
Council

OPEN MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of Council held in the Council Chambers, 15 Forth Street, Invercargill on Thursday, 7 April 2016 at 9am.

PRESENT

Mayor
Deputy Mayor
Councillors

Mayor Gary Tong
Paul Duffy
Lyll Bailey
Stuart Baird
Brian Dillon
Rodney Dobson
John Douglas
Bruce Ford
George Harpur
Julie Keast
Ebel Kremer
Gavin Macpherson
Neil Paterson

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Executive - Steve Ruru, Group Manager Customer Services – Trudie Hurst, Chief Financial Officer – Anne Robson, Group Manager Community and Futures – Rex Capil Communications Manager – Louise Pagan, Planning and Reporting Analyst – Shannon Oliver, Corporate Planning and Performance Advisor - Katherine McDonald, Manager Strategy and Policy - Susan Cuthbert, Strategic Manager Transport - Joe Bourque and Committee Advisor – Fiona Dunlop

1 Apologies

There were no apologies.

2 Leave of absence

There were no requests for leave of absence.

3 Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

4 Public Forum

There was no public forum.

5 Extraordinary/Urgent Items

There were no Extraordinary/Urgent items.

6 Confirmation of Council Minutes

There are no minutes to confirm at this meeting.

Reports - Policy and Strategy

7.1 Schedule of Oral Submitters for Draft Annual Plan 2016/2017

Record No: R/16/3/4063

Stevie-Rae Blair representing Te Ao Marama (submission 98) addressed the meeting in support of their submission on the Catlins Road, Regional Heritage rate and Support to projects.

She advised that Te Ao Marama supports option 1 of the sealing of the Catlins Road from Haldane to Curio Bay including Slope Point Road to the first carpark and the road leading to Waipapa lighthouse.

Te Ao Marama also supports option 1 for the funding of the Regional Heritage rate.

She also advised that the Te Ao Marama supports other updates and on-goings in the Southland community and will continue to support updated sewerage systems for rural Southland towns.

(During the submission from Ms Blair, Councillor Duffy left the meeting at 9.06am and returned at 9.07am.)

Leanne Liggett representing the Southern District Health Board (submission number 158) addressed the meeting in support of their submission on the Catlins Road and other projects.

Ms Liggett advised that the Southern District Health Board is supportive of the Council's initiatives and work that Southland District Council is proposing in the draft 2016/2017 Annual Plan.

The District Health Board will continue to recommend that a maintenance plan is developed which outlines how the Around the Mountains Cycle Trail will be funded and associated responsibilities.

They are also supportive of the original proposal for Te Anau Wastewater Discharge Project and would welcome the opportunity to submit on any alternative proposals.

The District Health Board is also supportive of repairs and maintenance to infrastructure of the Te Anau Basin water supply, Woodlands Walking track and the Winton water mains replacement.

Ms Liggett also advised that the District Health Board is continuing to support community water fluoridation. It is an important public health measure in the maintenance of oral health and the prevention of tooth decay and also recommends that this is provided to the communities of Te Anau, Lumsden, Winton, Riverton and Edendale/Wyndham.

The District Health Board believe that further discussion is required for communities with unreticulated sewerage systems such as Waikaka. Furthermore if reticulated systems aren't a viable option that as a minimum engagement with property owners and occupiers would be required on how to used and maintain their wastewater disposal systems. Another option could be to include funding for a user-pays service to clean septic tanks on a regular basis.

The District Health Board are also supportive of the ongoing work Council is doing in relation to the non-complying sewage plants in Tuatapere and Edendale/Wyndham.

(The meeting adjourned at 9.16am and reconvened at 9.24am. All members of Council were present when the meeting reconvened.)

Tanith Robb, Doug Fraser and Allan Baird representing Federated Farmers (submission number 114) addressed the meeting in support of their submission on the UTR, Catlins road, Roding rate model, Rates, Fees & Charges, Cycle Trail.

They advised the meeting that it was surprising to find that the 2016/2017 Annual Plan was business as usual. They believe that far from it when it is difficult times for dairy farmers and that the cloth should be cut to fit. There needs to be a prioritisation of real needs, not nice to haves.

Federated Farmers have no view on the sealing of the Catlins Road including the Slope Point Road to the first carpark and the road leading to the first carpark leading to the Waipapa Point lighthouse. However Federated Farmers are supportive of Council seeking 54% of the funding required from the New Zealand Transport Authority. They believe that if New Zealand Transport Authority don't provide the money, then the project should not proceed.

Federated Farmers would like Council to urgently address the inequity of the roading rate model by ensuring a more equitable increase in rates increases between ratepayer groups and obtain tonnage data for the commercial and industrial sectors and reallocate the roading costs each year as the data is collected. Should updated tonnages not be able to be incorporated until next year, they recommend that Council addresses the inequity by distributing the heavy vehicle differential across primary,

commercial and industrial sectors through a targeted rate. They would also like Council to increase the UTR portion of the roading network to 20% to recognise that all ratepayers benefit from the roading network.

Federated Farmers would also like Council to introduce a new differential category that targets accommodation and tourist business to recover costs associated with the impact of tourism on the roading network.

Federated Farmers opposed the forecast rates increase for farmers and ask that Council review its proposed expenditure and cuts non-essential spending to increase rates affordability for the ratepayers.

Federated Farmers recognised that rural ratepayers are paying significantly more than urban residents and asks that the use of capital value-based rates are kept to a minimum. They also ask that Council respect the promise made in the 2014/2015 Annual Plan that rates funding would be a last resort for the cycle trail and that if additional funding is required through rates then this should be a targeted rate on commercial businesses along the cycle trail.

