
MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL, MIRANDA STREET, STRATFORD ON TUESDAY 14 JULY 2020 AT 3.02PM TO HEAR AND CONSIDER SUBMISSIONS TO THE CONTROL OF DOGS BYLAW AND DOG CONTROL POLICY

PRESENT

The Deputy Mayor A L Jamieson (the Chairman), the District Mayor N C Volzke, Councillors M McKay, V R Jones, R W Coplestone, P S Dalziel, G W Boyde, W J Sandford, A K Harris, J M S Erwood, and G M Webby.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Acting Chief Executive and Director Community Services – Ms K Whareaitu, the Director Assets – Mrs V Araba, the Director Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Corporate Accountant – Mrs C Craig, the Executive Administration Officer – Mrs E Bishop, the Environmental Health Manager – Ms R Otter, the Environmental Compliance Officer – Mr K Best, the Special Projects Manager – Mr N Cooper, two members of the media (Stratford Press and the Taranaki Daily News) and two members of the public

1. WELCOME

The Deputy Mayor welcomed the District Mayor, the Acting Chief Executive, Councillors, staff, the media and members of the public. He reminded Councillors to familiarise themselves with the Health and Safety message at the start of the agenda.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were noted from the Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs T Radich and the Communications Manager – Ms G Gibson.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Policy and Services Committee meeting. It was reinforced to Councillors that the purpose of this meeting is to consider submissions on the Control of Dogs Bylaw and Dog Control Policy.

4. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTEREST

The Deputy Mayor requested Councillors to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda.

There were no declarations of interest.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SUBMISSIONS

Submissions pages 5-54

Attached are the twenty five (25) submissions received.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT each of the twenty five (25) submissions to the Control of Dogs Bylaw and Dog Control Policy be received.

BOYDE/DALZIEL
Carried
P&S/20/88

2. THAT it is acknowledged that, due to the public consultation of the Control of Dogs Bylaw and Dog Control Policy occurring simultaneously, each submission is to be considered for both documents.

HARRIS/McKAY
Carried
P&S/20/89

3. THAT each submitter be individually thanked for their submission, and a copy of the minutes of this Policy & Services Committee Meeting and subsequent meetings be provided to each submitter.

BOYDE/JONES
Carried
P&S/20/90

Recommended Reason

Each submission is formally received and the submitter provided with information on decisions made.

The Environmental Health Manager noted the following points:

- Both the policy and bylaw have now completed the public consultation process which was extended due to the COVID-19 and subsequent lockdown.
- 25 submissions were received with the majority objecting to dogs being permitted on Broadway and in Prospero Place.
- It is a requirement under legislation that Council has a policy but the bylaw is optional. However, the bylaw gives the ability to enforce the policy.
- A new map has been included in both documents as a result of the submission noting the former maps were not clear.
- It was noted that there was an error on page 76 of the Control of Dogs Bylaw 2020. Within clause 14 of the bylaw, clauses from the current bylaw are noted. These will be amended to clause 1003 to the number 7 and clause 1006 to 10.

6. DECISION REPORT - ADOPTION OF THE CONTROL OF DOGS BYLAW 2020

D20/8981 (Pages 55-80)

Discussion

Council needs to consider submissions to the Control of Dogs Bylaw as part of the consultation process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report be received.

HARRIS/ERWOOD
Carried
P&S/20/91

2. THAT The Committee considers submissions received as part of the public consultation process of the bylaw and the subsequent adoption of the Control of Dogs Bylaw 2020 (attached).

3. THAT the commencement date of the Control of Dogs Bylaw be Monday 17 August 2020.

COPLESTONE/HARRIS
Carried
1 against
P&S/20/92

Recommended Reason

The *draft* Control of Dogs Bylaw 2020 has gone through the public consultation process, required by Sections 82 and 83 of the Local Government Act 2002. 25 submissions were received during the public consultation and submissions period.

The Special Project Manager joined the meeting at 3.12pm.

