

Environment Committee

Notice of Meeting

A meeting of the Environment Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, Forum North, Whangarei on:

**Wednesday
11 May 2011
10.30 am**

Committee

Cr S J Deeming (Chairperson)
His Worship the Mayor
Cr C B Christie
Cr A J Edwards
Cr S M Glen
Cr P R Halse
Cr J S Jongejans
Cr G M Martin
Cr B L McLachlan
Cr S L Morgan
Cr K J Sutherland
Cr W L Syers
Cr M R Williams
Cr J D T Williamson

Environment Committee

CONFIDENTIAL – not for publication

Notice of Meeting

A meeting of the Environment Committee will be held in the Council Chamber, Forum North, Whangarei on:

**Wednesday
13 April 2011
10.30 am**

Committee

Cr S J Deeming (Chairperson)
His Worship the Mayor
Cr C B Christie
Cr A J Edwards
Cr S M Glen
Cr P R Halse
Cr J S Jongejans
Cr G M Martin
Cr B L McLachlan
Cr S L Morgan
Cr K J Sutherland
Cr W L Syers
Cr M R Williams
Cr J D T Williamson



INDEX

Item No	Page No
1. Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment Committee held 13 April 2011	1
2. Environment Group Monthly Report – April 2011	4
3. Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) Performance Report – July 2010 to March 2011	27
4. State of the Environment Report on Biodiversity	30

**Recommendations contained in this agenda are NOT final decisions.
Please refer to the minutes for resolutions.**

1. Minutes: Environment Committee

Wednesday, 13 April 2011

Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Committee of the Whangarei District Council held in the Council Chamber Forum North on Wednesday 13 April 2011 at 10.30am

Present:

S J Deeming (Chairperson)

His Worship the Mayor M C A Cutforth, Crs C B Christie, A J Edwards, S M Glen, P R Halse, G M Martin, J S Jongejans, B L McLachlan, S L Morgan, K J Sutherland, W L Syers and M R Williams

Apology:

Cr J D T Williamson

Moved: Cr Halse

Seconded: Cr Edwards

“That the apology be sustained.”

CARRIED

In Attendance:

Group Manager Environment (P Dell), Democracy and Legal Services Manager (J Singh), Communications Manager (P Rose), Policy and Monitoring Manager (P Waanders), Team Leader Futures Planning (K Grundy), Principal Planner (P Lees), Policy Planner (N Webb), Councillor Support (J Benyon) and Senior Meeting Co-ordinator (C Brindle)

1. Confirmation of Minutes of a Meeting of the Environment Committee held on 9 March 2011

Moved: Cr Jongejans

Seconded: Cr Martin

“That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on 9 March 2011 having been circulated, be taken as read and now confirmed and adopted as a true and correct record of proceedings of that meeting.”

CARRIED

2. Environment Group Monthly Report – March 2011

Moved: Cr Glen

Seconded: Cr Edwards

- “1. That this report be received.
2. That pursuant to Section 34A of the Resource Management Act, Mr Alan Bickers be appointed as a Hearings Commissioner on a joint Hearings Panel with Northland Regional Council to hear, deliberate and decide on the applications made by Wolf 2008 Limited to construct and operate a commercial service centre (WDC ref. LU0900215).
3. That following the delegation changes be approved:

Building Act		
S34	Power to issue a PIM.	<i>Remove CE and GME</i>
S36 and 37	Power to attach Development Contribution notice.	<i>Add BCM</i>
S38, 39 and 46	Power to notify specific parties.	<i>Add BCO</i>
S121 and 124	Dangerous Earthquake Prone and Insanitary building.	<i>Remove TLCOM</i>

Local Government Official Information Act 1987		
<i>S44</i>	<i>Issue a LIM.</i>	<i>PPAT."</i>

CARRIED

3. Review of Council Policy regarding Uncompleted Works Bonds for Subdivision

Moved: Cr Williams
Seconded: Cr McLachlan

"That the Council Policy for Uncompleted Works Bonds for Subdivision 2011 be adopted by Council."