Alistair Wilson representing Southland Farm Forestry Association (submission number 225) addressed the meeting in support of the submission on the Roding rate model.

Mr Wilson advised that the Association had no opinion on the sealing of the Catlins Road or the Regional Heritage rate.

He also commented that the Association is pleased that Council is to consult with stakeholders on roading issues and believe that engagement with them is a worthwhile way to leverage value from resources to protect assets.

Mr Wilson advised that the Association would like to see Council capture all tonnage moving on the roads with the introduction of a new roading rate model. They believe that baleage is probably the biggest tonnage not allocated to the dairy and pastoral sectors. Palm Kernel Expeller should also be included.

Mr Wilson also advised that data for Palm Kernel Expeller is available in national freight demands study and Statistic New Zealand data.

(The meeting adjourned for morning tea at 10.05am and reconvened at 10.32am.) All members of Council were present when the meeting reconvened.)

Kevin Millard (submission number 19) addressed the meeting in support of his submission on the Catlins Road and Regional Heritage rate.

He advised that he was supporting option 3 to not seal any of the roads. He asked if the road is going to be sealed at Haldane because he is a volunteer firefighter at Tokanui and attends accidents in that area. Officers advised that the tidal section of the road is to be included in the sealing.

Mr Millard also advised that Catlins Road has lowered the number of tourists coming through Tokanui.

Joan Scarlett (submission number 46) addressed the meeting in support of her submission on the Beech Trees at Ivy Russell Reserve in Winton.

She advised that they shield the sun from her house and would like them lowered or removed. This would enable her to install solar heating in her home.

Mrs Scarlett advised that she has tried on numerous occasions to resolve the issue with Council Officers and Ward Councillors and has had no luck with an official response.

Mrs Scarlett further advised that the reserve is a lovely space being a native reserve. She suggested that there be information boards which tell the story of the trees/shrub names and the history of Winton. There are also interesting spaces for the younger members of the Winton community to explore.

(Handout attached to the minutes as appendix 1.)

Janice Templeton (submission number 51) addressed the meeting in support of her submission on the Regional heritage rate.

She advised that she supported the Regional Heritage rate option 1 of a rate increase of \$5 (incl GST) as long as the funds are still allocated to the small museums as in the past and not a larger portion going to the Southland Museum.

She also advised that it is timely that Southland District Council gave focus on their part of the delivery of museum services in Southland and that all of Southland needs to support all museums in the District.

Leanne Shaw (submission number 80) did not appear before the meeting in support of her submission on the Catlins Road and Regional Heritage rate.

Brian McCandless (submission number 112) addressed the meeting in support of his submission on the Around the Mountains Cycle Trail and Te Anau Wastewater project.

Mr McCandless advised that he had no opinion on the sealing of the Catlins Road or the Heritage rate, however he is concerned that Council has an appetite for high risk projects and that there is a need for more transparency, accountability and communication on controversial projects.

Rex Cockburn (submission number 159) did not appear before the meeting in support of his submission on the Cycle Trail and Te Anau Wastewater project.

Allan Youldon (submission number 185) addressed the meeting in support of his submission on the Around the Mountains Cycle Trail, Sealing of the Catlins Road and the Regional heritage rate.

Mr Youldon advised that he is convinced that the Around the Mountains Cycle Trail has had very little research on the probable use and/or advantage of the cycleway. It starts from nowhere and ends on a lakeshore which are hardly main tourist destinations or locations with easy access or egress for cyclists.

He also advised that no further money should be spent on the construction or continuation of the Around the Mountain Cycle Trail.

Mr Youldon is not in favour of sealing the Catlins Road. He believes that Council spends a sizeable amount of rates on roading throughout the District and that roads sealed are now reverting to unsealed as they are cheaper to maintain.

Mr Youldon advised that the increase in the Regional Heritage Rate should be in accordance with the 10 year plan.

Ray Willett (submission number 231) addressed the meeting in support of his submission on the Around the Mountains Cycle Trail, Catlins Road and Regional Heritage rate.

Mr Willet advised the he supports option 1 to fund the sealing of the Catlins Road including the Slope Point Road to the first carpark and the road leading to the first carpark leading to the Waipapa Point lighthouse. He also supports option 1 of the rates increase of \$5 incl GST to the Regional Heritage rate.

Mr Willet also advised that he had concerns over the “Chaos” at Milford Sound and he believes that it is busier now than it was 40years ago.

(Handout attached to the minutes as appendix 3.)

Ricklon Corry (submission number 140) did not appear before the meeting in support of his submission on the Catlins Road and Regional heritage rate.

(The meeting adjourned at 11.24am and reconvened at 12.00pm. All members of Council were present when the meeting reconvened.)

(The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.00pm and reconvened at 1.02pm. All members of Council were present when the meeting reconvened.)

Bronwyn Grant and Shelley Lithgow representing Gore Kids Hub Charitable Trust (submission number 173) addressed the meeting in support of their submission on the Grant Request.

They advised that the Gore Kids Hub had applied through the Annual Plan process for a grant to assist with the funds for the provision of a specialist playground. They also advised that they would also be applying to the Gore District Council as part of their Annual Plan process.

(Handout attached to the minutes as appendix 4.)

Brian Mason (submission number 174) addressed the meeting in support of his submission on the Edendale Community Centre.

Mr Mason advised that consultation with the community has not been good on the proposal for a new Edendale Community Centre.

He believes that the reasons for putting the Community Centre at the Rugby Grounds is faulty because Edendale is expanding towards Wyndham and there are better sites closer to the community for a new facility.

Mr Mason also believes that the proposal to spend up to \$850,000 is not sustainable for a town of approximately 475 people.