Points noted in discussion:

- Councillor McKay noted the consistent views across the submissions specifically in regards to dogs being permitted along Broadway and in Prospero Place. She noted urination, faeces, and concern around hygiene was important as was the genuine fear of dogs by some people. She also noted that there was also a huge love for dogs and that allowing dogs in Broadway would add to the vibrancy of the town and encourage those driving through to stop if they see a vibrant CBD. She noted she had been many places over seas where dogs were allowed in most places. It was also noted that she felt any improvements should not be at the cost of ratepayers and should be funded through the dog registrations. If Council votes to not permit dogs on Broadway then better education is required as dogs are seen along Broadway on a daily basis.
- Councillor Dalziel noted his initial support of allowing dogs along Broadway but had changed his mind after reading the submissions. He noted this was due to hygiene, dogs being tied up outside shops and the fear factor. He questioned if the bylaw gave enough authority to enforce the rules for those who do not comply.
- Councillor Boyde noted he had surveyed business owners along Broadway with 6 against, 2 were unsure and rest supported dogs being permitted along Broadway. Common issues raised were concern around faeces but most concerns raised were around mobility scooters and speeding vehicles. He noted his disappointment that the Stratford Business Association had not submitted. However, he was not supporting permitting dogs along Broadway and Prospero

Place due to the mature demographics of Stratford the genuine fear of dogs with safety being paramount.

- It was clarified that the definition of a leash and the length could be included but would require further research to what was usually documented at other councils.
- Councillor Erwood noted his opposition to allowing dogs along Broadway or Prospero Place due to the number of submissions outlining concerns from our residents with hygiene, perception of dogs and nuisance of dogs highlighted. He noted there were several other areas in Stratford that dogs were permitted.
- Councillor Sandford noted his opposition to allowing dogs in Broadway and Prospero Place due to the number of residents who had approached him against the suggestion. He noted that a fear of dogs is a genuine concern.
- Councillor Webby noted she had spoken to many senior residents who were all opposed to dogs being permitted along Broadway and in Prospero Place, and also noted her concern with dogs being around the food outlets.
- The District Mayor noted the balance of the bylaw was good for the community at large and that Stratford had good access to almost the entire District to walk their dogs, the bit in question is a very small area. He noted there were limited places to tie dogs up if visiting a shop, the points raised regarding urination and faeces were valid concerns. He requested that disability assist dogs be exempted and this be noted in the bylaw as it is specifically noted in other council's bylaws as well as a clause to exempt dogs in, or secured to, vehicles. The Compliance Officer noted that disability service dogs and police dogs were automatically exempt.

One member of the public joined the meeting at 3.24pm.

Amendments to be made to the bylaw following debate and consideration of submissions:

- Page 78 (of the agenda), schedule 8 be amended to "*Te Papakura O Taranaki*"
- An addition to the maps be included showing blown up areas clearly showcasing the areas dogs can run with, and without, a leash.
- An amendment to the legend of the map showing the boundary demarcation line for urban and rural dogs be clearly explained.
- Page 78 (of the agenda) – "*Broadway, including the footpaths, between the northern roundabout, at the intersection of Broadway and Regan Street, and the Southern roundabout, at the intersection of Broadway and Fenton Street*" and "*Prospero Place*" be moved into prohibited public places.
- A clause to be added to exempt disability service dogs from the prohibited places this would include a definition for a disability service dog.
- A clause to be added to allow dogs along Broadway if they are secured within a vehicle or tethered to the back of a vehicle.

The Director – Environmental Services clarified that any changes made to the Control of Dogs bylaw would be reciprocated in the Dog Control Policy.

7. DECISION REPORT - ADOPTION OF DOG CONTROL POLICY

D20/6995 (Pages 81-104)

Discussion

Council needs to consider submissions to the Dog Control Policy as part of the consultation process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. THAT the report be received.

BOYDE/ERWOOD
Carried
P&S/20/93

2. THAT The Committee considers submissions received as part of the public consultation process of the policy and the subsequent adoption of the Dog Control Policy 2020 (attached).

3. THAT the commencement date of the Dog Control Policy 2020 be Monday 17 August 2020.

COPLESTONE/SANDFORD
Carried
P&S/20/94

Recommended Reason

This policy is a requirement of section 10 of the Dog Control Act 1996 which requires every territorial authority to adopt a policy on dogs.

The draft Dog Control Policy 2020 has gone through the public consultation process, required by Sections 82 and 83 of the Local Government Act 2002. 25 submissions were received during the public consultation and submissions period.

The meeting closed at 3.42pm.

A L Jamieson
CHAIRMAN

Confirmed this 28th day of July 2020.

N C Volzke
DISTRICT MAYOR