

SHIRLEY/PAPANUI COMMUNITY BOARD

ANNUAL SUBMISSION

The Board appreciates the opportunity to present a submission to the Council's draft Annual Plan 2008/09 and wishes to be heard in support of this submission.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Board would like to thank the Council for the support it has shown to various projects and strategies within our ward. These include the planned Graham Condon Leisure Centre, the forty-year Styx River Plan, the Papanui Youth facility, Brooklands Lagoon and boat ramp improvements, upgrade of reserves and playgrounds, roading improvements, future Belfast library and the new Groynes Dog Park (that has exceeded visitor expectations) and the St Albans Resource Centre car park.

The submission we will be presenting emphasises the importance of Community Boards in adding value to the Council. Our Board is pleased to see a recognition of this in the scheduling of monthly Council/Community Board meetings with Board chairs being able to highlight issues and the implementations of projects and outcomes within our wards.

2. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT

The Board recognises that in its planning processing and decision-making, the Council is restricted by the requirement of the Resource Management Act (RMA). We would like to see a greater involvement of Community Boards at an early stage of the planning process. More often than not, Community Boards are approached by concerned residents and groups who consider they have been adversely affected by non-notified consents. Our Board would like to advocate for an "early warning" system at the time of consent application on any consent that while technically non-notified, could be conceived as having an adverse effect on residents.

The Board asks if such a system can be put in place.

3. LIQUOR LICENSING

While the Board recognises the constraints of the Sale of Liquor Act 1989, it also notes that one of the purposes of the Act is to give gives opportunities to local communities to have a say on how alcohol is to be supplied in their area.

The Board is grateful for the regular advice it receives from the District Licensing Agency on liquor licensing applications received within the ward. We note that Community Board delegations gives Board the power to appoint one or more members to appear and be heard in any proceedings before the Licensing Authority or a District Licensing Agency, to enable those members to provide community input. Our understanding is that this is a rare occurrence.

Our Board is keen to have a greater involvement in this area and asks for feedback on how this can be achieved.

4. FUNDING FOR NEW FOOTPATHS

The Board strongly requests that the Council provides funding for new footpaths. In seeking World health Organisation (WHO) Safe Community accreditation it is important that Council provides footpaths on both sides of the road catering for the growth in older person numbers within residential streets, people with disabilities who use total mobility scooters, walking frames, wheelchairs and also mail and paper delivery people. As the Board is an advocator of walking school buses we need to make sure routes are accessible and safe.

The Board is concerned that recent developments still have footpaths on one side of the road only, as this continues to put peoples' lives at risk. This is also an area in the city plan that the Board would like the Council to review its decision. The Board would support Council identifying capital funding for new footpaths targeted at safety improvements for pedestrians due to the increased traffic and vehicle movements.

4.1 CRANFORD STREET

In the Shirley/Papanui community ward a footpath for the open stretch of Cranford street footpath has a high needs in terms of safety. This Street has had an increase in pedestrian and mobility vehicles and requires footpaths urgently so that conflict with vehicles does not occur.

5. SAFETY ISSUES - TRAFFIC LIGHTS-SLIP LANES

The Board requests that funding be provided for a residential property purchase at the North Side of Sawyers Arms Road and Main North Road urgently for safety reasons for the purposes of a left turning slip road. The recent slip road at Blighs

Road is appreciated by the Board and has made this intersection safe and flowing with reduced traffic build ups.

At the intersection mentioned above, there are large build-ups of traffic from Main North Road back to Sisson Drive and people are taking risks with conflict between cyclists, cars and buses when the cyclists are not able to access the cycle lane.

6. SCHOOL ROAD SAFETY

The Board recognises that child road safety is paramount and that the Council has a safe and healthy city policy. Road safety continues to be an important and recurring issue in the Shirley/Papanui community, particularly around schools.

The Board wishes to advocate for more funding for the installation of 40km lights and signage around schools. While recognising that enforcement in this area is not a Council function, we would ask that the Road Safety committee advocate for greater enforcement by the Police at 40km's school zones.