CARRIED

4. Final Consideration of Plan Change 94 – Papakainga Housing

Moved: Cr Sutherland
Seconded: Cr Morgan

- "1. That the report be received.
2. That Plan Change 94 be approved in terms of Clause 17 of Schedule One to the Resource Management Act 1991 in accordance with the decision of Council Committee of 14 December 2010.
3. That the Plan Change be notified in terms of Clause 20 of Schedule One of the Resource Management Act 1991 and becomes operative on 28 April 2011."

CARRIED

5. Update on GE

Moved: Cr Christie
Seconded: Cr McLachlan

- "1. That the update on GE be received.
2. That the 11 June 2010 letter from the Working Party to the Government, and the reply of 5 August 2010 from the Minister for the Environment, be received.
3. That the report from STA and Mitchell Partnerships, *Community Management of GMOs III: Recommended Response Option*, be received.
4. That the resolutions from the 23 September 2010 meeting of the Inter-council Working Party on GMO Risk Evaluation and Management Options be received.

5. That council adopts recommendations (c), (d) and (e) from the 23 September 2010 meeting of the Inter-council Working Party on GMO Risk Evaluation and Management Options (and as set out below) and direction be provided to the Working Party as to its future functions:
- (c) *That the Working Party recommends to its member councils that the investigation of regulatory options to prevent or minimise risk of social, economic, cultural or environmental harm proceed and include development of specific plan objectives, policies and rules and accompanying Section 32 analysis, along with documentation for pre-plan change notification consultation.*
 - (d) *That a memorandum of understanding be agreed between the Working Party councils to jointly fund and advance a consistent policy response through the RMA including response to legal challenge.*
 - (e) *That the implementation of recommendations (c) and (d) be priced and that joint funding provision be sought from the Working Party councils for that purpose."*

On the motion being put Cr Martin called for a division:

For the motion:

His Worship the Mayor, Crs Halse, Edwards, Williams, McLachlan, Martin, Glen, Jongejans, Christie, Sutherland, Morgan, Syers and Deeming (13)

Absent:

Cr J D T Williamson

**CARRIED
Unanimous**

The meeting closed at 11.00am

Confirmed this 11th day of May 2011

S J Deeming (Chairperson)

2 Environment Group Monthly Report

Reporting officer Paul Dell (Group Manager Environment)

Date 19 April 2011

Resource Consents Manager

April has seen the number of consent applications being lodged dropping back. Compliance with statutory timeframes for processing of non-notified consents remain at 100%, and a consistent effort in the post-approval areas seeing 100% of Section 223 and 224 applications being processed within 10 working days for the month. A total of 13 Section 224 certificates for subdivision were issued, which is relatively high compared to previous months, suggesting that a number of developments have been progressed to completion before the end of the construction season and/or a number of developments are being completed before the subdivision consent lapses.

No decisions were issued by a Hearings Commissioner during the month of April.

Policy and Monitoring Manager

The series of hearings on several Council and private plan changes will continue throughout May. Various legal arguments have been submitted and some hearings have been adjourned to investigate these matters. Those investigations take priority in order that momentum is not lost in the progression of these plan changes. All the appeals except for Longview Estuary Estate Private Plan Change have been successfully negotiated with various decisions awaited from the Court.

Focus Group meetings have been conducted to obtain Councillors' input on various topics of the Rural Development Strategy. Viewpoints will be tested and re-submitted for discussion before the matters are put to the public and business people for consideration.

The Implementation Plan for the Whangarei Growth Strategy: Sustainable Futures 30/50 is progressing according to programme.

The Department has prepared a submission on the National Policy Statement (NPS) on Indigenous Biodiversity and this has been sent to the Minister for the Environment. This coincides with the State of the Environment report on Biodiversity for the Whangarei District and illustrates that Whangarei District Council (WDC) can react effectively on topical policy documents.

It is with regret that I have to report that Neil Landingin, our Urban Design Senior Specialist, has resigned for family reasons. He will be involved in the master planning for the Auckland Waterfront. During his fifteen months with us he has introduced urban design and 'sense of place' into the day to day vocabulary of the District Council.

