



## 2. PRESENTATION: PROPOSED NEW COMMUNITY LIBRARY UPPER RICCARTON

Sue Sutherland (Library Manager), Nicki Moen (Area Manager), and Gary Coburn (Headmaster, Riccarton High School) were in attendance to discuss the report "Proposed Library in Upper Riccarton – February/March 2002".

Members had previously attended a briefing session on this proposal, hosted by the Arts, Culture and Heritage Committee.

The establishment of a library in Avonhead or Upper Riccarton was first formally identified in the Suburban Library Development Plan, which was adopted by Council in 1992.

This project has been subject to a number of deferments. The 1998 Annual Plan projected the Upper Riccarton/Avonhead Library would be built over two years commencing in 2000/01. In the 1999 Annual Plan the library was deferred five years until 2005/06. This project is now scheduled to commence in 2006/07 and is funded over two financial years.

While Christchurch City Libraries had planned to undertake a feasibility study in 2001 to determine the siting of this new facility, two further drivers for this work to be completed have been:

- The Avonhead Sport, Recreation and Arts Study, July 2000, which suggested that the feasibility of a library located in Avonhead be investigated.
- A proposal received last year from the principal of Riccarton High School to build the Upper Riccarton Library on school land in order to create a combined community and school library. The Riccarton/Wigram Community Board has given the concept support for further investigation, with a particular focus on whether the high school is the best possible location for the new library. Christchurch City Libraries and Riccarton High School have acknowledged that there would be significant benefits for the community, Council, library, school, and the environment if a combined library were established on the school site.

While cost savings will appeal to all parties, the location of the site and the opportunity to strengthen the links between community, library and school make this a highly desirable proposition.

The Upper Riccarton area was determined, by statistical information, to be preferred over the Avonhead area. The Property Unit has investigated many sites including the Sockburn Service Centre, and NZHC site at Church Corner. The project team concluded that Riccarton High School was the preferred site.

Some members sought more information on the NZHC site, so as to be able to make a more balanced decision; this information would be forthcoming.

The Board **decided** to support, in principle, the partnership with Riccarton High School to build a joint community/school library on the Riccarton High School land.