

**Wanganui District Council Meeting – 19 May 2011
(reconvened 23 May 2011)**

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Wanganui District Council held at 10.00AM on Thursday, 19 May 2011, in the Council Chamber, Municipal Office Building, 101 Guyton Street, Wanganui

Present: Ms Annette Main – the Mayor – in the Chair, Deputy Mayor Cr RM Wills, Crs AR Anderson, P Baker–Hogan, JT Bullock, R Dahya, NA Higgle, HCS McDouall, RM Stevens, RV Vinsen and SM Westwood.

Apologies: Crs MB Laws and C Solomon. Cr RM Stevens (for lateness).

In Attendance: Mr A Taylor (Chairman, Wanganui Rural Community Board).

Officers in Attendance: Mr K Ross (Chief Executive), Mr J Harkness (Deputy Chief Executive), Mr J Reweti (Infrastructure Manager), Mr G Morris (Deputy Property Manager), Mr P Gray (Deputy Community and Culture Manager), Mr S Hylton (Senior Policy Analyst), Ms M Archibald (Senior Policy Advisor). Minutes: Mr MH Hunt (Governance Services Manager).

Apologies

Council's Resolution

Proposed by Cr Dahya, seconded by Cr Bullock:

THAT Cr Solomon's apology and Cr Stevens' apology for lateness be received.

CARRIED

1. Report on Public Consultation – Draft Annual Plan 2011/12

<p>Policy on Determining Significance – In terms of the Policy the recommended decision is not significant.</p>
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Stuart Hylton, Senior Policy Advisor, reports:

“The draft Annual Plan 2011/12 was placed out for consultation from 12 April to 14 May 2011.

A total of two hundred and fourteen (214) submissions have been received.

Fifty (50) submitters have indicated that they wish to be heard.

This compares with 58 submissions / 29 wishing to be heard in 2010/11 and 61 submissions / 22 wishing to be heard in 2009/10.

All submitters have been replied to thanking them for their submission and advising them of the Council's key meetings to be held on 19 and 23 May 2011 to hear oral submissions,

26 May 2011 to consider all submissions and 21 June 2011 to adopt the Annual Plan 2011/12.

A copy of all submissions and a summary of submissions, including officer comments, have been forwarded to Elected Members. Folders containing all submissions will be available for perusal at Customer Services, Municipal Office Building, 101 Guyton Street, Wanganui.”

Council’s Resolution

Proposed by Mayor Main, seconded by Cr Bullock:

THAT the information be noted.

CARRIED

2. Hearing of Oral Submissions on the Draft Annual Plan 2011/12

<p>Policy on Determining Significance – In terms of the Policy the recommended decision is not significant.</p>
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Stuart Hylton, Senior Policy Advisor, reports:

“There are fifty (50) out of the two hundred and fourteen (214) total submitters to the draft Annual Plan 2011/12 who have indicated they wish to be heard.

The number of submitters wishing to be heard has resulted in a second day being scheduled for Council to hear oral submitters. Therefore, submitters will be heard on 19 May 2011 – 10am to 5pm, and 23 May 2011 – 3pm to 5pm.

A timetable for hearing submissions is tabled (**Ref A**).

A folder containing all the submissions has been provided to elected members. It contains:

1. A summary of submissions being heard.
2. A summary of all submissions, including officer comments, in Annual Plan activity order.
3. A full copy of all submissions in order as they were received.

All submissions and summary submissions are numerically cross-referenced.

All oral submitters have been notified of their hearing times and advised that Mayor and Councillors have copies of their submissions in full and, therefore, should be considered as read.

The Council is scheduled to meet again on Thursday, 26 May 2011, when all submissions will be considered and again on the 21 June 2011 to finalise the Plan.”

References – Agenda Attachments

- A Timetable for hearing submissions.

Discussion

Mayor Main welcomed all present to the meeting and outlined the procedure for the hearing of submissions. She said submitters would be given five minutes to speak to their submissions and there would be five minutes for Councillors to ask the submitters questions. Mayor Main noted that a revised timetable for the Hearings had been tabled.

Council's Resolution

Proposed by Mayor Main, seconded by Cr Bullock:

THAT the oral submitters to the draft Annual Plan 2011/12 be heard.

CARRIED

Hearing

N^o	Name	Regarding	Activity area
214	Wanganui District Council Kevin Ross, Chief Executive	1. Dog Control Fees Melanie Heron, Customer Services Manager, requests the following change be made: The Annual Plan's schedule of fees requires to be updated to reflect Council's decision to increase the urban dog registration fees by 5%. This is expected to increase the Animal Control activity income by \$20,000.	Regulatory services
		2. Insurance Costs Julian Harkness, Deputy Chief Executive, requests the following change: Due to the flow on effects of the Christchurch earthquake and its draw on insurance funds, Council is likely to face extra insurance costs. As yet, officers are unable to quantify an exact amount, however, being prudent we estimate this increase could be in the order of \$200,000.	Corporate Management
		3. Earthquake Prone Buildings Analysis Rowan McGregor, Property Manager, requests the following change: In accordance with Council's Earthquake Prone Buildings Policy, Council is required to complete an Initial Evaluation Procedure (IEP) for all its potential Earthquake Prone Buildings (EQPB's) by December 2012. Some of our lifeline buildings and public buildings with large number of users are required to have IEP's completed by December 2011. Currently we have no budget set aside for this specific work. The task is to complete IEP's on all public EQPB's of which we have approximately 100 in total. We aim to complete 75 in year 2011/12 and 25 in year 2012/13. Each IEP costs between \$500 and \$2000 depending on the complexity of the building. We are requesting \$100,000 in the 2011/12 year to have our priority buildings IEP assessed.	Property
		4. Opera House Sally Patrick, Community and Cultural Manager, requests the following changes be made: \$23,000 increase to the operating grant for the Royal Wanganui Opera House from \$172,000 to \$195,000. This is an inflation adjustment that was missed from the original draft budget.	Royal Wanganui Opera House
		5. Economic Development/War Memorial Conference and Convention Centre Charlotte Almond, Strategy and Development Manager, requests the following change: An additional \$47,000 is allocated to the War Memorial Conference and Convention Centre budget for facility enhancements as detailed in the War Memorial Conference and Convention Centre Future Development Plan, presented to Council in May 2011. \$316,000 was removed from the Economic Development budget in the draft Annual Plan on the assumption that additional funding would be required to support the CCOE. As the CCOE did not eventuate the additional funding sought will contribute to promoting the economic wellbeing of the community.	War Memorial Hall

	<p>6. CBD Maintenance: Rowan McGregor, Property Manager, requests the following changes be made: +\$57,000 rates for re-sealing of the pavers in the CBD Maintenance area. This item had not been quantified at the time the draft Annual Plan budgets were prepared. Re-sealing is required to refresh the look of the pavers but more importantly to ensure the integrity of the paving surface as the sealing prevents the sand grout between the blocks from being dislodged and therefore maintains a level surface.</p>	<p>CBD Maintenance</p>
	<p>7. Sculpture Wanganui Funding Sally Patrick, Community and Culture Manager, requests the following changes be made: Add \$50,000 to the Community and Culture activity budget to allow Sculpture Wanganui event to proceed annually.</p>	<p>Economic Development</p>
	<p>8. Wanganui District Council Holdings Directors Fees: Kevin Ross, Chief Executive, requests the following change: \$30,000 for Wanganui District Council Holdings Limited director's fees taking the total to \$90,000 from \$60,000.</p>	<p>Corporate Management</p>
	<p>9. Economic Initiative Charlotte Almond, Strategy and Development Manager, requests the following change: Request that Council considers a new Council project to investigate initiatives available to Council to encourage greater land development within the Wanganui District, and may include such initiatives as deferring rates on newly created lots until such time as they are sold, and offsetting the upfront costs of initial development. The project work would be undertaken in house with no additional costs required. Results from the project would feed into 10 Year Plan deliberations.</p>	<p>Strategy and Policy</p>
	<p>10. Budget Adjustment Julian Harkness, Deputy Chief Executive, requests the following change: We have also adjusted our estimates on interest and petrol tax received. Favourable interest rates should save around \$100,000 from rates whilst less petrol tax received within the roading activity will mean additional \$100,000 loan compensation.</p>	<p>Corporate Management</p>

Questions and Answers

Referring to Section 2 Insurance Costs, Cr Wills asked for the rating percentage increases that would apply with increased insurance costs. Julian Harkness, Deputy Chief Executive, said the percentage would be approximately one per cent for \$400,000 or .5% for \$200,000.

Referring to Section 6 CBD Maintenance, Cr McDouall noted that the safe use of mobility scooters in the city have been discussed at the Community and Environment Committee's meeting held on 12 May 2011. Greg Morris, Deputy Property Manager, said he was not aware of that discussion but the CBD pavers needed to be periodically maintained as resealing them contributed to locking surfaces together which, he said, would benefit mobility scooter riders.

Referring to Section 7 Sculpture Wanganui Funding, Cr Bullock asked if this project would become sustainable at any time in the future. Cr Anderson suggested the sculpture event could be sustainable through sponsorship and noted that it took the rates of 25 residential dwellings to pay for this project.

Asked for a further comment to Section 8 Wanganui District Council Holdings Directors Fees, Mr Ross said that the proposed increase of \$30,000 would reinstate the fees to the level of three year's ago at which time they had been reduced. Mayor Main said she had

discussed the increase with the Holdings Directors and it had been agreed that for the time and input provided by them, the increase was due.

Nº	Name	Regarding	Activity area	Officer comment
207	Wanganui Federated Farmers of New Zealand Tim Matthews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FFNZ appreciates this opportunity to submit on the draft Wanganui District Council Annual Plan 2011/12. • Federated Farmers congratulates WDC for its excellent use of differential rating for the General Rate. • We urge Wanganui District to consider separating footpaths from the Targeted Rooding Rate and to charge these a separate rate targeted at residential and commercial properties. • That Council support the Federation in advocating to central government for an increase in the Financial Assistance Rate. 	Corporate Management	Both differential rating and Uniform annual charges flatten the rating take in that lower value properties end up paying higher rates than if rating was solely based on property values. Footpaths and roads have a separate rate with footpaths only being rated by commercial and residential properties.
		FFNZ recommends Council continue with its current system of differential rating for the general rate and uniform targeted rate for community facilities.	Corporate Management	Both differential rating and Uniform annual charges flatten the rating take in that lower value properties end up paying higher rates than if rating was solely based on property values
		FFNZ recommends Council consult specifically with Federated Farmers regarding the development of its funding policies for the 2012/22 Long Term Plan.	Corporate Management	Council will want to consult with all interested groups in the community as it develops its funding policy
		FFNZ recommends Council support Federated Farmers in advocating to Central Government for an increase in the Financial Assistance Rate to 90%.	Corporate Management	Council officers support a high FAR rate for roading
		FFNZ recommends Council consult with Federated Farmers regarding footpath funding options through its revenue and financing policy review.	Corporate Management	Council will want to consult with all interested groups in the community as it develops its funding policy
		FFNZ recommends Council introduce a targeted rate on accommodation and entertainment businesses to fund Tourism marketing and related economic development.	Corporate Management	The rationale for having a tourist tax is that there is a large number of visitors to an area that use the Council services and that the number of people puts a burden on the council to provide services to not only ratepayers but also to tourists. They are thus seen in the towns that have large peak tourism seasons such as Taupo and Queenstown.
		FFNZ recommends Council provide itemised rates assessments from the 2011/12 financial year.	Corporate Management	In various publications, including a newsletter that goes out with the rates assessments, Council provides a graph that shows the cost per Council activity for the average property.

