

#### 4. CORRESPONDENCE

##### COMMUNITY CONSTABLES

The following letter was received from Hon Lianne Dalziel MP, referring a response from the Minister of Police to an enquiry about the availability of community constables.

*"I write as a follow up to you concerning the availability of community constables, an issue which was raised at a previous Burwood/Pegasus Community Board meeting. I have raised this matter with the Minister of Police, Hon George Hawkins, and I have enclosed a copy of his reply to me for your information (as outlined below).*

*I have spoken to Inspector Brian McGurk, Area Controller for New Brighton and he has indicated he is happy to meet with us. I will keep you informed of any further developments."*

Minister of Police, Hon George Hawkins reply to Hon Lianne Dalziel:

*"Thank you for your letter of 12 July 2003 concerning community policing.*

*The Police has advised that the Burwood Community Constable, who is usually based at Shirley Service Centre, has been diverted to other duties. During May and June 2003, the Community Constable assisted a team investigating a series of house burglaries. Many of those burglaries had taken place in Dallington and Avondale, which are suburbs covered by the Burwood Community Constable.*

*I can further advise that community constables have a broad role in helping to maintain a safe community and there will be times when they will be diverted from their usual duties to deal with problems in other areas. The police need to be flexible and match their resources to those areas of greatest need in the community.*

*The placement of staff within New Zealand Police is an operational matter. It is the responsibility of each district commander to determine the distribution of staff in each district. Resourcing needs are monitored constantly and adjustments made when and where appropriate.*

*I have been assured that the community has access to support within the New Brighton Policing Area. I understand that Inspector Brian McGurk, Area Controller New Brighton, is available to members of the community to answer queries they may have."*

Inspector Brian McGurk will be in attendance to comment on this matter.

##### **Chairperson's**

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.