

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THE HEARING OF SUBMISSION TO THE DRAFT 2024-34 LONG TERM PLAN, HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, RANGIORA SERVICE CENTRE, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA ON THURSDAY 9 MAY 2024, COMMENCING AT 9AM.

PRESENT:

Mayor D Gordon (Chair), Deputy Mayor N Atkinson, A Blackie, 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), T Kunkel (Governance Team Leader), K Rabe (Governance Advisor), A Smith (Governance Co-ordinator), C Fowler-Jenkins (Governance Support Officer) Aislin Connor (Governance Support Officer).

- *The meeting adjourned at 10.30am and reconvened at 1pm.*
- *The meeting adjourned at 2pm and reconvened at 2.30pm.*
- *The meeting adjourned at 3pm and reconvened at 3.50pm.*

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

3. HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS TO THE DRAFT LONG TERM PLAN 2024-34

NAME/ORGANISATION	
Warwick Hodder	<p>W Hodder spoke to his submission urging the Council to continue to work with the New Zealand Transport Agency/ Waka Kotha (NZTA) to improve Lineside Road. He noted that he lived on Bramley Road and that it was increasingly difficult to exit Bramley Road onto Lineside Road. As this was a health and safety issue, it should take priority over the development of the Rangiora Eastern Link Road, which would result in more traffic on Lineside Road. He believed that both the Bramley/ Lineside Roads and the Fernside/Power Roads should either have roundabouts or traffic lights.</p> <p>Mayor Gordon noted that the Council had been working with the NZTA for some time to develop appropriate safety improvements for Lineside Road. However, NZTA's solution of installing wire barriers down the centre of Lineside Road was not acceptable to the Council. Nonetheless, the Council continued to advocate for a more appropriate solution for the future.</p> <p>There were no questions from elected members.</p>
Rangiora and Districts Early Records Society Inc (John Biggs)	<p>J Biggs took the submission of the Rangiora and Districts Early Records Society Inc. as read; however, he noted the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There was no foot traffic outside the current Rangiora Museum, so a more central location would be desirable. The Society was in favour of incorporating the museum in the proposed extended Trevor Inch Memorial Rangiora Library.

NAME/ORGANISATION	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current museum lacked climate-controlled storage space which meant that artefacts were liable to be damaged or deteriorate. There was also a shortage of workspace, and it was suggested that the 'work' area need to be larger than the display area. • The working conditions at the current museum were unsafe for staff and volunteers. • The Society would like to input into the design of any new museum space. <p>Councillor Goldsworthy asked if there was a likelihood of the local museums in the Waimakariri District amalgamating to create a District museum. J Briggs did not believe this would work; however, they noted that the local museums collaborated to ensure the correct artefacts were shown in the correct area.</p> <p>In response to a question from Councillor Mealings, J Briggs advised that the museum currently had 150m² of display area and would require double that for storage, office, and meeting space.</p> <p>Mayor Gordon asked if it would be possible to have the storage and office space at a different location, and J Briggs noted that it would not be practicable.</p>
Kirstyn Barnett	<p>K Barnett took her submission as read and highlighted the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of quality road maintenance with emphasis on key arterial and urban roads. • She requested the Council lobby NZTA and Central Government for funding share of roading projects. • She urged for better communication when dealing with roading and drainage projects. • She was concerned about the location of the pedestrian refuge on Ivory Road and suggested traffic lights at Ivory and Queens Streets, which would slow traffic and enable pedestrians to cross safely. • She recommended the delay of the development of the Rangiora Eastern Link Road until further development could assist with the cost. • The Council should prioritise the Skew Bridge project. • The Council should review rates rebates and lobby the Central Government for a more equitable rating model. • She recommended centralised community facilities rather than small local facilities. • She noted that the extension of the Trevor Inch Memorial Library was urgent and should be prioritised. • She believed that recovery work from natural disasters should become business as usual and be added to the annual workstream. <p>Councillor Ward noted K Barnett's concerns regarding the Rangiora Eastern Link Road and queried if pushing this project back three or four years would be acceptable. K Barnett believed that this was not the time for this project to be considered; maybe for the next Long-Term Plan.</p> <p>Councillor Goldsworthy acknowledged the suggestion of scaling back local facilities and asked if this should wait until public transport was improved. K Barnett felt that libraries and aquatic facilities should be centralised rather than meeting/event-type facilities.</p>

