

14. LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS AND OLDER ADULTS RECREATION PROJECT FUNDING 2001/02

Officer responsible Leisure Manager	Author Ollie Clifton, Community Recreation Advisor, DDI 337-4507
Corporate Plan Output: Recreation Programmes and Promotion	

The purpose of this report is to update the Board regarding the allocation of its 2001/02 Project Funds for Local Community Events and Older Adults Recreation.

At its 4 September 2001 meeting the Board endorsed a set of criteria for the allocation of Older Adults Recreation funding, and a specified list of community events to receive grants from the Local Community Events funding. These are detailed below:

Older Adults Recreation Project Fund Criteria

- Projects which target older adults with the least access to recreation and arts opportunities.
- Projects which enhance access to community arts for older adults in the Addington area.
- Projects which target older adults in the Barrington and Spreydon communities.
- Partnerships with St Martins Library with a specific focus on older adults.

Local Community Events Project Funds

Barrington Fun Day	\$3,500	} <i>previously tagged from 24 May 2001 Community Affairs Committee meeting</i>
Hoon Hay Community Day	\$3,500	
St Martins River Day	\$1,000	
Waltham Fun Day	\$1,500	
Sydenham Community Festival	\$500	- \$546 already allocated to Sydenham Business Association from 2000/01 funds, & \$1,500 from creative communities.
Addington Twilight Fair	\$850	
Christmas Events	\$650	
New Events	\$500	
	\$12,000	

PROCESS

Older Adults Recreation

Utilising the existing Beckenham Service Centre community groups database and CINCH (the Canterbury Public Library community group/information database), a large number of older adults groups were sent letters on 2 October 2001 informing them of the funding available, and asking for applications in line with the above criteria by 30 October 2001. A total of ten local community groups sent in proposals. Time was set aside to discuss the proposals in person with each of the groups, hence it was not until 19 December 2001 that groups were notified of funding decisions.

A summary of the applications received is outlined below:

Name	Amt Req'd	Project	Priority Given	Amount Allocated
Community Chaplaincy Services Trust	\$500	New programme of fortnightly recreation outings (½ day activities). Actively target those most at need in local area, especially older women.	1	\$500
St Mary's Church Craft Group	\$80	Craft materials for existing weekly classes. Cost is a significant issue for participants – hence this funding will help to keep costs to a minimum.	1	\$80

Sacred Heart Friendship Group*	\$700	Annual outing for 45 people, including bus transport and admission costs. Relatively new programme in local community – funding will assist group to attract new members, and build existing services.	1	\$700
Waltham Cottage*	\$750	Bus transport and visiting speaker costs for seniors group, February – June 2002. Well established seniors group in local community. Funding will help group keep participant fees to a minimum.	1	\$750
Nazareth House	\$1,000	Shade umbrellas, trestles and chairs for own activity programme, and wider community events.	2	\$450
St Martins Friendship Club	\$500	Bus transport costs for monthly outings, March-November 2002. Very active seniors group which meets weekly. Funding will allow the group to offer a greater range of activities, and keep participant fees to a minimum.	2	\$500
Opawa Baptist Church Craft Group	\$1,000	New trestle tables for weekly craft classes. Tables to be made available for other community groups to borrow.	2	\$400
Special Needs Library	\$4,176	New toys and games designed specifically for older adults with disabilities.	2	\$350
St Martins-Opawa Ladies Probus Club	\$930	Purchase of cordless microphone for visiting speakers. Many members with hearing difficulties.	low	declined
St Martins-Opawa Mens Probus Club	\$535	Upgrade of speaker system. Many members with hearing difficulties.	low	declined
Total Allocated:				\$3,730

All successful applicants are required to complete a comprehensive report covering how the project has met the older adults funding criteria, evaluation processes used and a detailed budget, by no later than 5 July 2002. A summary of this information will be reported back to the Board at its August 2002 meeting.

*In addition to the projects outlined above, both Sacred Heart Friendship Group and Waltham Cottage expressed a strong interest in initiating gentle exercise classes for older adults. The remaining funds of \$1,270 will be utilised to establish these two classes. Recent research (Recreation and Arts Involvement of Older Adults in Christchurch – Wylie 2000) and anecdotal evidence has identified a lack of such classes in many areas of Christchurch, including Spreydon-Heathcote.

Discussions with a range of local older adults organisations raised a number of issues, including the very small number of men involved in such groups, inability to fundraise and constraints on volunteerism for this age group. All local groups were grateful for the Council and Community Board support of older adults recreation.

Local Community Events

Allocations have been made to the following community groups as per the table previously detailed:

Barrington Fun Day	Manuka Cottage	\$3,500
Hoon Hay Community Day	Hoon Hay Presbyterian Church	\$3,500
St Martins River Day	St Martins Youth Centre	\$1,000
Waltham Fun Day	} <i>Funds held by CCC Leisure Unit until final budgets confirmed.</i>	
Sydenham Community Festival		

Addington Twilight Fair

*Christmas Events	Rowley Resource Centre	\$80	
	Beckenham Neighbourhood Association	\$170	
		<hr/>	\$250 (\$650 Budget)
*New Events	Cashmere Wanderers Anniversary	\$424	
	Waltham Kids Jam	\$150	
		<hr/>	\$574 (\$500 Budget)

*Please note that funds set aside for Christmas events have underspent by \$400, and funds for new events overspent thus far by \$74. This has effectively created surplus community event funding of \$326. St Martins Youth Centre have indicated that they will currently face a funding shortfall through additional live entertainment costs for the St Martins River Day. It is therefore intended that the surplus \$326, as well as any other surplus event funding, be redirected to the St Martins River Day.

Demand for local community events is growing, with existing events such as St Martins River Day increasing in size, and other local communities such as Sydenham, Waltham and Somerfield expressing a desire to create new events. Both anecdotal evidence and social research show the value of localised community events as a tool for bringing people together, building communities, and creating social capital. Board Project funding for this area will have to be increased, or prioritised, to support this growth in 2002/03 and future years.

CONCLUSION

Community Board support of older adults recreation has received strong support from local community groups, and the \$5,000 allocated has supported a wide variety of projects. Older adults recreation will almost certainly demand further Board support in future years as population demographics change.

Support for local community events continues to provide local residents with opportunities to celebrate their own talents and diversity, strengthening links in local communities. Demand for these events is increasing and suggests further or prioritised Board support in the future.

Recommendation: That the information be received.