7. PARK AND RIDE

We request Council to urgently acquire land for a bus park and ride facility before there is no land available due to the growth of residential developments in the North West. Planning now to purchase land for that purpose before it is developed makes economic sense.

The Board believes the provision of such facilities will help reduce the amount of traffic coming into the city centre from the outer suburbs. The Board encourages the Council to work with Environment Canterbury, Transit and others in developing a strategy to alleviate the pressures of increased vehicle use on our infrastructure.

The Board requests that management advise how the Board can be involved in advocating with all parties for this to happen as soon as possible.

8. INTERSECTION SAFETY

The Board is concerned at intersection safety in Belfast, Redwood, Casebrook, Sawyers Arms Road, Northcote and Greers Roads, Greers Road/Harewood Road, Langdons Road and in Cranford Street particularly with safe access onto the Main North Road.

The Board requests that the roading improvements identified in Northern Roding Options Scoping Study (NROSS) commence.

Our Board understands that Northcote Road works meet the funding criteria as Main North Road, Northcote and Queen Elizabeth II areas are recorded as the worst traffic black spots in Christchurch.

9. EDGEWARE/COLOMBO STREETS

The Board believes pedestrian safety improvements are required in the business area of Edgware Road between Colombo Street and Sherborne Street.

While the Board will be meeting with all affected parties, it submits that funding will be required to implement any resulting improvements.

10. GRAHAM CONDON LEISURE CENTRE

The Board has already thanked the Council for supporting this much needed facility to cater for the increased of growth in the ward and which has the support of residents and schools.

The Board acknowledges the excellent work and partnerships previously developed by the Board have been maintained and fostered by Christchurch City Council staff with the Northlands Mall (under the ownership of Kiwi Income), Papanui High School Board of Trustees and community groups to enable this project to happen.

It is therefore disappointing that the Board has learnt that due to costs, 8 lanes will be reduced to 6. The Board seeks Councils support for the funding to provide 8 lanes in line with the original plan. It is important that when this pool opens, it will meet the needs of the current and increased growth of the community.

Council has been fortunate that Papanui High School is a huge partner in this project in providing the land for the pool to be built on, saving the ratepayer in excess of a million dollars.

11. WASTE MINIMISATION

The Board is very supportive of the proposed new kerbside collection service and commends the Council for this initiative.

12. RECYCLING

Board seeks Councils support in advocating to Government and Manufacturers for refunding the return of all glass bottles (as it used to be) which would be a way forward in waste reduction. Along with cleaner streets and less glass that is causing problems for the elderly, disabled and cyclists.

13. ENFORCEMENT

The Board believes greater enforcement is needed as it believes it is currently inadequately funded for, in many areas, particularly in matters involving the Resource Management Act and Bylaws.

Of particular concern to the Board is litter and our belief that enforcement would recover some income towards street maintenance. Overseas research shows that where there is good enforcement on litter, less money is needed by Councils to maintain street cleaning. Wellington and Hamilton City Councils model of having Street Wise and Walk Wise is making a difference for them in having a safer city and cleaner city.

The Board seeks confirmation from the Council of its commitment to enforcement and that it has, or will, allow sufficient funding to ensure the infrastructure is in place to provide this necessary service.

14. PARKING REVENUE

The Shirley/Papanui Community Board believe that investigation should take place on parking charges for all residential street parking around malls in the suburbs.

Many other cities now charge for parking in the suburbs but provide a voucher for all residents. Mall expansions have impacted on the number of cars parking in residential streets, mainly by staff who work in the vicinity. Any other staff who work in the city mainly have to pay for parking, whereas those that work in the suburbs do not pay parking fees.

Having Parking meters in the suburbs would add to the Councils income. Public transport to and from the suburbs had improved greatly and the Board believes that promoting the buses and charging for parking would help having a sustainable environment.

The Board asks the Council to comment on this proposal.

15. GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION

The Board encourages the Council to continue to advocate to central government on behalf of the community to fund the implementation of legislation that impacts on local communities, rather than ratepayers funding central government matters.

