

2. DEPUTATIONS BY APPOINTMENT

ST ALBANS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION – former Orion site, Madras/Packe Street, Christchurch.

Ms Debbie Kelly and Hazel Ashton of the St Albans Residents' Association spoke to the Committee concerning the future use of this site. The site is some 5ha in area, consists of 40 titles, and the representatives from the Residents' Association spoke concerning the demographics of the area and their wish to see this developed in a manner which would stabilise the area by providing rental housing and rent-to-buy housing, with perhaps additional neighbourhood facilities such as educational, leisure and community facilities and a neighbourhood tavern.

The residents expressed their wish that any future redevelopment minimise inconvenience and noise to the neighbourhood, and they also voiced concern that the existing residential dwellings on the site may have to be vacated.

The opportunity was then taken for members of the Committee to ask questions and the Property Manager, Rob Dally, reported that Orion had sought a formal expression of interest from the Christchurch City Council in regard to its interest and intentions for this site. The requirements of Section 40 of the Public Works Act were being investigated and it was intended to provide an interim reply confirming the Council's interest but advising that a more comprehensive investigation was firstly required before any interest could be confirmed.

It was agreed that the Property Manager would investigate further and report to the Housing Working Party.

PRYDE – HUGS NOT DRUGS

Ms Vesta Boswell and Ingrid Stonhill addressed the Committee on their concept of distributing 25,000 free "warm fuzzies" at the Millennium Party planned for New Year's Eve in Hagley Park.

They saw this as promoting an "anti-drugs" message and sought funding of \$10,000 from the Christchurch City Council towards the costs involved.

While some sponsorship had been obtained towards the costs involved, they had not been successful in finding the balance and were required to confirm orders by the end of the week.

It was agreed that a working party consisting of Councillors Carole Anderton, Erin Baker, Sally Buck and Barbara Stewart should meet to consider possible sources of funding for this.

MR EWAN COKER, POOR PEOPLE'S EMBASSY

Mr Coker addressed the Committee to express his concern at the incidence of poverty in Christchurch and sought the establishment of a specific unit within the Council to tackle poverty within the city.

He suggested that the Council should establish a task force to advise it on what steps the Council and other community organisations could take to relieve poverty in Christchurch.

The opportunity was taken for members to ask questions of Mr Coker and the areas in which the Council was working to relieve poverty in terms of its social initiatives programme, city housing and economic and employment initiatives were mentioned.

The presentation by Mr Coker was considered in relation to clause 3 on the agenda on Poverty in Christchurch.

**MR NEWTON DODGE – FORMER REDEMPTORIST
MONASTERY, NEW BRIGHTON**

Mr Dodge spoke to the Committee on the possibility of the Council working with a group of community organisations and individuals interested in finding a beneficial use for the old Redemptorist monastery in Bower Avenue, New Brighton.

This was no longer required by the Order and is to be tendered for disposal, closing on 26 January 2000. The site area is some 5.5 acres, with a government valuation of \$2.1M and has accommodation on site erected in 1952, providing 45 bedrooms, together with kitchen, dining rooms, lounges, chapels and auditorium.

It was agreed that staff should work with the Canterbury Baptist Churches' Association to investigate the proposal further in respect to possible use for housing and to report to the Housing Working Party.