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**COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
9 MARCH 1998**

**A meeting of the Community Services Committee
was held on Monday 9 March 1998 at 4.00 pm**

- PRESENT:** Councillor Garry Moore (Chairperson),
Councillors Carole Anderton, Anna Crighton,
Ishwar Ganda, Pat Harrow, and Lesley Keast
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor Morgan Fahey (retired at 4.20 pm and
was present for clause 2).
- APOLOGIES:** Apologies for absence were received and accepted
from the Mayor and Councillors Graham Condon,
David Cox, Carole Evans and Barbara Stewart.
- Councillor Ganda retired at 4.45 pm and was absent
for clauses 3, 5-7, 8.3 and 10.
- Councillor Anna Crighton arrived at 4.15 pm,
retired at 5.40 pm, and was absent for clause 8.

The Committee reports that:

PART A - MATTERS REQUIRING A COUNCIL DECISION

**1. FORFAR AND BERWICK COURTS
ELDERLY PERSONS HOUSING**

RR 7189

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| Officer responsible Property Manager | Author Errol Waller |
| Corporate Plan Output: 8.7.2 | |

The purpose of this report is to obtain approval to purchase the land on which Forfar and Berwick Courts Elderly Persons Housing are located.

BACKGROUND

In 1977 the former Christchurch City Council negotiated an agreement with the then National Roads Board to utilise vacant land purchased for the proposed northern motorway in Forfar and Berwick Streets, St Albans for Elderly Persons housing.

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The Council was to be responsible for rates, pay only a peppercorn rental and have a first option for purchase of the land at current market value in the event it was not required for motorway purposes.

A total of 36 units of a relocatable design (Forfar 24 Berwick 12) were erected on the two sites in 1978 which would allow for their ultimate removal if the land was utilised for motorway. While the units can be relocated, this would involve considerable cost, the loss of existing services, landscaping, paths, roading, disruption to tenants and loss of rental income. In addition alternative sites/or site, would be required and it would be difficult to acquire a block of sufficient size to accommodate the number of units involved.

VALUATIONS

Following the abandonment of the Northern motorway by Transit New Zealand, the land has now been offered to the Council for purchase in accordance with the provisions of the 1977 agreement. Negotiations have now concluded with Terralink on behalf of Transit New Zealand for the Council purchase of the freehold of the land as per the following details.

Forfar Courts

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| Area: | 5997m ² |
| Legal Description: | Lots 99 and 100 DP 1527 Part Lots 1 DP 73450 & DP 10863 |
| Valuation: | Government Valuation as at 1 September 1995: CV: \$1,265,000 LV: \$250,000 Improvements: \$1,015,000 |

The current market value of the land has been jointly assessed by Mark Shalders of Bennett Rolle Limited acting for Transit and John Ryan of Robertson Young Telfer for the Council at \$725,000 inclusive of GST, if applicable.

All costs associated with surveying and transferring the ownership of the land to the Council are to be met by Transit New Zealand.

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Berwick Courts

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| <i>Area:</i> | 2610m ² |
| <i>Legal Description:</i> | Lots 1, 2 and 3 DP 23032 Part Lots 1 DP 73450 & DP 10863 |
| <i>Valuation:</i> | Government Valuation as at 1 September 1995: CV: \$640,000 LV: \$160,000 Improvements: \$480,000 |

The current market value of the land has been jointly assessed by Mark Shalders of Bennett Role Limited for Transit New Zealand and John Ryan of Robertson Young Telfer for the Council at \$325,000 inclusive of GST, if applicable.

All survey and associated costs in vesting the Berwick and Forfar land in the Council by proclamation under the provisions of the Public Works Act will be met by Transit.

It should be noted that the initial valuation for Forfar Street for the vendor was \$810,000, as opposed to the valuation for the Council of \$638,000. In view of the difference in valuations a joint valuation was arranged and the lower figure of \$725,000 agreed. A similar joint assessment was then undertaken for Berwick Court.

The large difference between the government valuation of 1995 for the sites and the current market value should be viewed having regard to the depressed state of property values in this locality at that time as the prospect of the northern motorway proceeding still existed.

Budget allowance has been made in the 1997/98 year for the provision of \$1,000,000 to provide additional flats in an unspecified area. It would be intended to substitute the purchase of the Forfar and Berwick Street sites for this.

Recommendation: That the purchase of the land at Forfar Courts and Berwick Courts from Transit New Zealand for the total sum of \$1,050,000 be confirmed.

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2. SKATEBOARDING IN CHRISTCHURCH

RR 7261

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| Officer responsible Youth Advocate | Author Robyn Moore |
| Corporate Plan Output: Youth Strategy | |

The purpose of this report is to provide a background to the current skateboarding debate and to outline a possible process for seeking the views of skateboarders.