Building Consents Manager

April 2011 finished with 91 building consents applications issued -a slight pullback from the recent highs of 112 applications issued for March 2011. New house builds remain solid at 19 houses and 12 other applications were issued for outbuildings like sheds etc. Building consent applications received remain stable at 92 applications. The value split between commercial and residential remains close to the benchmark with 22% issued for commercial and 78% for residential. The hardest hit by the recession are inspections with 473 done for April 2011. This has been expected and it will take a while for inspection numbers to recover after the pronounced dip in building consents during January and February 2011.

Most people (70%) continue to show a prudent approach to their building consents by taking out Project Information Memorandums (PIMs). Only 30% take the option of no PIM. The issue of 133 Code Compliance Certificates (CCCs) show that work is still considerable in this area as people realise they need to complete their projects by attaining these. Each week there are 15 – 20 number of CCCs applied for by people who have not completed the process for some time. Most experience this when selling their house and when through the process of due diligence it has been found that a CCC must be attained. Four Certificates of Acceptance were issued along with another four Certificates of Public Use. Land Information Memorandum (LIMs) continue to reflect a real estate market starting to liven up with 62 LIM applications issued.

Regulatory Services Manager

The two Rugby World Cup (RWC) matches to be held in Whangarei are on Wednesday 14 September and Wednesday 21 September. The RWC is being managed by Rugby New Zealand 2011 (RNZ 2011), which is a joint venture between the government and the New Zealand Rugby Union.

The RWC has been declared a major event in accordance with the Major Events Management Act 2007 (MEMA). This statute provides the framework to set rules in respect to trading, advertising in clean zones, clean transport routes and clean time periods and has enforcement provisions which will be undertaken by staff from the Ministry for Economic Development.

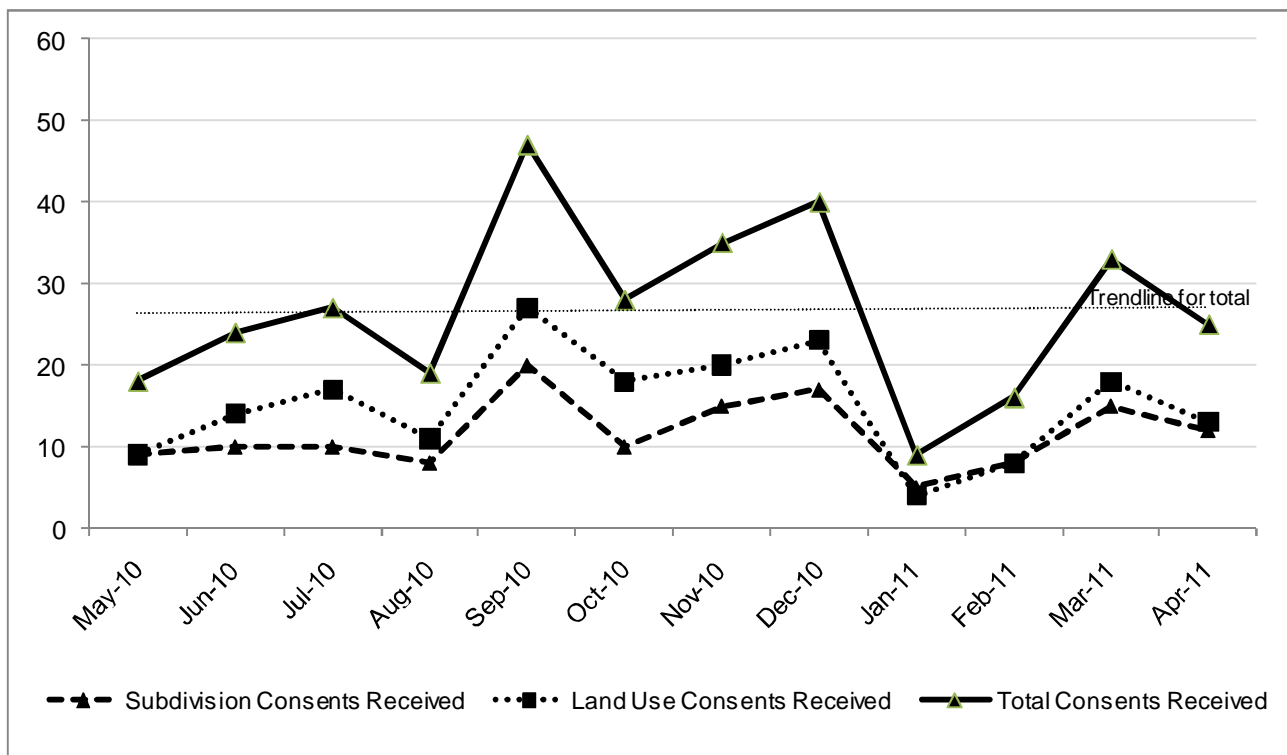
Council is a signatory to a host region agreement with RNZ2011 and as such have agreed to assist to prevent organisations or individuals from using the event as an opportunity for the unauthorised promotion of causes, products, businesses or services.

