

2. 2001 ELECTION REVIEW

Officer responsible Council Secretary	Author Max Robertson, DDI 371-1533
Corporate Plan Output: Public Accountability: Elections	

INTRODUCTION

At its meeting on 24 August 2000 the Council resolved the basis of the 2001 Christchurch City elections. The Council has received objections to its August 2000 proposal from the following persons:

- Phil Clearwater
- Sydenham Business Association
- Ronald Currie and Pamela Hughes
- Waltham Community Cottage

At its August 2000 meeting the Council granted the Strategy and Resources Committee delegated power to hear and determine the objections, insofar as they relate to ward boundaries. The Committee heard and considered the objections on Wednesday 8 November and Monday 13 November 2000. This report is to advise the Council of the Committee's decision.

OBJECTION BY MR PHIL CLEARWATER

Mr Clearwater sought reconsideration of the following alterations previously agreed between the Hagley/Ferrymead and Spreydon/Heathcote Community Boards:

1. *Proposal to Include the Sydenham Business District in the Heathcote Ward*

The Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board had proposed that the boundary between the Hagley Ward and the Heathcote Ward shift from Brougham Street to the railway line to allow the Sydenham Business District bounded by the railway line, Antigua Street, Brougham Street and Waltham Road to be transferred from the Hagley Ward to the Heathcote Ward. A clear community of interest between the Sydenham Business District and the areas to the south and southwest was cited as the reason for this proposal.

The meshblocks to be transferred from the Hagley Ward to the Heathcote Ward are: 2,616,400; 2,616,300; 2,617,200; 2,616,500; 2,616,600; 2,616,800; 2,617,000; 2,617,300; 2,616,700; 2,616,900; 2,617,100; 2,617,400; 2,617,500; 2,617,700; 2,618,100; 2,618,300; 2,618,800; 2,617,800; 2,618,400; 2,617,900; 2,618,500; 2,618,900; 2,619,000; 2,618,000; 2,618,600; 2,619,100; 2,618,700; 2,617,602; 2,618,200. The resident population in these meshblock areas is 324.

2. *Proposal that the Waltham area be transferred from the Hagley Ward to the Heathcote Ward*

The Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board proposed that the Waltham area bounded by Hastings Street East, Wilsons Road, Brougham Street and Waltham Road be transferred from the Hagley Ward to the Heathcote Ward. A community of interest between this area and Sydenham and the areas to the south was cited as the reason for this adjustment.

The Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board members present supported this proposed boundary adjustment and agreed to take this proposal back to their Board for confirmation.

This boundary adjustment involves the transfer of the following meshblocks from the Hagley Ward to the Heathcote Ward: 2,624,302; 2,624,402; 2,624,502 and 2,624,602. The resident population within these meshblocks is 205.

3. *Proposal that the area of the Heathcote Ward bounded by the railway line, Chapmans Road, Port Hills Road and then following the ward boundary to the Summit Road, back along the meshblock boundaries to include Avoca Valley Road, Port Hills Road and Curries Road be transferred from the Heathcote Ward to the Ferrymead Ward.*

That meshblocks 2553702 and 2554200 be transferred from the Heathcote Ward to the Ferrymead Ward. This transfer will include the residential area of Avoca Valley Road but will exclude both sides of Port Hills Road from Avoca Valley Road to Curries Road and the block bounded by Port Hills Road, Curries Road, the railway line and Chapmans Road. The resident population within these meshblocks is 183."

OBJECTIONS BY RONALD CURRIE AND PAMELA HUGHES (JOINT OBJECTION), SYDENHAM BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (ANDREW McINTOSH) AND WALTHAM COMMUNITY COTTAGE

These objectors all supported the alterations affecting the Sydenham Business District and parts of the Waltham area, as set out in parts 1 and 2 of Mr Clearwater's submission.

As members will be aware, the boundary changes sought by the objectors were previously recommended to the Council by the Hagley/Ferrymead and Spreydon/Heathcote Community Boards, although in the event the Council resolved at its meeting on 24 August 2000 not to support these changes.

The relevant statutory provision is Section 101ZO(1) of the Local Government Act 1974, which provides:

- “(1) A community may be abolished or united with another community, and the boundaries of a community may be altered by:*
- (a) An Order in Council giving effect to a reorganisation scheme:*
 - (b) The territorial authority, by resolution, made with the consent of, or at the request of, the community board or community boards affected:*
 - (c) A determination of the Commission where the territorial authority and the community board or community boards are not in agreement.”*

At the meeting on 8 November the following persons appeared before the Committee, and made submissions in support of their objections:

- Phil Clearwater
- Andrew McIntosh on behalf of the Sydenham Business Association
- Pamela Hughes
- Annette Bunting on behalf of Waltham Community Cottage

Following the hearing of the further submissions by the objectors, the Committee **decided**:

1. That all four objections be rejected, on the following grounds:
 - The undesirability of altering ward and community boundaries on a piecemeal basis, without considering the possible effects on other wards.
 - The perceived absence of adequate consultation with individuals and groups within the affected meshblock areas.
 - The effective representation of communities of interest which currently exists within the present ward and community boundaries, and (particularly in respect of the alterations sought affecting the Sydenham Business District) uncertainty as to whether implementation of the changes sought by the objectors would provide more effective representation of the communities affected.
2. That the status quo insofar as the existing boundaries of the affected wards and communities therefore be retained for the 2001 elections, but that the issues raised by the objectors be considered as part of the city-wide review of ward and community boundaries required to be conducted by the Council in the course of the triennial election review to be carried out in 2003.

(Note: Councillor Crighton requested that her vote against the foregoing decisions be recorded.)

The objectors may lodge written appeals against the decision to reject their objections. Any such appeals must be lodged not later than 4pm on Thursday 21 December 2000.

Any appeals received will be sent by the Council to the Local Government Commission for consideration and final determination.