NAME/ORGANISATION	
<p>Stella Robinson (John Brandts-Giesen)</p>	<p>J Brandts-Giesen spoke on behalf of S Robinson's submission on drainage issues in Parsonage Road. He noted that S Robinson's property experienced significant flooding due to McIntosh's Drain not adequately draining water that accumulated upstream. The drain was inadequate in size and construction, both as an open drain and a piped drain, and it was unable to manage water flow in spite of the swale on the north of Parsonage Road.</p> <p>The area was originally zoned Rural; however, it was now rezoned Residential, which led to developments on S Robinson's western and northern property boundaries. The additional residential development generated surplus water, and the problems were being exacerbated by more frequent weather events. S Robinson, therefore, believed that until a solution was found, all further development should be stopped.</p> <p>There were no questions from elected members.</p>
<p>North Canterbury Equestrian Advocacy Group (Julia McLean and Calan Leyendecker)</p>	<p>J McLean and C Leyendecker addressed the Council on behalf of the North Canterbury Equestrian Advocacy Group, noting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horse riders should be included when designing shared pathways or trails. The Group requested the Council assist with advocating riders' rights to share roads and tracks. • J McLean requested the Council to lobby the Central Government to amend the Road Code to include horse riders as a road user and to make provisions for them. • J McLean noted that riding increased fitness and wellbeing. • The Group believed that signage and education were key when designing shared spaces, i.e. bike tracks, horse tracks, and other shared paths. • There should be an increase in the Waimakariri District where horse riding was allowed, such as on forestry blocks. <p>Councillor Blackie questioned the Group's priority if they had a choice, and J McLean advised that the development of trails alongside roads and road safety measures should be undertaken.</p> <p>Councillor Mealings acknowledged that horse riders had been left out of the Road Code and asked if a 20km/ph speed limit should be considered when passing horses, and J McLean noted that it would be a start.</p> <p>Mayor Gordon suggested that the Group speak to their local Member of Parliament, the Honourable Matt Doocey, who also happened to be the Associate Minister of Transport.</p>
<p>Satisfy Food Rescue (Phillipa Hunt)</p>	<p>P Hunt believed that the work Satisfy Food Rescue did within the community supports the Council's Community Outcomes and Strategic Priorities. She highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfy Food Rescue had nine supermarkets which supported the group with produce; however, the need was increasing. • A new facility was needed to ensure the programme ran effectively and efficiently. Hence, the Group was requesting the Council to contribute 'seed funding' to its proposed new facility in the Kaiapoi Community Hub to encourage other funders, such as the Rata Foundation, to come on board. • The Group was also in need of funding to assist with operational costs to ensure continual growth and increased impact on waste minimisation in the district.

NAME/ORGANISATION	
	<p>In response to Councillor Fulton's query regarding sustainability, P Hunt noted that improved and efficient distribution would assist with Satisfy Food Rescue's sustainability.</p> <p>Deputy Mayor Atkinson asked why it was important for the other users to be encouraged to move to the Kaiapoi Community Hub. P Hunt explained that it would be a multi-purpose facility that would include meeting spaces and kitchens, which Satisfy Food Rescue could utilise. Also, having other groups at the Hub would improve community well-being and provide opportunities to collaborate with other groups to achieve the desired community outcomes.</p> <p>Councillor Cairns noted that food was also distributed to the Hurunui District and enquired if funding had been sought from the Hurunui District Council. P Hunt did not feel it was fair for the Group to seek funding from the Hurunui District Council until it had a presence in the district.</p>
<p>Silverstream Volunteer Group (Kate O'Brien)</p>	<p>K O'Brien advised that the Silverstream Reserve covered 52 hectares and was used by various groups. Volunteers were responsible for planting, weeding, propagating, and maintaining the native plants in the reserve. Several native restoration projects had been completed at the reserve over the last 15 years, and over 400m of single tracks and boardwalks had been laid to allow access to the reserve. A consistent Predator Control Programme had been underway at the reserve since 2019, which was run by a team of neighbouring volunteers. An average of 34 predators were caught every month.</p> <p>K O'Brien reported that the Group supported the Council's Natural Environment Strategy Plan and the Council's that 'Our healthy and resilient natural environment sustains our ecosystems, our communities and our future'. The Group also appreciated the Council's support, which recognised their significant contribution of time and effort in maintaining the reserve.</p> <p>K O'Brien explained that the Group requested the Council contribute and assist with various projects spread over a number of years, such as specialist maintenance and ecological research in both the dry and wetlands to enhance biodiversity, further development of linkages between the east and west portions of the reserve along public land and continued predator control.</p> <p>K O'Brien acknowledged the work of the Council's Greenspace Community Projects Officer, Mike Kwant and its Greenspace Manager, Grant McLeod.</p>
<p>Drucilla Kingi-Paterson</p>	<p>D Kingi-Paterson elaborated on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Environment Strategy – The Council needed to ensure education programmes, activities and resources were made available. • She believed that it was not the time to expand the Dudley Aquatic Facility; however, she did support the development of a second cricket oval. • She did not support the proposed expansion of the Trevor Inch Memorial Library. • D Kingi-Paterson strongly supported flood resilience and wished to see better engagement with Civil Defence, St John's Ambulance, and Fire and Emergency New Zealand. • She urged the Council to proceed with the Skewbridge Road project.

NAME/ORGANISATION	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In her opinion, more focus was needed on the development of disabled housing in Kaiapoi and retirement housing in Rangiora. • The Council also needed to engage more with the film, theatre and arts industries. <p>D Kingi-Paterson tabled an article entitled '<i>When Science and Policy don't align</i>', which she suggested the Council should note. She also informed the Council that she would be making a film in England about cricket at the Ashes.</p> <p>There were no questions from elected members.</p>

The meeting adjourned at 10.30am and reconvened at 1pm.