Questions and Answers

Mr Tim Matthews, speaking to his submission, acknowledged the excellent relationship that Federated Farmers had with the Wanganui Rural Community Board and the Council's

policy analyst staff. He invited the Council to take advantage of any expertise that Federated Farmers could offer. He said Federated Farmers would welcome the opportunity to be involved in a review of revenue and financing policy and the 10-Year Plan.

Mr Matthews also noted that Federated Farmers shared an interest with the Council and Rural Community Board in forestry roading and was keen to assist the Council with this issue. He also recommended that Wanganui’s neighbouring councils become involved.

Cr Westwood asked Mr Matthews to comment on whether there should be a targeted rate on owners of forests as they planted. Mr Matthews said that would be fair if it was assumed that 100% of planting was eventually harvested. He thought it a conversation to have with forestry companies as they may be happier for tax purposes to pay for roading closer to the time of harvest.

Cr Anderson asked for Mr Matthews’ view on forestry companies being charged a specific rate according to tonnage noting that this was twenty times per hectare higher compared to pastoral farming. Mr Matthews replied that this raised the bigger issue that Federated Farmers and the Council needed to talk to Central Government about. He believed 90% of road funding should come from road users. He suggested there could be a very targeted rate so those who had a direct benefit – beneficiaries / exacerbators – in terms of Local Government Act 2002 paid.

Referring to the submitter’s comment on footpath funding options, Mr Matthews explained that a lot of footpaths did not attract NZTA funding. He believed the Council needed to look at footpath funding options to decide where costs by and who should pay.

45	George (Bob) Heyes	Submitter proposes to offset debt by reducing expenses; reducing contracting (especially Infrastructure); treat CBD spending the same as Castlecliff.	Corporate Management	Council has looked at the Annual Plan budget by activity. Council is committed to a continuous improvements programme which aims to reduce waste and improve efficiencies. A large portion of the additional CBD costs are paid for via targeted rates to that sector.
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Questions and Answers

Mr Heyes said he was aware that Mainstreet Wanganui businesses paid a separate levy but there was a huge disproportionate amount spent by the Council on Mainstreet.

46	Eugene Robbmond	Submitter questions Council’s reasons for past rates increases being attributed to higher property re-valuations, and suggests his rates this year should be decreased due to the downturn in his property value.	Corporate Manage-ment	A detailed submission on how rates are calculated, valuations and how they affect an individual ratepayer’s invoice. Julian Harkness to arrange a meeting to discuss these issues directly with the ratepayer.
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Questions and Answers

Reflecting on Mr Robbmond’s submission, Alan Taylor, Wanganui Rural Community Board Chairman, observed that the rating system was ‘a very blunt tool’, did not operate fairly and this was a national problem that the Council should address. Mayor Main agreed and said the Council should look at how the method of calculating rates was communicated to ratepayers.

ACTION: Julian Harkness

11	Tom Cloke – Road Transport Association	Submitter seeks to introduce a provision for High Productivity Motor Vehicles (HPMV) and to introduce a clause to reflect the possible future funding required that may be need to funding infrastructure improvement to bridges and the pavement to cater for this new road transport demand.	Roading	All works required for HPMV are currently being investigated by NZTA and would be fully subsidised by NZTA. Heads, Mosston and Montgomery Roads have already been raised with NZTA for consideration for this purpose as per Tom Cloke’s request of six months ago.
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Questions and Answers

In response to a Councillor’s question, Mr Cloke said that only the City bridge would be suitable for high productivity motor vehicles. While Cobham bridge, with a minor upgrade, could possibly carry HPMVs, the Dublin Street bridge could not. Mr Cloke said that it would be nice to see the Dublin Street bridge replaced. He said funding would also be necessary for improvements to Heads Roads to carry HPMVs. Mr Cloke emphasised that as funding was only available for a brief time, work should be prioritised quickly.

In response to a question by Cr Vinsen, Mr Cloke said that discussion about a roll-on / roll-off ferry service between Wanganui and the South Island was ‘miniscule’. He said such a service had also been discussed by Port Taranaki.

118	National Council of Women NZ (Wanganui Branch)	Submitter compliments Council on initiatives including Castlecliff Beach, Riverfront Development and War Memorial Hall.	Strategy and Policy	Noted.
	Margaret Campion	Submitter prefers to see \$200,000 spent on stormwater separation work than to repay debt.	Corporate Management	Council will consider the extra \$200k debt repayment in its deliberations.
		Submitter urges Council to consider the Victoria Avenue/London Street intersection traffic flow problem and consider how to slow or calm traffic using London Street	Roading	Part of the Wanganui Urban Transport Strategy consultation requirements to be undertaken in the next six months
		Submitter considers an upgrade of the Women’s toilets in St Hill Street and those at Wanganui War Memorial Hall are both in need of refurbishment.	Community Buildings and rural halls	Plans are underway for a minor refresh of the Ladies Rest toilets however major work is contingent on carrying out earthquake strengthening work.

118	National Council of Women NZ (Wanganui Branch)	Submitter considers a carpark outside the men's toilet in St Hill Street should be created as well as a public toilet facility in upper Victoria Avenue.	Community Buildings and rural halls	There is car parking in both St Hill Street and Victoria Avenue outside both public toilet facilities. Allocating specific car parks for toilet users would not be possible as we have no practical way of monitoring usage.
	Margaret Campion	Submitter urges Council to support financially both the Regional Museum and Art Gallery, both having valuable collections.	Regional Museum	Noted.
		Submitter urges Council to support Wanganui Community Education Service.	Community Development	Council has supported Wanganui CES through its partnership with Creative NZ (Creative Communities) and through Community Contracts.

Questions and Answers

Noting Mrs Campion's reference to the Victoria Avenue/London Street/Great North Road intersection, Mayor Main advised her that some of the suggestions made in the submission were in the Draft Wanganui Urban Transportation study which was ready for public consultation.

In response to a question by Cr Westwood, Mrs Campion said that the National Council of Women would support a Citizens Bond i.e. people investing/owning part of the City.

181	Rocky Alexander	Submitter would like WDC to have fluoride added to all our water supplies as recommended by the Ministry of Health. Submitter believes it shouldn't have been a topic for referendum in 2006 but should have been decided by Councillor vote and leadership. Submitter presents a number of facts supporting his submission.	Water Supply	Previously debated at Council a number of times over many years. Referenda to community showed community opposition to fluoridation.
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Questions and Answers

In response to questions, Mr Alexander said whilst he had emailed a number of councils about the cost of fluoridating their water, he had received no replies. He noted that the Ministry of Health did fund fluoride. Mr Alexander said that there was world-wide support for fluoridated drinking water.

To a further question, Mr Alexander said there was no evidence that fluoridated water damaged vegetable garden produce. Mr Alexander noted that more councils in the North Island than the South Island fluoridated their water supply with over 50% of New Zealand's population having fluoridated water.

Julian Harkness, Deputy Chief Executive, undertook to ascertain the agency in New Zealand that subsidised fluoridation in water.

ACTION: Julian Harkness

203	<p>Q–West Boat Builders Limited</p> <p>Myles Fothergill, Managing Director</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the facilities, structures and maintenance of the Wanganui port area, incl upstream to Gilbert Street, be managed and maintained to allow commercial boat building, marine repair work and other associated activities to be undertaken in the area. 2. That rectification work of number 1 and 2 wharf be undertaken to ensure potential for future opportunity is secured. 3. That rectification and maintenance work of buildings, roadways and other infrastructure be undertaken. 4. That adequate depths be maintained at berthage areas, particularly at number 1 and 2 wharves. 5. That depths to and from the public slipway be maintained to allow for unimpeded access at any tide. 6. That the hole in the rock wall immediately downstream of Q–West is reinstated. 7. That adequate depth be maintained at Q–West slipway and jetty areas as well as the channel to the port. 8. That the general port and surrounding areas be tidied up and maintained in a presentable state. 9. That Q–West Boat Builders be consulted with on any and all details regarding current and future management of the port facilities, structures and maintenance. 10. That development of the port area be considered and Q–West be properly consulted and informed. 	Seaport	<p>These issues will all be addressed as part of the port area business and development plan. Q–West are recognised as an important stakeholder in the area and will be engaged with during the development of the plan.</p>
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Questions and Answers

Speaking to his submission, Mr Fothergill explained that the problems identified in his submission were worsening for his business at a time when his business was undergoing substantial growth. He noted that Q–West had doubled its staff and turnover in the last few months.

In response to Councillors’ questions, Mr Fothergill said the ‘hole in the wall’ (breach in the rock wall) had caused considerable silting in the basin, severely affecting Q–West’s operation. He said that the flood mitigation work undertaken by Horizons Regional Council had made no difference to Q–West’s operation.

Cr Rob Vinsen explained that Q–West’s business was utmost in the Council’s thinking on port business and asked Mr Fothergill if he had given consideration to the option of relocating his business on the river. Mr Fothergill said consideration had been given to this option and also to acquiring a ‘travel lift’ which would give more options. However, he said, Q–West could not consider capital investment until the Council made its future management plans for the port clear. He was uncertain where his business would be in the

next five years and noted his concern that, whilst the Council’s port report was due out, it had been compiled without consultation with him.

Mayor Main assured Mr Fothergill that Q–West was seen as an important stakeholder in Wanganui and that the Council would consult with him in the future. She noted Mr Fothergill’s invitation to Councillors to visit Q–West and said a visit would be encouraged.

ACTION: Kevin Ross

178	Castlecliff Residents Committee Lynne Douglas	Submitter requests funding for upgrade and maintenance of Morgan Street/North Mole/Fishing platform to North Mole roads.	Parks and Reserves	There are currently no plans to upgrade the roading in this area given the recreational as opposed to transport function of the roads and the nature of the area. As the roads are not legal roads no NZTA subsidy would apply. This could be rectified by legalising the roads as and when Council decided that this area was a priority.
		Submitter commends Council on installing traffic island safety feature on Polson street/Cross Street intersection.	Roading	Noted
		Submitter seeks continued funding for illegal dumping and litter team.	Regulatory services	Noted

Questions and Answers

Cr McDouall noted the submitter’s reference to the second stage of the fishing platform area being abandoned and asked what happened. Mayor Main asked Council’s officers to provide a report on this project for Council’s information during the Annual Plan deliberations.

