

Minutes of a Community & Services Committee Workshop

Thursday, 3 April 2025
Council Chambers, 10 Gorge Road Queenstown

Present:	Councillor C Ferguson (Chair)	Councillor B Bruce
	Councillor E Whitehead (Deputy Chair)	Councillor M Wong
Apologies:	Councillor C Tucker	Councillor L Guy
In attendance:	Sophie Millar	Councillor M White
	Adrian Hoddinott	Ken Bailey
	Simon Battrick	Dave Winterburn
	Briana Pringle	Kat Banyard
	Councillor L Cocks	Councillor N Gladding (online)
	Lee Rowley	Stef White
Media:	None.	
Public:	4 (all for item 2)	

No.	Agenda Item	Actions
1.	<p><u>Parks 2025 Update</u></p> <p>Adrian Hodinott presented the item alongside Dave Winterburn. The purpose of this briefing is to provide the Community and Services Committee with an update on the progression of the new Parks maintenance contracts as requested at Full council in December 2024.</p> <p>Key points and questions asked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff noted still in procurement phase, will give periodic updates, noted procurement doesn't line up perfectly with governance timelines. • Unpack 50% price attribute, 50% non-price. Intention is to send signal to market. 'Non-price' includes skills and methodology. • Discussion on ability to recruit and keep good staff, noted by tenderer that this is an issue to be identified (due to staff housing etc.) • Discussion of significance in understanding 'non-price' variables. • Discussion of ongoing performance criteria process. Model in place to monitor performance throughout term. Performance linked to contract i.e. whether it is successful. • Discussion on how this industry is evolving, including main pressures, how are contractors adapting to change in commercial 	

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	<p>environment? Business model has evolved in commercial space, contractors have been asked to invest further into more specific needs for the community. Getting more sufficiently qualified and resourced contractors in the space. Ongoing pressure for resources in NZ for larger companies, local government tends to lose out with competition in contracting (for tier 1 employees)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of how other regions compare when handling the same issues. • Discussion of ratio of open spaces, to tracks and trails, to arbour-culture in the district. What does this look like by spend? Open spaces easily largest portion, then arbour-culture, tracks and trails last (open spaces related to scope – sports fields to cemeteries, tracks and trails singular). • Discussion of specialist services procurement. Clause in contracts for specialist services (contractor can subcontract, allows for agility). • Discussion of interest in contracts. Queenstown and Wānaka can leverage commercial benefits for large/medium entities to be associated with our district. • Portfolio of assets have seen escalation in costs. Issue being addressed through development of Long Term Plan and iterations of Annual Plans. Ongoing competition of resources within the organisation. The district has very high business requirements. • Members queried whether going to open market for 3 contracts had a positive impact on the annual budget. Staff indicated they would need to report back to Council on this. • Further discussion of contract and procurement timeframes. <p>Attachments: <i>Attachment A: Timelines for New Parks maintenance contracts 2025 (see workshop agenda)</i></p>	
2.	<p><u>Draft Tree Succession Plan for Queenstown Gardens</u></p> <p>Briana Pringle presented the item. Briana spoke to presentation alongside David Winterburn, and arborists Lee Rowley and Stef White. The purpose of the item is to provide the Community and Services Committee with an overview of the Draft Te Kararo Queenstown Gardens Tree Succession Plan and seek input from Councillors on the plan.</p> <p>The draft succession plan will be shared with the Queenstown Gardens stakeholders and wider community for feedback, before being presented to the Community and Services Committee for adoption in August 2025.</p> <p>Key discussion points and questions asked:</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of maintenance schedule framework. • No current budget in Long Term Plan. If the plan is adopted in the future, would look to fund through Long Term Plan. • Plan presents an opportunity for the business community to get involved, many businesses disillusioned by carbon offsetting, waiting for local project to rally behind. A public-private collaboration on this plan looks like a win. • Discussion on soil quality. How much remediation needed? 120 years of firs eroding soil. In long term newly planted trees will generate soil but in short term soil will have to be brought in. • Is the concern around the Garden's itself and protecting inner garden or removing Douglas firs. Concern is heritage and experience of garden's users and the protection the current trees provide. • Discussion of access, felling and moving trees. How to mitigate loss of green area. Key to have some network for access areas. Consideration of multiuse and future proofing for access ways. • Discussion on planting. Saplings, or use older trees? Right species in right place for right purpose. • Significance in engaging in storytelling early on i.e. doing better things in our region as opposed to planting pines for carbon offsetting. • Metrics and methodology. To be robust, that the project is that a big financial commitment. When trees are removed, do they need to be replaced with new stock? • What does this project tell us about wilding issues? E.g. Supports wider wilding removal and the Queenstown Hill plan. • Acknowledgment of stakeholders, especially frisbee golf. Targeted convos with stakeholder including the tennis club to come, engagement to follow workshop with committee. • General Manager gave further updates on forest planting, investment to put back into gardens with planting. Good to get further thinking and research over time back to committee. • A summary of the project will be provided in the consultation documentation. <p>Attachments: <i>Attachment A: Draft Te Kararo Queenstown Gardens Tree Succession Plan (see workshop agenda)</i> <i>Attachment B: Te Kararo Queenstown Gardens Conifer Succession Plan - December 2024 – DRAFT (see workshop agenda)</i></p>	

The workshop concluded at 12.05pm