

- Marlborough District Council – RC Advice number: 888-MLDC51

Envirolink Small Advice Grant; Project Report

PROJECT

“Planning for Change – Urban design and planning for a changing society”

- Research Organisation: Victoria University, Wellington

Purpose

The *advice* was aimed at presenting housing choices that have minimal impact on the environment and contribute to a more sustainable and vibrant urban area; reducing the need to use green-field land at the periphery of Blenheim, that is better suited for agriculture and aquifer retentions.

This was accomplished by convening two seminars, the first one involving Marlborough’s Mayor and councillors and relevant resource management, staff and the second one involving practitioners from the wider housing sector, including designers, builders, social scientists and health providers (seminar programme - overleaf – by way of orientation).

Outcome

The Council is currently in the process of planning for regional growth and endeavouring to refine the urban design of Marlborough’s townships. The advice received was packaged in that context, and provided a catalyst for other practitioners, involved with the Council’s regional level planning work, to also participate, to provide an added-value environment on sustainable housing and sustainable land management.

In the event, the two seminars proved extremely successful and were attended to the limits of the Council’s capacity to accommodate them. The presentation by Karl Fitzpatrick was timely, appropriate and pitched at a level that all of the stakeholders identified with. All of the papers presented were circulated to the participants after the seminars, by popular demand; only positive feedback was received.

The project has helped the Council to establish a new generation of stakeholder links, which will be beneficial in engaging communities of interest in impending urban futures’ initiatives. It has also enabled a reconnection between the Council and Victoria University, where we have enjoyed positive professional relationships in earlier years.

Ian Shapcott – Project Co-ordinator

30 July 2010

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“Planning for Change – Urban design and planning for a changing society”

(A study - by Karl Fitzpatrick - based upon urban Blenheim)

AN “ENVIROLINK” PROJECT

Date: Tuesday, 25 May 2010
Time: 9.30 a.m. to 12.00 noon (morning tea on arrival)
Venue: The “Chart Room” - Heartland Hotel Marlborough, cnr. Alfred and Henry Streets, Blenheim
Duration: 2.5 hours

Opening

Francis Pauwels

Manager, MDC Strategic Policy Department (*5 minutes*)

Presenters

Karl Fitzpatrick¹ Author, Blenheim study; presenting a slide show based upon the study (*40 minutes*)

Dr Bev James Social Scientist and chairperson of the Marlborough Sustainable Housing Trust, commenting on the context of affordable housing in the study, and offering a Blenheim-related view on the affordable housing situation as it stands (*20 minutes*)

Ian Munro Consultant urban planner, representing MDC’s consultant firm, Urbanism+; explaining ways in which the Urbanism+ lead Blenheim growth strategy picks up on a number of the themes put forward in the study, *including* affordable housing (*30 minutes*)

Blenheim Builder / Developer representatives Provide a commentary on their experience of housing provision in Blenheim and their emerging aspirations (*20 minutes*)

Francis Pauwels Concludes the presentation, with information on how other aspects of the study might be assimilated into the emerging management of Blenheim’s urban residential resource (*15 minutes*)

Floor opens for questions and discussion (20 minutes)



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¹ Karl Fitzpatrick is Blenheim born and educated and a member of a well known local family. The study that Karl is presenting is his *Honours Research Thesis*. As it happens, Karl graduates from Victoria University the week before this presentation. Karl is also a highly respected local and national level sportsman. Karl recently travelled to Turkey, as a member of the New Zealand handball team, to play in a tri-nations series between Turkey, Australia and New Zealand - *The Gallipoli Series*. Unfortunately, the volcanic ash incident prevented the series from being played. However, this coming weekend Karl again puts on his New Zealand singlet to play the Aussies, to see which Oceania team goes to this year's World Handball Championship.