Janet Horrell (submission number 217) addressed the meeting in support of her submission on the Haast Hollyford Road.

Mrs Horrell advised that the Haast Hollyford Road should be a high priority item for the Council to achieve in the next five years. She also suggested that a survey be included in the rates demands to enable the Council to get a feel for how Southlanders feel about the issue.

Mrs Horrell also added that if the road was built then other things would happen like bringing money in the region and would make a superb Southland.

Justine Parker (submission number 119) addressed the meeting in support of her submission on the Catlins Road.

Mrs Parker advised that she supports option 1 of sealing the Catlins Road. She is a resident in the area and that she sees a lot of accident victims. She believes that 90% of the accidents are caused by people driving too fast on the loose gravel road.

Mrs Parker requested that the road be sealed and widened and asked that the high crash zones are sealed first. She felt that sealing shouldn't just be for the tourists but also for the residents of the 19 farms in the area.

She also advised that she spends a lot of time with people who have had accidents and also the wear and tear on the locals vehicles is high due to the condition of the road.

Mrs Parker also asked for another toilet at Weirs Beach and also a toilet at Slope Point as she has people coming to her house looking for a toilet to use.

Wendy Holder (submission number 210) addressed the meeting in support of her submission on the Catlins Road and the Organisational Restructure.

Mrs Holder advised that she is supportive of option 3 of not sealing any of the roads in the Catlins area. She believes that the sealing of the Catlins road is going to directly benefit the commercial (tourism) and industrial (roading and gravel) sectors and yet there is a decrease in roading rates for these areas. She also advised that the non-dairy sector has had no increase in road usage and dairy minimal since the last rates set yet both sectors are carrying a huge increase.

Mrs Holder advised that the road she lives on is in a state of consistent disrepair. It is a high usage road as a means of a shortcut and has potholes and ruts in it.

Mrs Holder also advised that she objects to the increase in expenditure on employee expenses. She commented that a restructure of an organisation usually takes place to reduce costs not increase.

She also commented that Southland District and Environment Southland should amalgamate and become a Unitary Authority and that would enable some better efficiencies with resource consenting.

Chief Executive – Steve Ruru, Group Manager, Community and Futures - Rex Capil and Management Accountant – Susan McNamara representing the Southland District Council Staff (submission number 218) addressed the meeting in support of their submission on the Various issues.

They addressed the meeting in support of the following:

- Additional funding for the Community and Futures Project
- Additional funding for expenses for the 2016/2019 Triennial Elections
- Adjust the 2015/2016 projects and include into the 2016/2017 Annual Plan
- Noting an update on project funding for the Te Anau Wastewater Consent
- Noting the receipt of Venture Southland forecasted financial statements for 2016/2017 and consolidate its share into the Annual Plan

(The meeting adjourned at 2.24pm and reconvened at 2.34pm. All members of Council were present when the meeting reconvened.)

Riverton Aparima Community Board (submission number 220) did not appear before the meeting in support of their submission on the Havelock Street Kerb and Channel project.

Dave Wilson representing The Roothing Company Ltd. (submission number 228) addressed the meeting in support of their submission on the Catlins Road and general roading.

Mr Wilson advised that the Company supported option 1 to fund the sealing of the Catlins Road from Haldane to Curio Bay. He believes that the sealing will be of benefit to Southland tourism and should have been done earlier when funding was offered.

Mr Wilson commented that the Council needs to review the amount of renewal sealing that it is doing each year.

Mr Wilson encouraged Council to get the job done as it is going to take some time to complete.

Wendy Baker (submission number 227) addressed the meeting in support of her submission on the Around the Mountains Cycle Train, Maitara Islands War memorial, Roads, Signage, Submission, Sealing of Mersey Street in Fortrose, Dog Control, Customer Service, Stock Control and Immigrants.

Miss Baker praised Council for the easy to read and clear Draft Annual Plan consultation document, dog control and work to stop erosion at Fortrose. She advised the meeting that she supports the Catlins Road sealing and also Mersey Road in Fortrose.

Miss Baker suggested a number of issues for Council. These included

- a no rates increase as there has already been too much of ratepayer money spent on the Cycle Trail
- regular maintenance of the Maitara Island War Memorial,
- more roadside grass mowing especially at intersections and around District Council signage
- letters of reply to submitters more relevant to submissions with comments

- regarding issues raised during the oral submission process
- reporting and education and infringements regarding dog control
- compassion for complaints
- more education around importance of checking fencing/gates and stock getting onto properties and the road
- preparation of a welcome pack to new people in Southland to give to new ratepayers.

(Hand-out attached as appendix 5 to the minutes.)

(The meeting adjourned for afternoon tea at 3.05pm and reconvened at 3.27pm. Councillor Douglas was not present when the meeting reconvened.)

Rachel Cooman representing CCS Disability Action (submission number 230) addressed the meeting in support of the submission on the Disability Services and Curio Bay.

She reinforced the comments in the submission for the provision of accessible facilities at Curio Bay and asks that the Council have the plans for the redevelopment reviewed by a Barrier Free auditor and the Disabled Community. This would ensure that the facilities are accessible when built rather than having to do a retrofit later.

Ms Cooman also reinforced her submission that the inability to access facilities in the community can lead to isolation meaning that people are often unable to carry out activities of maintaining or gaining employment, shopping, attending community functions or medical appointments. This can be an issue locally or in main centres. There are many factors that can contribute to the problem because of the quality of footpaths, steep kerbs, inaccessible carparks, access ramps or accessible toilets. These factors often influence a decision to leave a community. She also commented that many of the barriers can be addressed by the Council by ensuring that planned maintenance and new facilities comply with various Standards.

