

8. COMMUNITY FOCUS COMMITTEE

The Community Focus Committee held its inaugural meeting on Wednesday 20 October 1999.

The Committee reported to the Board as follows:

8.1 COUNCIL COMMUNITY VANS

The Community Advocate outlined the requirements for licensing of drivers for community vans, as outlined in the legal opinion submitted to the meeting by the Legal Services Manager and the legal implications for the Council of having the vans available in a way which could be interpreted as having vehicles available for hire or reward.

The Community Advocate advised that the Council has a potential problem in the operation of these vans and suggested that the money saved by withdrawing the vans could be used to subsidise vans hired by community organisations from commercial rental car firms.

Other alternatives to withdrawing the vans were discussed. It was suggested by advisory staff that the community vans were an essential service. It was emphasised in discussion that there needed to be a consistent approach to the matter of community vans round the Service Centres.

Board members were unanimous in stating that the community vans were needed and that it was essential that these vans be retained, while complying with the requirements of the law.

The issue was left to officers to investigate and to report back to the Board.

8.2 GRAFFITI UPDATE

An update report was given on progress being made by the working party seeking a co-ordinated approach to the problems arising from graffiti on a city wide basis.

A "Graffiti Crime Prevention Plan" report prepared by the Queensland Department of Justice was reproduced for Board members. The working party is suggesting that the Council consider adopting relevant elements of this Queensland "Graffiti Crime Prevention Plan".

8.3 BUS STOPS – CHANGING POSITION PROCESS

Linda Rutland outlined her concerns over the loss of a bus stop outside a retirement village, resulting from the changes to the bus route proposed by the Canterbury Regional Council.

Despite community feedback requesting the retention of a bus stop, the route change has resulted in the loss of the bus stop.

The decisions on the changing of bus routes are made by the Canterbury Regional Council. Community consultation is carried out by way of a distribution of brochures to all householders within 400 metres of a changed route but response rates to these brochures are very low.

The Area Engineer outlined the Canterbury Regional Council's consultation and decision making processes.

It was suggested that the Regional Council, when planning proposed route changes and the deletion of bus stops should do a passenger count before removing a service and that the key issues and concerns traversed by the Focus Groups assessing bus route changes should be reported to the Community Board so that Board members had some information available to them when making decisions.

It was agreed to invite Jill Atkinson, Passenger Transport Operations Planner for the Canterbury Regional Council to attend the Board's next seminar meeting to discuss these issues with Board members.

8.4 PARKING RESTRICTIONS – PROCESS FOR INSTALLATION

Concerns were expressed at the process through which proposed parking restrictions were brought to the Board for approval.

The Area Engineer outlined the process which takes place and the consultation which is carried out before parking restrictions are brought to the Board.

8.5 AVEBURY HOUSE UPDATE

The Community Activities Officer updated the Board on progress through the other Community Boards and the Projects & Property Committee of the Avebury House project.

8.6 BOARD PROJECT FUNDING PROCESS

The Community Advocate outlined his belief that some of the people-orientated activities supported by the Board in implementation of Council policy should be funded from the Council's Advocacy budget rather than the Board's Project Funds.

The Community Advocate suggested that some of the Board's regular commitments should be assessed before the Project Funds Meeting in February each year so that these items can be included in the Advocacy budget as a commitment, identified with the Board and funded by a commitment from the Board's project funds. This would give funding certainty.

This proposal was generally supported by Board members, who agreed that a report outlining this proposal and recommending it be brought to the Board.

It was also agreed that all candidates standing for election to parliament within the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board area this year should be asked to come to a meeting with Community Board members.

8.7 **COMMUNITY BOARD OBJECTIVES AND STATEMENT OF INTENT**

The Community Advocate asked how the Board wished to assess its Objectives and Statement of Intent for the 2000/2001 financial year.

It was agreed that Liz McRostie and Aaron O'Brien would work with the Community Advocate to prepare draft Objectives and a Statement of Intent for the 2000/2001 year for approval by the Board.

It was also agreed to invite Sam Fisher to address a seminar meeting of the Board on communication.

8.8 **GENERAL BUSINESS**

(a) Year 2000 Fund

It was agreed to consider allocating the balance of the Year 2000 fund at a specially convened meeting to be held on Friday 29 October 1999, commencing at 4.00pm.

The Board **received** the information and **confirmed** the action taken by the Community Focus Committee.