NAME/ORGANISATION	
Colin Wightman	<p>C Wightman provided a brief overview of why he deemed himself qualified to make a submission regarding the economic impact of the draft 2024/34 Long Term Plan. He took his submission as read; however, he elaborated, on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposition to further Local Government New Zealand Finance Agency (LGFA) debt loading and the implementation of a debt repayment plan to lower the interest burden on ratepayers. There should be a nil increase in rates. • Opposition to the Council spending on non-core services, such as cycleways and wetlands, as the Council should spend according to its annual income. He was opposed to expenditure on flood resilience works, which relied on fraudulent climate change science predictions. • Opposition to continued racist provisions within the Waimakariri District, as all people in the District should be treated equally. • Supported staff rationalisation and subsequent employment of consultants and contractors who give us better value for money. • Supported affordable housing solution initiatives in recognising the current crisis. • Supported arterial road upgrades that would improve traffic flow on State Highway 1 through Woodend. • Supported the Council resigning from Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ). <p>Councillor Blackie questioned C Wightman's statement that staff numbers had increased 70% in the last six years as the Council's data indicated a 30% increase in six years. C Wightman explained that the figures he used were from the Taxpayers Unions' webpage.</p>
Mark Ireland	<p>M Ireland noted that the annual rates increase should not exceed the rate of inflation and be fair and equitable, as the community could not afford the proposed increases. The current Uniform Annual General Rate (UAGC) was only approximately 5%, while the general rate was around 25.5%. These rating ratios were unfair as they placed a greater burden on the smaller number of higher-valued properties such as farms. He acknowledged that some cost increases were unavoidable. However, he believed that the Council should spend funds on core services and not on the purchase of productive land and properties, the creation of cycleways, the extension of the Rangiora Library and the upgrading of the MainPower cricket facilities.</p> <p>M Ireland believed that staff members who do not focus on core services should be cut. The Council should also cease including the United</p>

NAME/ORGANISATION	
	<p>Nations' agenda in its policies and stop using climate change extremist language and photos in Council publications. Following the Ombudsman's recommendations, the Council should be more open and transparent.</p> <p>Councillor Redmond sought clarity on how the Council should fund infrastructure with a life expectancy of over 50 years without debt funding. M Ireland noted that the Council should only focus on core functions of roading, sewer and water provision. These services could be funded by not spending money on "nice-to-have" projects which residents could not afford. He criticised the writing-off of nearly \$10 million to the local iwi in unpaid rates and development contribution fees, which could have been used for infrastructure development.</p> <p>Councillor Redmond enquired if M Ireland would support alternative funding proposals for councils. M Ireland endorsed investigating funding proposals such as the central government's GST-sharing proposal and suggested that the Council support such a proposal. He acknowledged that over the years, the central government had put too much regulatory pressure on regional and local governments, which led to additional expenditure. However, he believed that councils should show more resistance to central government proposals that did not benefit their communities, especially with regard to climate change initiatives.</p>
Wayne Dyer	<p>W Dyer raised various concerns regarding the proposed development of the Rangiora Eastern Link Road. He noted that the layout of the proposed road from Lineside Road to Northbrook Road made sense. However, the layout from Northbrook Road, via Kippenberger Avenue, through the Belmont development to Coldstream Road was unclear. W Dyer noted that there was a lack of information on the amount of traffic expected to use the proposed Link Road, especially heavy-duty vehicles. He did not believe that consideration had been given to whether Coldstream Road would be able to cope with the increase in traffic generated by the proposed Link Road nor the routing of the traffic off Coldstream Road. W Dyer noted that Coldstream Road was already busy due to the MainPower Multi Sports Centre and Oval, and the proposed Link Road would exacerbate traffic congestion.</p> <p>In response to a question by W Dyer, Mayor Gordon explained that the Council was currently only considering making budgetary provisions for the Rangiora Eastern Link Road. None of the designs for the proposed road have been considered. Mayor Gordon assured him that all parties affected by the proposed Rangiora Eastern Link Road would be consulted during the design process. Also, as per the Council's practice, extensive public consultation would be undertaken on the project.</p>
Stephen Bell	<p>S Bell took his submission as read; however, he expressed concerns about the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That it was unacceptable that the Council planned to increase debt without considering the burden on ratepayers. • That issues such as social housing and sports development should be left to the central government. • That the section of the public that questioned the Council was demonised, marginalised, and branded as conspiracy theorists. • That Council policies and projects were being aligned with the goals of overseas organisations influencing New Zealand policy and sovereignty.

NAME/ORGANISATION	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Council was hiding behind provisions of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act, 1987, making it difficult for the public to access information. • That residents had to use official requests for information to ensure that the Council conducted its business in a clear, transparent, and democratic manner. • The Council's refusal to engage with residents collectively so they could raise their concerns with elected members. • That the Waimakariri District's rates were being used to cover other districts in the case of a default on loans from the LGFA, thereby placing the Waimakariri ratepayers in 'debt bondage'. <p>There were no questions from elected members.</p>
Susan Thorpe	<p>S Thorpe expanded on her submission by noting, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council's debt of \$200 million owed to LGFA was reckless and unsustainable. • After LGNZ acted undemocratically and dishonestly over the Three Waters Reform, the Council should resign its membership. • The Council's current staff complement was unsustainably high. Ratepayers could not afford to have so many highly paid people on the payroll. Therefore 20% of Council staff should be culled. • Any Coastal Planning and Climate Change Policies should be based on a 1.5mm annual sea level rise, and all RCP 8.5 extremes with only a 1% probability should be rejected. • The Council should reverse all 'traffic calming' speed restrictions which disadvantage people's efficient movement. • Phase out any further references to a climate 'emergency' from the Council's documentation. • The Council should withdraw its support for Significant Natural Areas (SNA), as they were considered land crabs. • The Council should continue to advocate to the central government not to chlorinate the Council's water supplies. • The Council should reject policies that align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. • The Council should only spend on core services. <p>There were no questions from elected members.</p>
Adrienne Saunders	<p>A Saunders commented that they did not consent to pet projects that, in times of austerity and inflation, were not core services, such as the extension of the Trevor Inch Memorial Library, the upgrading of the Southbrook Resource Recovery Park, the development of the Pegasus Community facilities and the upgrading of the Southbrook Sports Club. She did not agree with the fees being proposed for Official Information requests under LGOIMA, as the Council should be accountable and transparent.</p> <p>A Saunders expressed concern about the Council's loans from LGFA without the consent of ratepayers and questioned how the funding was being spent. She was also concerned that District's rates were being used as guarantee for other districts' loans, thereby 'debt enslaving' Waimakariri ratepayers. She, therefore, wanted the Council to cease all infrastructure development, which may result in more borrowing.</p> <p>A Saunders expressed further concerns about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5G towers being erected without public consultation. • The Council's Climate Change and Managed Retreats Policies.