ACTION: Rowan McGregor

Cr Westwood asked Ms Douglas if the Castlecliff Residents Committee had a recommendation about the future of the dune fence. Ms Douglas explained that the dune fence location was the Castlecliff Residents Committee’s second choice. The first choice was further down the beach where it would have been more visible.

Mayor Main advised Ms Douglas that the dune fence artist who lives in Castlecliff has discussed the future of the dune fence with Council staff.

Referring to the fishing platform area, Ms Douglas confirmed that her committee had applied to the Whanganui Community Foundation for \$40,000 funding and would be looking at this project this year now that the committee’s survey results were completed.

180	Peter Robinson, Chair, and Ritchie Minnell, Manager Mainstreet Wanganui Inc accompanied by Elise Goodge	<p>Submissions concerns over the way CBD A and B services charges are calculated and applied. There is concern that an increasing amount of differential rate charge is being directed to management, admin and executive office overhead Mainstreet feel those charges should be met out of general rates. Mainstreet considers that the targeted rate should be set at a level which recovers only:</p> <p>(a) The cost of the contractors providing the service, and</p> <p>(b) The basic Council cost of the staff directly administering those contracts.</p> <p>Mainstreet seek Council response quantifying how this amount has been arrived at.</p>	Corporate Management	<p>This is a complex submission that was received on the last day. A meeting with Mainstreet to discuss their concerns and to share information on how the rating system works may be required. Council targeted rates from CBDA and CBDB are not applied for general purposes. When council applies its cost to activities there are a number of general cost that can not be directly applied to an activity. These overhead cost are apportioned to an activity mainly based on the activities direct operating costs. As such as the CBD operating cost have increased so has the overhead cost. Another method of allocating overhead could be used but this would just move cost between activities</p>
		<p>Submitter states that currently Under Verandah Lighting in the CBD is funded by CBD A and B Levy Rate Payers. Mainstreet believes that a 60/40 split in the costs of the CBD lighting would be fairer – 60% by CBD A and CBD B rate payers, and 40% coming from the Community Facilities rate.</p>	Corporate Management	<p>Council funding principal for funding lighting is that it provides a basic street lighting as part of general rates. Where there is a requirement for better service levels the costs of this are met in some part by those who benefit from it. Shops in CBD benefit from the lighting for security and by advertising there goods for sale in shop windows. This is a funding decision on who pays and Council may wish to consider other options</p>
		<p>Submitter comments on Wanganui in Bloom and recommends a target of 1,052 hanging baskets for Summer 2011 and residual 400–500 Winter basket backups.</p> <p>Last year budget constraints led to only 920 baskets being provided. If the levy is not lifted then summer baskets will be down to 700.</p> <p>Mainstreet submits that the Wanganui in Bloom cost be a 50/50 split between Central Service Rate and the Community Facilities Rate. They also request an increase in the levy of \$66,700 for Wanganui in Bloom.</p>	Corporate Management	<p>This is a complex submission that was received on the last day. Council officers will need to do some research and will provide extra information at or before the deliberations. A meeting with Mainstreet to discuss there concerns and to share information on how the rating system works may also be a good idea.</p>
		<p>Submission requesting funding for an upgrade of the flag systems on light poles. Suggest a new system is available which simplifies the erection and changing of flags. Mainstreet believe the flags should be extended to sites to promote Wanganui. They have supplied estimates to extend and upgrade flag units from 95 to 140 flag units district wide.</p> <p>Mainstreet are prepared to fund 25% of the cost with another 25% being sought from community funders. The submission seeks 50% of the cost – \$34,322.50 from Council as its share.</p>	CBD Maintenance	<p>Council officers support the change to a more efficient system and larger number of flags should the Council feel it is able to fund the project. Council may however wish to prioritise the additional \$47,000 for resealing the paving in the CBD that is included in the officer’s submission.</p>

180	Peter Robinson, Chair, and Ritchie Minnell, Manager Mainstreet Wanganui Inc accompanied by Elise Goodge	<p>Submitter comments on CBD Maintenance and highlights that the costs to provide this service over the 2001/2002 to 2009/10 period has increased in the order of 30%, however the actual amount paid by Council has only increased by half that amount. The efficiency and co-operative gains over those years allowed Mainstreet to hold costs during this period. Increased funding in 2010/11 allowed Mainstreet to break even but now increased costs are putting pressure on this year's budget.</p> <p>Submitter requests Council adjust the amount allowed for in the 2010/11 Annual Plan from \$494,747 to \$511,747 plus GST to enable the current levels of service to be maintained.</p>	CBD Maintenance	<p>Council officers support the revision of the budgeted contract price to \$511,747 as the current draft Annual Plan actually makes provision for a figure of \$536,000. Council may wish to allocate the \$24,000 saving to either the suggested flag system upgrade project or the CBD paving reseal project.</p>
		<p>Submitter comments on management and control of all trees in CBD and suggests reduced Mainstreet control, and reduced maintenance of CBD trees over last five years have caused major issues with trees and roots. Mainstreet would like to begin negotiations to take back this role under SLA, under a budget and management plan and include responsibility for root damage and repairs to footpaths.</p>	CBD Maintenance	<p>Council officers are happy to investigate the pro's and con's of adding control of this activity into the SLA however we note that it is the funding not the management of the activity that limits the amount of work that is carried out. We are currently funded to spend 20 days per annum on general tree maintenance in the CBD area and have \$30,000 per annum budgeted for tree planned replacements which allows for between three and five replacements depending on the complexity of the situation.</p>

Questions and Answers

Mr Robinson noted an amendment to the Mainstreet Wanganui Central Business District maintenance contract. The table incorrectly gave last year's figure. The correct figure was \$536,000.

Mr Robinson tabled an updated report on the proposed new flag system.

Mr Robinson said Mainstreet Wanganui was approaching its 20th Anniversary and remained one of the best mainstreets in New Zealand, an achievement which was supported by feedback from national conferences. He emphasised that Mainstreet Wanganui's committee wished to be involved in work that Council's officers were undertaking on issues affecting Wanganui's Mainstreet, e.g. earthquake prone buildings.

Mr Minnell answered Councillors' questions of clarification about the proposed city flag system, noting that both the Whanganui Community Foundation and the Powerco Wanganui Trust were expected to make a contribution.

82	Elise Goodge on behalf of Mainstreet Wanganui Promotions Division	<p>Submitter requests Council to revisit the amount of the overall CBD Levy apportioned for promotions. Mainstreet seeks that there be an inflation adjustment of 2.5% made to the current \$62,000 levy thereby increasing the promotions levy to \$63,550.</p>	CBD Maintenance	<p>Officers support request and will increase the targeted rate by \$2,000 each year.</p>
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The meeting adjourned at 12.10pm.

The meeting reconvened at 12.30pm at which time Cr Stevens joined the meeting.

Council's Resolution

Proposed by Mayor Main, seconded by Cr Stevens:

THAT Cr Laws apology be received.

CARRIED

103	Rachael Dey	Submitter requests provision for rebate schemes for Energy Efficient Homes and believes Council should be offering repayment assistance for the cost of this.	Corporate Management	Council has previously considered a rebate for energy efficient homes. [refer to Council item 23 November 2009)
		Submitter requests infrastructure in Springvale/Mosston area be completed as a priority not as an option to reduce council debt. Submitter believes Council funding should not be spent upgrading recreational/leisure facilities before infrastructure requirements. Submitters concerns about flooding risks in Springvale/Mosston and asks who is responsible for Churton Creek being maintained and backflow stormwater.	Corporate Management	Springvale catchment is considered a priority catchment. Council intends to complete a full study 2011/12 which would feed into the 10 year plan for implementation consideration. Infrastructure Group is responsible for the maintenance of this creek
		Submitter suggests upgrading roads within the Mosston area due to increased traffic usage and recommends the Fitzherbert Ave extension project be considered without further delays or Fox Road to be widened. Submitter would like council to consider re-zoning speed limits. 50kph restriction during school hours, but 70kph is unsafe at all other times	Roading	The speed limit has been extensively investigated and discussed with NZTA and the area does not meet the warrant requirements for speed zone changes. The Fitzherbert Ave extension will be considered as part of the 10 year plan. Fox Road is not programmed to be widened within the next 10 years – NZTA funding is not available

Questions and Answers

In response to Councillors' questions Ms Dey said that Churton Creek abuts onto the rear of her property. She bought the property in 2004 whilst not a resident in Wanganui. She had asked for an urgent LIM report but this arrived after she had settled and she was not then aware of the flooding problem.

As clarification for a Councillor, Ms Dey said that drainage problems caused by neighbouring property owners were not due to building platforms but because they had installed drainage systems that adversely impacted on her land.

Mayor Main asked Council officers to provide information on this issue to Councillors.

The Chief Executive said the Council had been dealing with the flooding issue involving Churton stream for over 15 years. Mr Reweti said that funds for catchment flooding, which was a priority, were included in the Annual Plan. The study showed this would feed into the 10-Year Plan. Mr Reweti undertook to follow through on Ms Dey's submission and keep her advised.

ACTION: Julian Reweti

216	John Roberts	Submitter concerned about the flooding or ponding in Mosston Road.	Stormwater	Late submission.
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Questions and Answers

Mr Roberts, whose property is at 129 Mosston Road, explained the long history of flooding problems on Mosston Road affecting access to his property. He said Mosston Road was a busy route and dangerous for cyclists and pedestrians. He noted that NZ Post staff and paper delivery staff had threatened to withdraw their services to his property because of the flooding difficulties.

In response to a Councillor’s question, Mr Roberts said he had resided at 129 Mosston Road for 19 years. At the time of purchasing the property he was not aware there was a flooding problem. The flooding problem had become worse when the Council cleared vegetation from the opposite side of the road some two to three year’s ago.

Julian Reweti, Infrastructure Manager, undertook to discuss the issues raised with Mr Roberts.

ACTION: Julian Reweti

Mayor Main advised that Wanganui Rural Community Board’s submission 215 would be heard at 3.15pm.

Submission 185 would now be heard on Monday, 23 May 2011.

215	Wanganui Rural Community Board	Submitters recommend Council allocate \$10,000 for the Board to gather data on Wanganui’s rural sector and that Rural Directions 2020 be noted by the Council.	Corporate Management	
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Questions and Answers

Cr Westwood asked Mr Taylor if debt should be repaid from a specific Council activity. Mr Taylor said the costs should fall where they lie, that is general rates should not pay for specific items, e.g. wastewater. He said these issues should be addressed at the Council’s Funding Review.

