

Te Pātaka o Rākaihautū Banks Peninsula Community Board MINUTES ATTACHMENTS

Lyttelton Community Boardroom,

Monday 1 February 2021

10am

Date: Time:

Venue:

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Jessie Buckland, Akaroa Post Office opening 1915, collection Akaroa Museum

Submission to the Banks Peninsula Community Board - February 1, 2021 Reduction in Facilities and Level of Service Provided to Akaroa and Peninsula Ratepayers

Victoria Andrews, Ratepayer and Harry Stronach, President Akaroa Ratepayers & Residents Association





Our written submission contains details relating to the acquisition of the Post Office building in 1993 through a government Tourist Faciality Grant to the BP District Council

The Service Centre building was on the Council list for earthquake repair

However in 2015 the property team removed it from the list as being surplus to Council requirements with the intent that it be sold because the Service Centre was to be relocated in the lobby of the Akaroa Museum

The council was required to consult residents regarding the permanent location of the Akaroa Service Centre in July 2015

93% of ratepayers surveyed stated they wanted the Service Centre reinstated in the historic Post Office building which was repaired at a cost of \$984,407







Liz Carter, Geoff Carter and Wendy Graham moved back into the Akaroa Service Centre following its repair in 2017/18

• two part time staff assisted as required; opening hours were 9am-5pm Mon-Fri

Following the closure of the Service Centre to the public on January 5 2021

- staffing now consists of one full time position
- however, the workload and responsibility have not decreased



Akaroa Area School and Community Library

> Selwyn Avenue





At the moment visitor numbers are low due to the closure of NZ's borders

start to increase in the next 18-24 months

These photos show the use of the Library during peak times

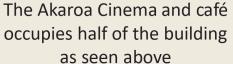




The entrance and interior of the Library have been retrofitted with new furniture and desk

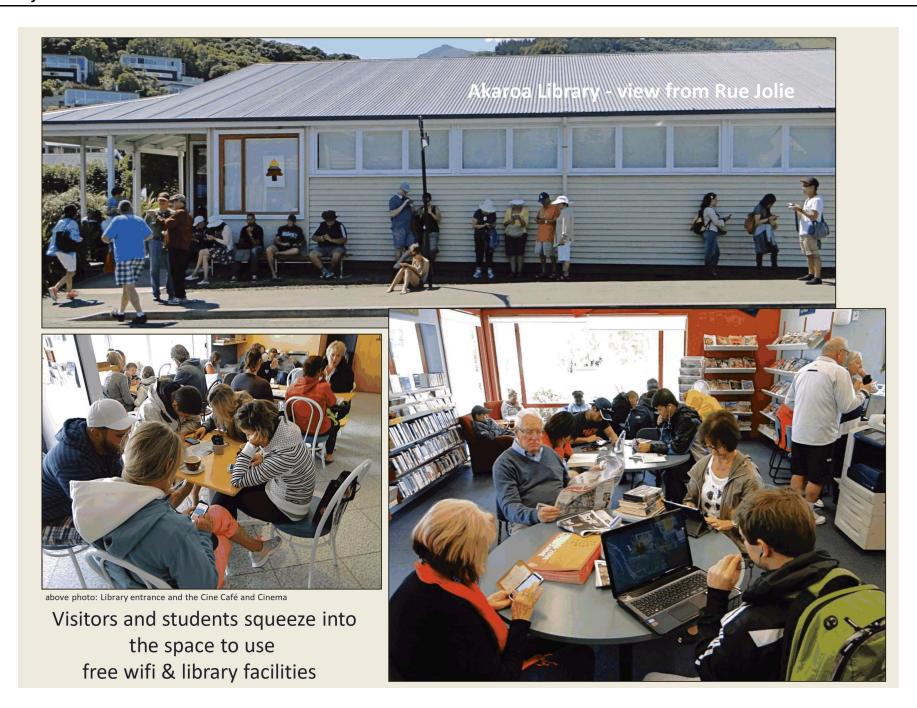
but the square footage remains the same as before

The Akaroa Library cannot be compared to "citizen hubs" such as Beckenham and Halswell which were designed to accommodate Service Centre/Library Facility/Citizen Hubs

