NAME/ORGANISATION	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Supplies not being overseen by local communities. • The Council's commitment to smart cities network <p>There were no questions from elected members.</p>

The meeting adjourned at 2pm and reconvened at 2.30pm.

NAME/ORGANISATION	
<p>North Canterbury Federated Farmers (Karl Dean, President)</p>	<p>K Dean congratulated the Council on a comprehensive 2024-34 Long Term Plan. He urged the Council to consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritise only essential projects as farmers were struggling in the current economic climate, especially considering ECan's proposed 25% rate increase. • Increase the Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) to fully utilise the UAGC mechanism at 30% of the total rates income. The UAGC component should be used for services such as Governance, Economic Development, Promotion, and District Planning. • Increase the level of service for flood resilience. • Adopting a midway option for prioritising the natural environment and removing unnecessary projects or projects which overlap with ECan. <p>Councillor Mealings noted that the North Canterbury Federated Farmers had previously advocated for an increase in targeted rates. Why were they now pro-UAGC. K Dean believed that targeted rates should be used for the provision of services. Therefore, if the Council was currently using targeted rates for Governance, Economic Development, Promotion, and District Planning, it should rather increase the UAGC.</p>
<p>SPCA New Zealand (Christine Summer)</p>	<p>C Summer reported that the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Incorporated (SPCA) was concerned with a recent decrease in the number of companion cats that were being desexed and microchipped. She elaborated on the benefits to cats' welfare and the reduction of problems with having companion cats desexed and microchipped.</p> <p>C Summer explained that the SPCA's Snip 'n' Chip Programme offered subsidised desexing and microchipping companion cats for people who need assistance with the cost of the procedures. The SPCA worked closely with local veterinarians to provide these services. However, the vouchers 'sold out' quickly once they were available, indicating these were much sought-after services in communities.</p> <p>C Summer explained that desexing and microchipping were longer-term strategies that benefited the Council as they reduced the negative impacts cats could have, including nuisance, predation on native wildlife, and the spread of toxoplasmosis to both native animals and pastoral animals. The SPCA, therefore, invited the Council to join its efforts to prevent problems before communities had to deal with difficult decisions about unwanted cats and destructive cat behaviour in their areas.</p> <p>Councillor Blackie questioned the average cost of desexing a cat. C Summer commented that it was difficult to provide an average as the costs were set by veterinarians. However, the SPCA negotiated the price and cat owners were only expected to pay \$30.</p>

NAME/ORGANISATION	
	<p>Councillor Cairns inquired if the SPCA was offering to deploy a mobile veterinarian unit to the Waimakariri District to assist with cat desexing and microchipping. C Summer noted that, unfortunately, the SPCA did not have enough mobile veterinarian units available to allow the deployment.</p> <p>In response to a question from Councillor Mealings, C Summer explained that the SPCA's Snip 'n' Chip Programme was advertised on Social Media. Members of the public could then book appointments on the SPCA's web platform and receive a voucher for a local veterinarian who was part of the programme.</p> <p>Councillor Mealings enquired if the SPCA submitted to other councils. C Summer advised that the SPCA was only making submissions to councils in districts in which veterinarians have indicated a willingness to be part of the Snip 'n' Chip Programme.</p> <p>Mayor Gordon commended the SPCA for its work and noted that the Council received many complaints about cats from the public and also requests for assistance from cat rescue organisations. He suggested that M Ireland raise his concerns regarding feral cats with the Local Member of Parliament so that the necessary legislation could be put in place to enable the Council to deal with the problem.</p>
Rangiora-Ashley Community Board (Jim Gerard)	<p>J Gerard took the Rangiora-Ashley Community Board's submission as read. He commended the Council on keeping the proposed rates increase as low as possible in this challenging economic climate. The Board also wished to congratulate the Council on the high quality of the Long Term Plan documentation.</p> <p>J Gerard noted that the Board wished the Council to consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board did not support the development of the land at Lineside Road, as it believed that the land was in the Cam River's 'flood path' rather than an actual wetland. • The Board was not opposed to developing a second cricket oval at 154 East Belt, Rangiora. However, it did not believe that significant capital expenditure on sports and community facilities should be prioritised in the current economic climate. It was suggested that the Council instead consider the development of an additional cricket pitch at Dudley Park for the next three to four years. • To rethink the future development of the proposed Ravenswood Aquatic Facility and Library, as it believed that there were sufficient facilities within the district. • The Board urged the Council to consider bringing the ground floor extension of the western side of the Trevor Inch Memorial Rangiora Library forward to bring the facility up to a suitable level of service for the district's expanding population. Also, the Board supports the Rangiora and Districts Early Records Society Inc.'s request for the development of a dedicated museum space in the library. • The Board supported the establishment of a permanent in-house Infrastructure Resilience Team; however, it would have liked more details about the projects the team would undertake. • The Board did not believe that the NZTA would be keen to co-fund the proposed Rangiora Eastern Link Road and did not feel that its development should be a priority in the current economic times. Therefore, it was recommended that the Council postpone the development of the Link Road until there was more clarity about funding.