116	Paul Duncan	Submitters concerns about Awarua Stream Flooding – suggests the Wikitoria Road culvert be removed and replaced with a single underpass/bridge/culvert that will handle at least twice the amount of water.	Waterways and Natural drainage	As part of integrated catchment management process, the solution is multi-faceted and includes all stakeholders including landowners. Part of the solution involves an improved culvert which has been planned to be processed through the 10-year plan in order to attract NZTA subsidy. Cost is approx \$400K for this component of works.
119	Chris Toyne	Submitter asks that culverts at Wikitoria Road be replaced/upgraded. Submitter gives background to the flooding problem in Onetere Drive which relates to subdivision conditions back in 1997. Submitter also believes new culverts to be placed across SH3 will lead to more water coming towards Onetere Drives homes.	Stormwater	As part of integrated catchment management process, the solution is multi-faceted and includes all stakeholders including landowners. Part of the solution involves an improved culvert which has been planned to be processed through the 10-year plan in order to attract NZTA subsidy. Cost is approx \$400K for this component of works.

Questions and Answers

Mayor Main invited Mr Toyne and Mr Duncan to present their submissions jointly. In response to questions Mr Duncan said that the Awarua Stream flooding had been made worse recently with the State Highway 3 upgrade. The flooding affected about seven properties.

Asked if other agencies should be involved in resolving the problem, Mr Toyne suggested that NZ Transport Authority, Horizons Regional Council and Department of Conservation, together with the Council, could negotiate a plan.

Julian Reweti, Infrastructure Manager, said another catchment meeting was to be held at the end of June 2011 and he would involve the residents.

Cr Westwood asked if there was a willingness by the adversely affected parties to pay for a solution or did they see it as totally the Council’s responsibility. Mr Duncan said the culvert was the responsibility of the Council but the residents would play a part in stream maintenance following remedial work to the culvert. He emphasised that the culvert threatened road access to Wanganui airport.

Cr McDouall asked if, in Mr Toyne’s opinion, that blocking of State Highway 3 through flooding by stormwater was a direct result of the Wikitoria Road culvert. Mr Toyne said depending on where rain fell, the water back-up at the culvert had everything to do with debris being trapped in the culvert pipes and causing, therefore, flooding.

Mayor Main asked officers to bring information to the Council on this issue.

ACTION: Julian Reweti

192	Chris Shenton, Chairman, Te Poho o Matapihi Trust	Submitter owns land through which Awarua Stream flows and has major concerns about the management of the stream, especially two culverts.	Waterways and Natural drainage	As part of integrated catchment management process, the solution is multi-faceted and includes all stakeholders including landowners. Part of the solution involves an improved culvert which has been planned to be processed through the 10-year plan in order to attract NZTA subsidy. Cost is approx \$400,000 for this component of works.
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Questions and Answers

Mr Shenton tabled additional information supporting the submissions by Mr Duncan and Mr Toyne. Cr Anderson asked Mr Shenton if Te Poho o Matapihi Trust would accept a joint management programme between the Trust and Department of Conservation. Mr Shenton said the Trust would work with all relevant parties.

202	Chrissie Zurcher	Submitter votes against reducing spending on infrastructure costs by repaying \$200,000.	Corporate Management	Where expenditure is deferred within an activity to retire debt, the funding should be directed to pay off the loan of that activity. The decision taken on retiring debt should take into consideration risk management issues based on the current or future assets being deferred.
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202	Chrissie Zurcher	Submitter asks that Council investigates stormwater separation situation in Bastia Avenue so stormwater run-off does not devalue downstream properties. The submitter gives background information on stormwater/landslide issues experienced on his property in September 2010 high rainfall event. Submitter believes poor stormwater separation in Bastia Avenue contributes to his flooding/landslip issues. Submitter seeks further investigation into matters raised.	Stormwater	Referred to the separation team for investigation
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Questions and Answers

In response to Councillors’ questions, Ms Zurcher explained that her property had been affected by one slip in 2006 following which a retaining wall was built, and by two slips in 2010.

Mayor Main requested that information on the area in which Ms Zurcher’s property was and information on the hillside protection plan area be provided by Council’s officers to the Council for deliberation on the Annual Plan.

ACTION: Julian Reweti

179	Whanganui Regional Museum Dr Penny Robinson, Chair, and Dr Dorfman, Director	Submission outlines the important role the museum plays in championing the safekeeping of the community’s treasures and telling their stories. It highlights the current funding contract from Council via Service Level Agreement to a level of \$580,000 per annum and suggests essential services are not being met at this current funding level. The Trust highlights the risks associated with the funding shortfall and suggests \$804,626 per annum, is necessary to adequately fund the Museum’s work covered by the contract.	Regional Museum	Noted. The deterioration of the Museum/Council relationship over the last few years has made it difficult to share financial information and determine the true cost of the activity as a result. 2011 has seen an improved relationship and the flow of essential data to inform funding decisions has vastly improved in the last two months. Officers acknowledge the Museum has used some of its reserves to support its operation for the last few years, and would support an increase in funding of between 15–20%, provided it is tagged to specific requirements within the 2011/12 Service Level Agreement that relate to compliance with the National Museum Standard Scheme.
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Questions and Answers

In response to a Councillor’s question, Dr Robinson explained why the Trust was seeking \$224,000 more than requested from the Council last year. She said that last year the Museum was operating in a ‘holding capacity’ and also recognised that the Council wanted a nil rates increase, so the Trust decided it should manage within its reserve funds. This, Dr Robinson said, was not sustainable and to reach the required service level it had to ask the Council for more funding. Dr Dorfman explained that the Museum was committed for ‘hundreds of years out’ with museum objects to be cared for in perpetuity. He said the Museum needed the core funding to be safe ‘going forward into the far distance’.

Cr Westwood asked if there should be discussion about the Museum building rental to the Council or whether ownership of the building, together with capital maintenance, should be the Museum’s responsibility. Dr Dorfman said there had been no discussion about this but it was an old building and it would need a cost/benefit analysis.

Cr McDouall asked whether there had been a salaries budget increase or had the Museum been meeting current salaries from its reserves. Dr Dorfman said the shortfall for salaries had been made up through grants and he noted there was no salaries increase included in the funding request within this submission.

In response to a question Dr Robinson explained that grants were given to the Museum for the development of exhibitions and projects but grants were seldom provided for salaries.

Mayor Main asked if the Council should discuss with the Museum Trust whether staff should be employed by the Council or by the Museum Trust. Dr Robinson replied it was better for the Trust to continue with employment of staff and noted that the Museum Trust Board was in a strong position to access a variety of funds that could be difficult to access if staff were contracted by the Council.

In response to a Councillor’s question about insurance and whether this was for item replacement or indemnity, Dr Dorfman said a lot of the Museum’s items were irreplaceable and he could provide more detail to the Council on this matter.

105	Esther Tinirau, Kaiwhakahaere (CEO) Te Kaahui O Rauru Ngarauru Iwi	Submitter suggests Council commit funding to investigate a Papakainga Policy for the Wanganui District that allows an amendment to the District Plan for the development of Papakainga in the Wanganui District by removing some of the planning restrictions on the development of housing on ancestral maori land. Also Trim: E-1423	Strategy and Policy	Papakainga housing is an issue to be addressed through the District Plan review and will form part of the River Valley Plan Change, which is scheduled to be completed in the 2011/12 financial year. This plan change will look at removing some of the barriers to papakainga housing and encouraging such settlement, notably on rural settlement land up the Whanganui River.
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Questions and Answers

In response to a question Ms Tinirau said a similar policy as proposed operated in Northland (Far North). In response to a Councillor’s query on the desirability of residing on ancestral land, Ms Tinirau explained that land blocks closer to the main highway or townships were attractive as they were close enough for people to travel into town daily for work and education.

Mayor Main said this submission was a matter for Te Kaauhi O Rauru Ngarauru Iwi to discuss with the Council through the District Plan review.

ACTION: Shane McGhie

72	Wanganui East Pool Trust John Rhodes and Murray Whitlock	Submitter requests the Draft Annual Plan retains the Trust to administer and manage the Wanganui East Pool including funding of \$20,000 for 2011/2012 operating costs.	Swimming Pools	Officers support an operating grant being provided if the Councillors wish the pool to remain open. While the Trust has managed to operate the facility for the last three seasons it is clear from their accounts that this is not financially sustainable without ongoing support from the Council.
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Questions and Answers

Cr Stevens noted his concern about the level of Health and Safety at Wanganui East pool and noted that six month's ago the Council was told that the staff would be trained to the standard required. Mr Rhodes replied that the Trust had made three approaches about training to the Wanganui Splash Centre's manager but had no response. After discussion with a Council officer the Trust had approached the Makino Aquatic Centre and training was now organised. It was also intended to send the Wanganui East pool's manager to a course to qualify so that he could train the Wanganui East pool's staff. It was intended that these training sessions be completed before the Wanganui East pool reopens for the 2011/12 summer season.

Cr Higgie asked if the Trust expected to see the number of users of the Wanganui East pool increase. Mr Rhodes said the Trust did expect numbers to increase and this coming season it would advertise to get more members of the public and schools to use the pool. He also noted that the Trust promoted the hiring of the pool for private functions.

35	Cleveland Funeral Home Limited Laura Cleveland	Submitter is requesting that two protected trees be removed from the Annual Plan to allow the submitter to maintain and manage the trees on the property themselves without needing resource consent.	Parks and Reserves	This is not an Annual Plan issue. Removing trees from the protected tree list needs to be dealt with through the appropriate planning process. i.e. Application for a District Plan change which would include assessment of the trees in question by a suitably qualified person.
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Questions and Answers

Mayor Main advised Ms Cleveland that the request for the removal of protected trees would require an application for a District Plan change and she would ensure that the appropriate Council officer contacted her.

ACTION: Shane McGhie / Charlotte Almond

196	T R Harris	Submitter requests: • Phase out up to 10% bonuses at WDC	Corporate Management	It is unclear what the 10% bonuses relate to.
		Submitter requests: • Quality roading after roadworks (do it once – do it right)	Roading	Council undergoes continuous improvement reviews of works to minimise rework

		<p>Submitter requests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sell pensioner housing (similar to Kowhainui) 	Pensioner Housing	The community has previously indicated to Council via a referendum that it supports retaining ownership of the pensioner housing portfolio and the previous Council rejected the sale of three blocks to a charitable organisation.
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Questions and Answers

Mayor Main advised that Mr Harris was unable to attend today’s meeting to present his submission but hoped to attend the meeting on Monday, 23 May 2011. If he could not attend the Hearing he asked that his submission be dealt with as a written submission.