During the submission from Rachel Cooman, Councillor Douglas returned to the meeting at 3.29pm.)

Christine Henderson (submission number 229) addressed the meeting in support of their submission on the Catlins Road, Regional Heritage rate and Lumsden Heritage buildings.

She advised that she was in support of option 1 to seal the Catlins Road because the road is an important tourist highway. She would like to Council to apply to the Minister of Tourism for some funding for the sealing from the Tourism budget.

Mrs Henderson advised that she supports option 1 of the Regional Heritage Rate proposal. She suggested that various items in museum storage could be used in displays in vacant shops in Invercargill which would create interesting displays.

She also advised that there was a lack of public consultation on the Four Square buildings in Lumsden. She suggested that Council set up a working group to find creative ways for public input, funding and adaptive reuse of public and privately owned heritage buildings.

(Hand-out attached as appendix 6 to the minutes.)

Allan Marshall representing Tokanui School Board of Trustees (submission number 196) did not appear before the meeting in support of their submission on the Catlins Road.

Resolution

Moved Mayor Tong, seconded Deputy Mayor Duffy **and resolved:**

That the Council:

- a) **Receives the report titled “Schedule of Oral Submitters for Draft Annual Plan 2016/2017” dated 30 March 2016.**
- b) **Receives the public submissions received on the Annual Plan including the eleven late submissions.**
- c) **Receives the informal feedback from Facebook as information.**
- d) **Thanks the Submitters for their attendance.**

The meeting concluded at 4.03pm.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT
RECORD AT A MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 7 APRIL 2016.

DATE:.....

CHAIRPERSON:.....

APPENDIX 1

SUBMISSION TO SOUTHLAND DISTRICT PLAN 2016:

It's not by choice that I am standing here to speak about my neighbours trees, as I have tried on four assassins to get a resolve on this issue by contacting SDC staff, and Ward members. However no official response has been given, only their personal reasons why trees cannot be removed or lowered in a reserve, along side, with promises of "I will get back to you".

BACKGROUND OF IVY RUSSELL RESERVE:

The reserve was bought by the then Winton Borough Council in early 1980's as it was the last stand of white pines in the area. It was rejuvenated with plantings of thousands of native trees by community volunteers.

To celebrate the achievements of the late Ivy Russell who was the first woman Town Clerk in New Zealand in 1919, and who held that position for 35 years, is to whom the reserve is named after. I am not too sure if she held that position in Winton or not, as the Heritage Trail board entering the reserve doesn't state this, however if she and I dare say she did, the reserve is rightly named.

TODAYS STATE OF THE RESERVE:

There is approximately 6 huge magnificent white pine trees left in the reserve with the closest one about 35 metres from the boundary of any houses. Most of the intensive planting, in lower type native shrubbery, was made forward of the existing white pines along the Eastern length of the reserve with the exception of one spot. Here there is a clump of four tall birch trees, 4 metres from the neighbours boundary, with one now grown to about 60ft in height, with the branches reaching to their boundary. These birch trees are the trees in question which have huge branches at ground level and in future will extend further upwards and outwards.

Only one half the neighbouring properties down the Eastern side of the reserve, are effected by plantings as they are protected by a stream, a walkway and with no planting of tall birch trees. The other half down the Eastern side the plantings are next to only three properties.

On my observation of the reserve, there is much work to be undertaken to protect the reserve plantings from being overgrown by various creepers and weeds. I would think naming the reserve Ivy Russell didn't mean that ivy should be allowed to grow out of control, it should be protected as a native reserve.

FUTURE USE AND DEVELOPMENT:

On the positive side 2/3 of the reserve is a lovely space, the area being a native reserve, as native reserves should be. But it could be a total magical place for the community to be drawn too, in particular for the very young as an educational and a fascination for young minds in an enchanted way.

SUGGESTIONS:

- > Apart from the negative and very tired notices to the entrance of the reserve, about no smoking, dogs on leashes, and persons found removing or damaging trees in this area, will be prosecuted by order of the Winton Borough Council, which are all essential, however could it not be more inviting if the notices also informed people that the reserve 1). told the story of trees/shrubs names and history of Winton and the mediate areas.
- > 2). Also the reserve contains magical places and spaces for children to explore. (Todays modern town centres require community entertainment. - it is a place where people want to live, work and play, a place to call home). There would be no better place to start, than in this reserve.

APPENDIX 1

How would this be achieved without increase rates take:

- Community voluntary involvement (Friends of the reserve) clearing invasive weeds and general maintenance, new track adventures
- Schools involvement - research trees information, design new signs and if possible make new signs

GETTING BACK TO MAIN REASON OF MY SUBMISSION:

I have contacted my neighbour who is also effected by these birch trees but theirs is a summer issue, losing the sun from their decking all to early.

AND YES, to the comments all ready made to me, by Council staff and Ward Members,

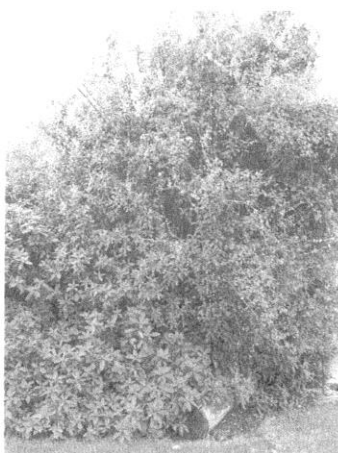
- "you knew the trees and reserve where there when you bought the property", (18 months previously), was partly correct, however how was I to know they were going to be an issue at that time, I didn't buy the property during the winter and at that particular time of day and wasn't aware when and where the sun went down.
- "if we did it for one person we would have to do it for others" (these trees height are the only ones in question that effect me and my neighbour). One other neighbour has issues with trees growing over her property of which one includes an oak tree. She was also told by the real estate person on buying her property that the reserve trees would not be allowed to come within 2 metres of her boundary. I am unsure if this is the case.
- "there are big trees on private properties next to the park" (this is not the case)
- "its a reserve don't think there will be approval to remove trees". (The trees in question are juvenile trees and not part of the original reserve and it should have been challenged prior to planting in the first place because of their height on maturity and planted so close to residential properties.