BACKGROUND ISSUES

In Christchurch skateboarding and in-line skating have grown to the point where they are a major recreational activity. Skateboards and in-line skating are being used increasingly as a means of transport. Numbers of skaters (in both categories) continue to grow. This is in line with trends in Australia and the United States.

The level of skateboarding now evident in Christchurch is causing some members of the public to express concern about pedestrian safety, noise, and damage to public amenities. There is a perception in some quarters that skateboarding is having a negative impact on public safety. A Council-funded skateboard facility is currently under development at Washington Park. This facility will undoubtedly suit some skateboarders, but as there are different ‘forms’ of skateboarding, there are many who will not be satisfied with this new facility. Victoria Square is likely to remain the venue of choice for those who have skateboarding needs not met at Washington Park.

DOES LEGISLATION WORK?

Melbourne experienced a similar debate to that currently occurring in Christchurch. The Council examined the effectiveness of legislation in other Australian cities and found that where skateboarding and in-line skating had been banned in public places the bans were proving difficult to enforce. Legislation to control skating had proved ineffective.

WHAT EFFECT IS THE VICTORIA SQUARE BAN LIKELY TO HAVE?

Those who have supported a ban in the interests of public safety are likely to react in a positive manner. This positive reaction is only likely to remain if the ban is rigorously enforced.

Young people who were expecting to be consulted about possible areas for skateboarding bans (see minutes of 24 September Council meeting), are likely to feel discouraged and abandoned. Indeed Minutes of the 24 September Council meeting have been faxed to the Youth Advocate by a

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young person concerned about inadequate consultation prior to the ban.
Minutes of the 24 September meeting state:

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“Whilst agreeing with the depositions at the Committee that inconsiderate use of skateboards has been causing problems in areas of Christchurch, members were not prepared to make a recommendation to the Environmental Committee for the banning of skateboarding until submissions are heard from skateboarders”.

Young people who view skateboarding as their sport are likely to feel victimised if satisfactory alternatives are not provided. Enforcement agents will be preventing young people from participating in an active outdoor leisure activity. This contact with enforcement agents may have a very negative effect on young people who are genuinely trying to pursue a sport in the absence of adequate facilities. Enforcement carried out under such circumstances is unlikely to increase the respect young people have for the law.

MANAGEMENT OF CITY SKATING: SOME POSSIBILITIES

Access routes throughout the city to be designated for skaters and with the input of skaters

These may be shared cycle/skating access routes. This concept would help to safeguard skaters and pedestrians. Overseas indicators show that skating is gaining legitimacy as a means of transport.

The provision of skate venues

When planning venues it must be accepted that there are different skating needs, and facilities (if they are to be well utilised), must be designed in consultation with users. We would not consider supplying the same facility for ten pin bowling, lawn bowls and indoor bowls - yet through lack of awareness many adults lump skaters together as one group and expect that one type of skating facility may alleviate the problem. Unfortunately unless there is thorough consultation to assess and consider skating needs, Victoria Square may remain the best skating venue for some groups.

Points to be considered are:

- A management plan incorporating desirable access routes and venues (designed in consultation with the user group), should create sufficient goodwill to incorporate 24 hour no skate zones and zones where skating is restricted to particular hours.
- A management plan could include the introduction of physical measures to reduce the desirability of skating in areas where public safety may be compromised.

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- It may be necessary to include a bylaw which enables infringement notices to be issued for reckless and hazardous skateboarding behaviour in public places, and for damage to property. It would be hoped that in the context of the overall management plan the issuing of such notices would be uncommon.
- New facilities must be marketed well to the target group, including new skaters and skateboarding tourists. It is interesting to note that cities throughout the world which have good facilities for skateboarding and in-line skating have these promoted in high profile world wide travel guides such as *Lonely Planet*.
- As part of an overall management plan, an awareness raising campaign covering skateboarding and in line skating could be targeted to the general population group in an effort to demystify skating and promote it as a legitimate sport.
- An intersectoral reference group including skateboarding representation, could maintain an advisory role throughout the implementation of the management plan.
- Melbourne moved away from straight legislation to control skating activity within the city and developed a comprehensive plan for the management of skating. It may be useful to examine the effectiveness of the Melbourne model.

Process for Skater Consultation

The different sub-groups of skateboarders and in line skaters will be identified. Youth networks within the city to be approached to help with this identification process. Focus groups will be set up to examine the existing situation, and to brainstorm possible solutions which will emphasise public and skater safety. These focus groups must be representative of the different types of skating activity popular within Christchurch.

Skaters with knowledge of facilities in other cities (including Melbourne and Californian cities) will be approached to give their views on the suitability of such facilities within the Christchurch setting. One experienced skater, known to Council Parks staff, is said to have an excellent knowledge of overseas facilities.

