

STAFF REPORT

TO: Motueka Community Board
FROM: Service Centres Manager
REFERENCE: E859
DATE: 12 August 2006
SUBJECT: August 2006 Report

FROM LAST MEETING

Rabbit Problems

I have discussed the matter of rabbit nuisance with Council's Bio-Security Officer Graham Strickett. His advice was that the number of rabbits at the sawdust site seemed low and that scratchings were more likely evidence of birds. He suggested that selective eradication, using an authorised person, would be the best option and I believe Mr Cooke has been discussing this. In addition Graham (and DOC staff) consider that any seedlings be provided with protective sleeves to prevent damage by rabbits and other animals.

Other Issues

Rates Rebates

The Government's newly revised rates rebates scheme has created a significant interest from ratepayers. Service Centre staff have had excellent in-house training from our Richmond Rating gurus.

I have also raised what appears to be some anomalies with Damien O'Connor's office and these have been referred back through to the Minister of Local Government, the Hon Mark Burton.

Motueka staff also attended a meeting on 1 August at 10.00 am held at the Motueka Electoral Office and which included representatives from WINZ, IRD and Grey Power.

Whilst the intention of the scheme is good the apparent anomalies need to get cleared up so that we can help our customers as much as possible to get the right information. Also, the work related to receiving the applications will have a significant impact on Service Centre and Customer Services Staff and in particular the Corporate Services Staff who have to process the applications.

Further information and a calculator that helps you to determine what rebate you may be entitled to is on this web site www.ratesrebates.govt.nz.

Business Cards

It has occurred to me that Board members may have the need for TDC business cards from time to time. The Chairperson has confirmed that he needs a business card. To avoid any wastage would those Board members who want to have a business card, please let me know and also the details they want on their cards. I would suggest that the Motueka Office number is used but that after-hours home and mobile numbers are provided. I am attaching a copy of the business card style in the info pack. Note, any changes would mean a change to the templates and that would be a cost that would have to be borne by the Board.

Stormwater Problems

Following the last Community Board meeting further discussion with Council's Utilities Asset Manager Jeff Cuthbertson and the Chairperson have resulted in the recommendation to undertake a complete re-grading of the retention area such that it would be functionally drier than at present and this could enable the area to have more opportunities for use as a reserve and would remove the problems with the current design.

Recent heavy rains have caused some localised surface ponding and I have been liaising with Jeff and our resident MWH engineer, Eric Newport, on ways to mitigate areas where such problems occur.

Recommendation:

That the Service Centres Manager's report for August 2006 be received.

Bob Askew
Service Centres Manager