

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THE HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS TO THE DRAFT 2024-34 TERM PLAN, HELD IN THE OXFORD TOWN HALL, 34 MAIN STREET, OXFORD, ON WEDNESDAY, 8 MAY 2024 COMMENCING AT 2.30PM.**

**PRESENT:**

Mayor D Gordon (Chair), Deputy Mayor N Atkinson, R Brine, B Cairns, T Fulton, J Goldsworthy, N Mealings, P Redmond (virtual), J Ward and P Williams.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

J Millward (Chief Executive), S Hart (General Manager Strategy, Engagement and Economic Development), M Maxwell (Strategy and Business Manager), H Street (Corporate Planner), K Rabe (Governance Advisor) and A Connor (Governance Support Officer).

**1. APOLOGIES**

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Deputy Mayor Atkinson

**THAT** an apology for absence be received and sustained from Councillor A Blackie.

**CARRIED**

**2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

**3. HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS TO THE DRAFT LONG TERM PLAN 2024-2034**

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Brian Holland	<p>B Holland spoke to his submission and emphasized the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No money should be spent on any of the options contained in the consultation document.</li> <li>• Priority should be given to reducing the Council's debt.</li> <li>• No further property purchases should be considered.</li> <li>• The Council should focus on core responsibilities such as roading.</li> <li>• No funds to be put towards climate change initiatives, as the weather changes were within the normal range.</li> <li>• Future growth figures were misleading as the population was decreasing, with many more deaths than births.</li> <li>• B Holland did not support charging for requests for official information because if the Council acted in a transparent manner, then there would be no need to use the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 to access information.</li> <li>• The Council should not be increasing its staff numbers but should rather decrease staff and thus the staff wage component.</li> </ul> <p>There were no questions from elected members.</p>
Maureen Holland	<p>M Holland spoke to her submission and highlighted the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council should focus on reducing its debt.</li> <li>• Loan funding had to cease as the cost of loans was increasing. There was no insurance for loan funding, which could jeopardise the ratepayer's homes.</li> <li>• Rates should only be used for core responsibilities such as road maintenance.</li> <li>• The Council was making too many decisions during public excluded meetings, which showed a lack of transparency and caused mistrust within the community.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M Holland felt that drainage maintenance would mitigate flooding.</li> </ul> <p>Mayor Gordon enquired if M Holland knew that the Council had a Service Requests System where residents could alert the Council of potholes or maintenance issues. M Holland maintained that it was not her responsibility to notify the Council of needed maintenance, as an efficient annual Maintenance Plan would ensure work was done.</p> <p>Councillor Redmond asked M Holland if she believed that the roading and drainage maintenance had improved over the last 12 months, and she responded that she had not seen any marked improvement.</p> <p>Councillor Redmond then questioned how the Council should fund large roading or drainage projects. M Holland commented that the Council needed to budget correctly for such upgrades and spend according to the rates received rather than borrowing money. She also noted that 48% of people earned under \$30,000 per annum, and the increased rates would cause undue hardship.</p>
<p>Oxford Arts Trust (Jennifer Shields and Alice Pilbrow)</p>	<p>J Shields thanked the Council for its support of the Oxford Arts Trust in past years and provided a brief overview of the Trust's work, noting that arts and culture contributed significantly to the economy of the Waimakariri district and improved community wellbeing. The Council was congratulated on the development of the Waimakariri Arts Strategy and urged to work in collaboration with the Trust to implement its community outcomes.</p> <p>J Shields noted that there was a growing demand for connection, creativity, equity, diversity, and wellbeing in the rural community. The Oxford Gallery, therefore, needed continued Council support and increased investment to serve the community and make a positive contribution to the Waimakariri Arts Strategy. Hence, the Trust was requesting an increased investment of \$10,000 per annum, increasing to \$15,000 in five years.</p> <p>Councillor Fulton enquired about the Oxford Gallery's capacity to increase the economy in the future. J Shields advised that new events, such as an Arts Festival, would be hosted in 2025, and other initiatives were being considered and still being worked through.</p> <p>Councillor Williams questioned if an increase in retail/sales would assist the Trust. A Pilbrow explained that the Oxford Gallery focused on art exhibitions, and very few sales were made. As such only \$4,000 of the Trust's income during the last financial year resulted from retail.</p> <p>Councillor Cairns sought clarity on the Trust's community engagement spending. A Pilbrow noted that the Trust employed professional assistance for promotions and reporting, which was part of the criteria required by funders.</p>
<p>Canterbury Country Cricket Association Inc (Peter Devlin and Jez Curwin)</p>	<p>P Devlin spoke to the Canterbury Country Cricket Association submission, stating that the Association supported the Council's draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan. He provided a brief historical background of the Association and noted that the MainPower Oval hosted 60 playing days each season, which had placed pressure on the facility and led to a reduction in the quality of the playing surface. Hence, the Association requested the Council to consider establishing a second cricket ground within the MainPower Oval precinct.</p>

