

Keeping in touch 2009

The March callers and their questions:

Mayor's visit to India for SIT

Iris asked for a follow-up on the Mayor's visit to India for SIT.

Comment by Mayor Tim Shadbolt:

"It was a very successful student recruitment campaign. Overseas students are vitally important for the success of the Southern Institute of Technology so that it continues its famous 'Zero Fee' Scheme."

LTCCP

Alan Swallow asked why the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) took so long to produce and cost so much money. He had spoken to other Councils who said theirs had not cost that much. (Councillor Norman Elder had said it had cost \$1 million since the LTCCP commenced.)

Reply by Pamela Gare, ICC Corporate Planner:

"The Council needs to develop an LTCCP every three years. After our qualified audit the Council decided to address the issues identified for the next LTCCP which will be adopted for consultation on March 24 2009.

It aims to have an unqualified audit on the Draft that goes out for consultation.

Cr Elder's estimate of \$1 million probably includes the cost of undertaking the levels of service surveys and developing/reviewing/peer reviewing Asset Management Plans and Activity Plans for Council activities. Also the cost associated with reviewing policies and development of the financial reporting computer system. (In my opinion these activities are good practice and that is probably how other councils view these costs.)"

Youth work

Saskia of the YMCA thanked the Council for its work with young people to make them feel included, especially with the Youth Council.

Comment by Mary Napper, ICC Community Development Manager:

"The Council is working hard on several youth development projects and values the opinions and energy of our Youth Council members. the 2009 Youth Council includes 25 students from city schools."

Toilets

Richard said the Glengarry toilets were rough and very untidy. Could the Council instal an automatic toilet there?

Reply by Paul Horner, ICC Building Assets Manager

"The public toilet at Glengarry, situated behind the bus shelter, is quite old and in poor condition. Council has planned to replace this with an Exeloo automated toilet in this financial year. The location of the new toilet is currently being investigated. When the new toilet is in operation the existing toilet will be removed."

Park wedding

Colin said that a day or two before a wedding booked at the Jessie Calder Garden, the lawn had been mowed wet without a catcher, leaving the grass in unsightly clumps. It had ruined the bridesmaid's shoes.

Reply by ICC Parks Manager Robin Pagan:

The booking fee charged was for use of the Reserve for the event but did not include any any fee for additional work to be carried out above normal maintenance of the area. Council only uses catchers on mowers in a very small percentage of the areas such as the Rose Garden in the Jessie Calder Gardens. All other areas are mown without catchers as the cost to carry this work out would be very expensive and an additional charge on rates. Colin chose to use the non-catcher area of Jessie Calder.

Gutters

Doug asked why gutters in Oreti Street were not cleaned out. Grass was growing in them.

Reply by Tom Greenwood, the Council's Roading and Solid Waste Manager :

Oreti St has now been checked for sweeping and weed killing. It was last swept on March 6 and the autumn spray in the city is currently underway. Our contractor reports that the north half of the city has been completed and the southern half is now being undertaken.