NAME/ORGANISATION	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="533 244 1377 304">• The Board urged the Council to advocate for a visible New Zealand Police presence in the Rangiora Town Centre. <p data-bbox="533 336 1377 577">Councillor Ward thanked J Gerard for his leadership of the Rangiora-Ashley Community Board and asked if the Board was likely to support the development of a Waimakariri District Museum rather than the maintenance of various local museums. J Gerard noted that the Board did not support the duplication of services in the district. However, he reiterated that the Rangiora and Districts Early Records Society Inc. wished the Rangiora Museum to be housed in the library, similar to the Kaiapoi Museum.</p> <p data-bbox="533 609 1377 882">Councillor Ward acknowledged the Board's concern regarding the affordability of the Rangiora Eastern Link Road. She questioned whether the Board would support its development in three to four years when it would be more affordable. J Gerard noted that the Board did not dispute the need for the Link Road. However, it did not believe that NZTA would fund the proposed development, and it was, therefore, unlikely to proceed at this stage. Hence, the Board's suggestion that the Council prioritise the development of the Townsend/Fernside/Flaxton route.</p> <p data-bbox="533 913 1377 1097">Councillor Brine sought clarity on the Board's statement that the Council previously funded various projects at the Southbrook Sports Club with very few results. J Gerard noted that the Board referred to the Council's funding for the relocation of the Southbrook Pavilion, which the Club was unable to refund. Hence, the Board doubted the Club's ability to raise its share of the funding for the proposed refurbishment of the Club.</p> <p data-bbox="533 1128 1377 1220">Councillor Brine asked if the Board was aware that if the Southbrook Sports Club closed, the facility would revert to the Council, and J Gerard acknowledged that the Board may not be aware of the stipulation.</p> <p data-bbox="533 1252 1377 1404">Councillor Goldsworthy enquired if the Board would support the Council providing a kiosk in the Rangiora Town Centre manned by New Zealand Police. J Gerard explained that the Board's first priority would be to have a police station in the town centre, however a manned kiosk would be better than nothing.</p> <p data-bbox="533 1435 1377 1769">Councillor Fulton questioned whether the Board would support the development of a second cricket oval at 154 East Belt, Rangiora, if the project also involved upgrading other cricket clubs in Rangiora. J Gerard noted that the Board supported the development of cricket in the district and was therefore not opposed to the development of a second cricket oval. However, the Board did not feel that the Council should prioritise capital expenditure on sports community facilities at this time. Hopefully, the economic climate would improve in three to four years, and the second cricket oval could be reconsidered. It is suggested that the Council consider the development of an additional cricket pitch at Dudley Park, at a lesser cost, to be used in the meantime.</p> <p data-bbox="533 1800 1377 1921">Responding to a question from Councillor Fulton, J Gerard noted that the Board supported the growth of local sports facilities. Nevertheless, it did not believe that the upgrading of the Southbrook Sports Club should be considered in the current economic climate.</p>

NAME/ORGANISATION	
	<p>Councillor Ward commented that the changing facilities at the Southbrook Sports Club were inadequate. She, therefore, asked if the Board would consider a two-staged approach to the club's redevelopment to allow for the development of appropriate changing facilities. J Gerard noted that the Board's concern was based on financial viability, as it did not believe that the Club would be able to raise its share of the funding.</p> <p>Mayor Gordon expressed the Council's appreciation for J Gerard's leadership of the Board and the continued good working relationship he fostered with the Council.</p>

The meeting adjourned at 3pm and reconvened at 3.50pm.

NAME/ORGANISATION	
<p>Geoff Spark</p>	<p><i>Deputy Mayor Atkinson and Councillor Mealings left the Chamber while Mr Spark spoke to his submission due to their role as commissioners in the District Plan Review.</i></p> <p>Representing the Spark family, G Spark spoke to their submission, supporting the Rangiora Eastern Link Road. Rangiora was destined to continue to grow, and traffic congestion needed to be taken off Southbrook Road, which was currently constrained due to pressure. The Eastern Link Road was seen as a logical and positive solution to the growth strategy and a key piece of infrastructure. The Spark family owned the land that the road would go through and saw merit that one landowner owned the majority of the land and would work with the Council on this proposal. The Eastern Link Road, along with Boys and Marsh Roads, would provide a natural boundary for the Rangiora. This would provide an attractive gateway into the town, and Middle Brook could be developed as a biodiversity area.</p> <p>It was challenging for the Sparks family to keep farming off Boys Road, and they would, therefore, support the development of the Eastern Link Road progressing sooner. The family would like assurance that this project was proceeding and that the land would be purchased.</p>
<p>Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust (Judith Roper-Lindsay)</p>	<p>J Roper-Lindsay spoke to the Waimakariri Biodiversity Trust's submission, noting the Trust's main area of interest was the inclusion of a Biodiversity Strategy as part of the Council's LTP. The Trust consider it would be timely for the Council to adopt this Strategy now, and the outcomes should significantly improve the natural environment and connect people with nature. The community expected the Council to take the lead on this, and it was hoped that there could be an increase in the MainPower Biodiversity Fund.</p> <p>The Biodiversity Strategy was a way to connect different ecosystems, and the Trust noted its support for the Council purchase of the Lineside Road property. The Trust supported the preferred Option A.</p> <p>Councillor Fulton asked what were the questions that the Trust Coordinator was being asked to respond to. J Roper-Lindsay said requests were predominantly on how to acquire funding, but it was also noted that a large percentage of people are prepared to spend some money themselves on biodiversity projects on their properties. The Trust was already working with some farmers and their biodiversity planting they were undertaking.</p>

