

21. LIVING TOGETHER SEMINAR

Officer responsible City Streets Unit Manager	Author Councillor Denis O'Rourke
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The Living Together seminar was held on Thursday 1 May 2003. Some members of this Committee attended. Sustainability issues generally were discussed and two of the possible actions to emerge from the seminar were:

1. The establishment of neighbourhood sustainability groups, possibly based on neighbourhood support groups (rather than Resident Associations). Ecan staff at the meeting thought that it might be possible for Ecan to assist the City Council with funding. Council funding would need to provide for coordinators and with other resources to establish and maintain the groups. There are many issues which both the City Council and Ecan need to provide information to and gain the support of the public. Council staff cannot knock on every door and pamphlets and other advertising are not enough. It is considered essential that community groups be established to fill the gap, if Christchurch is going to have any hope of making real progress with its sustainability goals. Such groups would be very valuable to the Committee to assist with issues relating to waste disposal and minimisation, water conservation, and a wide range of transport issues.
2. The United Nations Carless Day. Councillors may recall that I attended the United Nations Carless Day conference in Freemantle about two years ago with a member of the City Streets staff. I wrote a report for the Committee. I will discuss this verbally and show photographs at this month's meeting. The fundamental idea behind the Carless Day concept is to promote forms of transport other than the use of the private motor car. The concept includes a festival event in the central city. Ecan **may** be able to assist with free public transport for one day.

Chairman's

Recommendation:

1. That Christchurch City Council sustainability staff be requested to investigate (with Ecan) the establishment of neighbourhood sustainability groups in Christchurch, for the purposes of policy establishment and funding provision through the Strategy and Finance Committee.
2. That the City Streets manager be requested to investigate a proposal (with Ecan) for a Carless Day event in Christchurch during 2004/05.