Akaroa Service Centre January 2021

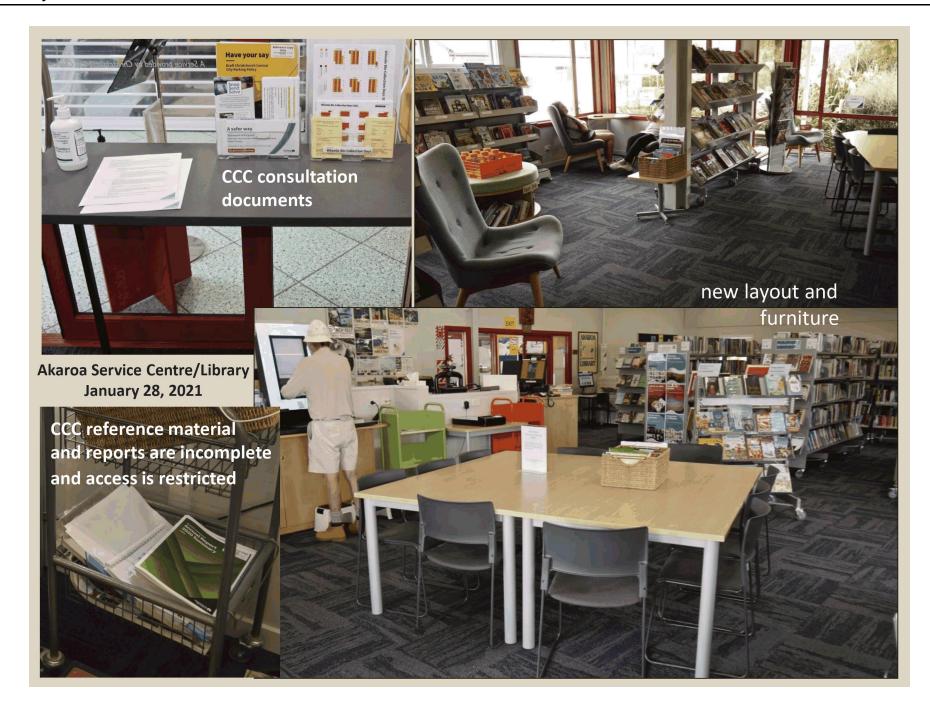


The Akaroa Service Centre and Area School and Community Library is located in the white portion of the above building



Librarians use the computer on the right for all Service Centre 'transactions'







Akaroa Community & School Library

- The Akaroa Community and School Library was not included in the Draft Community Facilities Net Work Plan 2020, however, it must now also function as a CCC Service Centre
- Service Centre hours have been reduced by 60% hours are currently:

Mon to Tue 10am to 4.30pm Wed 10am to 1.30pm Thur to Fri 10am to 4.30pm

- Librarians are not adequately trained or experienced in answering technical questions and general council queries
- The impact of moving the Service Centre into the Akaroa Area School and Community Library was not given due consideration especially with regard to students who must use the facility.
- The move has lowered the level of service and activities provided by both the Service Centre and the Akaroa Area School and Community Library
- CCC consultation documents, reference material and records are limited and not readily available in the new Service Centre/Library location
- The Service Centre/Library does not have virtual meeting technology or anything similar, Victoria requested the use of the meeting room technology today but was told to use her home computer and wifi instead



The Closure of the Historic Post Office Building to the Public

- The decision is not due to the COVID-19 budgetary shortfall because
- The Council attempted to abandon the historic PO Building by relocating the Service Centre into the Akaroa Museum in 2015
- The Post Office is a listed building in the District Plan so public consultation was required
- CCC consultation carried out in 2015 verified that 93% of respondents wanted the Service
 Centre retained in the Post Office Building so
- The Council invested \$984,407 to repair the Post Office Building as the permanent location of the Service Centre facility

Therefore

- Closing the Service Centre located in the historic 1914/15 Post Office building is directly contrary to public consultation carried out by the Council in 2015
- The Council did not discuss, consult or provide evidence or alternatives as required by the Local Government Act prior to making this decision
- No person or community group was consulted about the Service Centre closure and relocation
- The BP Community Board was not consulted
- The move is contrary to the BP Community Board Plan 2020-2021 and Council policies



Banks Peninsula Community Board

The Role of Board, as stated in the BP Community Board Plan 2020-2022

- Represent and advocate for the interests of its community
- Consider and report on all matters referred to it by the council, or any matter of interest
- Maintain an overview of council services in the community
- Prepare an annual submission to the council for expenditure within the community
- Communicate with community organisations and special interest groups

Our view is

- 1. The Council has usurped the role and authority of the BP Community Board making it effectively redundant
- 2. Important decisions have been made by non elected representatives without the knowledge or input of the BP Community Board or public consultation
- 3. Example: the closure of the Akaroa Service Centre to the public, the relocation of the facility and the reduction of opening hours and services
- 4. The Community Board must take the lead in carefully considering the Post Office building's use with regard to ratepayers requirements, aspirations, and the fabric of the historic township for the future wellbeing of the community, outer bays and visitors
- 5. The Council must ensure the same level of service is provided to Peninsula residents as that in the City



