

June 2009

Recycling glass

Laurie asked how the Council was getting rid of glass through recycling, with world prices dropping.

Waste Minimisation Officer Donna Peterson replied:

For the last decade there has been no value in recycling glass. The Council's recycling contractor has an arrangement with a local gravel company which crushes and mixes glass with gravels for use in roads. The world commodity market values are raising again and some product lines are back to their "normal" value. With respect to glass, in the last month companies have started asking about glass volumes and offering money for it.

The Mayor on Air

Iris rang to say she was concerned about the Mayor advertising for a gravel firm in Invercargill (Southland Sand and Gravel). She felt it was unfair to other businesses.

Mayor Tim Shadbolt replied:

The reason I agreed to do an advertisement for Southland Sand and Gravel was because Council's new roundabout and associated roadworks had cut off their usual entranceway. I was not paid.

Home insulation

Anita asked if home insulation programmes covered Housing New Zealand homes.

Community Development Manager Mary Napper replied:

The Southland Warm Homes insulation project does not specifically target landlords, including Housing New Zealand, as the Government has a separate programme available for landlords to apply to. Information on this can be obtained from the Southland programme on 0800 927 676. Housing NZ is working towards insulating all its homes and anyone in this accommodation should contact the local Housing NZ office.

Roads

(all road replies by Roading and Solid Waste Manager Tom Greenwood)

Queens Drive

Sandra asked if a pedestrian crossing on Queens Drive between Gala St and Herbert St had been considered.

Yes Council is looking how it can fit in a central hatched median along Queens Drive: this would permit a central refuge island for pedestrians to cross in a number of locations. It would also permit a right turn lane to enter the park and the provision of traffic signals at St Andrews St with a pedestrian phase. These are being looked at and then would be programmed, unfortunately it won't be straight away as funding for such schemes has to be obtained.

Scott Street

Dave said Scott St between Brown St and Tisbury Cnr has been tarsealed but there is a patch from Brown St to Chesney St where aggregate is lifting off the seal.

Thank you, Dave, for letting us know. Any necessary repairs will have to be undertaken in the spring as the weather warms up but we will arrange for any sweeping of loose chip in the meantime.

Clyde St

Rebecca said the road from Clyde Street, down Bluff Road down to Kew Road Corner, had been resealed but there are new bare patches coming through.

This is SH1 and the responsibility of the NZ Transport Agency. The problem will be passed on to the agency but I do believe it is aware of the issue already. Again, Spring will be the time for any repairs when the weather warms.

Street lighting

Rebecca was also concerned that street lighting where you come off from Elles Road on to Bluff Road was out in that area quite often.

The lighting problem will be followed up with PowerNet. It sounds like a switching problem: thank you for letting us know.

Building

(Replies by Building Regulation Services manager Simon Tonkin)

Inspections

Ian wanted to know why it took three or four days to have work inspected on a building job, from the time he rang to the time it was inspected.

The time frame for notifying Council for inspections should be noted by the designer at the building consent application stage and then Council has to agree to this time frame. No-one actually does this as the old rules were 24 hours notice of the need for an inspection and Council would endeavour to fit them in at the first available opportunity. Council strives to get work inspected when people want it but given the limited resources sometimes the timeframes go over what we and the public would consider reasonable. However it is always on our minds to attempt to get to a site when a person wants an inspection; unfortunately this is not always possible.

Dangerous Building policy

Kylie wanted to know how the Council implemented its Dangerous Building Policy. The building in Bluff that fell down the hill a few years ago still had tape around it, she said. When would the Dangerous Building Policy be enforced?

This was an interesting case: the owners pleaded with Council not to invoke the Dangerous Building Policy as the house in question was where their grandparents were

brought up and the owners wanted to rebuild the property. Safety fencing was erected and Council was satisfied that the area was reasonably safe. However, we understand that the property is actually now on the market therefore we will relook at the situation as the reasons that we agreed to are no longer valid. Each case is treated on its own merits and Council has demolished two buildings within the city over the last five years. Council does not take demolishing an owner's property lightly and we consider what the owner's reasons are for keeping a property in a less than desirable condition as well as public safety - with the emphasis on public safety first.

[Drainage](#)

Lena had two Glengarry shopping centre issues: new kerbing in front of shops had created an area which rain turned into ponds, and the stormwater drain at the rear of the shops was blocked.

Drainage Manager Malcolm Loan replied:

A new sump, programmed for installation in July/August will correct the pond problem.

On the

second issue, Bond Contracts inspected the site on June 11 and found the drain to be blocked with silt. This is a private drain-in-common with maintenance being the joint responsibility of the shop owners. Bond Contracts has arranged with the shop owners to clean it.

[Senior Citizens](#)

Laurie wanted to know at what age did people qualify to become senior citizens for booking tickets at the City Council booking office.

Manager of Corporate Services Stephen Ridden replied:

When a senior citizen ticket concession is made available for a show at the Civic Theatre the age restriction is normally set by the promoter. This might vary however, and can be at either 60 or 65 years of age. Should no age be advised then ticketing staff take the option of applying the lower age of 60 years, which we understand is the practice applied by other entertainment venues. It should be noted that a senior citizen concession is not always available.