

---

Minutes of the Waimate District Council Social  
Focus Group Meeting held in the Local  
Government Centre, Queen Street, Waimate on  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2005 at 6.00pm

---



### In Attendance

Ms L. Ramsay (Senior Policy Analyst)  
Ms C. Johns (Community Services Manager)  
Mr J.D. Larcombe (Administration Officer)  
Ms J. Halkett (Administrative Assistant)  
Mrs J. Williams (Department of Internal Affairs)

The group were welcomed to the meeting and it was advised that the group be aware that the combined outcome was that all work towards the same high level community outcome.

Other issues not progressed tonight would be carried forward to subsequent meetings.

It was further advised that complex social problems do not have rapid or simple solutions.

The group to recognise that there will be some agenda items about which we wish to commence "Long Conversations" i.e. the first step to improving well being is to raise awareness and request the community as a whole to be talking about these issues.

The more working on it, the better the available pool of ideas for solutions.

Arising from this meeting, contacts can be followed up and political solutions sought i.e. promoting collective action and lobbying Central Government.

"Long Conversation" on the agenda were advised as being:

- Decreasing number of volunteers in the Community.
- Best possible health services for the Waimate District.

### Department of Internal Affairs Jennifer Williamson

Jennifer Williamson from the Department of Internal Affairs addressed the group advising the following:

#### Overview

- Coherent Local Government strategy.
- Broad consultation.

- Empowering local decision making.
- Relationship with the Treaty of Waitangi.
- Enhancing opportunities for Maori participation.
- Scope for partnerships.
- Accountability.
- Local Government can now do anything (lawful) it likes.
- The Acts principles.
- The purpose of Local Government.
- Actions of Local Government.
- Wellbeings.

### Community Outcomes

- A desired result or state of affairs.
- The things that are important to people in the community or area.
- Where people would like to see their community in the future in terms of community wellbeing.
- The planning framework.
- New acronyms.
- The role of Local Authorities.
- Identifying community outcomes.
- Identifying parties.
- Information.
- Strategic planning and practice.
- Secure agreements.
- Consultation.
- Critical issues.
- Timetable.
- The planning framework.

### Groups Attending & Issues

Grey Power

Rural Woman

Waimate Highland Pipe Band – issue is retention of volunteers

Red Cross – issue also volunteers

Waimate District Council – Sport & Recreation plan advised

Community Public Health – issue is health promotion

Waimate District Resource Centre – issue is funding

Department of Internal Affairs – issue is funding

Waitaki District Council

Waimate Medical Centre – issue is recruitment and retention of Doctors

Waimate Stadium Committee – issue is stadium  
 Waihao Marae  
 Child Youth & Family  
 Social Services Committee – issue is social services and role of the committee  
 Waimate Search & Rescue – issue is training of volunteers  
 Department of Conservation – issue is Conservation  
 Hunter Hall  
 Friends of Knottingley Park – issue is parks  
 Waimate Health Developments – District health needs  
 Principals Association  
 Rotary  
 Ministers Association – issue is overall welfare  
 St Johns – issue is district health needs  
 Willowbridge Hall Committee – issue is country halls  
 Studholme Hall Committee – issue is community halls  
 Community Trust Mid & South Canterbury– issue is funding  
 South Canterbury Neighbourhood Support

Note: The meeting adjourned at 7-00 p.m.

Note: The meeting re-convened at 7-30 p.m.

## Agenda Items

### Sport & Recreation Plan

Ms Karen Beker addressed the group advising that Council were currently involved in establishing a Sport & Recreation plan for SPARC.

SPARC wished to achieve their stated outcome of community activity which would stem from individual local authorities Sport and Recreation plans.

The status and background of various sporting organisations in the Waimate District were outlined for the due information of the group.

### Relocation of Library

Carolyn Johns outlined the initial proposal of Council to re-locate its Library to the Dawsons Emporium building.

The additional space would allow for an extended library which currently was under capacity for the district's population and could also include other proposals additional such as art gallery, meeting rooms, etc.

Noted that this proposal would be subject to the outcome of community consultation.

## Community Grants and Scholarship

Council's Senior Policy Analyst advised that Council had now made a submission to it's LTCCP in that the current Scholarship fund be effectively, discontinued.

This had arisen from a review of the annual budget by Council.

Council currently funds \$3,000 per annum for its Scholarship which is payable over three years.

Council's Community Grants scheme is funded at \$20,000 per annum.

The scheme was set up as an adjunct to the Creative N.Z. scheme (arts) and the W.D.C Sports Grants scheme (sports) to give clubs and organisations which could not access the arts and sports fund an alternative funding source.

## Community Trust of Mid & South Canterbury

Mr John Wilson of the Community Trust of Mid & South Canterbury addressed the group, advising the following:

- The Trust has one funding round each year and distributes \$1 million dollars annually.
- Overall, there is a reduction in available community funding.
- The Trust recognises ongoing community financial assistance.
- Only 60% on trust applications meet the Trust criteria.
- Major regional problem is loss of volunteer base i.e. accounting skills, admin skills.
- Trust has increased target funding to schools.
- Trust implementing smaller grants of up to \$1,000
- Application forms to be simplified.
- Improved accountability forms for schools – now one page and not six.
- Will work with groups to assist with other funding sources.
- Wish to work with Local Authorities to build up base of future requirements.

## Waimate Ministers Association

Pastor Selwyn Long addressed the group advising the following:

- In LTCCP, the term spiritual needs relates to provision of territory.
- Churches works are not publicised.
- Social needs and spiritual needs are intertwined.
- Majority of associations work is behind the scenes.
- Churches are keen to work with other organisations.

## Volunteers in the Community

The Group discussed the problem of decreasing numbers of volunteers within the community, and noted the following:

- Is now a national problem
- Royal Agricultural Society Youth Executive Council established to address this problem.
- Time bank system established in Dunedin – work done is credited as a deposit and work required to be undertaken by another person is the contra.
- This type of programme is successful overseas.
- We should look to approach local clubs and service groups to address this problem.
- Communication with youth is essential.

#### Best Possible Health Services – Waimate Community

The group considered this to be a Long Conversation item which would be extremely important and require separate discussion.

Noted to be brought forward as a separate evening discussion item.

We propose to hold quarterly Social Focus Group meetings, the next one expected to be held in September.

The meeting concluded at 9-20 pm