Skaters will be invited send in written submissions and questionnaires will be distributed via youth networks within the city and via the young people involved in the focus groups.

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The Youth Advocate takes responsibility for co-ordinating the consultation process and for presenting the results to members of Council and relevant Council staff.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Council seek the views of skaters in accordance with the above outline.
 2. That the Council agree to further investigation being undertaken regarding the concept of a city wide management plan for skateboarding and in-line skating.
 3. That a Sub-committee consisting of Councillors Garry Moore, Carole Anderton, Anna Crighton, Patrick Harrow and Yani Johansen (Youth Council representative) be appointed to work with appropriate staff in the preparation of this plan.

3. SUBMISSION ON CODE OF SOCIAL AND FAMILY RESPONSIBILITY

RR 7267

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| Officer responsible Director Policy | Author Senior Policy Analyst |
| Corporate Plan Output: 4.1.16, Policy Advice | |

The purpose of this report is to propose options for the consideration of the CCC in response to central governments Code of Social and Family Responsibility.

Christchurch City Council's Community Development and Social Well-Being Policy identifies '*Increasing participation in personal and political decision making*', '*Self determination and empowerment*' and '*Improving the position of the least advantaged*' as outcomes and also identifies 'advocacy' on behalf of residents, as one of its roles.

Central government released its public discussion document, 'Toward a Code of Social and Family Responsibility' in late February. The booklet has been sent to all households in New Zealand to encourage discussion. Views are being sought to help shape the final form the Code might take. The deadline for sending in responses is Friday 24 April.

The purpose of the proposed Code is to:

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- Make clear how we all expect people to meet their responsibilities
- Influence behaviour
- Set guidelines for government policy development or legislation
- Provide a starting point for further discussion

The issues concern personal responsibility, parental responsibility, caring and making time for children, upholding the law and managing money. In particular the issues are:

- Looking after children
- Pregnancy care
- Keeping children healthy
- Learning for under 5s
- Getting children to school ready to learn
- Young offenders
- Sharing parenthood
- Training and learning for employment
- Work obligations and income support
- Managing money
- Keeping ourselves healthy

The Office for the Minister of Social Welfare encourages and has indicated that it will consider community responses as well as community submissions separate to the response form. The Minister, the Honourable Roger Sowry, has also said that he would be keen to attend a public forum in Christchurch on the issue. Local Government New Zealand are not initiating any specific follow up on the issue, but will exchange information about what local authorities are doing. Apparently Hamilton City Council and Waitakere City Council are initiating community discussion forums.

The CCC may also want to consider initiating community discussion forums. The purpose of the discussion forums could include:

- Exchanging views and information to enable residents to make more informed decisions
- Getting community responses to the form
- Getting community submissions in addition to the response form

The discussion forums could include:

1. A metropolitan forum, targeting identified opinion leaders and key stakeholders from all sectors and representation from CCC target groups; children, youth, elderly and people on limited incomes. Council of Social Services is receptive to considering a contract to organise, facilitate and follow up such a forum, in consultation with

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the CCC's children's advocate, youth advocate, senior community adviser, senior policy analyst and aged concern.

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The senior policy analyst could project manage the initiative. Funding for previous exercises of a similar nature have been around \$10,000. Funding for up to \$10,000 would be available from the Policy sections Community Views budget.

2. Ward based community discussion forums. Community Managers could be asked to arrange for Ward based forums, including resident group participation, in consultation with Community Boards.

The CCC may also want to consider advocating on behalf of residents via the preparation of a CCC submission separate to the response form. The senior policy analyst could facilitate this for the consideration of the April Community Services Committee.

- Recommendation:**
1. That metropolitan and ward based community discussion forums be held as detailed in the report.
 2. That the Council make a separate submission on the discussion document as outlined.
 3. That arrangements be made for additional copies of the public discussion document 'Toward a Code of Social and Family Responsibility' be made available from Service Centres and libraries to residents who require additional copies.

PART B - REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

4. DEPUTATIONS BY APPOINTMENT

Mr Warren Pringle, President of the Christchurch Community Arts Council, was not available to speak to the Committee due to his absence overseas. This item was therefore carried forward to the April meeting of the Committee.

5. ANNUAL REPORTS FROM SISTER CITIES COMMITTEES RR 6941

The Committee considered a report from Sue McFarlane and Dave Adamson, International Relations Co-ordinators, on the Sister Cities programmes for the period July to December 1997.

The report covered the activities of each of the Sister City Committees for the period under review.

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Mr Tim Nicholls, Chairman of the Seattle Sister City Committee and Mr Clive Sugden, Chairman of the Songpa-Gu Sister City Committee attended the meeting and spoke further to their reports.