16. THAT PROVISION IS MADE FOR THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE LOSS OF BASE FLOW IN THE UPPER KAPUTONE STREAM.

The Board is concerned about the loss of flow in the Kaputone Stream west of the Main North Road. There has been no spring-fed base flow since mid 2003. In February 2005 those living alongside the Kaputone Stream met with representatives of our Board, Environment Canterbury, Council staff and members of both the Styx community water status monitoring group and Styx Living Laboratory Trust to discuss the issue. Although no single factor could be identified as being responsible for the decrease it was suggested that the significant loss in streamflow may be due to any, or a combination of seven factors, including development of land within the upper catchment.

A report identified several possible reasons/factors for the loss in flow but stated that without extensive monitoring over a sustained period and the development of various models, no definite cause or causes could be determined. This report led to the Council allocating \$30,000 to continue further investigations.

In March – April 2005 a survey of the Upper Kaputone Stream was carried out. The survey has identified that there is a significant sediment build-up in the Kaputone Stream channel within Englefield Reserve.

The Board understands that the matter of the Kaputone Stream was recently the subject of a hearing. The Board acknowledges the work already done by the Council with this issue, and submits that the necessary funding be provided to carry out any work to improve the stream flow.

The Board sees this as meeting the LTCCP Community Outcomes of “A Sustainable, Natural Environment”, “A Liveable City”.

17. COMMUNITY BOARD FUNDING

The Board submits that Community Boards are integral to the Council’s goals of promoting participation in the democratic processes by advocating for and providing

advice to Council on the needs of its community by making it easy for members of our community to understand Council processes.

Christchurch City was the leader in Local Government in providing funding for Community Boards for local projects and discretionary needs. However there has not been an increase in funding since 1995.

In adding value to the Council, it is important that Boards have an increase in their funding to meet the growth of their communities to enhance and empower community organisations and residents in community development. The Board seeks an increase of \$100,000 per city Board to be able them to add value to Councils vision and meet the community outcomes of the LTCCP.

In addition, the Board seeks an increase in Board's training budgets to ensure that members have the opportunity for personal development, training in specialised areas (such as the Resource Management Act) and to allow for attendance at important conferences and events to better prepare them for effective advocacy on behalf of their community.

18. PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The Board submits that a city-wide approach to public transport planning is required. A specific example would be greater liaison with Environment Canterbury in the planning of changes to, or creation of new bus routes.

The Board seeks confirmation from the Council that it recognises the need for this city-wide approach, and advises the Board of the steps that have been, or can be taken to implement it.

19. STYX PROJECT

Extensive consultation and research in the later part of the 1990's highlighted the concerns and opportunities associated with the Styx ecosystem. From further discussion and consideration of the issues a series of inter-related visions evolved. These visions gained acceptance both from various local government authorities, including the Council, and the wider community and are currently being implemented over the forty-year period, 2000 to 2040.

The Board submits that the Council continues its support for the Styx Project.

20. COMMUNITY HOUSING

The Board supports an approach to central government and Housing New Zealand to seek funding for improvements to community housing and to develop a partnership for future developments.

21. COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The Board supports funding for community centres/halls in Papanui and Belfast and notes that these need to be considered for LTCCP funding as the research has shown that there are gaps in this part of the City and possible developer contributions could fund these projects. A library for Belfast is supported as per the Library Facilities Plan.

22. TREES

The Board strongly supports increased funding to allow the Council to adequately maintain and protect its tree stock.

Within the Shirley/Papanui ward we note that in the Northwood subdivision there are 1,300 street trees, 850 of which require replacement which at a cost of \$471 per tree is an approximate cost of \$400,000.

The Board is aware there are approximately 65,000 street trees in Christchurch, with park and reserve trees being in addition.

The Board seeks a commitment from the Council that it will make sufficient funding available to allow the protection requested to proceed.

23. CITY PLAN

The Board seeks greater Community Board involvement in City Plan issues, as signalled in paragraph 2 above.



Megan Evans
CHAIRPERSON
SHIRLEY/PAPANUI COMMUNITY BOARD