

### 3. ST MATTHEWS CHURCH

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| <b>Officer responsible</b><br>Community Advocate | <b>Author</b><br>Bruce Meder, DDI 941-5408 |
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The purpose of this report is to seek funds from the Community Board towards the costs incurred by St Matthews in association with providing a community facility. Members will recall that a deputation from St Matthews presented to the Community Board in July.

#### **POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES MET**

This project meets the following outcome from the Council's Social Wellbeing Policy: "People participate in community life and have a sense of belonging and identity."

The project also helps to contribute towards the outcomes of the Council's emerging Long-Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) especially with respect to:

- Social Connectedness and Identity
- Health
- Arts and Leisure

It also contributes towards the Community Board's objective of "promot(ing) a safe, healthy community".

#### **ST MATTHEWS**

St Matthews Anglican Church is in Cranford Street close to English park in St Albans. Six years ago the church began an upgrade of their complex. The important aspects of this upgrade in terms of community use are:

- A modernised kitchen
- A large lounge area
- Meeting room
- Large hall including a stage
- Modernised heating facilities

#### **COMMUNITY USE**

St Matthews have also, during the past six years, made a conscious effort to become more involved in their local community. A Youth Worker has been employed by the church which has resulted in a number of youth activities and events being run at the church. Often these functions have been held in collaboration with other community agencies.

As a result of the facility upgrade and the more active community involvement, St Matthews has seen a more than doubling in demand for the use of their facilities. This extra demand has seen increased costs in administration, cleaning, heating, power, maintenance, security, and health and safety equipment.

Their power costs alone have increased enormously (\$400 and \$600 in the past two months).

A significant number of the groups using the building are from the local (St Albans) community, eg:

- Brownies, Pippins, Guides
- Kidzone
- Teenzone
- Friendship clubs
- Men's Breakfast Club
- St Albans School Bi-lingual Unit
- Edgware Croquet Club
- St Albans Community Choir
- Cranford Street Residents Group
- OSCAR in St Albans
- Parent and Toddler Group
- Children's Music Group
- Sunbeam Kindergarten
- Holiday programmes

There are also users who are of a more metropolitan nature plus social functions, eg weddings, birthdays.

This large use of the facility is a good indicator of residents actively participating in their community. The spin-offs from these groups can be significant in people's lives. An example is the Children's Music Group which, although aimed at pre-schoolers music and movement learning, has by-products of parent support, building of friendships and information sharing.

#### **COSTS**

Use of the facility is by way of donation. However, this does not cover the full costs. Thus, St Matthews are now having to apply to various bodies for assistance with their costs. The annual cost of providing this facility is approximately \$26,000 per annum made up of internal administration costs, external and ongoing supply, eg power, and one-off external costs, eg security locks, maintenance, cleaning, etc.

#### **DISCUSSION**

Although there are other community facilities within a 1km radius of St Matthews, eg St Albans Community Resource Centre, St Albans Baptist Church, Rehua Marae, these are also running at almost full capacity. Any funding to St Matthews could come from SCAP funds. The aims of SCAP are:

- To improve people's sense of belonging to and being part of the community
- To reduce people's fear of being victims of crime
- To support people, communities and neighbourhoods to take ownership of achieving the above aims and act themselves.

St Matthews facility provides a venue within which people are able to take ownership and act so as to improve a sense of belonging to and being part of the community.

#### **Staff**

**Recommendation:** That a grant of up to \$5,000 from the 2003/04 SCAP funds be allocated to St Matthews to help with costs associated with the provision of a community facility.

#### **Chairperson's**

**Recommendation:** That the staff recommendation be adopted.