have some structural faults.
 - Markham Place in Kaiapoi, one unit had intensive fire and smoke damage.
 - Meyer Place had two units that required asbestos removal and full refurbishment.
 - Matthew Courts required refurbishment.
 - Courtenay Drive in Kaiapoi staff were currently undertaking interviews for tenants.
 - Durham Street had a proposed six new units being built.

7. **QUESTIONS**

Nil.

8. **URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee was scheduled for Tuesday, 16 June 2026, at 1pm in the Council Chamber at the Rangiora Service Centre, 215 High Street, Rangiora.

Workshop/ Briefing

- *Waimakariri Events Plan – J Meeker (Senior Advisor Strategy and Business)*
- *Murphy Park and Norman Kirk Park Options – C Brown (General Manager Community and Recreation) and G MacLeod (Greenspace Manager)*

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT PM.

CONFIRMED

Chairperson

Date