

## 6. SHIRLEY RESEARCH UPDATE

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The purpose of this report is to update Community Board members on the progress in relation to recommendations made in the Shirley research ("It's a Lot of Little Things Happening That Will Make the Difference").

As Board members will recall, the results of this research were presented to the Board two years ago. In that time some significant developments have occurred in the Shirley area and it is timely to update members of these. The 30 recommendations fell into five broad categories. Each of these are reported on below:

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. The local Councillors are working on the issue of Acheson Avenue shops.
2. Shirley Community Trust are initiating a number of co-operative ventures in the area. One reason for these co-operatives (that were operating) stopping was the general run-down of networking in the area (which has been significantly improved over the past two years - see Coordination of agencies below).
3. Use of local skills is being supported, especially through some of the work of Delta Trust and Shirley Community Trust.
4. Partnerships with schools are developing. Shirley Primary are still interested in the community gardens approach, although the Principal has higher priorities at the moment.

### ADVOCACY

1. Agencies are moving to become more accessible within the community, especially by utilising the McFarlane Park Neighbourhood Centre one morning a month. Although this has not had a lot of "walk-in" clientele, the fact that they are there is very good relationship building.
2. The Community Board supported residents in their opposition to the bar.
3. Graffiti is being tackled by Youth 4 Youth and by Shirley Community Trust, as well as the legal art programme through the City Council.
4. Shopping bus from The Palms to the neighbourhood. This is an opportunity for the Community Board to play an advocacy role with Environment Canterbury.
5. Supporting small business in the area. The Community Board may wish to discuss its role in this regard. There may be an opportunity to discuss options with the Canterbury Development Corporation. The work related to the Acheson Avenue shops will also be critical.
6. Review of traffic issues. The Community Board may need to request a report from City Streets.

### SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

1. Volunteer centre and drop-in centre for parents (using old "Plunket Rooms). Shirley Community Trust are working on this to some extent, especially with the Friday morning cafe. This cafe has been an amazing success. Many local residents come in for a coffee, piece of cake and/or a chat. There are toys and spaces for children. It is a great piece of community well-being, identity and development.
2. Recreation facilities at schools out of school hours. The Board has supported (and continues to do so) the establishment of after-school programmes at Hammersley Park and at Shirley Primary Schools. Youth 4 Youth are providing regular out of school activities (touch, basketball, pool table, etc) for youth and children.
3. Initiate supervised recreation. See 2 above, especially with respect to Youth 4 Youth.

4. Supervision for MacFarlane Park spaces. The active engagement of young people through Youth 4 Youth in the skating facility should ensure some supervision.
5. Holiday programmes. These are running in the area – Leisure Unit will have information on these.
6. Liaison with local Maori with regard to Kohanga Reo. Maata Waka are still interested in this, we just need to keep up the relationship there so that if and when something more concrete occurs we can assist.
7. Pacific Island language nests. Same as above, although the Board did assist Aoga Amata into Birchgrove school.
8. Ensuring that a range of support meeting different cultural needs of families includes much of the above and also with the Youth Forever Club, which supports young people and their families with Arabic and African heritage.

#### **SUPPORT FOR YOUTH**

1. The skateboard facility consultation is almost complete with site and designs ready for construction.
2. Further discussion needs to take place regarding the use of Shirley Intermediate School pool during school holidays.
3. Setting up a dedicated youth activities centre. Youth 4 Youth are keen to establish this. This may also arise out of the work with the shops. Approaches have been made to Housing NZ to see if they can assist, however, they are unable to do so. At some stage, this may come before the Board. In the meantime, local Councillors are aware of the need and have met local youth regarding this.
4. Support a youth worker. The Project proposal for Youth 4 Youth is towards this end.

#### **CO-ORDINATION OF AGENCIES**

The establishment and maintenance of the Shirley Community Interagency Network has been a tremendous success. It meets bi-monthly and has a regular attendance of 20-40 people representing a range of governmental agencies, community groups, schools and residents. It has meant that there is now good communication and coordination amongst groups, including the sharing of resources. It has been one reason for a heightened sense of belonging, identity and ownership of the area by residents, youth and others in the area.

#### **Staff**

- Recommendation:**
1. That the information be received.
  2. That the Board invite representatives of the Canterbury Development Corporation to a seminar meeting to discuss how the Board can work with the Corporation Development Corporation to support small business development.
  3. That the Board receive an update from City Streets in relation to traffic matters identified in the research.

#### **Chairperson's**

- Recommendation:** That the staff recommendations be adopted.