

## **7. TEMPLETON SWIMMING POOL**

RR 10335

The Leisure Manager reported, advising that remedial work totalling approximately \$26,000 was required at the Templeton Pool to repair a major leak and to replace the filter system pipes to enable the pool to open for the coming season. As the problem was identified after the 1999/2000 budget had been prepared, budget provision has not been made for this work.

The staff report was also presented to the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board at its meeting held on 1 September.

The Board considered that closing the pool for the forthcoming season was not an option. While the members felt that the financing should not be the Board's responsibility, they nevertheless authorised the Board Chairperson and Community Advocate to negotiate a cost sharing arrangement to provide partial funding for the repairs subject to the balance of the funding being found from other sources within the Council's budget.

The upshot of these negotiations is that a contribution of \$10,000 has been made towards the cost of this work from the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board's discretionary fund.

As stated above Mr Mike Mora, Chairperson, Riccarton/Wigram Community Board, addressed the Committee on this issue. Mr Mora advised that the pool is one of the focal points for the Templeton community and is a well-used facility attracting attendances of between 10,000–11,000 during the four months of the year it is in operation. Mr Mora pointed out that the Board's contribution of \$10,000 to the cost of the repairs was a significant commitment on the Board's part, given that it represents 20% of its discretionary fund.

In considering the Board's request, the Committee noted that with the opening of the new indoor leisure pools there will be a need to rationalise pool facilities throughout the city by identifying those which are expendable and to close them. However, it is the Committee's belief that, in view of the priority the Community Board has given to retaining Templeton Pool, this pool is not in this category at present and, it should be kept open in the medium term. The pool is well patronised and operationally is not expensive to maintain.

The Committee therefore endorsed the Board's view that the balance of the funding should be found within existing resources and requested the Director of Finance and the Leisure Manager to bring to the next meeting of the Council a recommendation on possible methods of funding this expenditure.

Note: As the Council has delegated to the Strategy and Resources Committee the power to approve the re-allocation of budgeted expenditure to a new or totally different activity, the matter was referred to that Committee for a decision.