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	<p>This would enable the Waimakariri District to share their fields with Canterbury Cricket, who were responsible for all high-performance and first-class cricket played in Canterbury. P Devlin elaborated on the economic benefits for the Waimakariri District in hosting first-class cricket fixtures.</p> <p>Mayor Gordon enquired if there was a risk to the Association if the Council was unable to establish the second cricket ground. P Devlin noted that there would be no risk to the Association; however, Canterbury Cricket would then need to look at hosting first-class fixtures in another districts, which could assist them.</p> <p>Councillor Fulton sought clarification on what was considered ‘first-class’ cricket and P Devlin observed it was national cricket and some international cricket fixtures.</p> <p>Councillor Williams asked if all partners would contribute to the establishment of a second cricket ground. P Devlin confirmed that it was anticipated that costs would be equally shared between the Council, the Association and Canterbury Cricket.</p> <p>Councillor Fulton queried if spectators would be expected to pay to watch cricket and was advised that the Association only charged for 20/20 games.</p>
<p>Oxford Area School (Luke Toulson, Aarden Sloane, Rose Lal, Alex Le Liever, Carlos Miller Rachel Campbell)</p>	<p>Students from Oxford Intermediate Area School were present and spoke to their submissions which included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• R Lal - Public Transport: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Better bus service in the Waimakariri District would enable students to go to malls or sports events together.</li> <li>▪ Lack of transport affected job prospects.</li> <li>▪ Affordability with increased petrol costs impacts rural communities where public transport may work out cheaper for commuter travel.</li> <li>▪ Ability for elderly to move around the district – mitigating isolation and improving community wellbeing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Mayor Gordon explained that Environment Canterbury (ECan) provided the bus services. However, the Council was in discussions with ECan on improvements to public transport.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L Toulson – Bike Jumps for Oxford: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Many of the Oxford kids rode bikes, and this would be a place for them to meet and mingle.</li> <li>▪ Two suggestions were put forward, a simple track similar to the Cust track or a more complex one suitable for intermediate riders.</li> <li>▪ The two locations suggested were next to the Oxford Gallery or at Pearson Park.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>In response to Mayor Gordon's question, the students confirmed that they would like to be involved in the design of the proposal.</p> <p>Deputy Mayor Atkinson asked if the students had spoken to other users of Pearson Park or the Oxford Gallery about the possibility of a skatepark and was advised that would be the next step.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Le Liever – Motorcross Track: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reference design of track similar to the Waimak track.</li> <li>▪ Professional designer to ensure the safety of the track.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Safety and rules and regulations were important to avoid injuries.</li> <li>▪ Improves fitness, cardio, and quick thinking.</li> <li>▪ A place for like-minded people to meet and enjoy a shared sport.</li> </ul> <p>Mayor Gordon asked if A Le Liever had a location in mind for the proposed track. A Le Liever noted that somewhere near the Eyre River would be preferred as to mitigate noise for Oxford residents.</p> <p>Councillor Williams enquired how many people would benefit from the proposed track. A Le Liever confirmed that approximately 15 people rode regularly in the Oxford area.</p> <p>Councillor Ward questioned how large an area would be required for a Motorcross Track. A Le Liever was unsure as it would depend on the design.</p> <p>Councillor Fulton asked where local Motorcross riders were currently riding and was advised that they road at Burnt Hill.</p> <p>Deputy Mayor Atkinson asked if A Le Liever had spoken to local farmers to see if the Council could work in partnership with them to develop a Motorcross track. A Le Liever noted that no discussions had occurred.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C Miller and A Sloan – Extending Skatepark: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The current skatepark did not have sufficient space for the demand, especially over weekends.</li> <li>▪ If the existing skatepark was upgraded, more children could skate.</li> <li>▪ An overcrowded skatepark became a safety issue with too many people in a small space, especially for younger children.</li> <li>▪ Students had designed different options which could be considered and would allow all abilities to skate.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Mayor Gordon commended the students for the work they had accomplished and for the exceptional presentations to the Council.</p>
Ben Smith	<p>B Smith provided a brief overview of his background and noted the following in relation to waste management and sewage outfall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These projects would have a major impact on a small community such as Oxford. The Council's draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan should, therefore, include more detailed information on major infrastructure projects. He believed that the Council should justify investments and provide a SWOT analysis of at least five of the key capital projects.</li> <li>• Improvements in technology should provide a better carbon footprint and more efficient sustainable options on what was currently proposed.</li> <li>• Heating the swimming pools with gas was not efficient or sustainable.</li> <li>• He urges the Council to investigate alternative ways of processing sewerage. He mentioned Fonterra's production of its own gas for sustainable energy.</li> <li>• B Smith felt that the Council's Waste Strategy was weak and should be updated. It was possible for Waimakariri District to lead the way into new ways of managing waste.</li> </ul> <p>Councillor Williams enquired if Fonterra was using its waste products for gas production. B Smith commented that waste was the main resource of Fonterra's gas.</p>

