

9. SHIRLEY NEEDS ANALYSIS

Officer responsible Community Advocate	Author Alister Whitteker, DDI 941-5401
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The purpose of this report is to seek Board support to conduct a survey to determine the need and viability of a local bus service to The Palms Shopping Centre and other services in that vicinity. The survey would include the residents of the "Emmett Block" and some of the pensioner cottage complexes in the St Albans/Edgeware area.

The Board will recall the Shirley Needs Analysis undertaken in the "Emmett Block" in January 2001.

One of the issues arising from that survey was the lack of access some residents had to shopping centres particularly for the purchase of foodstuffs. Some needed to walk to the supermarket at The Palms Shopping Centre several times in a week as they were only able to carry home small quantities of foodstuffs at a time. Some took the bus to the shopping centres in the Moorhouse Avenue area, but time in travelling precluded the purchase of frozen goods. These residents expressed the need for a local bus service to The Palms Shopping Centre which would allow them to make faster and less frequent trips to purchase foodstuffs. Similar concerns have been expressed at some Council-owned pensioner cottage complexes in the St Albans/Edgeware area. Others have also expressed concerns about the ease of access to other services, ie banks, posts offices, etc.

Recently, discussions have been held with The Red Bus Company and The Palms Shopping Centre to determine the viability of such a service. Both of the above parties have agreed to support a pilot scheme to determine the viability of such a service for a period of at least six months subject to a reasonable interest from residents.

Benefits seen with this project could be ease of access to The Palms for shopping and use of the services both in The Palms Shopping Centre and surrounding area, ie the doctor and dentist. At this time it is envisaged that the service would run in the off peak hours, say between 9.30am and 2.30pm on at least three days per week starting in June.

As part of the Board's participation in this pilot scheme it was suggested that the Board may wish to support a survey of the "Emmett Block" and pensioner cottage complexes to determine residents' interest in the service.

The reason for the report at this time is to seek the Board's approval in principle so that the work can start on the preparation of the survey in order for it to be conducted, completed and analysed by the proposed start time of the pilot scheme.

At the time of writing estimated costs of the survey were not available. It is hoped to have these at the 30 April Ordinary meeting of the Community Board.

Staff

Recommendation: That the Board support a survey to determine the need and viability of a local bus service to The Palms Shopping Centre and other services in that vicinity.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the staff recommendation be adopted.