

6. LIVING STREETS –INTRIGUE AND UNCERTAINTY TOUR – TUCKERS ROAD

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The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Board concerning the “Intrigue and Uncertainty Tour” and its implications on Tuckers Road.

WHAT IS THE INTRIGUE AND UNCERTAINTY TOUR? (REFER TO ATTACHMENT)

The goals of the September to November 2003 Intrigue and Uncertainty tour are to; “Give residents and schools new tools to tackle traffic issues; tools that they can use on their own or in partnership with the City. Also, to give the city and city officials new tools to deal with school and neighbourhood traffic which, costs less money than traditional traffic calming, requires less time in public process and can be implemented quicker, does not aggravate drivers as much as traditional traffic calming, is less intrusive, and does not impede emergency vehicles.”

To be included in the tour programme you need to have a project bid accepted by Creative Communities International, which is the company organising the tour. At the July Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee approval was given to make a bid for the inclusion of Tuckers Road in the tour. This bid has been accepted and a five-day event in Tuckers Road is scheduled to occur in October or November 2003.

BACKGROUND

David Enwicht has visited Christchurch on previous occasions and made presentations to Councillors and the TRAFFINZ conference. He was also part of an unsuccessful bid to develop what is now Living Streets, but at the time was a study brief for “The most appropriate forms of traffic calming for different environments”. Some Councillors have continued to express an interest in utilising some of David’s techniques.

TUCKERS ROAD

Tuckers Road was selected for the event primarily because there is funding in this financial year and the next for the implementation of traditional traffic calming devices (\$242,000). Other considerations include, the fact that it has a primary school and a history of excessive vehicle speeds. The advantage of testing new techniques for calming traffic on Tuckers Road is that the fall back option of pursuing traditional calming will assist community buy in to a trial. Selecting a street without this option may place the Council in a vulnerable situation should the trial be unsuccessful. The event may want to incorporate some form of traditional calming anyway, and having the budget available is an advantage.

A significant point to emphasise is that this is a trial. There is no assumption, at this stage, that the event will revolutionise traffic calming and that the Council need not spend \$242,000 in Tuckers Road. The trial will be evaluated following completion and only then will discussions occur concerning the need or otherwise to proceed with the traditional calming works.

The Community will be informed clearly of the fact that this is a trial and that at this stage the traditional calming project scheduled for completion next financial year is not under threat.

DISCUSSION

David Enwicht uses techniques that are considered “unconventional” by the traffic engineering fraternity. As a consequence there is a degree of apprehension concerning the implementation of his programmes in Christchurch. However, Christchurch has a reputation for innovation and there has also been a desire from some elected members to at least trial this type of initiative. There may be some “issues” with the LTSA if the event incorporates the use of unconventional street furniture. This would need to be worked through if it became an issue at the time. A meeting will be set up with the Road Safety Committee prior to the event.

It is anticipated that David will come to Christchurch and talk to this Board prior to commencing the event. This will give members an opportunity to ask any questions of David and get a feel for how the event may evolve in Tuckers Road.

Staff

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairperson's**Recommendation:**

1. That the staff recommendation be adopted.
2. That the Board supports the activities in Tuckers Road during Neighbourhood Week.
3. That, subject to approvals from the relevant authorities, the Board assist with funding of activities.