NAME/ORGANISATION	
	<p>Councillor Redmond asked what the Trust's view of the Lineside Road property was, i.e., was it seen as a flood plain or a wetland? J Roper-Lindsay noted that it was listed on the ECan database as a wetland.</p>
<p>Food Secure North Canterbury (Krysten Phillips and Philippa Hunt)</p>	<p>K Phillips and P Hunt spoke to the submission of the Food Secure Group, which supported the Council adopting a Biodiversity Strategy. The Group also supported edible plantings and food forests that allowed foraging, which were established in Council reserves throughout the district, and engaging with schools to increase food security in the district. They would like to see more opportunities for these throughout the district.</p> <p>P Hunt suggested that there was a real disconnect between people and where food comes from, and there are many opportunities to enhance this.</p>
<p>North Canterbury Netball Centre (Raewyn Armstrong, Roberta Schroder and Michelle MacGuinness)</p>	<p>R Schroder spoke to the submission on behalf of the North Canterbury Netball Centre. The Centre aspired to have all netball played at a central location in Rangiora, which included a 12-court outdoor facility on Coldstream Road near the MainPower Stadium. This would allow the Centre to host both regional and national tournaments. The Centre fully supported having the four indoor courts available at MainPower Stadium; however, having all Club netball played at a central location would reduce the doubling of administration. Overall, North Canterbury Netball currently had 1,900 members – including players, umpires, administrators, and coaches. The current courts used at Dudley Park needed to be repaired, and the cost of resurfacing the courts was estimated to be approximately \$161,000. This cost was not included in the current council LTP.</p> <p>Councillor Fulton questioned the number of indoor courts available at Manpower and the likelihood of additional courts being required. R Armstrong replied that many different levels of North Canterbury netballers used the indoor courts at the Stadium, and there were many benefits in using these courts. However, there would always be the need for outdoor courts to accommodate the number of teams in different competitions.</p>
<p>Waimakariri Youth Council (Roby Wilson and Emily Belton)</p>	<p>R Wilson, Co-Chair of the Youth Council, spoke to the Council's submission. She noted that a recent survey had been undertaken, to which 700 responses had been received, which was exceptional. The survey results indicated that the matters of most concern and importance to youth included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health and wellbeing. • Cost of living. • Climate change. <p>The Youth Council would like to see the Council exploring ways to reduce racism in the community and supporting initiatives to help with this.</p> <p>The Youth Council requested consideration to installing a Boccia Court at MainPower Stadium. Councillor Cairns suggested temporary markings could be put on the courts in MainPower Stadium to set up the boccia court, and R Wilson supported this suggestion.</p> <p>Mayor Gordon acknowledged R Wilson and Z Lappin, and the work they had done with the Youth Council</p>

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<p>Rangiora High School (Simon Green, Bruce Kearney, Adam Wake and Millie Wright)</p>	<p>S Green (RHS Board Member) spoke to the Rangiora High School submission which expressed concerns with the traffic outside the school at the peak times, before and after school. S Green requested the Council to provide some assistance with suggestions for improvements to road safety around the school.</p> <p>A Wake spoke on the traffic and pedestrian congestion on Wales Street, Edwards Street and East Belt. He suggested installing pedestrian controls in this area, to make it safer for pedestrians, as well as young drivers. It was also pointed out that 50% of students travelled to and from school on buses and there needed to be further space for the buses to stop and turn. It was also noted that very few students used their bikes to travel to and from school.</p> <p>School sport was also played at both Mainpower Oval and the Mainpower Hockey Turf and it was requested that a path be installed along East Belt to Mainpower Oval to access the cricket grounds with a continuation behind Mainpower Oval to the Hockey Turf.</p> <p>Mayor Gordon noted that the Council's Road Safety Coordinator would be in contact with the school to consider some immediate measures that could assist while longer term measures were considered.</p>
<p>Rangiora High School Farm (David Newsham-West)</p>	<p>David Newsham-West, Sustainability Coordinator at the High School presented this submission. The High School needed to ensure that the land that it owned and currently run as an agricultural learning facility was maintained as greenspace. There was commitment to ensure that students spent more time ensuring this space was maintained and available to more students other than the agricultural students. There was a vision to maintain this land for environmental, agricultural and sustainability purposes which would include biodiversity planting and wellbeing planting to provide an area for the public to walk through and provide opportunity for learning for other schools. The School would like to establish a partnership arrangement with the Council Greenspace team to ensure the area was not lost to development. The School would like some funding and support from the Council to progress the vision which would benefit of as many people as possible. The land had a value of over \$20m however it was the intention of the School Board to maintain this as a greenspace area for education and future sustainability.</p> <p>Councillor Cairns enquired about the option of including a food forest and D Newsham-West advised that this was seen as a way of giving back to the community rather than as it is currently locked into the school. It was envisaged to expand on the work that Comcol already do on the farmland they leased.</p> <p>There was a steering committee that met once a term with members from various educational facilities and universities. It was envisaged there would be collaboration with other learning institutions who were interested in this proposal for the land.</p> <p>Councillor Ward asked if there was any government funding available. It was advised that the current funding for the 26 agricultural student's agricultural training was from Primary Industries,. Because this farm was an added extra to the school, it did not qualify for government funding. It was hoped to secure some ongoing funding to make the land sustainable and this was currently being investigated.</p>