209	Lesley Stead, C/- Paige’s Book Gallery	Submitter is a bookseller with ability to access any title in print. They are aware the library purchases books from Queensland. The submitter suggests that Council supports local business where possible and has an awareness of environmental footprints and foreign currency issues when purchasing overseas.	Library	The District Library will review its procurement practice. The components of the submitter’s equation are valid and will be considered in line with Council’s Procurement Policy.
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Questions and Answers

Ms Stead commented on the Council’s public arts meeting. She accepted Mayor Main’s suggestion that it would be useful to have an open session at the beginning of each public arts meeting, commenting that this would be user friendly and an opportunity for members of the public to present ideas.

In response to a Councillor’s question Ms Stead said she would have liked the opportunity to have tendered as a books’ supplier to the District Library, and noted that she was not aware that there was a Library Board. She said one Library staff member had told her that the Library did not buy books. In reply Mayor Main said it appeared Ms Stead’s concerns were about communication between the Council and business operators, in this case the Library about procurement of Library stock.

Mayor Main adjourned the meeting for afternoon tea at 2.17pm.

Mayor Main reconvened the meeting at 2.44pm.

70	Jack Nines, Commercial Manager, Ultrafast Fibre Limited	Submitter is the company that is building Wanganui’s ultra fast broadband network and request funding commitment from Council to drive forward associated social and economic development opportunities in Wanganui.	Strategy and Policy	It is important that the Council continues to provide support to take advantage of the economic and social opportunities of being one of the first areas in New Zealand to receive ultrafast broadband through the government initiative. Funding of around \$100 should enable a full-time resource as well as some funding for projects.
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	Submitter is the company that is building Wanganui’s UltraFast broadband network and request funding commitment from Council to drive forward associated social and economic development opportunities in Wanganui.	Strategy and Policy	Officers believe that the UltraFast Broadband project is an economic development opportunity for Wanganui with a short window to exploit it before we lose the comparative advantage that we will have over the rest of New Zealand. Council’s role should be in communicating and informing the business community to foster economic growth.
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Questions and Answers

Cr Wills referred to the proposed funding commitment in UltraFast Fibre Ltd’s submission for leading initiatives (as appropriate) estimated at \$50,000 per annum and asked what was being suggested. Mr Ninnes said it was suggested that the Council put funding aside for some as yet to be determined initiatives which could include helping with ICT strategy developments and assisting programmes to advise the community on the availability and possibilities of UltraFast broadband.

102	Wanganui Digital Leaders Forum Marianne Archibald, Vivianne Murphy, Principal Wanganui Girls College, and Jenny Duncan, Chamber of Commerce Chair	Submitter fully supports Ultrafast Fibre’s submission to the Draft Annual Plan and highlights the following key areas of focus for the Wanganui Digital Leaders Forum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate and lobby for support • Ensure education is available • Act as champions for UFB and spread the word • Promote the arrival of UFB in Wanganui 	Strategy and Policy	The suggested areas of focus are supported.
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Questions and Answers

Cr McDouall had two concerns, the first being the small window of opportunity and what had been done to date to develop UltraFast broadband in Wanganui and secondly, Wanganui – comparatively with the rest of New Zealand – had a low rate of computers in homes and he asked what was proposed to get Wanganui households equipped for ultrafast broadband.

Ms Archibald, Senior Policy Advisor, said not much had yet been done by the Forum to attract business to Wanganui as it was waiting on the Annual Plan to see how much strength the Digital Leaders Forum would have. However, there was strong potential for business owners to work in Wanganui whilst operating businesses overseas, e.g. in New York through the internet.

Referring to Cr McDouall’s second query, Ms Archibald said it was recognised that some Wanganui households could not afford the internet and the Forum would examine how it could make computers available in homes and upskill residents.

Mayor Main asked if it was intended that the Digital Leaders Forum would deal with the development of UltraFast Broadband in Wanganui district’s rural areas. Ms Archibald

said this was the Forum’s intention and the Forum would also look at ‘back haul’ links as well. She said Wanganui needed to work hard on the broadband initiative to ensure rural broadband was rolled out. Whilst it was intended that fibre at the highest speed be run out to rural schools, there will be some difficult rural school locations where broadband speed would continue to be lower.

Asked by Cr Wills if the Forum had looked worldwide at local authorities that have UltraFast broadband, Ms Archibald said that the Forum had and she would email that information to Councillors.

ACTION: Marianne Archibald

117	Leith Power, Chairman, Wanganui Community Education Service and Rosemary Hovey	Submitter thanks the Council for its 2010/2011 Community Contract for \$5,000. This has assisted us to deliver our courses. Submitter will be applying for a Community Contract for 2010/2011 and looks forward to a stronger and on-going contractual relationship with the Council to deliver on our common objectives. CES applauds the Council’s intentions but suggests that there should be a great focus on positive opportunities and a wider view. Submitter encourages the Council to continue the Riverfront development with its arts and cultural precinct. CES would like to take up the Mayor’s challenge and work with the Council on a public lecture series on the theme of ‘our stories – who we are – looking back with affection and looking forward with anticipation’.	Community Development	Noted. The submitter’s suggestion on Public Lecture series will be forwarded to Queens Park managers to work alongside Whanganui Iwi representatives and CES.
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Questions and Answers

In response to a question, Mr Power said CES had applied for funding from many sources but had not yet applied to the Rotary Clubs. Cr Westwood asked if there were ways other than funding that the Council could assist CES. In reply Ms Hovey said CES was looking for opportunities and had initiated programmes with the Whanganui Regional Museum for example. CES was building relationships all the time, notably with UCOL.

Cr Higgle said she was a member of CES and, therefore, would declare an interest limiting herself to asking questions. She asked what CES was seeking. Mr Power said CES needed an increase in its income and warned that if funding was not available this could see the end of CES operating in Wanganui which after 30 years of service would be tragic for the city. He noted that Community Education Services had closed down at other locations in New Zealand because of a lack of funding.

Cr Baker–Hogan said she would encourage CES to apply for a community contract but asked the submitters if they thought the Council should put rating funding into a ‘people’s choice’ activity outside of Community Contracts. Mr Power believed that the Council should fund CES beyond the Community Contract scheme as it was a service for the people the Council represented, providing an educational as well as a social impact that was raised in the Council’s own plan.

185	Mark Stoneman and Ray Stevens	Submitters request Council takes a new look at covering the Cooks Gardens Velodrome. This is a plan that was planned five years ago with Fabric Shelter Systems for a cost effective option for Wanganui.	Parks and Reserves	Once the location of the NZ Cycling Centre of Excellence was decided, it was intended to consider the future level of use of the velodrome, appropriate roofing options and potential funding sources.
29	Grey Power Wanganui Inc Tony Grant–Fargie	Submitter suggests a speaker system in the Council Chambers. Grey Power believes that ‘Everybody has the right to be heard’ literally!	Governance	A sound system for the Council Chamber is being evaluated.
211	Grey Power Wanganui Inc Graham Adams President and Tony Grant–Fargie	Submitter acknowledges that wastewater projects represents 50.16% of total loan forecast. * Notes an increase of 25% in unpaid rates over previous years figure. Trusts that Council’s collection processes are applied evenly to all. * Notes that salaries and wages increased 10.49% or \$1.19M from year ended 2010 to year ended 2011. This is forecasted to rise a further 19.84% in 2011/12. Grey Power contends that these are too high and need to be reduced. Savings achieved should reduce proposed rates increases.	Corporate Management	About half the increase in unpaid rates is due to the general economic climate. The other reason is because Council is charging penalties onto balances that need to be written off. A paper preparing Council 2012 Accounts and recommending these write offs will go to the May Strategy and Finance meeting. At the Annual Plan meeting of 22 February Council was presented a three year comparison of wages though time did not allow a lot of debate. While Mr Adams/Tony G–Fargie acknowledged that there is a public perception that increased staff numbers and staff costs are evidence of inefficiencies and a waste of ratepayer money he does not necessarily agree with this view. The reason for this is efficiency should be based on the total cost of providing the service (total operating costs) and at the annual plan meeting a graph of operating costs showed how Council had kept the operating cost well in control. One way we have reduced costs is by bringing inhouse work that was previously done at higher cost by external consultants.
211	Grey Power Wanganui Inc Graham Adams President and Tony Grant–Fargie	Grey Power suggests completing the wastewater/stormwater separation projects first before considering a faster debt reduction programme.	Corporate Management	The current ten year plan does have increased debt repayments after the completion of the wastewater separation project. As future years become the current year there is a general tendency for additional expenditure for new projects
		Grey Power opposes any reduction in the size of the Pensioner Housing Portfolio. It notes that Pensioner Housing is the only Council activity for which there is a nil rate requirement. Also suggests vacancy level concerns could be elevated by lifting income limits to reflect higher superannuation figures.	Pensioner Housing	The community has previously indicated to Council via a referendum that it strongly supports retaining ownership of the pensioner housing portfolio and the previous Council rejected the sale of three blocks to a charitable organisation. Changes to the eligibility criteria are being considered as part of the Pensioner Housing Review.

	Grey Power conveys frustration of members at the snails–pace progress the tram project is plagued with. Suggests a start is made to laying tracks over a limited route.	Roading	Council decision required on the future of the tram
	Grey Power is strongly opposed to funding the Sarjeant Gallery Environmental Control System via loans.	Sarjeant Gallery	The rationale for loan–funding the Environmental Control System is to achieve the principle of intergenerational equity.

Questions and Answers

Cr Vinsen asked Mr Adams if rates were increased to cover debt retirement quickly, would this have Grey Power’s support. Mr Adams said this would not be supported by Grey Power as some people were already finding rates unaffordable. He said Grey Power would support a review by the Council to gain greater efficiencies.

Cr McDouall asked Mr Adams if Grey Power had an expectation of the daily per person use of the tram once running, and if Grey Power had any idea of the number of users per day of the Sarjeant Gallery. Mr Adams replied that from observation he would not be surprised if people use the tram per day from the day it starts running exceed the number of people using the Sarjeant Gallery per day.

Cr Vinsen asked if Grey Power was suggesting that the Council should take over the tram project. Mr Grant–Fargie replied for Grey Power that the Council needed to consider taking over the project and drive it forward.

Cr Westwood asked Mr Adams if Grey Power supported the de–accessioning artworks. Mr Adams said that Grey Power members represented a wide cross section of the community and whilst some would support the Gallery and not wish sales of artworks, there would be a large number of members who would agree to de–accessioning.

12	Democrats for Social Credit Heather Marion Smith	Submitter seeks consultation on Debt and urges Council to approach the organisers of Local Government NZ’s 2011 Conference to invite a speaker and/or workshop convenor to (a) argue in detail for RBNZ funding options and (b) to expose the dangers inherent in the Government’s Bill.	Corporate Management	Council officers favour consultation on debt and the option of using a Local Government Funding Agency. If government borrowed to council at interest rates lower than its own cost of borrowing it would just move cost from ratepayers to taxpayers.
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Ms Marion Smith tabled a paper on New Zealand legislation referring to the powers of the Minister to borrow on behalf of the Crown if in the public interest and the Ministry appointing agents for the purpose of borrowing money together with the Minister determining terms and conditions of borrowing.