In Conclusion

- The Council has ignored or overlooked consultation stating that 93% of ratepayers surveyed in 2015 wanted the Akaroa Service Centre reinstated in the historic 1914-15 Building.
- In our view the Council has little, if any, regard for consultation and the views of ratepayers.
- The Council could have sought public consultation through the LTP process but chose not to do so.
- Activity in Akaroa will increase as international visitors start to return ratepayers need proper strategic planning rather than knee-jerk decisions and cost cutting exercises
- The Council should take a long term view with regard to community wellbeing and satisfy any budgetary shortfall by eliminating superfluous projects, promotions and events, not core services.
- The Council should support Akaroa township and the ratepayers in creating a strong economic base, so that the community and outer bays can build a long term sustainable and resilient future.
- We submit that the Akaroa Service Centre return to the historic Post Office Building with adequate staff to ensure the same level of service as that provided to other ratepayers in Christchurch.



From: victoria andrews < v.andrews121@gmail.com >

Sent: Thursday, January 28, 2021 3:55 PM

To: Turner, Andrew; Peden, Tori; Fields, Tyrone; Harrison, Nigel; Stewart, Jamie; Davidson, Reuben; Needham,

Howard; Winter, Scott Cc: Harry Stronach

Subject: Akaroa: reduction in the level of local knowledge and service

[cid:BF97ED90-E044-42F0-8161-466CBFD7D935@home]

CCC request for service: empty freedom camping bin for brochures, January, 18 2021

Dear Community Board Representatives,

I emailed a request for service to CCC on January 18 asking that the empty bins for freedom camping brochures be restocked since they have been empty for more than 6 weeks over the busy holiday period. I received a work number which I promptly deleted because there is rarely an actual response or result.

I spoke to the AmourGuard freedom camping warden a few days ago at the recreation ground area. She told me that she had freedom camping brochures in her car but no one had told her to fill the empty bins so they have remained empty.

I happened to ask Geoff Carter who was at the new Service Centre Akaroa Area School and Community Library this morning about the situation since no one has done anything. Geoff's response was they he had kept the bins filled with freedom camping brochures that remain in boxes over at the old Post Office building.

Since Geoff is now retired is he still expected to keep freedom camping brochures restocked around the town?

This is a prime example of what happens when decisions are made in Christchurch without any degree of consultation about how things actually get done. How can a librarian with little or no training be expected to answer a question such 'who replaces freedom camping brochures around Akaroa and why are the empty'?

If I were to make a phone call to CCC to ask the same question, no one would be able to provide an adequate answer

Local knowledge is invaluable and Christchurch City Council has wiped the slate clean without a second thought.

Closing the Service Centre building and not training staff in terms of extensive local knowledge will prove to present ongoing problems for both ratepayers and contractors in the area.

The Council is of the view that the level of service to ratepayers will remain the same in Akaroa and the outer bays.

I beg to differ.

Regards, Victoria



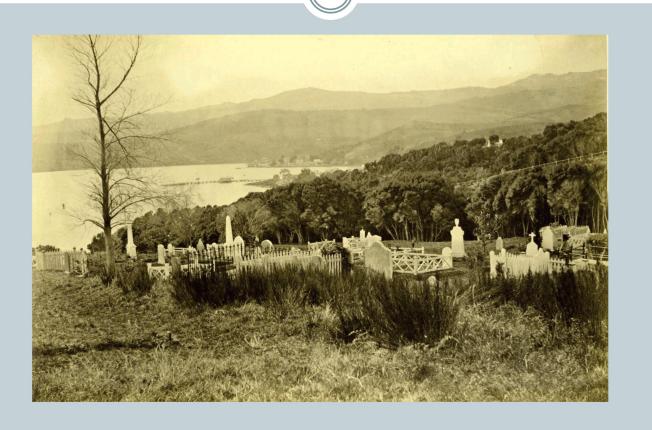
Akaroa Cemeteries Improvement Project

Comte de Paris Descendants Group The Akaroa Cemeteries Group





<u>Anglican Cemetery – early days</u> <u>Courtesy Akaroa Museum.</u>





Why are these Cemeteries Important

- Some of the earliest cemeteries in Canterbury and the South Island.
- Those buried here created, built and developed the fabric of European society on BP. the 1st formal European settlement in the South Island.
- There are many stories and much history relevant to BP, Canterbury and NZ/Aotearoa eminating from these graves.
- The headstones give a trove of information valued by researchers and families.



- They are the final "long resting place" of our early European pioneers and important visiting spaces for their families and descendants.
- Those buried here made our history. They are worthy of respect and acknowledgement.
- They are truly a 'visitor attraction'.