In response to questions from members it was requested that staff report back on the policy for Councillor representation on Sister City Committees and also on the potential for other Sister Cities links. It was noted that a study was currently being undertaken on the Council's involvement in Sister Cities and that this later issue could be covered as part of that study.

In addition it was agreed that the Youth Council would provide information to the Sister Cities Committees about itself and what it would be able to contribute to the Sister Cities programmes.

It was **decided** that the information be received and that the Council thank the Committee Chairman for their contribution and commitment to the Sister Cities programme and that a special function be held for all members of Sister City Committees to thank them for their efforts.

6. CCC CHILDREN'S POLICY

RR 7197

The Committee considered a report from the Children's Advocate, Lyn Campbell, on the process for developing a Children's Policy.

The report outlined a process for the development of this policy and indicated the likely subject areas that it would cover.

The Committee agreed that the preparation of the Children's Policy using the process outlined in the report be undertaken.

7. REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 1997/98 CORPORATE PLAN

The Committee reviewed reports for the period to 31 December 1997 for the following Units:

- Canterbury Development Corporation
- Leisure and Community Services Unit (Community Development)
- Robert McDougall Art Gallery
- Housing Section
- Libraries Unit
- Canterbury Tourism Council

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Unit Managers replied to questions from elected representatives regarding their reports and issues raised related to:

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- Liaison between the Employment Services Unit and graduates from the limited service volunteer scheme. The Employment Services Manager advised that graduates were automatically referred to the Employment Services Unit.
- Loan funds advanced from the CDC to "Just Dollars". It was indicated the expectation was that this would be repaid.
- The issue of funding for community groups in Christchurch and the possibility of whether some co-ordinating role could be played by the Council in recognition of the amount of time spent by community groups in obtaining funding. It was agreed that the Chairman and the Senior Community Development Adviser would discuss this issue further.
- The issue of referrals from the health system from people being de-institutionalised and the additional time and support required from Housing Unit staff especially in respect to tenants who had previously been supported. It was agreed that this matter would be the subject of a further report to the Committee.
- Libraries Unit Revenue - the Libraries Manager indicated that revenue was currently under budget with a large proportion of this being attributable to the Shirley Library closure and the refurbishment of the Central Library.

The Libraries Manager advised that reports would be submitted to the Committee in due course on the usage of the Shirley Library and on Sunday opening.

8. ITEMS RECEIVED

The Committee **received** the following reports:

8.1 Restructuring of Employment Services

RR 6883

This report by the Manager of the Employment Services Unit provided an update on proposed changes to the New Zealand Employment Service, Income Support Service and Community Employment Group to form one new organisation and the likely effect this would have on the role and future relationship of the Employment Services Unit with the new organisation.

8.2 Report on Christchurch Music Centre

RR 7229

Councillor David Cox reported on the major aspects of the operation of the Christchurch Music Centre for the 1997 year.

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8.3 Netday '98

RR 7184

The Children's Advocate informed the elected members of the significance of Canterbury Netday 1998 which is proposed for 26 June 1998 and aims to assist over 100 schools in the area of information technology.

**PART C - REPORT ON DELEGATED DECISIONS
TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE**

9. The Chairman sought the approval of the Committee to introduce supplementary reports on the following topics:

1. **Skateboarding in Christchurch**
2. **Submission on Code of Social and Family Responsibility**
3. **Essential Services**

The reasons why the items were not on the agenda for the meetings and why the matters could not wait for the next meeting were explained to the Committee.

The Committee **resolved** that the reports be received and considered at the present meeting.

10. ESSENTIAL SERVICES

RR 7269

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Policy on the proposal to hold a joint seminar of the Community Services and City Services Committees to allow managers of essential services to speak on the security and reliability of Christchurch's essential services. The matter was also considered at the 10 March 1998 meeting of the City Services Committee who concurred with the recommendation.

The Committee **resolved**:

1. That a joint seminar of the Community Services and City Services Committees be held to which Councillors Community Board members and key representatives of the business community and Civil Defence be invited.
2. That the seminar provide information from managers of the key essential services on the reliability of service, risk management strategies and business and disaster recovery programmes.

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11. SISTER CITIES CONVENTION: TAUPO, 27-29 MARCH 1998 RR 7219

The Committee considered a report from Dave Adamson, International Relations Co-ordinator on the attendance an elected representative at the Sister Cities Convention in Taupo between 27-29 March 1998.

The Committee **resolved** that Councillor Patrick Harrow attend the 1998 Sister Cities Convention in Taupo between 27-29 March 1998 and that he be accompanied by a staff member.

The meeting concluded at 6.45 pm.

CONSIDERED THIS 25TH DAY OF MARCH 1998

MAYOR