

## 6. SECURITY AND VANDALISM – COLOMBO STREET SOUTH

<b>Officer responsible</b> Ian Hay	<b>Author</b> John De Zwart, Project Manager, City Solutions, DDI 371-1954
Corporate Plan Output: Community Safety	

The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of progress made to address the issues of security and vandalism caused by young people along Colombo Street in the late/early hours of Friday and Saturday nights and early mornings.

### Background

The Council (City Services Committee) at its meeting held on 27 September 2001 approved trialing the use of suitably trained personnel to patrol the Colombo Street area between Milton Street and Moorhouse Avenue for two or three nights a week. Further, the Council resolved to put a cap of \$60,000 on the trial and that the Minister of Police be invited to visit Christchurch and tour the city at first hand in order to see the problem.

Because of the urgency of the situation, the Christchurch City Council Parking Unit provided a presence over the weekend of 12 and 13 of October 2001 (observation only). The Parking Unit subsequently provided a proposal outlining how they could continue to provide the service, the service being provided to date has been in accordance with that proposal and in summary seeks to:

- Provide a uniformed presence/deterrent
- Where necessary contact the Police
- Collect any evidence and contact any Council Units for follow up action as appropriate e.g. cleaners
- Remove any dangerous litter

Patrols of the area commenced on 12 October 2001 and have continued each week since.

### Actions taken post Council resolution on 27 of September 2001

A meeting of key stakeholders was held on 17 October 2001 and was attended by representatives of:

- Police
- Youth Worker organisations
- Land Transport Safety Authority
- Sydenham Business and Community Associations
- Waimakariri District Council (experiencing similar problems)
- Christchurch City Council (cleaning contract management, Community Advocate, Youth Advocate, Communications Team, Parking Unit, Project management.
- Politicians, Dennis O'Rourke, Ingrid Stonhill and Clayton Cosgrove.

The purpose of the meeting was to reach a consensus on a strategy to address the security and vandalism problems, predominantly in Colombo Street between Milton Street and Moorhouse Avenue.

The meeting reached consensus on trialing the use of Parking Wardens for three months as documented in the Parking Unit proposal, and to review the effectiveness of that strategy six weeks after commencement. That review was conducted on 28 November 2001 and resolved to continue the trial for the remainder of the three months.

Means by which to measure the ongoing effectiveness of the current strategy has been implemented and includes:

- A form to be completed each night by the Parking Wardens, documenting the extent of pedestrian and traffic activity each hour.
- Contact has been made with a representative of the shop owners and residents; representatives are contacted each Monday and asked for an account of how they felt the weekend went.

Since the patrols began on 12 October 2001, both shopkeeper and resident representatives have indicated their satisfaction with the effectiveness of the strategy. Some vandalism was reported in the business area of Colombo Street, but outside the target area on the weekend of 30 November 2001 and 1 December 2001.

Contact has been made with the Council staff working to provide a burn out pad as an alternative for the youths. This contact is necessary as the two projects are linked and have the potential to impact on one another.

**Where to from here?**

- Further discussions with the Council's youth workers to establish an appropriate level that they may become involved in the project
- Additional training being contemplated for the Parking Wardens, focus on dealing with youth
- Information (provided by Police) to be given to the shop owners documenting what they can do to deter vandalism etc, automatic lights etc
- Continue to monitor and document activity in the target area
- A meeting at the conclusion of the three month trial to decide on future directions.

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.