Main Concerns/Proposals

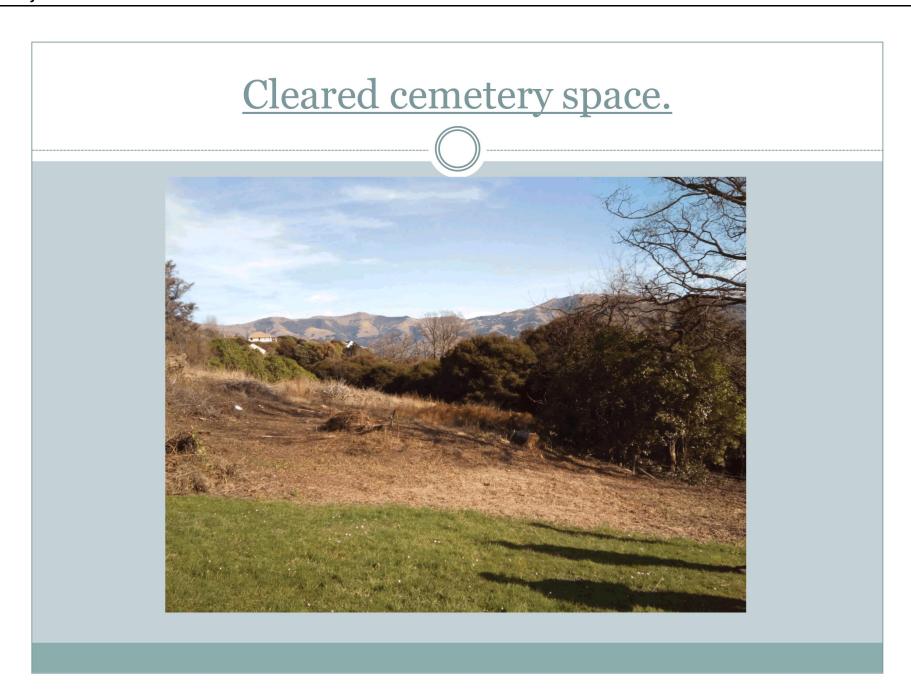
- Earthquake damaged headstones
- Memorial Entrance/ Lychgate offered by Descendants 2015
- Trees growing on heritage graves several requests for removal.
- Lack of planned cemetery space community and pandemic needs.
 - Spare cemetery land cleared by volunteers.
- Hazardous path in the Dissenters Cemetery



Damaged Headstones.









Timeline

- 2010 Wrote to Mayor to ask to work together to restore earthquake damaged headstones.
- 2013 Promised 11-13 headstones for restoration
- 2015 Spoke to Council staff regarding a proposed Memorial Entrance (paid for and organised by Descendants) offered immediate assistance with Consents. Plan handed over.
- 2016 Memorial Entrance Plans handed over again

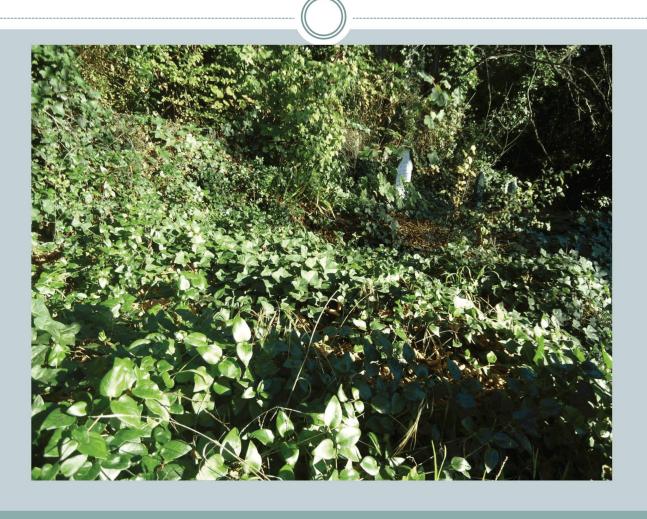


ctd

- 2017 Met with Council staff no further progress.
 2018
 - -Presentation to BP Community Board
 - -Presentation to CCC Long-term plan
 - -Plans submitted again by Structural Engineer
 - -Public meeting in Akaroa Akaroa Cemeteries group formed- main concern lack of burial space.
 - -Working bees commenced





















180 Year Anniversary Weekend.

- Acknowledging 180 Years since the arrival of the French and German settlers.
- Reason history of BP to be shared widely and enjoyed by all.
- A community and family weekend.
- Programme included the unveiling of Memorial Entrance and settler Headstones in programme – now in doubt.



