Invercargill
CITY COUNCIL

Wednesday, 29 January 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ATTENTION: CHIEF REPORTERS
CIVIC REPORTERS

Overgrown sections in Bluff to be cleaned up

The Invercargill City Council will begin clearing 55 overgrown sections in Bluff as part of its focus on urban rejuvenation.

Environmental Health Services Manager John Youngson said it was decided to focus on tidying up the overgrown sections in Bluff after it had been assessed that 70 sections did not comply with the Untidy Sections part of Council's Environmental Health Bylaw 2008.

"We wrote to the owners of these addresses and 55 of them have not responded to our formal request to tidy up their section.

"The people of Bluff have pride in their urban environment and having a neighbour with an overgrown section is not only upsetting but there is also an environmental health risk with fire and pest concerns.

"Therefore in early February we will begin cleaning up these," Mr Youngson said.

Mr Youngson said the cost to clear these sections was expected to cost $73,000 which Council would then recoup these costs from the owners of these properties.

As Bluff's sections were mainly on a hill site Council would be using independent contractors with appropriate equipment, to undertake the work" he said.

"We are committed to working with the property owners of overgrown sections and they are welcome to contact us anytime to discuss further should they not wish to have Council step in and clean up their section.

Manager Communications and Secretarial Services, Eirwen Harris, 211 1678, (027) 293 8680
Fax: 211 1434 Email:eirwen.harris@icc.govt.nz
Or
Communications Advisor, Diane Byars, 211 1601, (027) 231 3939
Fax: 211 1433 Email:diane.byars@icc.govt.nz

“Once they are cleared of rubble and mown it will ensure that no nuisance is caused to the immediate neighbourhood,” he said.

Urban Rejuvenation is a key project that has been highlighted in Council’s Long Term Plan to assist Council in achieving its vision of; “Creating and exciting, innovative, safe, caring and friendly city, offering lifestyles based on a healthy environment and diverse growing economy.”

“Urban Rejuvenation is about encouraging people to live and work in Invercargill and there is a need to ensure that all homes are warm and healthy and all neighbourhoods are desirable places to live.”

ENDS.

Inquiries, phone, Manager – Environmental Health Services, John Youngson, 021 830 053.

Manager Communications and Secretarial Services, Eirwen Harris, 211 1678, (027) 293 8680
Fax: 211 1434 Email:eirwen.harris@icc.govt.nz
Or
Communications Advisor, Diane Byars, 211 1601, (027) 231 3939
Fax: 211 1433 Email:diane.byars@icc.govt.nz