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Our Mission is
to Maintain and
Enhance our
Community for the
Long-term Wellbeing
of our People and
Environment.



THE RESULTS ARE IN!

The annual Resident's Opinion Survey is an important part of the Dunedin City Council's work. We are here to serve the Dunedin public and we need to know what they think of that service.

This year showed a lower than anticipated response rate - only 972 (22%) of the 4,500 distributed copies responded, which may be due to the several other surveys in the community at a similar time.

The public expressed satisfaction in areas such as pride and optimism about the city, city assets, the road and footpath network, and rubbish collection services (excluding the general cleanliness of streets). Respondents are pleased with the city and central retail area and a positive trend indicates that people are feeling safer in their homes and neighbourhoods and are happier with most service related to drainage and water, particularly pressure colour and taste. The call centre, Customer Service Agency, DCC NoticeBoard in the ODT and the Website also show a marked upward trend in customer satisfaction.

Areas where the public would like to see improvement include the general cleanliness of the city, particularly after rubbish collection, and the condition of footpaths, as well as the shabby appearance of South Dunedin. It is important we stay ahead of the curve and address these matters before they become familiar and invisible.

Jim Harland, DCC Chief Executive

Marlow Park Bumper Boat Area Set to Change

Work to reinstate the area once occupied by the Marlow Park bumper boats area has begun - a result of the lease for the bumper boat facility being surrendered in 2006. The DCC advertised for a new lessee but no registrations of interest were received. The facility is currently in a state of disrepair and fenced off from public access as the site contains multiple hazards. Due to this, and its location at Dunedin's premier metropolitan playground, the work is seen as a high priority. This will involve demolishing the structures, filling the pool and reinstating the site as a grassed area and extend the Playground.

Middle Beach Measures

At the Council meeting earlier this week, Cr Paul Hudson gave an update on the dune erosion at Middle Beach assisted by Mick Reece, DCC Community & Recreation Services Manager, Martin Thompson, DCC Team Leader Park & Reserves and David O'Malley of Octa Associates.

With the current measures necessary to prevent further immediate damage the Council was told the financial considerations must be secondary to swift remedial action. Costs are expected to be in the region of \$500,000 to 750,000 although Cr Hudson says the volunteer aid has been "amazing and uplifting."

Cr Hudson acknowledged the sterling effort by Mr Reece and his team and Mayor Chin added thanks to the media, the ORC and the Police for their positive and supportive efforts.

Meeting For Industry Professionals

With current concern about the time it is taking to process building consents, Tony Avery, DCC's General Manager City Environment, has called an open meeting with industry professionals to help identify possible solutions to the problem.

The DCC, ranked first nationally this year for compliance with consent processing, (97.6%), now has an average of 22 days with 41% of consents processed within the 20-day statutory requirement. Issues leading to this delay include increased workloads attributable to new building code compliance regulations, the new Govt. accreditation process, and the introduction of a new DCC computer system. Staff are working overtime to manage backlogs but as a short-term measure, a building consent officer will be checking applications as they are brought in to the counter and, if incomplete, will return them to the customer with a list of further requirements.

Regent Re-jig

After nine months, the Regent Theatre has reached the fourth and final stage of the project, to be complete in August. There have been challenges, but the building is one of the Octagon's central heritage buildings, and so it is imperative it be protected and maintained.

The project has included 19 extra toilets in the basement area to make it compliant with the building code, structural repairs to the south wall's column and beam structure, installation of sprinklers, a lift to make it paraplegic compliant, new secondary evacuation / access stairs, more offices on the first floor, along with two new function rooms, a kitchen and toilets. The second floor houses the call centre, administration offices, the manager's offices, staff room and archives.

The final stage of the project, redevelopment of the façade, will see the Regent sign lowered, the façade and woodwork re-painted, the rotten wood inside the veranda repaired, and a new roof, as well as new façade lighting.

Working in such close proximity to a public area, while keeping the theatre fully operational, has been a huge task. With a crane hanging over the carriageway, scaffolding and a number of contractors, the Regent's core business has carried on. During the past nine months, 1500 teens enjoyed Stage-challenge, 1500 delegates attended the Plunket conference, and people came and went for the Film and Heritage Festivals.

When completed, the \$2.5million dollar project looks set to serve the Regent Theatre for many years to come.

Parking On Footpaths - Exemptions Proposed

Dunedin has a significant number of narrow streets formed before the advent of the family motorcar.

Having surveyed 223 blocks of narrow residential streets the DCC has identified 23 streets where it seems reasonable to ease the present restrictions prohibiting parking on the footpath. This will ensure fairness to residents while maintaining access for emergency vehicles.

The DCC is keen to hear from residents about other streets where parking on the footpath might be a reasonable compromise. Those streets less than 5.5 metres wide, and currently on the DCC's proposed list for exemption, are available from CSA - phone 477 4000.

If you wish to nominate other streets for consideration, or comment on the Council's proposed changes to the parking regulations, please call CSA (477 4000), or email footpathparking@dcc.govt.nz before 18 July to have your say.