

## 14. CRANFORD STREET ACTION GROUP

<b>Officer responsible</b> Community Advocate	<b>Author</b> Bruce Meder, DDI 941-5408
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The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with further information related to the Cranford Street Action Group (CSAG) and to request funding for the group.

### BACKGROUND

Members will recall that at the 2 April 2003 ordinary meeting, CSAG requested funding from the Board in relation to expenses incurred in their submission regarding the Northern Roding Options Scoping Study (NROSS). A copy of the previous report is attached for information.

### INFORMATION REQUEST

Further information was requested by the Board Chairperson in relation to this request. The Chairperson queried the need for a consultant and whether the group had funds available before the Consultant was engaged.

In relation to the need for the consultant, CSAG advise that:

- Residents in the street were asking the group as to the likely effect on property valuations
- CSAG were being advised by Council staff that there would be no impact on property values.
- The only independent professional advice available to the group was to engage the services of a Registered Valuer.

With regard to the availability of funds prior to the engagement of the consultant, CSAG advise that the only funds that the group had access to were from their own personal finances.

### COUNCIL POLICY

Clarification was also sought at a previous Board meeting regarding Council policy with respect to the funding of organisations such as CSAG. The Community Advocate notes the following:

“It is now clear that the Board can provide a grant from its discretionary fund if it chooses. However, in making its decision the Board should take into account previous grants to the group of \$1,000 from the City streets Unit and \$250 from the Board in April 2002. A similar group, Highway-Noway, was allocated \$1,350 from the City streets Unit and \$250 from the Board. The request relates to reimbursement of expenses incurred without prior notice to the Board.”

### DISCUSSION

CSAG are correct in recognising that the engagement of a Registered Valuer was the best option in terms of obtaining independent professional advice.

#### Staff

**Recommendation:** That the Community Board reconsider the request for a grant of \$2,000 from its 2002/03 Discretionary Funds to the Cranford Street Action Group to cover expenses by the group.

#### Chairperson's

**Recommendation:** For discussion.