What We Have Done (since 2010)

- Fundraised for the Memorial Entrance
- Connected families as requested by Council headstone restorations.
- Recorded and documented at Council request approx. 40 heritage headstones.
- Worked with Council staff to create the Interpretation Panels.
- Several working bees to improve maintenance with Council staff.



- Cleared spare cemetery land future use of the community and families.
- Advocated for families trees on graves, broken headstones, burial and ashes space,
- Liaison between Council and families/descendants/community.



Hopes for the '180'

- Memorial Entrance built to unveil at '180'
 - originally intended for 175th anniversary.
 - Council staff fully aware of this time line
- Six headstones ready for '180'— unveiling ceremonies prepared. Approved by Council 2018.
- Trees removed from family graves.
- Spare land approved for the community's use.
- Safe path in the Dissenter's Cemetery



In Summary

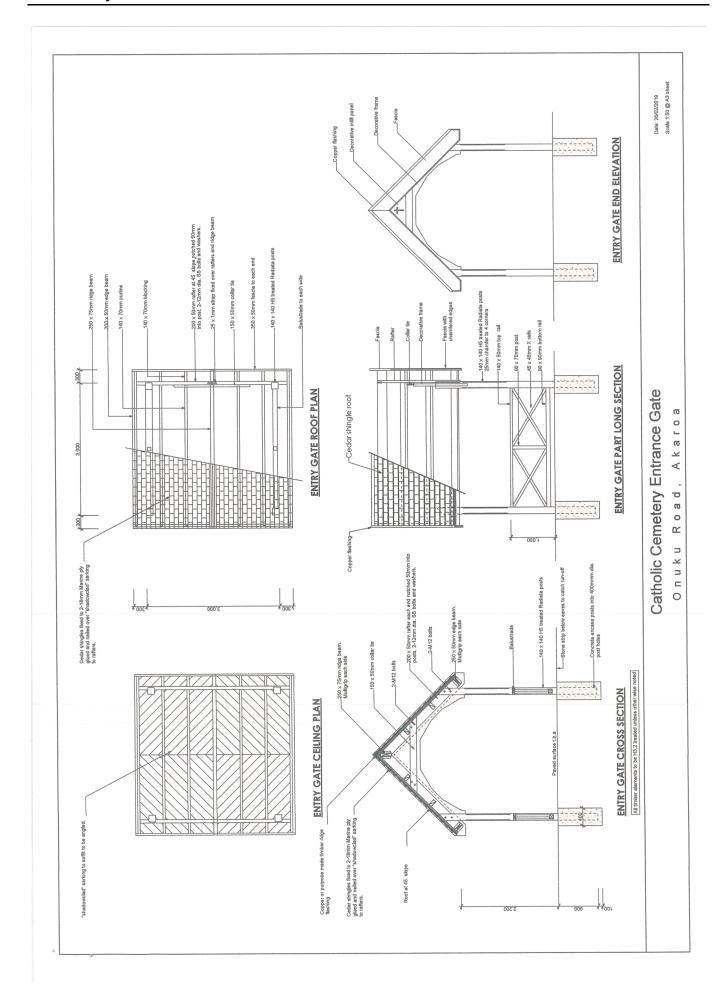
- We wish to show the descendants/families and the community that our efforts are achieving something.
- The Community Board has given us written support in the past. Can you please continue this support.
- Thank you.



