

## 2. WESTMORLAND RECREATIONAL NEEDS ANALYSIS

Ms Mary Sparrow, an independent researcher contracted by the service centre, gave a presentation to the Board on this recently completed commission.

Members were in receipt of two documents, being the Needs Analysis (giving a project overview and specific outcomes) and the Needs Survey, this later document to serve as a working reference document.

The objectives of this project were to identify:

- (a) Local community needs pertaining to recreation/community facilities and reserves.
- (b) Existing community facilities.
- (c) Current community/recreation participation levels and preferences.
- (d) Usage and quality of recreation facilities in the area.
- (e) Barriers to participation.

The outcomes required included:

- (a) A general profile of the characteristics of the local residents based on 1996 census results.
- (b) Current recreation/community participation levels and preferences of local residents.
- (c) Any desire to increase participation and barriers to participation.
- (d) Views concerning the standard of development of neighbourhood reserves and concerning options for the future development of these areas.
- (e) Information about the community facilities available in the area surrounding Westmorland.

Consultation for the Westmorland Recreational Needs Analysis included:

- (a) A meeting with the Westmorland Residents' Association.
- (b) A household recreational needs survey, with questionnaires delivered to every dwelling at Westmorland.
- (c) Consultation with the people involved with managing the main community facilities in the neighbouring areas.

The level of use of neighbourhood reserves at Westmorland by members of respondent households ranged from 70% for the Sedgwick Reserve to 15% for the Highcrest Reserve.

Levels of dissatisfaction with the development of neighbourhood reserves were generally low.

There was strong support, especially from households with children and/or young people for more and better play equipment at neighbourhood reserves.

Respondents also stressed the importance of walkways and mountain bike trails in their area.

A relatively high proportion of respondents considered it important to have community groups based at Westmorland.

Christchurch City planners considering proposals for new residential developments in the Cracroft/Westmorland area, have identified the need for a new major sports ground in this area. In the longer term, a multi-use building on Francis Reserve could well provide a satisfactory 'home' for Westmorland based groups, and a place for community activities for the people of Westmorland.

The recommendations of the Needs Analysis were:

- (a) That children's play equipment be installed at the Highcrest Reserve, and the Francis Reserve, and that the play equipment at the Sedgwick Reserve be upgraded at the earliest opportunity.
- (b) That a community tennis court be constructed at the Francis Reserve.
- (c) That a half basketball court be constructed at the Francis Reserve.
- (d) That if funds become available, consideration should also be given to providing an area for skateboarding at the Sedgwick Reserve.
- (e) Attention should also be paid to ensuring that advantage is taken of any opportunities which occur to construct walkways and mountain bike trails in the Westmorland area.
- (f) That the Westmorland Residents Association be kept informed of any developments concerning a new major sports ground for the south eastern area of the city, and be given an opportunity to be involved with the planning of this facility as soon as practical.

The Board received the report and **decided** it be referred to the Community Affairs Committee for further consideration and that issues unrelated to recreation be referred to officers for comment.