

Exercise 1: Answer

Here are some possible story ideas:

- * Library attendance numbers up
- * Birds in Pōhutakawa tree
- * Lion enclosure
- * Evenings at zoo
- * Keeping of non-endangered animals
- * Council not underwriting events like Shirley Bassey
- * Queuing patrons, outlets
- * Library fees
- * Cost overruns, new management team

Exercise 2: Answer

Here is a possible version of the story.

New lion enclosure for zoo

THE lions at Wellington zoo are to get a \$350,000 enclosure to replace their existing cage.

Zoo manager Kerry Muller said the lions' current cage is "extremely sub-standard" and has "been criticised by the public more than any other exhibit".

In order for the zoo to continue to house lions, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry must be satisfied that they are being kept in acceptable conditions.

The ministry has only let the zoo keep the lions in their existing cage because the zoo has promised to build a new enclosure, Muller said.

He was speaking at yesterday's meeting of the council's culture and recreation committee, which authorised council officers to seek tenders to build the new enclosure.

Speaking after the meeting, committee chair Councillor John Gilberthorpe said the new enclosure would be a "more expansive and a more natural environment" for the lions, similar to the new chimpanzee enclosure.

During the committee's deliberations, Councillors Ruth Gottlieb and Val Bedingfield insisted the council not commit more than \$350,000 to the project.

This was in light of recent dramatic cost over-runs at the Te Aro Park artwork.

Richard Nanson, general manager of the council's culture and recreation division, said the lion enclosure would be a straightforward construction job and the council had hired quantity surveyors to fully cost the project.

He was sure the enclosure will "come in on target and on budget".

The lions' existing cage was built in 1911 and housed the first animal at the zoo - a lion called King Dick.

Notice how the story starts with an intro that will appeal to readers; as readers would not be interested in the meeting of the committee in itself, that information is relegated to paragraph five. Note too that the story makes it clear Gilberthorpe made his comments after the meeting.