Regulatory Services staff are currently engaged in planning for the event. Staff roles will include communicating with the public and local businesses, assisting the Ministry of Economic Development to enforce MEMA, co-operating with the organiser and representatives and enforcing bylaws and district plan provisions in the 500 metre precinct around the venue.

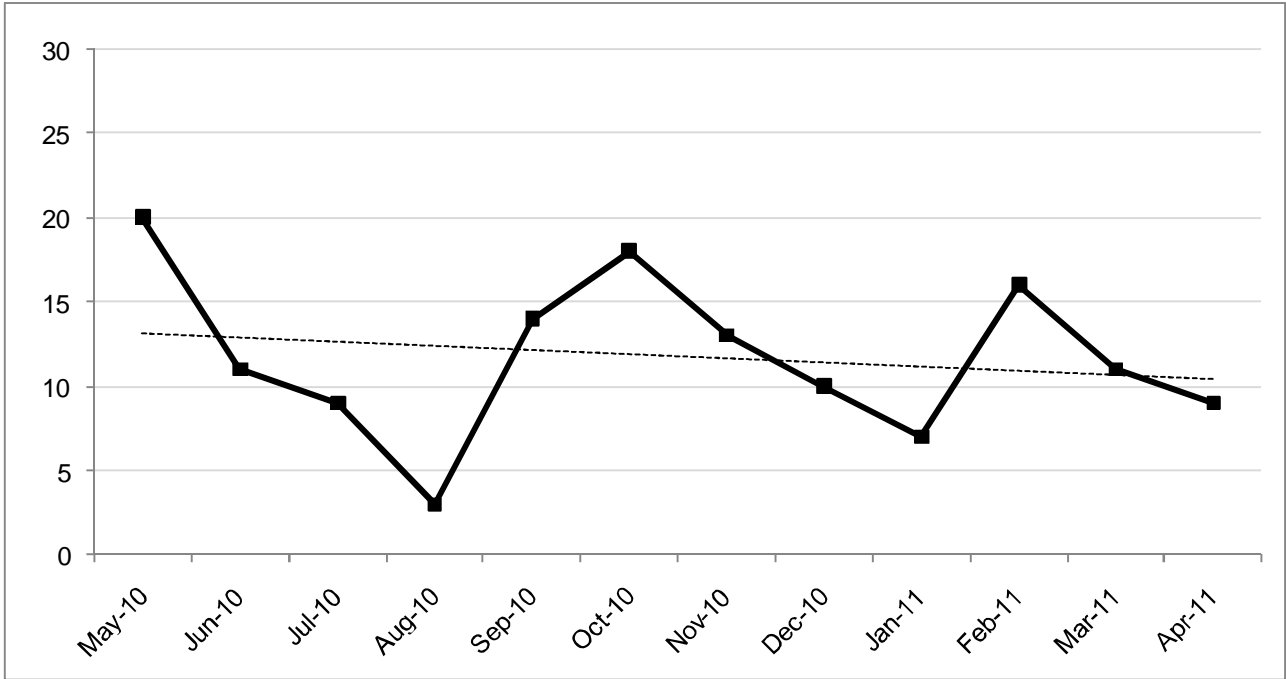
Resource Consents

The Resource Consents Manager (A Hartstone) reports for April 2011

Volume of Resource Consents Received



Volume of Other Permissions Received



Volume of Resource Consents Processed