Questions and Answers

In response to a Councillor’s suggestion that a zero interest rate would encourage more borrowing and increase debt, Ms Marion Smith said borrowing as suggested by the Democrats for Social Credit with naught to one per cent interest would still be a debt a local authority had to repay. She asked Councillors to imagine what they could do with the extra spending power caused by the lowering of interest. Asked how many other councils have taken cognisance of Democrats for Social Credit’s proposal and tried to implement the strategy, Ms Marion Smith said Hamilton and Horowhenua were interested.

Cr Wills asked why the proposal had not been picked up by governments over the past 30 years. Ms Marion Smith replied that local bodies were secure business for lending agencies.

Mayor Main noted that a paper on local government funding was to be presented at the Local Government New Zealand Conference in July.

212	Mr I Little	Submitter suggests Maori flag be flown at the new Information Centre or where the riverboat leaves from.	Economic Development	A matter for Council policy
		Submitter again asks that the CBD bricks be made safe for all peoples including some important sporting peoples. ‘They can be extremely dangerous when wet and I’m sure your council doesn’t want to be sued if someone does a serious injury due to your unsafe CBD’.	CBD Maintenance	The paving in the CBD complies with the relevant standard in terms of its surface. The paving is inspected for trip hazards on a regular basis by Mainstreet Wanganui and any areas of concern are dealt with on a case by case basis. There are no cases of paving related incidents recorded in the Councils CRM system for the 2010/2011 year to date.
212	Mr I Little	Submitter suggests that Council has a bad neighbour policy and that neighbours be penalised 20% extra onto their yearly rates bill. That the Council amend their policy concerning light re floodlights to be solely used for the purpose designed for and must be set accordingly.	Strategy and Policy Strategy and Policy	Council has considered bad neighbour policies previously which resulted in tighter operating procedures using the statutory tools at Council's disposal. Council has also considered the issue of additional rates for people deemed to be ‘bad neighbours’ using Council resources. The rating powers is a ‘blunt tool’ unable to accommodate such a narrow and largely undefined group of the community. Council will, however, continue to take a hard line against ‘bad neighbour’ issues and use infringement notices, where available, for ‘bad neighbours’ who create statutory nuisances. Council currently has rules around maximum light levels for Residential Zones within its District Plan,.

Questions and Answers

Commenting on Mr Little’s submission, Mayor Main thanked him for his suggestion that the Maori flag be flown at the new Visitor Information Centre. She noted that on Waitangi Day the Maori flag had been flown from the Council’s Municipal Office Building’s flagpole.

Referring to Mr Little’s concern about private property floodlight use, Mayor Main asked that Council investigate whether lighting levels were controlled.

ACTION: Melanie Heron

Noting Mr Little’s concerns about his land ownership that was subject to a cross lease, Mayor Main suggested that officers provide more information on cross lease issues.

ACTION: Melanie Heron

110	Marianne Archibald	Submitter considers that the Council should ensure all employees of the Council in Guyton Street are as safe as possible and the building is considered 'an earthquake risk'. Submitter would like the building to be reassessed, and immediate steps to identify solutions that address the safety issues regarding this building and the potential negative effects of an earthquake on Council employees.	Property	Council is in the process of working through an Initial Evaluation Procedure for all the buildings Council owns so that the Council can make a decision on which buildings it wishes to prioritise taking into account the level of risk and any other special features such as post disaster functions.
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Questions and Answers

The Chief Executive, in response to Mayor Main's question, said that the Council building at 101 Guyton Street had been evaluated for earthquake strength.

Cr Westwood asked Ms Archibald if she was aware that the Council had resolved that the first priority for earthquake strengthening be the Police Station, the Council's Municipal Office Building at 101 Guyton Street, and the Wanganui Hospital, but this had not been placed in the Council's 10-Year Plan. Ms Archibald said she was not aware of this but she was aware that there were no funds provided in the Draft 2011/12 Annual Plan to work with earthquake strengthening issues of the Council's Municipal Office Building.

The Chief Executive noted that an earthquake workshop for Councillors was to be held and Greg Morris, Assistant Property Manager, said the Council's Municipal Office Building did meet the minimum earthquake strength requirement under the Council's current policy.

Conclusion

Mayor Main thanked Councillors, submitters and members of the staff for their attendance and input today and adjourned the meeting to 3.00pm Monday, 23 May 2011.

The meeting adjourned at 4.25pm.

Minutes of the Reconvened Meeting of the Wanganui District Council reconvened at 3.05PM on Monday, 23 May 2011, in the Council Chamber, Municipal Office Building, 101 Guyton Street, Wanganui

Present: Ms Annette Main – the Mayor – in the Chair, Deputy Mayor Cr RM Wills, Crs AR Anderson, P Baker–Hogan, JT Bullock, R Dahya, NA Higgie, HCS McDouall, RM Stevens, RV Vinsen and SM Westwood.

Apologies: Crs MB Laws and C Solomon.

In Attendance: Mr A Taylor (Chairman, Wanganui Rural Community Board).

Officers in Attendance: Mr K Ross (Chief Executive), Mr J Harkness (Deputy Chief Executive), Mr J Reweti (Infrastructure Manager), Ms N Rodgers (Finance Manager), Mr P Gray (Deputy Community and Culture

Manager), Mr S Hylton (Senior Policy Analyst), Ms M Archibald (Senior Policy Advisor), Ms M Heron (Customer Services Manager), Mr G Morris (Deputy Property Manager), Mr D Boothway (Deputy Infrastructure Manager). Minutes: Mr MH Hunt (Governance Services Manager).

177	Horizons Regional Council Richard Munneke	Horizons looks forward to working with WDC throughout the Shaping Wanganui project in particular around flood hazards. Seek joint process to implement Whanganui River Pathways including off road cycleway along St Highway 4 between Kowhai Park and Upokongaro.	Strategy and Policy	We have been working with Horizons for Phase 1 of the District Plan Review around flood hazards. We have amended some of the objectives and policies of the District Plan and also the rules around flooding in the proposed Riverfront Zone subsequent to discussions with Horizons regarding the OnePlan. We will continue to work with Horizons throughout the notification of Phase 1 and also with the additional phases of the review.
177	Horizons Regional Council	Horizons happy with Council's Resource Consent applications around stormwater and wastewater.	Wastewater	Noted
		Horizons seeks clarification on impact of option to retire debt instead of stormwater separation work. Concerned about Council's ability to comply with their resource consent.	Stormwater	The priority of separation work remains to ensure compliance and substantially lower the risks of non-compliance. The programme is still scheduled for completion by 2015 with some reallocation of works between years.
		Horizons seek to work more collaboratively with Council on soft water and back up water supply research programmes.	Wastewater	Council welcomes Horizons collaborative involvement in this project which includes security of water supply and conservation measures
		Horizons supports implementation of planned projects arising from the Wanganui Urban Transportation Strategy (WUTS).	Roading	Council welcomes Horizons support in the WUTS programme

Questions and Answers

In response to a Councillor’s question about Horizons Regional Council’s involvement in the National Walkway Project, Mr Munneke said some seed funding was available for the National walkway and Horizons would endeavour to get further funding beyond the ratepayer. He said Horizons was maintaining the Upokongaro Walkway. Whilst he suspected that continuing development of the National Walkway in the region would fall to Horizons, the most appropriate body to develop the walkways would be identified.

Mayor Main noted that the Council had discussed this with Horizons Regional Councillors as part of the Council’s submission to Horizons Draft 2011/12 Annual Plan.

Mr Munneke answered questions of clarification about water supply. In response to a question about urban transport, Mr Munneke said Wanganui’s urban transport was under discussion.

44	Ali Arc Group of Companies Robert Bartley	Submitter asks why Heads Road/Beach Road roundabout was removed? And how much has been spent on consultants on this project?	Roading	Current plan includes study, scheme assessment phase and negotiations with NZTA and Rail for 2011/12. Design options currently in vicinity of \$1.5M. Currently there is no NZTA funding except for the initial study. Roading does not have any capital projects that could be set aside for this project. Must be an integrated design with Rail. This would have to be assessed for the 10 Year plan. Data collection to this point would have been less than \$5K for very broad scheme plans.
44	Ali Arc Group of Companies Robert Bartley	Submitter asks what work has been done on improvements of stormwater and flooding in Heads Road.	Stormwater	Part of the separation project. \$3.3M to be spent in the annual plan on stormwater.
		Submitter asks what steps have been taken to improve supply of power and telecommunication to Heads Road area in general?	Economic development	We understand that Powerco has recently upgraded the Castecliff substation and have a programme for upgrading. However, if there are future developments that we are not aware of the submitter should discuss those with us so that we can facilitate further discussions. With regard to telecommunications, the rollout of Ultrafast Broadband is expected to take around two years but Heads Road has been identified as a priority area.

Questions and Answers

Mr Bartley told Councillors that due to the frustration Heads Road’s business operators found in working with the Council, 86 business operators in the Heads Road area, major economic contributors to the Wanganui district, had formed a lobby group.

In response to Mayor Main’s question about the original inclusion of the roundabout in the Annual Plan, Mr Reweti explained that the Council had set funds aside to develop a design and would work with KiwiRail on this. The design then had to go to NZTA for funding. Mr Reweti said that the Heads Road roundabout had always been an exclusion in the Annual Plan and it was excluded last year. The NZTA indicated that there would be no capital works in this financial year. Mr Reweti said there were two ways to apply – either through ‘HMTA’ or via the traditional approach – and all NZTA requirements must be satisfied. Noting that to build a permanent roundabout would require firstly completing underground infrastructure at the site, Mr Ross said it may be preferable to first provide a temporary roundabout. However, Mr Reweti explained, a temporary roundabout must also comply with NZTA requirements that were virtually the same as the requirements for a

permanent roundabout and KiwiRail must support the temporary design. Mr Reweti said the Council must step cautiously and thought that a temporary roundabout may not be the safe option. He said officers had started the conversation with KiwiRail on the design. David Boothway explained that \$3.3M was specifically allocated in the Works programme for capital works.

To a further question, Mr Reweti said that the 2010/11 Industrial Transport Strategy with specific reference to Heads Road's needs would be referred to the Council in a report being completed at the end of June 2011 by Geoff Hintz. The report would provide a comprehensive package to NZTA when requesting subsidy.

Noting a question about audible rail signals, Mr Reweti said this was a technical matter that had to be discussed with KiwiRail and receive NZTA's agreement. Mr Bartley said people needed the audible warning to stop at rail crossings. He noted that despite signs being in place, people were still trying to 'beat the train'.