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<p>Oxford-Ohoka Community Board (Sarah Barkle, Thomas Robson)</p>	<p>S Barkle and T Robson took the Oxford-Ohoka Community Board's submission as read; however, they highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural areas relied on cars, and road maintenance was not up to standard because repairs to heavy-use areas, such as Tram Road, had not stood up well.</li> <li>• The Board was concerned about the poor-quality gravel roads in the area.</li> <li>• The Board noted the lack of footpaths on many of the roads in Oxford and requested more shared paths in the rural areas.</li> <li>• The Board urge the Council to investigate initiative ways for supplying/upgrading sewerage infrastructure.</li> <li>• The Board believed that increased community facility charges were a deterrent for local community not-for-profit organisations, resulting in poor facility utilisation.</li> <li>• The Board requested the Council to make budget provisions to install sufficient lighting at the Kowhi Reserve.</li> <li>• Prioritise Natural Environment Strategy and utilize community organisations and businesses to achieve outcomes.</li> <li>• More research and data collection were needed regarding flooding, and the Council should work in partnership with ECan to mitigate flooding.</li> <li>• The Board was concerned that developments were changing water courses, which added to flooding issues.</li> <li>• There needed to be a regular and logical maintenance programme for streams such as the Ohoka Stream.</li> <li>• The consultation document included insufficient information on the cost and benefits of the Eastern Link Road for the Board to make a recommendation.</li> </ul> <p>Councillor Williams requested clarification on whether culverts known to be silted up had been reported so maintenance could be undertaken and was advised that the Board could not comment.</p> <p>Mayor Gordon asked which community groups would be interested in partnering with the Council in environmental projects. T Robson advised that there was a group of West Eyreton residents willing to volunteer to look after the Oak Reserve in West Eyreton.</p> <p>Councillor Cairns enquired if the Board believed that a two-tier system of community facilities charges would work, i.e., locals/ratepayers paying less than visitors. T Robson noted that there was interest in more flexible fee options, including seasonal, monthly, and weekly charges.</p> <p>Councillor Redmond asked if the Board had noticed an improvement in roading and drainage issues in the last 12 months and was told it was too short a time frame to say with any certainty.</p> <p>Councillor Redmond sought clarification on the rental or sale of vacant properties. It was established that the annual report on the status of Council properties was not being circulated to Community Boards.</p>

The next hearing of submissions to the draft 2024-34 Long Term Plan was scheduled for Thursday, 9 May 2024, commencing at 9am in the Council Chamber, Rangiora Civic Centre, 215 High Street, Rangiora

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT 4.09PM.

**CONFIRMED**



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Chairperson  
Mayor Dan Gordon

4 June 2024  
Date