

7. **RICCARTON/WIGRAM FINANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE - REPORT OF MEETING HELD ON 19 MAY 2003**

The Board had given this Committee power to act to prepare a submission to the Council's Draft 2004 Financial Plan and Programme.

The Board submission is:

- **Sustainability**

The Board supports the Council's drive for a more sustainable city across social well-being, environment, economic and cultural issues. The Board is also aware of the continuing need to make progress on air quality in the city but also for the Council and Ecan to reach some accord on the installation of approved wood burners in new housing developments. The Board is also mindful of the need to monitor water quality and water flow in streams and waterways throughout the city.

- **Community Facilities**

The Council will be aware that the south-west of the city is the focus of major residential developments, both now and for the next 10-15 years. The Board would like the Council to begin a process of land purchase to ensure that an expansion programme for Halswell Library becomes a reality in order to cope with the extra demand which will be placed on it by the residential development.

The Board is also acutely aware of the need for a multi purpose leisure facility in the south-west area of the city and encourages the Council to identify possible locations with a view to purchase. The Board would like to reiterate the possibility of a partnership with the Selwyn District Council for the provision of community facilities that would have joint benefit for both parties.

- **Metropolitan Issues**

- Much of the south-west development of the city would be enhanced by the completion of the southern arterial. The decision by Transfund to allocate the bulk of its funding to North Island projects is a set-back to the successful development of this area. The Board requests that the Council further discuss with Transfund the possibility of reinstatement of funding to commence this long awaited project and that if Transfund fails to reinstate funding for the Southern Arterial, that the Council consider loaning monies repatriated from Orion to complete this project and/or other roading projects. (Loan to be repaid within an agreed time period.)
- The Board continues to be supportive of the excellent work undertaken through the Waterways Enhancement Project and encourages the Council to continue to fund this work.
- The Board continues to feel apprehension at the encouragement of development of residential subdivisions on quality agricultural and horticultural land surrounding the city. The loss of high quality soils to housing development will have a detrimental effect on the ability of the city to feed itself in future years. These semi-rural developments also encourage people to assume that the Council will supply all amenities associated with city living. The continuing practice of cross-boundary infrastructural development may compromise the development of those infrastructural developments within the city boundary.
- That the Council join with Ecan in strong promotion of public transport in order to decrease the current congestion on major roads.

Given the rise in the number of lifestyle blocks in the west and south-west of the city, that the Council give serious consideration to a system of "park and ride" to reduce inner city traffic congestion.

- The Board supports Council initiatives in the development of Canterbury Park, which we see as a major regional passive and active recreation area where town and country meet.
- That the Board encourage the Council to increase the amount of undergrounding of overhead wires across the city.
- The Board is supportive of the Council's funding of community organisations in the city. This is a major contribution to community cohesion and social service delivery to the citizens of Christchurch.

- Board members raised concerns regarding development on reclaimed/refilled land, where an insufficient time period has elapsed for settlement of the fill, thus creating the opportunity for instability of buildings and related infrastructure.
- With the current fragility in electricity supply, the Council be encouraged to work with Ecan and adjoining local authorities to seriously explore alternative energy sources such as solar and wind-power.

- **City Street Issues**

- The Board requests that the City Streets Unit research the possibility of building a cycle way on the railway corridor from Hornby to the city.
- The Board congratulates the City Streets Unit on its commitment to the Christchurch/Little River cycleway project.
- The Board is supportive of the Cycle Safety programme run through the City Streets Unit and the efforts by City Streets and Cycle Planners to encourage further cycle use by Christchurch citizens.
- The Board acknowledges the excellent service given by City Streets staff in responding to issues raised by the Board and the residents it represents.
- The Board supports the Living Streets concept in areas where it is appropriate, and would be happy to discuss future opportunities with the City Streets Unit. A lesser level of street enhancement would be the planting of street trees in areas which are devoid of any streetscape work; many streets within the Wigram Ward for instance would be ideal for enhancement opportunities.
- That consideration be given to the funding of a street upgrade and beautification scheme for the Riccarton Road Central Business District.

- **Leisure**

- The Board requests that the Leisure Unit work with the Property Unit to establish a new site for a recreation facility in south-west Christchurch.
- The Board congratulates the Leisure Unit on the many opportunities it provides for participation in healthy activity around the city, and encourages the Unit to continue to involve Community Boards in the planning and delivery of these projects.

The Board **decided** that it be represented at the Annual Plan Working Party Public Submission meeting by Mike Mora, Neville Bennett and/or Bob Shearing.