My gripe is with these clump of birch trees is that they block the sun from my home at 2.20pm in the winter due to their height and the lower winter sun. These trees restrict any future, consideration I may give to solo power in my home.

I am requesting that consideration be given, to either lower the trees or chop them out altogether. Any gaps by removal will quickly be replaced by other native seedlings already growing under the trees or they will come naturally. I have evidence of this happening on my property as I am constantly pulling out native seedlings.

I appeal to this Council as being a good neighbour to come to the right decision and hold steadfast in your motto 'people first'.

APPENDIX 1



Street Frontage to Ivy Russell Reserve - Winton



Entrance to Ivy Russell Reserve - Hillary Street



Walking Bridge over stream with missing top rail

Ivy overtaking undergrowth



APPENDIX 1



APPENDIX 1



Birch trees approximately 60 feet in height, blocking Winter sun from property in Hillary Street at 2.20pm - photo taken in front of dwelling, trees 16 metre away



View from under the trees with its huge branches protruding to the light on the West side

APPENDIX 1

Higher branches over hanging neighbours
property



APPENDIX 2

Kia ora good afternoon Your Worship, Councillors, and Staff.

I am Allan Youldon and live in Manapouri, and I thank you for the opportunity to make representation to you today on the 2016 SDC Draft Annual Plan.

I would firstly like to comment on the Around the Mountain Cycle Trail.
I know of no business case which has been made as to any potential projected benefit or return to the District for this Cycle Trail.

I am convinced that from the outset this project has had very little research as to the probable use and/or advantage of such a cycle way. That is starting from nowhere in particular and ending on a lakeshore. Hardly main tourist destinations or locations with easy access or egress by cyclists.

It appears the road is preferable and easier to ride than the cycle track that has been constructed so far. This is borne out by cyclists I have seen preferring to ride on the Kingston to Lumsden highway alongside of the cycle track. It is probably easier to ride on a hard surface when the bike is loaded with all luggage and often camping gear.

Can anyone tell me the following:- A projected return on the investment or its cost effectiveness? A probable projected total capital cost, and the annual maintenance costs of the entire project? Where the finance for these are coming from? I think such information should be made available to Southland ratepayers before any further work commences.

It is my belief that no further rate payer dollar, or other funding agency dollar, should be used to construct any continuation of the Around the Mountain Cycle Trail. I believe that any further monies spent on this project, wherever it comes from, could be better spent in other areas of Southland. I would strongly advocate that the Cycle Trail be stopped now before any more money is wasted, or until alternative means for its construction can be found.

As in the past, people who have broken the law and are suitably able, could be used for projects like this, if it could be arranged safely.

I turn now to the Sealing of The Catlins Road.

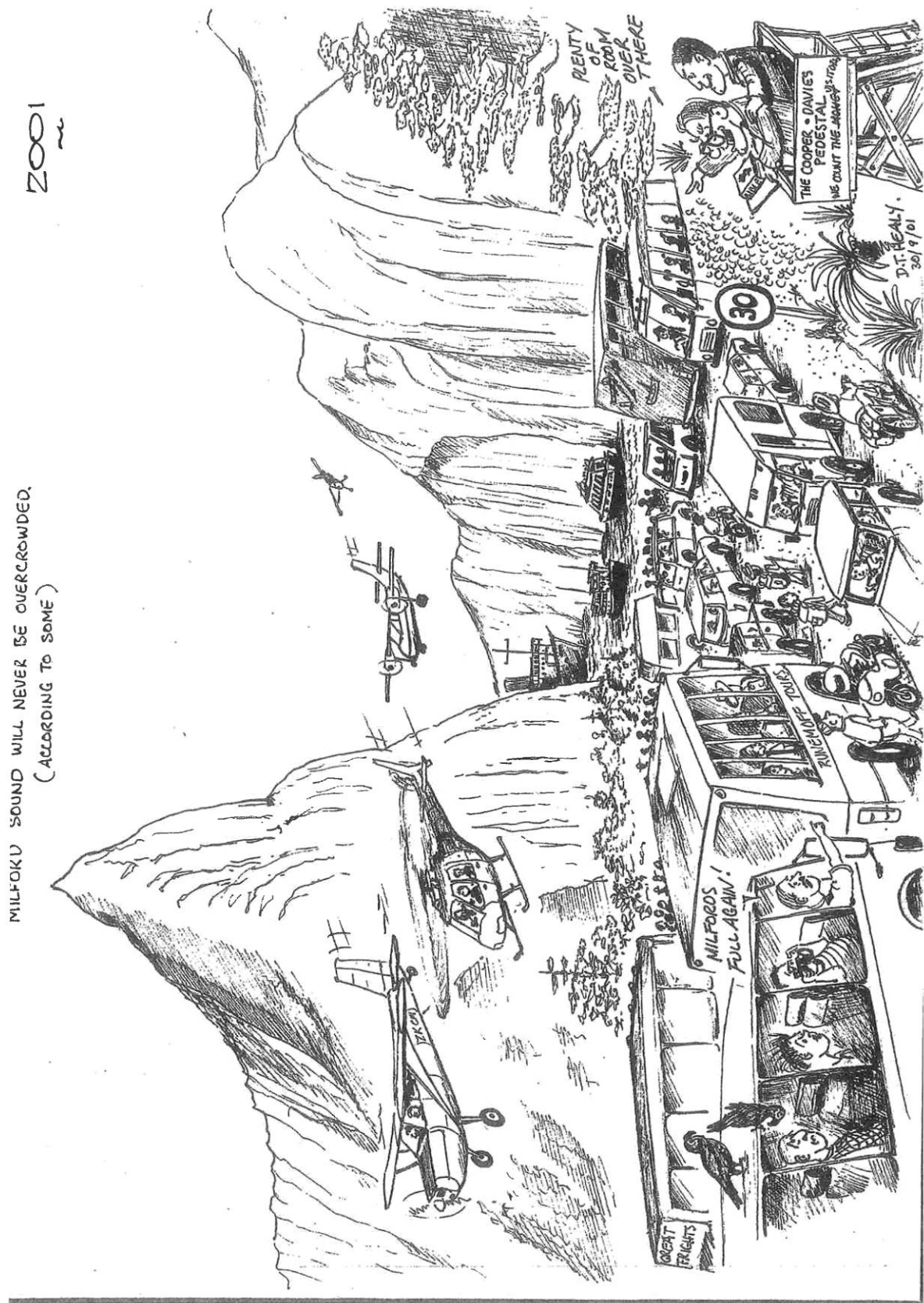
As I mentioned in my submission I am not in favour of Sealing the Catlins Road. A sizable amount of our rates is spent on roading throughout Southland. I believe the Council has been considered letting roads that are sealed now, revert to unsealed as they are cheaper to maintain. This being the case, it doesn't seem logical to me to even consider sealing more roads funded by the Southland ratepayer.