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<p>Comcol (Kate O'Brien and Eru Metcalfe)</p>	<p>K O'Brien and E Metcalfe spoke to the Comcol submission, noting their support for the Strategic Plan, and thanked the Council for the support in its own business.</p> <p>Comcol leased land from Rangiora High School and were currently establishing a biodiversity corridor which would include native plantings. This initiative included the opportunity for young people to learn about predator control. The space gave Comcol the opportunity to teach youth, and to learn about biodiversity. There was also the Comcol Grow Programme, which taught participants about planting food, growing food and using the food grown. The facility also reared chickens with IHC members assisting with the care of the chickens and utilising the eggs in food preparation.</p> <p>Engaging with youth now, to help them to learn how to identify native species, monitoring and trapping of predators would improve sustainability. Comcol also had an inhouse equine facility and worked in with the Rangiora High School equine courses.</p> <p>Mayor Gordon suggested that a visit be arranged for Councillors to the Comcol site.</p> <p>Councillor Blackie queried the possible duplication with the plans for the Rangiora High School farmland, however K O'Brien disagreed as the Comcol operation was small in comparison. Comcol was able to pilot new ideas which worked on a smaller scale however it did support the High School on their proposed endeavours for the farmland.</p> <p>It was confirmed that Comcol was a Charitable Organisation therefore there were restrictions on expanding into commercial operations. They were currently focusing on growing the native plants for use on their own site, but there may be opportunity in future to look further afield.</p>
<p>North Canterbury Neighbourhood Support (Dalice Stewart)</p>	<p>D Stewart spoke to the submission and provided a background summary of the operations of Neighbourhood Support, which helped connect neighbours, making them more resilient and the streets safer. The group was often approached by people who had never met their neighbours. The group set up meetings for the neighbourhoods to access information about the areas and this in turn, kept communities connected. Databases were established which provided information about residents, which could include details of particular health issues.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Support were also in the process of establishing more Get Ready Civil Defence Hubs in various streets in the district. One had recently been established in Silverstream and three Hubs reduced stress on Civil Defence resources in times of emergency. The Support Group sought a \$5,000 annual grant from the Council to help run the programme, noting it worked on a tight budget.</p> <p>There were currently 2,867 houses listed in NC Neighbourhood Support and this number was increasing. It was confirmed there was no cost for people to join.</p> <p>In response to a question from Councillor Cairns it was advised that there had been over 1,000 new members sign up in the past year alone. Christchurch City Council gave Christchurch Neighbourhood Support \$50,000.</p>

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<p>Orana Wildlife Trust (Lynn Anderson)</p>	<p>L Anderson presented this submission and was joined by Orana Wildlife Trust Board members Ben Davidson and Ian Cumberbatch. L Anderson spoke to a PowerPoint presentation. There were over 1,000 species included in 185 hectares of land. Eight and a half hectares would soon to be planted as a native forest. The park was also involved in significant conservation work which included 20 conservation breeding programmes for animals from around the world. Education was key and the school education programmes in Orana Park were very well supported. The Park was also a key tourist attraction. The animals needed care 24/7 with highly trained group of people to care for the animals; many of who were are critically endangered. There was a team of 50FTE staff who provided best practice care. The budget of \$5.1m per annum covered critical expenditure only. The gate taking income, while keeping to a price that people could afford, did not cover the operating costs. There had been \$25m raised over the years to develop the Park, which included having the only gorillas in New Zealand, here in Canterbury. Most recently there had been a \$1.8m white rhino conservation centre built. The Trust would continue to raise funds for any improvements to the Park. The other major zoos in New Zealand received significant funding from their Councils (Auckland, Hamilton and Wellington). These zoos received operational funding of between \$5m to 6m a year, as well as funding on a project-by-project basis for capital development. Orana Park needed a minimum of \$1.5m per annum towards operating costs to cover the shortfall between income and operating costs. The Trust proposed that Christchurch, Selwyn and Waimakariri Councils each provide funding, on a staged approach through the LTP, \$65,000 in the first year, building up to \$109,000 in year three onwards. This equated to \$8 per year per ratepayer. The Park implored the Council to grant this funding so it could continue to deliver to the people of the Canterbury region and visitors.</p> <p>Councillor Redmond referred to the visitor survey and asked if there were any statistics on how many Waimakariri residents visited Orana Park. It was advised that of those who completed the survey who came from Christchurch and Canterbury, approximately 15% said they were from the Waimakariri district.</p> <p>In response to a question from Councillor Fulton, it was advised that there were only two secondary schools in Canterbury that did not go to Orana Park for senior biology learning each year. There were good resources onsite to enhance these learning experiences.</p>
<p>Southbrook Community Sports Club (Rawiri Karena and Gary McNicholl)</p>	<p>R Karena spoke on behalf of the Southbrook Community Sports Club in support of the funding included in the Draft LTP which suggested an allocation of \$1.34m seed funding for a third of the cost for the replacement pavilion and changing rooms at Southbrook Park. Many users of the current pavilion and sports grounds had representatives present at the hearing in support of the submission, including Saracens Rugby Club, Southbrook Cricket Club, Southbrook Netball Club, Southbrook Touch, the NC Special Olympics, a School of Dance Tutor, and representatives of the North Canterbury Sport and Recreation Trust, which run primary school rugby at the park. There was a tremendous amount of support for an improved, financially viable and multi-purpose facility being built in Southbrook.</p> <p>A feasibility study was undertaken by independent consultants following the 2021-22 annual plan and the results of this 2021 study and a further study undertaken on all Council facilities at the end of 2023, highlighted the poor condition of both the changing facilities and the pavilion at Southbrook Park.</p>

