

13. COMMUNITY FACILITIES – ALLOCATION OF UNSPECIFIED FUNDS

The Community Relations Manager reported on a proposal for the development of a new Council community facility in the Hornby area and also on progress in reviewing community facilities.

The report proposed the purchase of a community facility, known as “Friendship House”, in Gilberthorpes Road. The facility, which was previously run by the Presbyterian Trust, is ideal for the purpose and is situated in the centre of the area it would serve.

The facility is located on a 3,000 m² (³/₄ acre section) which could be suitable for a joint venture housing development. The Committee has requested staff to explore this option.

The report advised that of the present “bids” for the Council’s “unspecified community facilities” fund, the only one to have passed through the full list of steps required to be followed for the development of a new facility is the proposal to purchase and modify an existing facility in Hornby. The project therefore qualifies for consideration for funding this year.

While none of the other proposals have, as yet completed the process of needs analysis/building-site selection/concept planning/costing they may, nevertheless, eventually be worthy proposals in their own right. Further work is being carried out on each of these by the respective Advocacy Team/Community Board.

The Committee **decided**:

1. That the information be noted on the work currently underway in evaluating city-wide needs for community facilities.
2. That the purchase and upgrading of the facility known as “Friendship House” be endorsed, subject to final information on the building audit, future maintenance, upgrading and operating costs, an evaluation of the location and consideration of alternative sites being submitted to the 18 September meeting of the Committee.
3. That the Community Services Committee be advised of the content of this report.
4. That opportunities for partnership with Housing New Zealand be explored.