Mayor Main assured Mr Bartley that the Council was interested in Heads Road's businesses and the Council would visit businesses and see the development taking place in the near future. She noted that the Council had advocated that the Heads Road business area be the first area protected by Horizons' flood protection works in view of the economic importance of the area to Wanganui district.

55	Jesse Masters	Submitter requests Council reconsiders its decision to exclude the Heads Road/Beach Road roundabout as it needs to be installed because of safety reasons.	Roading	Current plan includes study, scheme assessment phase and negotiations with NZTA and Rail for 2011/12. Design options currently in vicinity of \$1.5M. Currently there is no NZTA funding except for the initial study. Roading does not have any capital projects that could be set aside for this project. Must be an integrated design with Rail. This would have to be assessed for the 10 Year Plan.
60	Kimi Solomon	Submitter requests Council reconsiders its decision to exclude the Heads Road/Beach Road roundabout as it needs to be installed because of safety reasons.	Roading	Current plan includes study, scheme assessment phase and negotiations with NZTA and Rail for 2011/12. Design options currently in vicinity of \$1.5M. Currently there is no NZTA funding except for the initial study. Roading does not have any capital projects that could be set aside for this project. Must be an integrated design with Rail. This would have to be assessed for the 10 Year Plan.
68	Clayton Bunker	Submitter requests Council reconsiders its decision to exclude the Heads Road/Beach Road roundabout as it needs to be installed because of safety reasons. Submitter works at AFFCO and finds it very dangerous when turning into work and at night with big trucks.	Roading	Current plan includes study, scheme assessment phase and negotiations with NZTA and Rail for 2011/12. Design options currently in vicinity of \$1.5M. Currently there is no NZTA funding except for the initial study. Roading does not have any capital projects that could be set aside for this project. Must be an integrated

				design with Rail. This would have to be assessed for the 10 Year Plan.
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Jesse Masters, Kimi Soloman and Clayton Bunker did not attend the submissions hearing. Mr Bunker’s apology was noted.

87	Terrence Te Weri	Submitter requests Council reconsiders its decision to exclude the Heads Road/Beach Road roundabout because of traffic congestion and danger.	Roading	Current plan includes study, scheme assessment phase and negotiations with NZTA and Rail for 2011/12. Design options currently in vicinity of \$1.5M. Currently there is no NZTA funding except for the initial study. Rooding does not have any capital projects that could be set aside for this project. Must be an integrated design with Rail. This would have to be assessed for the 10 Year Plan.
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Questions and Answers

During Mr Te Weri’s comments it was noted that standard road marking paint was used in this vicinity at Heads Road and there was concern that, especially in wet weather, cyclists were falling due to slipping on this paint.

ACTION: Julian Reweti

113	Darrell Hoskin	Submitter requests Council reconsiders its decision to exclude the Heads Road/Beach Road roundabout because it is dangerous and traffic needs to slow down.	Roading	Current plan includes study, scheme assessment phase and negotiations with NZTA and Rail for 2011/12. Design options currently in vicinity of \$1.5M. Currently there is no NZTA funding except for the initial study. Rooding does not have any capital projects that could be set aside for this project. Must be an integrated design with Rail. This would have to be assessed for the 10 Year Plan.
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Questions and Answers

In response to a Councillor’s question Mr Hoskin explained the difficulty of manoeuvring a 45 tonne truck when exiting AFFCO onto Heads Road. He invited Councillors to ride in one of his company’s trucks to personally experience the difficulty drivers had. In response to a further question about the impact of the requested work on rates, Mr Hoskin said the business operators in Heads Road wanted the roundabout installed because it would save some lives. He asked Councillors to look at the site at 3pm on any weekday to see the danger.

133	Shaun O’Neill, c/- AFFCO NZ Ltd	Submitter requests Council reconsiders its decision to exclude the Heads Road/Beach Road roundabout because it is a death trap waiting to happen and with increased traffic volumes (incl. trains) the Council cannot keep sitting on their hands. The funding layout in the Annual Plan needs to be	Roading	Current plan includes study, scheme assessment phase and negotiations with NZTA and Rail for 2011/12. Design options currently in vicinity of \$1.5M. Currently there is no NZTA funding except for the initial study.
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		changed where industry is taken seriously instead of where the current focus is on other things, e.g. ‘the Arts’.		Roading does not have any capital projects that could be set aside for this project. Must be an integrated design with Rail. This would have to be assessed for the 10 Year Plan.
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Questions and Answers

Responding to a Councillor’s question to his comment that ‘industry attracts wealth and let’s get industry right first before spending on the arts’, Mr O’Neill said whilst he had nothing against the arts community, spending on the arts should be done when the District could afford it. He said the Council had bigger things to spend money on now than the arts. Mr O’Neill said the Council should get employment up to get more money into households and to do this the Council needed more businesses in the District.

Cr Stevens noted that submitters on this issue had identified 3.30pm as the key time that workers left AFFCO and Cavalier Spinners. He asked if the companies could work together to spread the departure time over a longer period. In response Mr O’Neill said there were different shift times for different sections and during different seasons. For example, during busy seasons AFFCO and Cavalier Spinners operated night shifts. Mr O’Neill said that business operators also had to consider their employee’s families and union requirements but he emphasised that if the Council did not take action to provide a roundabout more than just one of the Heads Road workers would die.

Cr Stevens asked if concerns about road safety in Heads Road had been discussed with the Police. Mr O’Neill said that this had been done. Kevin Ross noted that the Council had spoken with Police on many occasions about traffic issues in the Heads Road area.

Thanking Mr O’Neill for his submission, Mayor Main said she hoped that in the very near future the Council would have a forum with Heads Road’s business operators. She assured Mr O’Neill that their submission was appreciated by the Council and the Council would respond.

165	Asad Khan	Submitter requests Council reconsiders its decision to exclude the Heads Road/Beach Road roundabout.	Roading	Current plan includes study, scheme assessment phase and negotiations with NZTA and Rail for 2011/12. Design options currently in vicinity of \$1.5M. Currently there is no NZTA funding except for the initial study. Roding does not have any capital projects that could be set aside for this project. Must be an integrated design with Rail. This would have to be assessed for the 10 Year Plan.
171	Reo Manaku	Submitter requests Council reconsiders its decision to exclude the Heads Road/Beach Road roundabout.	Roading	Current plan includes study, scheme assessment phase and negotiations with NZTA and Rail for 2011/12. Design options currently in vicinity of \$1.5M. Currently there is no NZTA funding except for the initial study. Roding does not have any capital projects that could be set aside for this project. Must be an integrated

				design with Rail. This would have to be assessed for the 10 Year Plan.
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Asad Khan and Reo Maraku, submitters, did not attend the Hearing. Mr Maraku’s apology was noted.

185	Mark Stoneman and Ray Stevens	Submitters request Council takes a new look at covering the Cooks Gardens Velodrome. This is a plan that was planned five years ago with Fabric Shelter Systems for a cost effective option for Wanganui.	Parks and Reserves	Once the location of the NZ Cycling Centre of Excellence was decided, it was intended to consider the future level of use of the velodrome, appropriate roofing options and potential funding sources.
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Cr Stevens joined Mr Stoneman at the submitter’s table for the presentation of their submission.

Questions and Answers

In response to a Councillor’s question Mr Stoneman said that the cover material proposed was similar to that proposed for installation some six years ago when the cost was \$3.5M. Whilst the cost had increased, at this stage he did not have an exact current figure but the submitters were looking at how they could get local specialist business involved and who would be prepared to put in real costings. The submitters proposed with Council’s support to prepare a plan and then come back to the Council with actual costings. Cr Vinsen asked if local sports clubs could afford a facility as proposed and would it be a multi-sport facility? Mr Stoneman said that once covered, the velodrome could provide for many events. He said the key was the cost if the velodrome was left uncovered it would cost \$2M to replace the track, but if covered cycling could hold more events.

Cr Vinsen asked if the submitters had allowed for all requirements including lighting and ventilation. Mr Stoneman said that when the submitters report back to the Council the price will cover the completed venue. He noted that the proposed membrane material for the roof had a 25 year guarantee. The membrane roof would be ribbed so that each panel could be individually replaced if necessary.

16	Donna Mummery	Submitter suggests Solar Saver Programme – based on programme developed by the Nelson City Council	Waste minimisation	This programme could be investigated further by the Waste Minimisation and Environment Working Party.
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Questions and Answers

Following a question about the costs/benefits of solar energy, it was suggested that Nelson City Council be asked for more information on its programme.

ACTION: Stuart Hylton

Cr Vinsen, Chair of the Waste Minimisation and Environmental Working Party, noted the submission, and said it would be on the Working Party’s agenda for discussion.

158	Lynette Pearson, Chairperson, Sustainable Whanganui Trust	Submitter suggests promoting Wanganui through interesting displays in empty shop frontages.	Economic Development	A worthwhile suggestion – noted and passed to the Marketing Plan development process and the Visitor Centre Advisory Group.
		Submitter suggests Council appoints an eco-advisor to advise people on sustainable building design.	Strategy and Policy	Sustainable building design is an issue being considered by the Waste Minimisation and Environment Working Party. Resourcing the increasing workload in this area requires Council consideration.
		Submitter supports review of District Plan and has concerns about current rules that allow warehouse type shops, and shops that can sell guns/alcohol anywhere in our city.	Strategy and Policy	Warehouse type shops (or big box retail) are currently permitted in the Outer Commercial Zone, and are proposed to be permitted in the Central Edge Commercial Zone. There are currently no restrictions on the sale of guns/alcohol within the District Plan, however if this were an issue raised in consultation or through the submissions to notified plan changes, this could be considered at that point. One way to limit or control the type of retail activities (such as sale of weapons or alcohol) in specific areas would be to define such activities in the plan and specify an activity status (permitted, restricted discretionary, discretionary or non-complying).
158	Lynette Pearson, Chairperson, Sustainable Whanganui Trust	Submitter strongly suggests that when Council vehicles are replaced that hybrid vehicles are considered first.	Governance	Council currently has one hybrid vehicle. Council currently tenders for replacement of vehicles using the lowest conforming tender process. Council may wish to consider a change to this procurement practice.
		Submitter suggests as part of Wanganui Districts preparedness for emergencies, we need to include encouragement for households, community and industrial buildings to have rain water collection systems, composting toilets, solar water heaters and photo voltaic generating systems.	Water Supply	Allowance has been made for an investigatory study to be undertaken under the annual plan for water conservation purposes, which could include grey water and rain water tanks
		Submitter would like to know possible consequences of not having a Beach Road Wastewater Pump Station Back up Generator?	Wastewater	Deferred to the completion of separation at which point a generator can be sized more accurately. Lower risk as the existing generator can still supply 50% of electrical requirements
		Submitter would like better connection between routes and with national bus services as well as a proper bus depot with suitable amenities.	Roading	Currently not part of Horizons Regional Council's passenger plan now and in the future.