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	<p>These include unsuitable changing facilities for women's sport, and use of the changing facilities and pavilion by the disabled community was not currently viable, with no wheelchair access.</p> <p>Regarding funding, in addition to the Council's proposed funding, \$2.6m would be required to complete the project and there would need to be significant fundraising by the affiliated sports clubs. The Club believed there needed to be a partnership with the Council for this project to progress. The support from the Council over several years for this Club was appreciated however it required replacement. It was requested that the Council hold the \$1.3m funds until the Sports Club was ready to move forward with the project. It was possible that the project could be staged, with changing rooms being built first. There had been approaches made to other organisations for support for the building of a new facility. The facilities at Southbrook Park were used by 13,500 people each year from a wide range of recreational pursuits and were desperately in need of replacing and the Club urged the Councillors to support the proposed \$1.3m in its Draft LTP.</p> <p>In response to a question from Mayor Gordon, it was confirmed that Peter Freeman was still a member of the Working Party.</p> <p>Following question from Councillor Fulton, it was confirmed that due to the current state of the changing room facilities, the Club was losing revenue from being unable to hold events.</p> <p>Councillor Williams questioned how the facility would be run. R Karena advised that the working party had held discussions and were investigating different options on how a new facility could be managed. There had also been approaches made to other sports clubs to see if they were interested in using a new facility.</p> <p>Deputy Mayor Atkinson asked what timeline was being considered. R Karena responded that they were realistic that it would take some time to raise the funds required, and were looking at possibly four years to raise the required funds. It also needed to be decided if this was a staged project, with the changing rooms built first.</p> <p>Some draft designs had already been created. Mayor Gordon asked if the feasibility study could be sent to the Council, and this was to go to both the WDC Governance team and C Brown, General Manager Community and Recreation. Appropriate email addresses were made available to the submitter.</p> <p>It was confirmed that local tradesmen would be approached for the building of the facility.</p> <p>Councillor Mealings noted there would need to be an update to the Incorporated Societies.</p> <p>Mayor Gordon clarified that the Council would require a copy of the feasibility study, a timeline of when funding would be required and if there was any assistance required in updating the Incorporated Society information.</p> <p>Councillor Fulton asked if all member clubs would equally own the building. R Karena said he was unable to speak on behalf of all the clubs on this matter and all clubs would need to make their own decisions on this. There would be discussions required regarding the ownership.</p>

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<p>Rod Duncan (represented by Colin Wightman)</p>	<p>C Wightman presented on behalf of R Duncan, who held similar views to the submitter R Duncan. R Duncan had operated several successful businesses and did not support the proposed increase in debt that the Draft LTP was proposing. R Duncan did not support the subsequent increase in rates proposed and believed that any increase should be at the rate of inflation. The sharp rises in rates would affect resident's lives going forward. He believed that the Council should not have a continuous increase in debt and the borrowing policies were grossly irresponsible. Concern was expressed at the Council's current interest bill to LGFA. The 30% increase in outgoings was over the 9% rate increase. The Council needed to have regard to future generations.</p> <p>The staff increases from 288 in 2018 to 389 currently were highlighted with 317 external services were hired over that time. There needed to be consideration given to any surplus staff and stay with those providing the core services.</p> <p>R Duncan also suggested that the Council consider rationalizing the assets it owns and selling some of these off. He believed that if the Council continued on its current course, it would bankrupt the district.</p> <p>Councillor Redmond referred to the claim in Mr Duncan's submission that Waimakariri district had the third highest rates in New Zealand. Mr Wightman was not aware of the source of Mr Duncan's figures. It was subsequently advised that this information had come from the Tax Payers Union and would have been a past figure. Councillor Mealings pointed out that the current figures had WDC at the 14th highest rates nationally.</p>
<p>Sefton Hall Committee (Paul Lochhead)</p>	<p>P Lochhead provided background on the Sefton Hall to date. A 2019 feasibility study was undertaken, which showed that a new hall should be built, with the preferred a location in the Sefton Domain. A lease agreement was signed with the Council in March 2023, on the site of the current sports pavilion. The project was underway and a design for the hall had been completed. The final drawings were still to come, however a construction company had been approached to advise a cost based on the initial drawings and this was approximately at just over \$3m, noting that back in 2018, the figure for \$1.4m. A small sub-committee had been formed to look at fundraising and the Committee were seeking some funding from the Council's LTP towards the hall construction. The funds available at present included \$260,000 in the bank, the proceeds from the sale of the old hall property, proceeds from the sale of the former Sefton Public Library site, plus \$200,000 from the previous Council LTP. This totalled to just under \$1m.</p> <p>Councillor Ward asked if the committee had approached the Lotteries Commission for funding and if any assistance was required with these applications. P Lochhead advised that the subcommittee had just started this process.</p> <p>In response to a question from Councillor Fulton on parking, P Lochhead said parking for up to 50 vehicles may be required at the lower part of the domain.</p> <p>Mayor Gordon said the Council would look at providing assistance in progressing the sale of the Sefton Library. Councillor Redmond advised that there had been a public notice regarding the Sefton Library, and that this matter was progressing.</p>

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 6.20pm.

CONFIRMED



Chairperson
Mayor Dan Gordon

4 June 2024
Date