

12. BOARD CONSULTATION WITH COMMUNITY

Officer responsible Community Advocate	Author Tony Gemmill, Community Advocate, DDI 372-2701
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The purpose of this report is to submit for record purposes a summary of the Board's meetings with Residents Groups on 21 February, the Police on 18 March and with the North West School Principals' Cluster/Boards of Trustees on 21 March 2002.

1. RESIDENTS' GROUPS

Representatives from the Yaldhurst Rural Residents' Association, the Plynlimon Residents' Group, the Merivale Precinct Society, and the Rastrick Area Association were present at a very well attended meeting. Pat Creasey, representing Canterbury Neighbourhood Support, was also in attendance.

The Yaldhurst Residents' Association expressed appreciation for the quick response to recent pleas for action at the Old West Coast Road/Buchanans Road intersection, spoke of some concern at the camber/seal on Buchanans Road to the north of the intersection, and expressed interest in the heritage status of some old buildings in the Yaldhurst area.

Security in the neighbourhood, and parking associated with St Patricks Church Sunday services were two particular concerns raised by the Plynlimon Residents' Group. The representative spoke in support of the continued improvement of the Elmwood shopping precinct, and requested that the Board consider an early increase in the planting of trees in the community. A request was also made for some promotion of the historical background of the Bryndwr area.

The Merival Precinct Society also spoke of concerns regarding security in the area, the traffic build up in Merivale including a multitude of parking issues associated with recent development to the east of Papanui Road. A request was made for more bus shelters, and a suggestion was made for the reinstatement of the Merivale Joint Working Party to consider the completion of earlier work commenced including the design of suitable signage marking the northern and southern entrance to the Merivale shopping precinct.

The matter of bus shelters was also raised by the Rastrick Area Association with particular emphasis on shelters associated with St Margaret's College. The matter of the present proposals for bus ticketing restructuring by ECAM was of particular concern to the group, and the opportunity for better protection of trees listed in the City Plan, and those additional trees recently identified through the Board's earlier initiative was raised.

The Burnside Residents' Support Group representatives expressed their thanks for recent responses to parking difficulties in Kendal Avenue and Roydvale Avenue, and also confirmed their interest in initiating a recognition of the history behind Burnside Park. Some concern was expressed at road sweeping standards, and also some instances of spillage during recycling operations. The matter of concern at the difficulty in parking in the Bishopdale car park was also raised, and interest was expressed in the future development of the former Ashby's Pit subdivision.

The Canterbury Neighbourhood Support representative thanked the Board for the invitation to attend and explained that there were a total of 1,600 support groups in Canterbury. A pleasing reduction in burglaries was referred to, and current partnerships with ACC and Civil Defence were referred to. Also noted was the groups opportunity for input into Healthy Christchurch, and the proposed renewed linkage with Christchurch Safer Community Council who will be funding a number of future seminars.

The opportunity was taken at the conclusion of the meeting to also discuss the aspect of "the Garden City Image".

All present agreed that the image should be retained and enhanced where possible. Particular mention was also made of a need to improve maintenance in the city, and opportunity to enhance the main entries to Christchurch, and for an increase in tree planting, tree lighting, and a particular request that all efforts be taken to preserve/replace the significant Willows in the city.

On behalf of the Board, the Chairman thanked the attendees for their input to the discussion, and congratulated them all for their ongoing work in the community.

2. POLICE

On 18 March 2002 the Board met with Inspector Graeme Cairns and Sergeant Gary Manch from the New Zealand Police, Papanui District.

Inspector Cairns appraised members with details of the staffing structure at Papanui and tabled and elaborated on various crime statistics applicable to the Papanui Police district and highlighted key aspects of the recently released Police Strategic Plan. Members asked a number of questions on these particular matters.

Other issues considered during the discussions included the community and social issues allied to the lowering of the drinking age and in particular the aspects of off and on licensing arrangements. The role of Neighbourhood Support Groups in crime prevention was canvassed as was the work undertaken by the Community Watch service. Motorists behaviour especially the "boy racer" fraternity and their presence and antics in locations such as at McLeans Island were discussed.

The on-going dialogue between the Police and the US authorities responsible for the facility at the airport was mentioned including the Police's desire that the no stopping controls on Orchard Road be retained.

The social and flow on effects of having a number of correctional institutions located in the wider Christchurch area was also reflected on.

The Chairman thanked the Police representatives for their attendance and for the information provided. Members indicated a desire for this type of forum to be arranged on an ongoing basis for the future.

3. SCHOOLS

The Board met with representatives of the North West School Principals' Cluster and Board of Trustees at Fendalton School on 21 March 2002.

Topics discussed included the ongoing liaison between the Advocacy Team and several local schools regarding tree planting and enhancement initiatives along some school frontages utilising Board funding provided for this purpose.

Mention was made of the about to be released Learning Experiences Outside Schools Programme and the Board was encouraged to become involved in the schools section of the Keep Christchurch Beautiful campaign with regard to their community pride awards, the caretaker awards and the environmental enhancement awards.

Traffic safety and management related issues still being experienced by schools especially at the beginning and at the end of each school day were highlighted. Full support was expressed for an extension to the now adopted 40km/h speed limit passed schools initiative albeit that budget constraints would limit the expansion of the project to other schools in the foreseeable future. An option favoured for further investigation and costing was the provision of "day glow" signs similar to those used on Clyde Road on the approaches to the Fendalton School. The possibility of the Board funding such signage is to be further investigated.

The provision of off road cycle ways where practicable was favoured over the Council's current practice of painted cycle lane road markings.

There was general agreement that there needed to be further work done on providing safer drop off zones outside school frontages and that clear partnership opportunities existed by utilising both school and Council land for such a purpose.

The introduction of buses and/or mini vans to transport children to and from school as occurred in some cases elsewhere was also suggested.

Mention was also made of the progress being made with regard to upgrading several of the community facilities in the Board's area namely the former Fendalton Library, Avic Hill Reserve and Art and Craft Centre and also the Bishopdale Community Centre. The Board was also keen to be involved in a current review being undertaken with regard to Jellie Park Aqualand.

The Chairman thanked the school representatives for hosting and contributing to the success of the discussions.

Recommendation: That the information be received.

**Chairman's
Recommendation:** That a progress report be brought to a future Board meeting advising of the extent of follow up to the items raised at the various discussions.