

4. DEPUTATIONS BY APPOINTMENT

4.7 Linwood Park – Residents of Mackworth Street

Leigh Mitchell, Jim Tanner and Oral Reihana addressed the Board about Linwood Park and issues relating to the skate ramp.

The residents expressed concern about the safety of Linwood Park. They noted that there were problems in the park before the skate ramp was built. However, since the skate ramp was built and the mural completed on the wall the problems have escalated. The residents thought that the mural gave the ownership of the park to the youth. They agreed that the close of "Time Out" at Eastgate Mall may have also contributed to the problems.

Issues they raised included the large number of young people congregating in the park, (between 20 to 100 at one stage), alcohol, abusive language, threatening behaviour. Park and school facilities were being tagged and broken. The residents also noted that insufficient lighting was also an issue.

The residents were of the view that the Police tend to respond quicker to another area rather than Linwood Park. It appears that a lot of the youth causing the trouble are not from Linwood but from other areas.

The Police agreed to increase surveillance.

The Board **decided** to hold a public meeting to discuss the issues relating to Linwood Park.