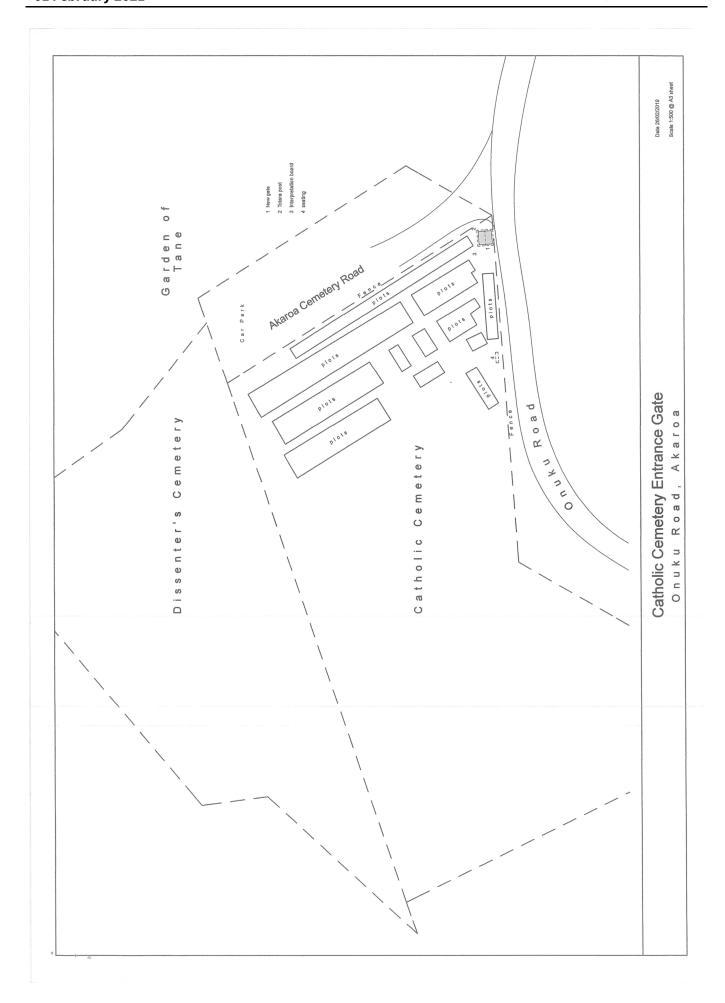
Supported By

- Akaroa community
- Families and Descendants
- Akaroa Churches/ Catholic Diocese
- Banks Peninsula Community Board
- Several Council staff
- French Embassy for the Memorial Entrance
- Heritage NZ

















180 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

(held in Akaroa)

For more information:

- facebook.com/groups/comtedeparis
- cdpdesendants@gmail.com
- Linda 0274 100 921 or Bruce 021 156 2805

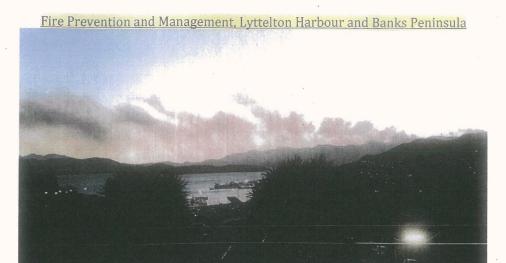


A community & family event - all welcome!

KEEPING THE STORIES OF THE EARLY EUROPEAN SETTLERS ALIVE



<u>Deputation to BP Community Board</u> <u>February 1 2021, 10 am</u>



Background

Last year The Christchurch City Council declared a climate emergency, and to some extent it has begun to act on it, particularly in the creating of cycleways. However, mitigation against some of the consequences of climate change now require urgent action. Mitigation includes such things as plans for managed coastal retreat, and even more urgently plans and actions to reduce the threat of fire.

As average temperatures rise, and the east coast further experiences dry and drought, wildfires present a mounting threat. The huge Port Hills fires of 2017 demonstrated this well, and it is highly significant that in the last 6 weeks we have experienced eight fires in the Port Hills. The word "unprecedented" seems overused for a very good reason, and these fires can only be managed as well as the fire services can cope, and then if they are not stretched to breaking point.

Problems with Fire Management

1. Existing Plantations

Right around the harbour basin are significant plantings of exotics, and in particular very flammable pines and eucalypts. Some of these stands border settlements, leaving them very vulnerable to fire. Eucalypts are known to explode when burning, and we know from previous fires what a problem pines are.



Many of these forests are unmanaged, allowing layers of needles and other detritus lying on the forest floor., such as dry dead branches, admittedly difficult to manage. The eucalypt stand bordering Urumau Reserve has a lot of still standing dead trees in its midst, further potentially exacerbating fire.

These trees were planted to prevent erosion and rock fall, and, while they have largely achieved this, they are not ideal for the purpose, being shallow rooting.

A lot of highly flammable trees and other plants exist on council reserves, and in particular the coastal reserve from Magazine Bay to Pony Point. Maintenance is at a minimum there.

2. Land Ownership

Where some of the plantations are on Council land, some are on Port Company land, some under the stewardship of DoC and some are in private ownership. The fire and emergency recommendations (see attached) do not make any mention of planting for fire safety purposes.

It is likely that there are plans afoot to plant further stands of exotics in the Banks Peninsula area, in order to gain carbon credits without any regard for the fire risks involved.

3. LACK OF FIRE STRATEGIES

In 2017, during the Port Hills Fires, there were problems with which agencies were responsible for the overall firefighting plan. This led to the stalling of what should have been immediate action. No we have one agency responsible, FENZ.

FENZ seems not to have fire management plan in place for Lyttelton, and neighbouring areas, and it is urgent that such a plan is developed before we have a major disaster.

An over all fire prevention strategy needs to apply to all land holders, whether private or public.

Agencies who could be consulted with a view strategy developemtn could iinclude CCC, ECan, DoC, Fire Brigades (both professional and voluntary), land owners and resident associations.

