

Minutes of a meeting of QLDC's Infrastructure Committee held in the Council Chambers, 10 Gorge Road on Thursday, 23 February 2023 commencing at 1.00pm.

Present

Councillor Gavin Bartlett (Chair); Councillor Lyal Cocks, Councillor Craig Ferguson, Councillor Nicki Gladding, Councillor Quentin Smith; Councillor Tucker arrived at 1:09pm.

In Attendance

Mr Tony Avery (Acting General Manager, Property & Infrastructure), Mr Ben Greenwood (Roading Operations and Contracts Manager), Mr Simon Mason (Infrastructure Operations Manager), Mr Naell Crosby-Roe (Governance & Stakeholder Services Manager), and Ms Alixandra Villis (Governance Advisor); one member of the public and no media.

Apologies

No Apologies were received.

Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

Matters Lying on the Table

There were no matters lying on the table.

Public Forum

Mr Leon West from Treespace spoke on behalf of Mr Adam Smith, Director of Treespace. Mr West explained that their preference is to not have a traffic ban or restrictions on Coronet Peak Road as this could cause significant financial and program implications for construction projects. Councillors asked questions to clarify Mr West's position.

Confirmation of Agenda

On the motion of Councillor Gladding and Councillor Smith the Infrastructure Committee resolved that the agenda be confirmed without addition or alteration.

Motion carried.

Confirmation of Minutes

As it's the first meeting of the Infrastructure Committee in this triennium, there are no minutes to confirm.

1. Proposed Traffic Restrictions on Coronet Peak Road

Mr Greenwood presented the report which relates to risk on Coronet Peak Road. Council is undertaking a pavement rehabilitation project where a safety issue has been identified and in place for several years. The main risk is that damage could occur to the road seal due to heavy traffic. Council has been working with Treespace since last year to address these issues. The project team are also currently working to mitigate the issue; the work is mostly around what the chip seal and surfacing design can do to manage the risk. It was noted that residual risks are outside of Council's control. The key risks have been identified as binder softenings and chip seals being soft. Mr Greenwood highlighted that restricting heavy traffic during the early life of the seal is the recommended option.

Councillor Gladding asked how companies would know to comply with these restrictions. Mr Greenwood indicated that signage would be put up onsite. Mr Greenwood noted that, since cooler weather is approaching, this restriction should not affect any works until next summer. Mr Greenwood added that without a restriction Council would be unable to address the risk and noted that it is unclear what the damage costs would be if Council does not proactively address the risks.

Councillor Smith suggested that if the Committee does not take measures to avoid putting the investment at risk, there could be issues down the line.

Councillor Smith left the meeting at 1:27pm

Councillor Cocks asked whether Council had obtained legal advice about the project and enquired why the project is taking place now. In his response, Mr Greenwood explained that legal advice had been sought, which resulted in a slight change to the options, and provided clarification around the project's timing.

Councillor Gladding asked whether Council is missing the opportunity to put in a day ban so there is some certainty over what happens at night. Councillor Gladding also suggested that it is important to consider the other users of the road and asked how Council will advertise this in a way that means people's plans are not disrupted.

Mr Mason indicated that Council is working to ensure that officers have the rights and delegations to ensure they have the appropriate tools available. Mr Mason stressed the importance of communication with road users and stakeholders. Mr Avery agreed that gaining the authority to make decisions within operational context is important. It was stressed that officers understand the need to keep businesses operating.

There was also discussion of the increased cost of using asphalt and of whether a new permit system would be necessary under the temperature limit.

On the motion of Councillor Gladding and Councillor Ferguson It was resolved that the Infrastructure Committee:

1. Note the contents of this report.

2. Delegate to the General Manager Property and Infrastructure authority to implement the recommended restrictions as required, under Clause 14.1(a) of the Traffic and Parking Bylaw 2018 (The Bylaw) and approve the exemption process to allow limited Heavy Motor Vehicle movements (HMV) during the period of restriction at Council officer's discretion.

Motion carried.

2. Butlers Green retaining wall

Mr Greenwood presented the report and opened the floor for questions.

Councillor Gladding asked how the Heritage Strategy applied to this issue. Mr Greenwood replied that engineering options had been costed but there was confusion in the community as to why Council had not done a heritage assessment of the different options. Mr Greenwood indicated that the heritage assessment is part of the consent process and that, while Council officers are looking to front foot this, they have not yet considered the Heritage Strategy. Mr Greenwood noted that there have been some workshops with community stakeholders but that the design is yet to be finished so officers have not carried out the full consultation. Mr Avery added that the issue is a fundamental structural issue which needs to be dealt with for public safety.

Councillor Ferguson commented that the affected parties have met and agree with what is being recommended. Councillor Ferguson then read out some community opinions which asked for heritage assessments to be done at this stage. Councillor Ferguson concluded by saying that, having sat on the Heritage Trust for six years, it is common in his experience that some things which are abandoned can be rescued.

Councillor Cocks enquired about ongoing maintenance, and asked whether there is an option to look at improvements of the vegetation alongside the wall, aside from the construction, and then decide on budgeting and repairs.

Councillor Bartlett stated that the wall is moving regardless, and that Council needs to do something rather than nothing. Councillor Bartlett suggested that heritage restorations should be reversible, noted that the traffic still has access on the road above, and acknowledged that there is an option for one-way traffic to keep cars away from the front edge of the wall. Councillor Bartlett also noted that it is hard to know whether the wall is providing a retaining function.

Councillor Ferguson mentioned that Mr David Clark, the Director of the Lakes District Museum, suggested that if this went through a heritage process, the Heritage Trust

and museum would go with the findings there. Councillor Ferguson suggested that the association in Arrowtown would also go with Mr David Clark's decision.

Councillor Gladding then put a motion to amend the resolution. The amended resolution is as follows:

On the motion of Councillor Smith and Councillor Gladding it was resolved that the Infrastructure Committee amend the original resolution to the points below:

- 1. Note the contents of this report.**
- 2. Direct staff to undertake a heritage assessment of the wall including its heritage values, what can be properly restored, and the heritage implications of options 1-3 in the report;**
- 3. Direct staff to consider the heritage strategy and consult with all the partners within the strategy including the Whakatipu Heritage Trust;**
- 4. Direct staff to consider all reasonable, practicable options within existing budgets for preventing the further deterioration of the wall including reducing the road to Dudley's Cottage to one lane.**

Motion carried.

The meeting concluded at 14:05pm.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD:

CHAIR

DATE