Regarding the Regional Heritage Rate.

As mentioned in my submission, I believe any rate increase above that of National Inflation should be closely scrutinised, and Councils throughout the country need to do more for less. With that in mind, I do not believe the Heritage Rate should increase above the \$0.84. This I believe will give a budget of \$538,000 for the year.

I will try to answer any questions you may have.

APPENDIX 3



Fiordland Advocate

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JANUARY 2016

LOCAL NEWS

Feedback sought on annual plan

The Southland District Council will release its draft Annual Plan for consultation tomorrow.

The 2016/2017 Annual Plan sets out the significant changes for the upcoming year, and includes a 3.3 percent rates increase.

Increased funding is proposed for completion of the Catlins road from Haldane to Curio Bay, and an increase in the regional heritage rate is suggested for research and cataloguing projects.

A raft of new or increased fees is proposed to reflect the changing costs of resource management, liquor licensing, and food safety regulations. Most charges under the Resource Management Act are at least doubling under the draft plan.

The draft document states that while the council's expected deficit has been reduced from \$894,000 to \$239,000, the recent changes to council staffing had increased annual expenditure by \$307,000.

Milford travellers urged to allow time

By Brendan McBryde

Volunteers and infrastructure in Milford are being greatly stressed by the number of vehicles parking in the town.

As daily vehicle numbers travelling through to Milford exceed 1000 over the peak summer season, stakeholders are encouraging visitors to allow more time to reach the Milford boat terminal.

Department of Conservation ranger Ken Bradley said this was the second season in which extra personnel were stationed in Milford to ease congestion.

"I've got volunteers in Milford that are doing the parking in the morning, and it's really busy between about 8am and 12pm."

Many visitors to

could take almost another hour to comfortably reach the terminal, Mr Bradley said.

"They vent their anger at our [parking volunteers]."

Extra capacity at a new car park for 90 vehicles had not stopped people from having to park in inventive places, he said.

"Some days we had all the car parks full, the new overflow car park full, and still 100 cars parked on the side of the road."

It was a 15-minute walk from the overflow car park to the terminal, a



The original car park at Milford, packed to near-capacity on a typical day in the resort.

distance that for some visitors was a first, Mr Bradley said. Utilising the transfer coach between the park and terminal wouldn't necessarily speed things up either.

For all the local people who hosted and interacted with tourists, it would be very helpful for this time guideline to become the norm, Mr Bradley said.

"If they have to get out to the new overflow car park to do the park

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APPENDIX 4



The Trust has the following funds available thus far for the building of the Public Playground (refer handout flip side) – Total Cost of Playground \$362,925.41

- Total Paid for Playground for overseas equipment currently made and stored in Christchurch \$54,458.25
- Sponsorship in the bank from local businesses and organisations secured in 2015 - \$32,679
- Sponsorship secured in 2016 – Transpower Community Care Fund - \$25,000
- Fundraising in 2016 – SIT Cottage \$7,000 (March), Trail Bike Ride (10th April) - \$2500, Mud Run – (30th May) - \$2500, Chelsea Winter – (26th June) - \$5000, Buy A Brick Rerun (ongoing this year) - \$12,000, Tendering Road Name (unable to estimate). Potential Fundraising estimate to date - \$29,000

Total remaining to find - \$221,788.16

In Summary:

- We would like the SDC to make provision in your annual plan for a contribution to the public playground in light of the fact that many people from the Southland District will utilise this facility.
- We need your assistance financially because we still have a considerable amount of money to raise and whatever contribution you make reduces the fundraising required.
- Southland District residents will benefit because of the quality of the facility and its proximity to the Gore Multisport Complex increasing utilisation and because it is a large service town which many of them travel too at least once a week and can access this facility at the same time.

