

## **HEARINGS PANEL FOR SUBMISSIONS ON THE CEMETERIES MASTER PLAN AND BYLAW/ HANDBOOK**

**Minutes of a meeting held in Committee Room 1, Civic Offices  
on Wednesday 27 March 2013 at 9am.**

**Present:** Councillor Aaron Keown (Chairperson)  
Councillors Peter Beck, Sally Buck, Barry Corbett and  
Yani Johanson.

**In Attendance:** Eric Banks, Sally Miller, John Revell, Russel Wedge and  
Rachael Brown (Committee Adviser).

### **1. HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS**

29 Submitters were heard as detailed in the agenda.

### **2. CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS**

In addition, there were 69 unheard written submissions.

The panel **agreed** to receive all the written and verbal submissions.

### **3. HEARINGS PANEL CONSIDERATION**

The panel identified key issues from the submissions and requested further advice from staff on each of the following:

1. extending/changing the hours for interment
2. including a vision/value statement for cemeteries at the start of the handbook
3. pre-purchase or allocation of several adjacent graves by families and/or groups of people
4. the development of a memorial wall for people lost at sea in or around the Lyttelton or Diamond Harbour areas
5. organising a meeting between staff and the Friends of Linwood Cemetery Group
6. delaying the re-zoning of the Linwood cemetery to an historic cemetery
7. how to engage with and enable community groups who want to volunteer in cemeteries, including a meeting to be set up with all interested groups
8. how to retain the status quo in term of local/ community management of Okains Bay Cemetery
9. the allocation of sites for specific ethnic and/or religious groups and the opportunities and risks of such an approach

*It was noted that the Council needs to be permissive rather than prescriptive and provide information regarding the different ways that this could be achieved*

10. The Iwi Management Plan also needs to be appropriately referenced in these documents now it is complete.
11. on-site meeting to be arranged between staff and the owners of the land surrounding the Pigeon Bay Cemetery to work through concerns
12. rewording regarding the removal of decorations from graves (p.24 of the Handbook)
13. consider how information can best be provided to the public with regards to cemeteries
14. height of new headstones
15. clarify Council policy regarding on-site interpretation panels
16. include the Anglican Diocese as a resource
17. for eco-burials the recording of GPS co-ordinates is preferred to leaving a GPS marker
18. reconsider the placement bollards at Avonhead cemetery
19. reference the timing and costs for each cemetery on the plans for individual cemeteries
20. consider how unused sites set aside for “White Russians” can be made available to others.

It was noted that further information on these issues would be provided at the next meetings of the Hearings Panel on 4 and 9 April.

The meeting closed at 5pm.