		Submitter urges WDC to improve safety of the River Traders Market customers crossing Taupo Quay to the market, by putting a pedestrian crossing at the Market Street intersection.	Roading	This has been discussed at Council. This is part of the riverfront development project within which the timing of all works is interlinked
		Submitter suggests Council promotes a 'New Residents' and 'Visitors Pack' and suggests what may be included in these packs.	Community Development	Council officers are currently working on a Newcomers proposal which could include these suggestions.
		Submitter hopes review of pensioner housing will retain portfolio.	Pensioner Housing	Noted. The community has previously indicated to Council via a referendum that it supports retaining ownership of the pensioner housing portfolio and the previous Council rejected the sale of three blocks to a charitable organisation. Changes to the eligibility criteria are being considered as part of the Pensioner Housing Review.
		Submitter would like to know more about Community and Culture – Community Development Database. Submitter believes it would be helpful if there was a database covering all things in our District.	Community Development	Noted. The database proposed is based on a best-practice model used in the Horowhenua District.
158	Lynette Pearson, Chairperson, Sustainable Whanganui Trust	Submitter supports establishment of Council/Pacifica Working Party.	Community Development	Noted. Following the adoption of the Pasifika/WDC Working Party Terms of Reference, the Working Party will be underway in 2011/12.
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Submitter looks forward to feasibility study into Community Resource Recovery Park for Wanganui. 2. Wants the mobile recycling trailer promoted further. Supports efforts to encourage hospitality sector to recycle glass. 3. Would like to partner WDC to establish a sustainable Community Award. 4. Wants explanation why we have two rubbish collections servicing each suburb on rubbish days. 	Waste Minimisation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. Waste Minimisation and Environment Working Party is showing Sustainable Whanganui a draft resource recovery feasibility study on the 23 May 2011. 2. Look forward to discussing how recycling trailer can be promoted further. Glass trail of hospitality sector has started and will run for 2 months. 3. Waste Minimisation and Environment Working Party looks forward to discussing how we could establish a sustainable Community Award. 4. These privately owned and operated waste collection contractors actually have two vehicles each to cover each suburb on a given day. The only way to minimise the number of waste collection vehicles travelling down each street would

				be for Council to rate for the service and let a contract to one of the companies. Even then the other company could remain if they could attract a market share to warrant running the vehicles.
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Questions and Answers

Ms Pearson showed pictures of rainwater collection systems, composting toilets, worm farms, solar water heating and a photo-voltaic generating system. She also showed pictures of Aranui School’s sustainable schools project and tabled information on a chemical toilet fluid.

Alan Taylor noted concerns about heavy metals absorbed by worms raised in worm farms as well as chemical toilet waste if deposited on farmland. Ms Pearson thought there was no problem with worm farms but was not sure about composting toilet waste. Mayor Main said that composting toilets could be installed in the Wanganui District in the rural areas.

In response to a Councillor’s question Ms Pearson said a pedestrian crossing at the Market Street intersection to improve the safety of the River Traders Market customers crossing Taupo Quay to the market was suggested as this appeared to be the most used site.

109	John Milnes	Submitter suggests the current soft water strategy be complemented by requiring all new houses to install a minimum 10,000 litre water tank. Also to encourage the installation of water tanks for all current housing.	Water Supply	Allowance has been made for an investigatory study to be undertaken under the annual plan for water conservation purposes, which could include grey water and rain water tanks
		Submitter suggests the Fitzherbert Avenue extension plus the upgrade of Mosston Road for cycles would be a good start to improve cycle ways in Wanganui. Submitter suggests the riverbank walk/cycle way to Castlecliff would also improve cycling to Castlecliff. Good to see this is well under way along new stopbank.	Roading	The Fitzherbert Avenue / Mosston Road development is to be considered under the 10 Year Plan, including all transport modes. Progress is continuing on cycleway strategy to be reported to Council during 2011/12.
		Submitter suggests Council considers the advantages of replanting in suburban streets with fruit and nut trees.	Parks and Reserves	Council has considered this matter previously and decided not to proceed. If Wanganui was a high density urban environment where people did not have access to land to plant their own trees then this may be a worthwhile idea. Fortunately the majority of homes in Wanganui have sufficient land for this type of planting should families wish to have access to free fruit and nuts.
		Submitter suggests kerbside recycling including reusing wheelie bins only for green waste.	Strategy and Policy	Council has struggled in the past to introduce kerbside recycling in Wanganui due to the annual costs to provide the service which would be funded through increasing rates. Referendum 2007 showed 66% of participants were in favour of introducing kerbside recycling. Council did a citywide waste

			survey in 2010 to canvas support for five kerbside waste/recycling options. The results of the survey were rather inconclusive although once again, services involving kerbside recycling were most favoured. Later this year, the Waste Minimisation and Environment Working Party hope to bring a paper to Council to clearly discuss the Kerbside recycling options with a view to getting a clear decision from this Council.
	Submitter is pleased to see the re-opening of the existing rail line along the Heads road route which will reduce trucking and provide a more efficient method of transportation.	Roading	Noted.

Questions and Answers

Mr Milnes agreed with Cr Wills that there was no reason not to plant native trees amongst other species. Cr Wills suggested that native trees would encourage native birds into the City. In response to a Councillor’s question, Mr Milnes explained that a residential 10,000 litre water tank would provide a supply buffer and take the edge off the stormwater burden. In response to a Councillor’s comment Mr Milnes said that in the event of an economic breakdown, there would be more protection through smaller sustainable communities.

To a further question Mr Milnes said that a 10,000 litre water tank could be adequate for a household if it also had a composting toilet.

Mayor Main said the Council needed to discuss private independent water supplies.

108	Lisa Talbot	Submitter commends Council on it’s commitment to environmental sustainability and encourages Council to incorporate the principles of sustainable design at policy level.	Strategy and Policy	Noted.
		Submitter supports Council’s proposal to repay \$200,000 debt.	Corporate Management	Council will consider the extra \$200K debt repayment in its deliberations.
		Submitter would like to see plantings of low maintenance fruit and nut trees in public parks and reserves.	Parks and Reserves	Council has considered this matter previously and decided not to proceed. If Wanganui was a high density urban environment where people did not have access to land to plant their own trees then this may be a worthwhile idea. Fortunately the majority of homes in Wanganui have sufficient land for this type of planting should families wish to have access to free fruit and nuts.

	Submitter supports the submissions of Sustainable Whanganui, Trevor Smith and Donna Mummery	Waste Minimisation	Noted.
	Submitter would like to commend the new Mayor for her inclusive and respectful leadership, fostering improved relationships and communication between community leaders. Submitter also commends all councillors who are fully participating in Council processes, we appreciate your commitment to the health and well going of our community.	Community Development	Noted.

Questions and Answers

Following a Power Point presentation, Ms Talbot explained the principles of permaculture. Cr Westwood suggested that the issue with financial implications be further discussed by the Community and Environmental Committee, perhaps at a workshop.

ACTION: Stuart Hylton

210	Trevor Smith	Submitter points out that peak oil is still a major factor to be taken account of in future plans. Suggests it is time for Council to come together with delegates from groups with interests in seeing Wanganui become a vibrant and progressive community.	Community Development	Peak oil, along with other, global/national issues/assumptions, will be further considered during Council's upcoming 10 Year Plan development process.
204	Marie McKay, on behalf of the cultural sector	Submission is on behalf of 40 Whanganui artists, cultural workers and supporters. Submission outlines cultural facilities, events, programmes and groups operating in Wanganui but suggests the sector is really struggling locally. The submitter outlines a number of issues by way of bullet points contributing to this situation. As a sector, the submitter would like to support the Council to develop our town into a nationally and internationally renown centre for arts, culture and heritage. The submitter lists a number of ways Council could achieve this.	Community Development	Noted. These issues will be discussed with Arts Developer whose role is to implement the Wanganui District Council Policy and the Public Art Strategy. The Arts Policy has as a key objective to support the building of capacity, profile and relationships of our arts sector.

Questions and Answers

In response to a Councillor's question, Ms McKay said the members of Wanganui's arts community want to be consulted by the Council and to be involved with the Council. She said the current arts policy was very Council-focussed and was developed through a survey rather than through consultation. In response to a question by Cr Higgie about the suggestion in the submission that the Council's funding process was not transparent and that there were difficulties in uplifting funds from the Council, Ms McKay said the submission was based on a range of comments from other people but the concerns expressed would be easily sorted out through communication.

In reply to Cr Wills' question that if she were the Council, what percentage of rates increase would she apportion to the arts, Ms McKay explained that not a lot of the items in

the submission required funding as members of the arts community were willing to give their time. She said the arts community was not asking for more money, it was asking for the Council to stop being a barrier and to be a conduit to development. She said that more direct contact with the Council through its committees would be helpful.

Cr McDouall noted the submissions from Heads Road’s businesses suggesting that the Council should address their concerns rather than funding the arts. Ms McKay said the arts could be supported by Wanganui industries and reiterated the arts community was not asking for more funding.

205	Marie McKay, Chair for Wanganui Community Arts Council Trust	Submitter notes this is the third Annual Planning submission from the Wanganui Community Arts Council in as many years asking for support from Council. The Chair of the Trust attached previous submissions for Councils information. The submitter details the Community Arts Centres patronage, operating costs, income and identifies loss of Council \$10,000 grant since 2008 along with increased ground rentals, resulting in the 10 hour/week administrator position being disestablished. The Trust asks that if Council does not wish to provide funding support, it at least reduces the rates and group lease burden on the centre.	Property	In relation to a Council grant, the Community and Cultural Manager advises that relative to other groups competing for the limited pool of funds they do not warrant a grant and need to do more to generate income from their retail and other income producing activities. This has been communicated to the Arts Centre. As previously discussed with the Centre, they are able to access a concessionary rental under the Community Organisations Leases policy. However, they have declined this because in return for the rental concession we require a more flexible lease arrangement. They have advised that they prefer the certainty their existing commercial lease provides.
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Questions and Answers

Mayor Main asked Ms McKay to explain the lease arrangement. Ms McKay said the Council had proposed an offer of 30% of the ground lease only if the Wanganui Community Arts Council would sell its building to the Council with a year’s notice. She said artists would lose interest if there was a danger of losing a kiln, for example, and so it had been decided to stay with the original lease. Mayor Main asked if this was a requirement of other organisations leasing Harbour Endowment property. Greg Morris advised that the ability for the Council to take back a lease was a requirement of all Community Organisation Leases.

Conclusion

Mayor Main thanked Councillors and officers for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 5.32pm.

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CERTIFICATE OF CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Wanganui District Council held on 19 May 2011 were confirmed as a true and correct record of that meeting at a meeting of the Wanganui District Council held on 21 June 2011.

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Annette Main
Mayor of Wanganui District

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Date