4. Power Lines

The recent Cass/Corsair Bay fire was said to have been caused by power lines running through a privately owned pine forest, and high winds causing them to bash against the trees. It is inconceivable that this should be allowed to happen., but this was the second time in two years. Orion originally asked the permission of the land owner to put the trees through the forest, and it seems odd that this was permitted. Orion is



supposed to maintain the lines and the easement below, but clearly this does not happen. Why not?

WHAT SHOULD THE COUNCIL DO?

1. Plantations both public and private

- a. Manage Council reserves so that flammable exotics are replaced with more fire resistant natives, and control grassed areas and forest floor as much as possible to keep it free from flammable detritus.
- b. Identify significant assets that require greater fire protection.
- c. Collaborate with Central Government, ECan and DoC to produce laws to ensure better management of private land to mitigate fire risk. This should include the gradual replacement of pine and eucalyptus forests with more fire-resistant natives, particularly those which border settlements such as Lyttelton. While this has to be implemented slowly so as to avoid further erosion, it is urgent that this should be done now, along with forest management and the removal of all standing dead trees.
 - As the major owners of the Lyttelton Port Company, the Council can pressure them to look after their land and forests to reduce fire risk.
- d. Work towards ensuring that no further permits are issued for the planting of flammable exotics on any land, whether private or public.

2. Fire Management Planning

All relevant agencies need to collaborate to establish fire a coherent fire management plan for Lyttelton and other areas of Banks Peninsula. At present there seems to be no management plan for Lyttelton which is astonishing.

3. Power Lines

What are the penalties for those who fail to trim trees away from power lines?

Why are there power lines going through a forest behind Cass Bay? How often do Orion in spect the lines and trim trees? Who knows who has responsibility for what?

Although Orion is largely autonomous, it is still owned by the Council, and as such, the Council could be pressuring them to manage their lines better, as well as the private land owner. When a fire broke out elsewhere in Lyttelton around 20 years ago, the Council response was to bury the lines. While this solution was not ideal, at least some action was taken. However, prevention is better than cure, and the lines situation needs urgent attention.



Conclusiion

The problem of fires is not going to disappear. Increasing dry, high winds and soaring temperatures, along with poor planning, human error and arson will ensure that the fires continue. This is climate disruption. It is the job of governments, both local and central and government agencies to combine to help ensure that our future is as fire free as possible. Otherwise it is only a matter of time before places like Lyttelton go up in smoke. This could be somewhat embarrassing if it were to coincide with the anticipated 2021 yacht race.

I urge the Community Board to pressure the Christchurch City Council to act urgently on this problem, and where the problems are not within the Council's jurisdiction, for them to work with Central Government and other bodies to create the sort of legislation that will allow for rapid action. This could mean changes to the RMA which is currently under review.

Governments, both local and central have declared a climate emergency, and fire prevention and management needs to be part of their response.

Juliet Neill

With support of The Lyttelton Community Association And the Cass Bay Residents' Association

Al Park, Resident Charyl Lucas, Resident



5, Cass Bay Place

Cass Bay

Lyttelton

31.1.2021

Dear Tori and Community Board Members,

The Cass Bay community is very concerned about the current danger of wild fires, especially after the fire that started last week in our area. This is the second time in the last few years that this has happened, where a spark from power lines, caused by tree branches, in high Nor'wester winds has ignited grass. (Apparently there was a third incident where the spark did not catch alight). The close proximity of pines to the power line means that branches are highly likely to break off or to cause sparks by touching it. A neighbouring land owner says that Orien only uses this as a back up line and so it is not in constant use but it is ridiculous that it used during high winds. Putting the power line underground and cutting the pines down much further from them would help resolve the situation. If nothing is done soon this is a disaster similar to the "Port Hills Fires" waiting to happen.

Our community is very grateful to the Fire department, and local volunteers, for the fantastic job they did in fighting the fire and bringing it under control so quickly. The talk they organised in Lyttelton last year was excellent and very informative. They have also followed up with a leaflet drop in Cass Bay about fire resilience and how to protect your property.

We have been told that Christchurch City Council has no fire management plan and DOC has no fire risk management plan. We would like the Banks Peninsula Community Board to put pressure on the Council to resolve this. The Peninsula has specific dangers relating to its terrain and inaccessibility in some areas, as well as large areas of open land. These are quite different and more extreme than the dangers of fire in the urban Christchurch City centre. We request that Tori ask Civil Defence to develop a broad-spectrum approach to fire risk specific to our needs and co-ordinate with the other organisations involved.

