

17. NEIGHBOURHOOD WEEK

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Community Board of the growth and changes of Neighbourhood Week and offer recommendations regarding the future support of this annual community event.

The Neighbourhood Week Joint Board Committee met on 25 November 2002 for a debriefing on local Neighbourhood Week activities and to revisit the future structure and resourcing of the event as it continues to grow in popularity throughout the City and surrounding districts (report attached). There has also been a positive nationwide response, thanks to the support and enthusiasm of Neighbourhood Support New Zealand. The nature and purpose of Neighbourhood Week offers the wider community opportunities to work collectively towards strengthening communities at a local level. It is important to the continued success of this initiative that these relationships are fostered and maintained.

The role of the Neighbourhood Week Joint Board Committee is to promote the concept of the week, and act as the interface between local communities through the Community Boards, Council staff and interest groups in the wider community; for example Neighbourhood Support and Safer Christchurch. The Joint Committee also offers a forum for the sharing of ideas that others may wish to adopt. It is important that each Board area maintains its local autonomy and control is kept at a community level rather than be lost in the hype and bureaucracy of large-scale metropolitan events. The Joint Committee has indicated a need to maintain some cohesion in generic promotion and information to the public and to Council staff working in different areas. There is a continuing need to provide a positive forum for the interest groups and local Community Boards.

Staff

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the information be received.