

Keeping in touch 2009

The Talkback section of the Council's website is where Council managers respond to questions raised on Cue Television's City Talkback show. Replies will be posted here after Council staff make the relevant inspections and report back.



The February callers and their questions:

Graffiti

Maurice asked what he should do about graffiti on the side of his business premises.

Reply by Paul Horner, Building Assets Manager:

"Several different paint solvents are available at paint, hardware and cleaning supplies shops which will remove the graffiti. Mr McLeod may have to trial one or more before finding one that will dissolve the paint which has been used on his premises. The texture of the surface the graffiti is applied to will also have an effect: concrete or roughcast surfaces have pores and indentations and will need a brush to push the solvent into the indentations to dissolve the paint. Dissolved paint can then be removed with rags or by washing with a hose or water blaster.

Removal by solvents will work best on smooth and hard surfaces like Coloursteel, bare metals and glass. Rough and porous surfaces like concrete, rough-sawn timber and water-based paints will not clean completely and will leave a "ghost" of the graffiti image. The only way to completely remove this will be by repainting after cleaning.

The Invercargill City Council, if requested by private property owners, will engage a contractor to remove graffiti. This service is free of charge and removes graffiti by cleaning with solvents but not by repainting. The service is paid for by rates."

Diesel and oil removal

Ray asked how much it cost ratepayers to remove the diesel and oil spilled on roads by boy racers.

Reply by Tom Greenwood, Roading and Solid Waste Manager:

Based on recent clean-ups it can cost up to \$600 each and we have about two to three a month, so over a year up to \$20,000 could be spent on treating such activity. The cost depends on the size of the diesel or oil spill.

Roading

Bell asked why lights could not be installed at the intersection of Racecourse Road and Tay Street. Irene asked why were there so many speed bumps on Islington Street between Mary Street and Lindisfarne Street.

Replies by Tom Greenwood, Roding and Solid Waste Manager:

To Bell: "This is SH1 and the responsibility of the NZ Transport Agency. A roundabout or signals option is currently being assessed."

To Irene: "Traffic calming has been introduced on Islington St to discourage its use as a through route and reduce traffic speed by motorists avoiding the signals at Tay and Lindisfarne streets."

Queens Park

Jack rang to ask if Queens Park is open to traffic on any occasions. He said we have a beautiful park and a lot of elderly people, either with cars, or in rest homes that have vans. It would be great if the park could be opened to traffic on a Sunday so that they could drive through.

Reply by Robin Pagan, Parks manager:

"Limited access to Queens Park is available for public vehicles on Wednesdays from 1pm to 4pm via the Feldwick gates. This is for people with limited mobility. Rest homes currently have access by arrangement: contact the Parks office on 219 9070."

Recycling

Neil asked if it is an offence to put green waste in wheelie bins. Why doesn't the Council extend it to make it an offence to put recyclables in wheelie bins? And why not reward those who put out their bins more often? John rang to say the sooner Invercargill got a system like Queenstown's the better.

Reply by Tom Greenwood, Roding and Solid Waste Manager

"It is against Council bylaws to dispose of Green Waste in the household wheelie bin service. The service provided is for domestic waste resulting from household activity only so items from the garden or building waste etc are not permitted to be disposed of by the wheelie bin. The Council is encouraging people to be proactive about recycling by providing a service to assist them to look after their environment. The recycle crates provide additional space for disposal as well as reducing costs to ratepayers as waste disposed of in the wheelie bin has costs associated with transport to the landfill and a disposal charge at the landfill. From July 1 this year a \$10 per tonne levy is to be introduced by the Government on all waste to landfill as an additional charge – so all round it makes environmental and economical sense to recycle. The Council is looking at the practicalities and affordability of a three-bin system for the city along with our Southland and Gore District neighbours. If all goes well it is planned to introduce the service in 2010."