Unfortunately, climate change is going to make the problems with drought and extreme weather conditions an increasing problem. It would be better to do all we can to be prepared than to react when it becomes a crisis.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Healey

Chairperson, Cass Bay Residents Association.



COMMUNITY BOARD 1 FEBRUARY 2021

In support of Juliet Neill's deputation

In September 2010, the Darfield earthquake caused much damage but no deaths. We took comfort when told it was a 1-in-100 year event.

Five months later, the Christchurch earthquake killed 185 people, but was deemed unlikely to recur as it was considered to be a 1-in-1000 year event.

I have no statistical evidence, but it is the impression of many of us that extremes of temperature and high winds are occurring more frequently as time goes on, regardless of what experts may tell us. This means that the probability of a strong wind and a high temperature occurring together is increasing.

That combination of natural forces is a recipe for disaster when it comes to fires, so we need to reduce the risk of fire as a matter of urgency.

In the previous century, I was a volunteer with Civil Defence. We routinely practised recovery procedures for earthquakes, tsunamis and pandemics. We also did exercises in risk reduction to mitigate the effect of these adverse events. Civil Defence does not have a responsibility for fire; this falls to Fire and Emergency NZ.

Three out of five of their key objectives relate to activity once a fire has started. It seems to me that a greater emphasis is required on fire prevention.

We are hoping that the Community Board shares our fears, and will encourage the responsible bodies to take risk reduction and fire prevention extremely seriously.

Before closing, I must commend the Lyttelton Fire Brigade for all its activities in keeping us safe. With its hands-on fire-fighting work, the Fire Brigade will have a much better idea than most of us about what constitutes a risk!

Ken Maynard Chair, Lyttelton Community Association



Memos Christchurch City Council

Memorandum

Date: 22 January 2021

From: Alicia Wright, Manager of Operational Process & Insights

Sarah Numan, Head of Citizen & Customer Services

Sara Templeton, Councillor

To: Andrew Turner, Councillor

Banks Peninsula Community Board

John Filsell, Head of Community Support, Governance & Partnerships

Carolyn Robertson, Head of Libraries & Information

Cc: Bruce Rendall, Head of Facilities, Property & Planning

Mary Richardson, General Manager Citizen & Community Penelope Goldstone, Community Governance Manager

Subject: Face to Face Customer Services - Akaroa - Further Information

Reference: 21/79995

1. Purpose of this Memo

1.1 The purpose of this memo is to provide advice regarding the matters raised in a letter sent by Victoria Andrews to the Sustainability & Community Resilience Committee dated 23 December 2020, and the joint letter sent by Victoria Andrews and Harry Stronach to the Banks Peninsula Community Board dated 18 January 2021.

2. Update

- 2.1 The decision on the proposed move of customer service functions for a trial period was brought forward due to a staff resignation. Due to the challenges of the remote location, and knowing of proposed changes to be included in the draft Long Term Plan regarding the future provision of service in Akaroa, the move of services to Akaroa Library on a trial basis was introduced as a way to minimise impact on the community.
- 2.2 As such Council undertook to inform customers of the move to the library and the continued availability of all these services through our other channels, such as online, email or telephone customer services available 24/7.
- 2.3 As there has been a seamless transition to the library with no interruption to the service offering, an approach of informing rather than consulting was taken.
- 2.4 All services will be offered, and delivered either directly at the library or in conjunction with our Customer Services team. In addition, customers are still able to call on 0800 800 169 and (03) 941 8999, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for all enquiries, and can contact us online at www.ccc.govt.nz
- 2.5 As this is a pilot we will be monitoring the ability for Akaroa Library to accommodate the visitor levels with the school as we have regular joint meetings and will keep the access to services core in our discussion.
- 2.6 We will also be monitoring the ongoing impact of summer visitors. It is anticipated that the number of those visitors who use the library will decline once children return to school in late January, and visitors wishing to access the wifi only will be directed to the outside benches, in the same way as we have managed cruise ship visitors in previous summers.

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Memos



- 2.7 Governance staff will continue to be located in the building. All of the usual meetings will continue to be held in the Board room in Akaroa e.g. Community Board, Akaroa Urban Design Panel.
- 2.8 Council still has uses for this building: the property strategy is "retention". Council is open to other uses and has proactively worked to attract these agencies as tenants. It remains open to any approaches from community, commercial or government organisations who wish to lease part of the space, and continues to accommodate Governance staff.

While not related to the move of customer service functions, Council is currently exploring the possibility of other Council staff using this facility.

Attachments / Ngā Tāpirihanga

There are no attachments to this report.

Signatories / Ngā Kaiwaitohu

Author	Alicia Wright - Manager Operational Analytics & Insights
Approved By	Sarah Numan - Head of Customer Services

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