

15. RICCARTON/WIGRAM FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE - REPORT OF 21 AUGUST 2001 MEETING

The Board was in receipt of the report of the Finance and Policy Committee meeting held on 21 August 2001.

The meeting was attended by all the Board members, together with 16 members of the public.

Because of the triennial elections, and the pause in activity during September, October and part of November, it was necessary to commence the 2002/03 Annual Plan process now.

There are three key areas to address, again, this year:

- Project Proposals

There is a Council-imposed restraint, in the form of the 23 March 2001 resolutions.

This outcome effectively places a moratorium on any new items of expenditure for the 2002/03, 2003/04 and 2004/05 financial years. Any new projects identified will therefore have to be "bids" for later years, unless the process of substitution for existing (and like for like) projects in the forward capital programme is used.

- Planning Statement

This is the "philosophical" view-statement prepared by the Board which embraces community "issues".

- Objectives and Performance Indicators

Not required before March next year.

The Committee meeting was in the form of a community consultation seminar. Feedback was given, and a draft planning statement was discussed.

As a result, the following Planning Statement was forwarded (under the "power to act" granted to the Committee by the Community Board):

ISSUE	STANDING COMMITTEE
Community Governance/Social	
Continue its community governance building using Community Boards as one of its vehicles. Included in this would be greater delegation to Community Boards on issues that effect their communities.	Strategy and Resources
Encourage the growth of social capital to enable positive outcomes for our city, and a healthy democracy.	Community Services
Create a vision for the city that encourages partnership and participation by community and social service agencies in achieving that vision.	Community Services
Support and encourage minority groups to participate in Council processes.	Community Services
Contribute to the building of a civil society by having due regard for the social consequences of all Council policies.	Strategy and Resources
Encourage the strengthening of community ties across all groups including class, ethnic and religious.	Community Services
Council continue to provide affordable Council owned housing for those on limited income.	Community Services
Identify what social outcomes are a priority and work with appropriate agencies to ensure those outcomes are met.	Community Services
Continue to see Community Boards as the most appropriate body to assist local communities in their decision making process.	City Services Strategy and Resources
Continue taking part in social research across the city in order to identify needs.	Community Services

ISSUE	STANDING COMMITTEE
<p>Environment</p> <p>Build closer ties with Environment Canterbury, particularly in the areas of monitoring and evaluating environmental impacts which may effect the city and its environs. As part of that process Community Boards and resident groups be invited to participate.</p>	Environment
Continue building and monitoring the effective roading network in the city.	City Services
Maintain open green space ratios in all areas.	Parks and Recreation
Continue the rate of water enhancement projects and the protection of natural wetlands.	Parks and Recreation
<p>Participate in creating a healthy city by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Encouraging the Leisure Unit to provide more active leisure pursuits through Council community centres. (ii) Keep entry fees to Council facilities, eg pools stadia, at an affordable level. (iii) Working with Crown Health agencies to deliver appropriate neighbourhood based health promotion programmes in lower socio-economic areas of the city. (iv) More resources be made available for sustainable city projects including recycling, energy efficiency and pollution control programmes. 	Community Services Strategy and Resources
Encourage Council to continue its acquisition of land on the Port Hills for green open space and community access.	Strategy and Resources Environment
That the Parks and Waterways Unit produce a consultation document that identifies a strategy for the placement of native and/or exotic plantings. We also encourage Council to see that exotics are planted where appropriate in "The Garden City".	Parks and Recreation
<p>Anti Litter Programmes</p> <p>The Board is aware of the increased problem of litter in our community. A city wide anti litter campaign is urgently needed, not only in terms of education, but also enacting Councils bylaws effectively.</p>	City Services
Education programme for dog owners on their responsibilities and increased penalties for failure to abide by Council bylaws.	Environment City Services
That Council increase the number of rubbish receptacles around fast food outlets, bank ATM's and other high use areas such as shopping centres, bus stops etc and that a programme of community education and awareness is initiated on litter.	Environment City Services
<p>Street Enhancements – Living Streets</p> <p>The Board is fully supportive of this concept and wish to see the programme expanded.</p>	City Services
<p>Street Trees</p> <p>In association with Living Streets, there needs to be a greater emphasis on planting trees on city streets, particularly in older areas of the city.</p>	City Services

ISSUE	STANDING COMMITTEE
<p>Urban Sprawl</p> <p>The impact of urban sprawl on the south west of the city. Rezoning of rural land for housing. Rural rates are now at a level that rural property owners close to the city, find it more attractive to subdivide useful agricultural and horticultural land for housing. This has created a large reduction in food producing land close to the city, and created a haphazard approach to growth, which may meet the requirements of planning legislation, but, lacks common sense.</p>	<p>Environment Strategy and Resources</p>
<p>Contracted Services</p> <p>The Board wishes to raise concerns about the contracting out of maintenance services particularly in regard to street cleaning. The Board notes that in Councils Residents Survey results, many of the complaints raised were about rubbish removal and street cleaning, across all Board areas. The monitoring of such contracts needs to be more effective.</p>	<p>City Services</p>
<p>Library</p> <p>For some years the lack of library services in the west of the city has been notified to Council. At present a library is planned for the 2006/07 budget year. The Board would be grateful if this could be brought forward to meet an urgent need in this community.</p>	<p>Strategy and Resources Community Services</p>
<p>Recreation Facility – Pool</p> <p>The south west Christchurch area needs a covered pool/recreation facility.</p> <p>We would encourage Council to discuss this issue with Selwyn District Council with a view to funding a joint project close to each others borders.</p>	<p>Parks and Recreation</p>
<p>Disability</p> <p>That Council increase the amount of public access to parks and public buildings for people with disabilities particularly those people in wheelchairs.</p>	<p>Parks and Recreation</p>

The other issues received will be followed up through the appropriate business units.

The Board **received** the information.