APPENDIX 4



APPENDIX 5

Waimisley House
88 Mary Street
Invercargill
10-3-16

phone (03) 217-6122.



Presbyterian Support
Southland

To Whom It May Concern.

Re Wendy Joy Baker

Wendy has been volunteering her time to come in and visit and read her poems to our residents, for over a year now. Our residents find her poems really interesting, as they are unique, easy to understand and relevant topics eg flag, Anzac etc. Wendy comes in each Anzac and reads her poems. As our residents are unable to attend Anzac services, they really appreciate her time & effort. Wendy is like a breath of fresh air & her bubbly personality is a treat for our elderly residents. She takes the time to chat and listen and because she has travelled, she has many interesting stories. Wendy brought in some of her wearable arts and fashion outfits and did a fashion parade. Residents wore her Mexican hat and had photos taken. Residents loved it. Great fun and lots of laughter. We look forward to her visits.

Cheryl Moffat
(Activity Coordinator)
Waimisley House.

Presbyterian Support
18/183 Spey Street, PO Box 314, Invercargill 9840
Telephone: 03 217 4200 Fax: 03 217 4989
Email: enquiries@ps.org.nz
Visit our website: www.ps.org.nz

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE IN SOUTHLAND



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

22nd March 2016

Dear Mrs Baker,

The Queen wishes me to write and thank you for your card, photograph and the assorted poems which you have composed over the last few years.

Her Majesty was pleased to hear that you enjoyed her Christmas broadcast, and The Queen greatly appreciates the sentiments you have expressed in your various poems commemorating special occasions.

I am to thank you very much for your card and the message of good wishes you have sent to Her Majesty and The Royal Family.

Yours sincerely,



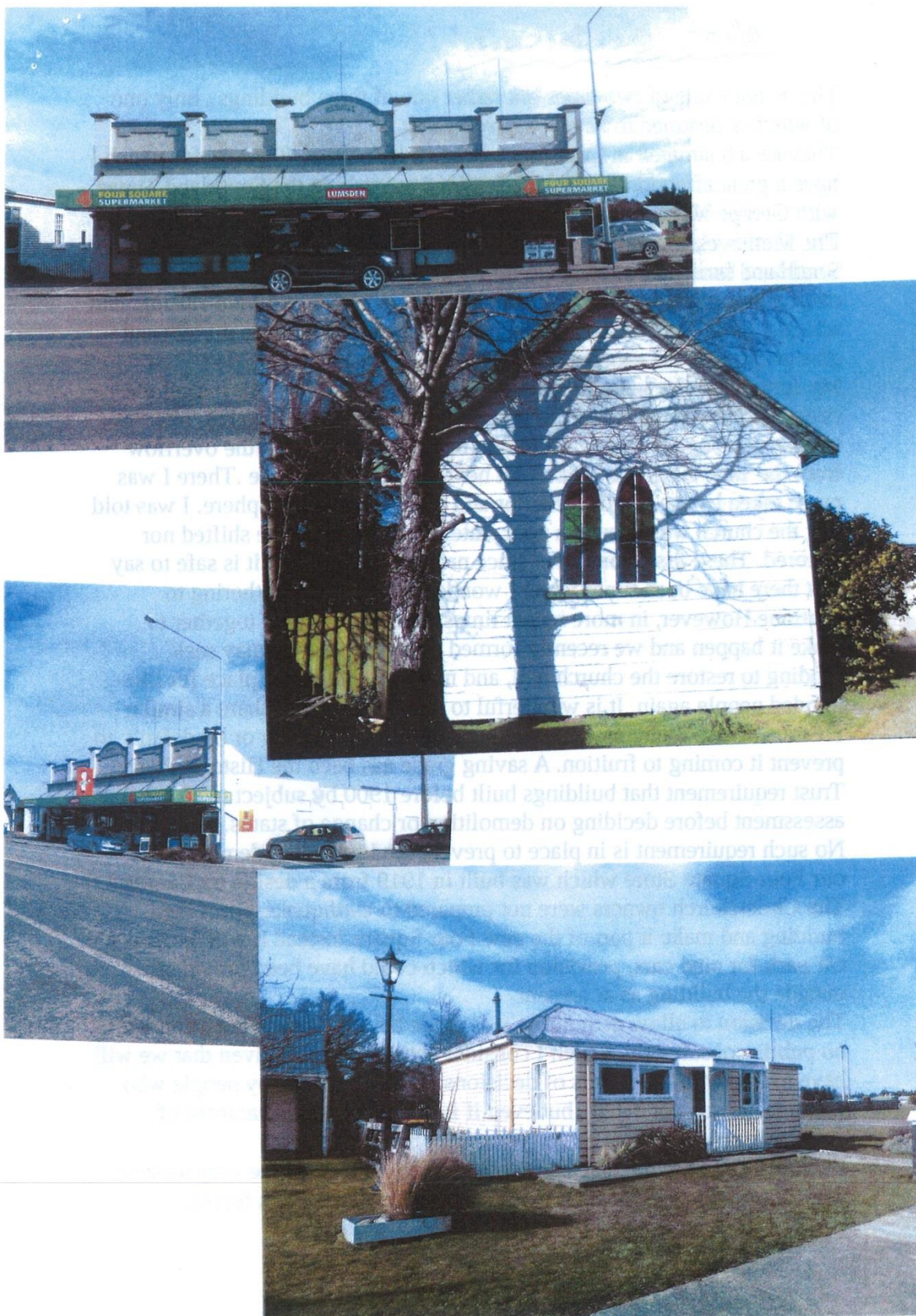
Lady-in-Waiting

Miss W J Baker

Royal letter 2016

Reference 2016

APPENDIX 6



APPENDIX 6

What the Dickens !?!

