

# *Message from the Community Advocate*

The Hagley/Ferrymead Advocacy Team serves as part of an integrated, community-focused Council Unit responsible for building relationships with Citizens and communities.

Our team is available to act as the direct link to the community for all Council functions. In this way we act as advocates for the community in ensuring that your suggestions, needs and concerns are addressed. As advocates for the Council we ensure that Council information and outcomes are known, and that residents are provided with access to the Council's decision-making processes. Part of our work is support for the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board, ie your elected members.



In this role, we work closely with the Board assisting elected members in networking and discussion with a wide range of groups or individuals in the community.

Work typically related to the above support involves seeking community views on a wide range of issues, assisting with the implementation and/or overview of Council projects (such as roading, parks and community support services), and assisting with determining and the prioritising of projects of a local nature. In all of this activity we also maintain strong links with our colleagues in the Council's various business units.

The Advocacy Team welcomes your enquiries seeking information or access to your local Community Board, or to other Units of the Council.

The Team also holds a responsibility for community development at a local level. An outcome from efforts in this direction will often see us as part of your community working together to achieve agreed ends. While the Team already has a number of established contacts and contact groups in the community, the challenge is to maintain these relationships and to enhance our network to embrace further partnership possibilities.

The Community Advocacy team is here to provide support and guidance in building ongoing relationships between the Council and the community. We welcome the opportunity to sit down with any of you to discuss matters related to achieving this end.

Alan Dunlop  
Community Advocate  
Hagley/Ferrymead