This is not a tale of two cities but rather one of three buildings , only one of which is destined to have a happy ending.

They are all situated in Lumsden, my town for almost 40 years, for which I have a great affection, and which featured recently in the Southland Times with George Menlove as our smiling ambassador.

The Menloves, along with the Sopers and other well-known early Northern Southland families had much to do with the building of the Anglican church hall, completed in 1898 after much hard work and fund-raising, and which a small band of intrepid enthusiasts is now striving to protect and give purpose to for another 100 years.

My first encounter with the interior of the church hall was as part of the congregation paying respect to one of the matriarchs of the area, over twenty years ago. So many wanted to be at her funeral that the overflow from the 'new' Anglican church sat next door in the 'old' one. There I was much taken by the original interior and the peaceful atmosphere. I was told that the church was in such a poor state that it could not be shifted nor restored. These assertions have since proved baseless, but it is safe to say that there have been times when I wondered why I was bothering to continue. However, in more recent times others have come together to make it happen and we recently formed a trust so that we may seek funding to restore the church hall, and make it a gathering place for like-minded people again. It is wonderful to know that others share a similar dream when so many seem determined, either deliberately or by default, to prevent it coming to fruition. A saving grace has been the Historic Places Trust requirement that buildings built before 1900 be subject to an assessment before deciding on demolition or change of status.

No such requirement is in place to prevent the impending demolition of our Four Square Store which was built in 1919 from a design by Lambeth. The Christchurch owners were not prepared to earthquake-proof the building and make it part of the new Four Square. Instead it will become a car park for nine cars, provision for which could have been provided outside the building as at present.

The decision to allow demolition was made by the Council last year, with no public consultation, which I consider anti-democratic given that we will have to live with the results of decisions made elsewhere by people who will not. It was not listed, but even if it was there is no guarantee of automatic protection.

I would like to see the date shifted from 1900 to 1930 at the very least so that Historic Places Trust has some say in a later building's future.

Lastly, not only do we lose yet another heritage building, we also lose an important 'anchor building' in the main street, all by default.

One of the daunting factors for any heritage building owner is the up-front cost of earth-quake proofing. I would like the Southland Councils to set up a fund(along the lines of the one for replacing solid fuel heaters with wood-burners) so that parapet, verandah and chimney concerns can be addressed, followed by cock'sfoot removal from spouting and more general strengthening as required. The account would be paid now, and the owner would repay it over time as a form of 'painless extraction'.Painting of the building in heritage colours could be rewarded by a rates rebate or incorporated in the account. Demolition by neglect has no place in a civilised society, whether it's the Kingston Flyer or any of our world-class heritage buildings or streetscapes in Invercargill and Southland. It is thrilling to note that the Richardson Group are taking the initiative and looking at adaptive reuse and repainting of the cluster of Tay Street buildings recently aquired. Their efforts will hopefully inspire others to follow suit, and we only have to look at Dunedin's success in bringing new life to heritage buildings to see the potential we have for doing the same.

The last Lumsden building I have in mind is a very humble cottage sited on the main street which not long ago was our small, but perfectly formed Art Gallery, and latterly a rented home.

Unfortunately it is owned, along with a number of the buildings in the town, by Dr Philips. I would have no quarrel with his owning the buildings if he refurbished them to on-sell. The former Mayfly cafe on the main street was refurbished very well but is still a rental. Others have had very basic improvements ,if any, with the main focus ,it seems to me, return on investment through rents. He is shortly to demolish the cottage without offering it for sale, again limiting the options for other interested parties.

Like landscapes, the merits of heritage buildings are in the eye of the beholder. If you love a particular landscape then whether or not its deemed to have particular values by an expert is not the point. A designation of 'outstanding' may happily reinforce your response to it, but is not necessary for your continued appreciation. What is necessary is that it remain, intact and in good condition. We need some way of protecting places that are important to us, formally and informally, so that we may have an opportunity to be involved in the future of our part of the world.

APPENDIX 6

So too, we need a way to protect not only individual buildings but also streetscapes (vistas, as well as entire landscapes which form a coherent whole), and we can clearly not leave it to 'market forces' to take up this task.

With the disestablishment of Historic Places Trust provincial committees by the present Government we have lost local involvement in supporting and protecting our special built heritage. Yes, we have the Trooper's Memorial Trust which has been very successful in restoring and giving new life to Category one and other significant buildings, and we have a Committee supported by Environment Southland which assists with loans to individuals for particular projects, but there is still a vacuum which citizen advocacy could fill, with support from local councils and other interested groups.

Interestingly, adaptive reuse of heritage buildings is also a low-carbon alternative to the new concrete constructions, so beloved of the Minister of 'Old Dungers' as he forges a new Christchurch in his likeness.

Perhaps the Heritage Forum could facilitate a meeting of minds to consider possibilities for the future of our beautiful historic buildings, through a melding of creativity and commerce.

On reflection, the link with Charles Dickens is closer than I first realised. The people who have come in and out of our lives as we involved ourselves with the protection of the old Anglican Church Hall would have their counterparts in many of his characters, as well as in any modern 'soap'!

I would like to gratefully acknowledge the formal and informal support of our efforts by Mick Hesslin, Russell Beck, Jonathon Howard, the team at Venture Southland, District Council employees, and by some in our Lumsden Community.

A knowledge of our history will be a source of strength and inspiration as we head into an uncertain future. We must not be content with retaining a few of our heritage buildings-such tangible and enduring links to our past. We must remember Oliver's immortal words...'Please Sir, I want more'.

On behalf of Jenny, Gillian and Tim...who also have 'Great Expectations'!