

5. CORRESPONDENCE

5.1 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (USE OF COMMUNITY BOARDS) AMENDMENT BILL

The following letter was received from Murray Smith MP, United Future New Zealand, seeking Board comments to the Local Government (Use of Community Boards) Amendment Bill:

"I enclose a copy of a draft Member's Bill that I have prepared and will be seeking to have passed by Parliament.

A large part of my motivation for the Bill has come from my role as Deputy Chairman of the Petone Community Board and the circumstances that exist in the Hutt Valley where we have three Community Boards and four Ward Committees.

The Bill only affects a few Local Authorities. Apart from Hutt City Council Ward Committees are also found in Hurunui District Council, Selwyn District Council and Timaru District Council. I have written to each of the Councils with an offer to travel to meet with them and talk about the Bill and their reasons for the use of Ward Committees rather than Community Boards.

The Bill has been drafted in consultation with the New Zealand Community Board's Executive and has already received the strong endorsement of the Zone 4 Community Board meeting that was held early in July.

I would welcome any comments that your Board may wish to make in regard to the proposal and, certainly, letters of support would be very helpful in my efforts to have the Bill passed.

At this stage I am pleased to advise that the Minister of Local Government, Hon Chris Carter, has enthusiastically endorsed the Bill and I am seeking formal confirmation from the Government that they will support the first reading of the Bill if and when it gets drawn from the ballot and will incorporate its provisions in the next Local Government Amendment Bill (which may occur in the middle of next year) should it not be drawn before hand."

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the Board recommend to the Strategy and Finance Committee that the Council support the intention of the draft Member's Bill and urge the Government to amend the legislation.

5.2 NEW BRIGHTON LITTER AND TRAFFIC CONCERNS

The following letter was received from Wally Wakefield, regarding litter and traffic concerns in New Brighton:

"I was hoping to be at your meeting on 16 August 2004 to put forward a submission regarding a matter discussed with Chrissie Williams in a phone call to her last week. Unfortunately I am not able to be present but as a concerned resident of New Brighton I would like to ask a question regarding the garden verges bordering the footpaths in Hawke Street. At times, the deplorable condition of these borders is a disgrace with waste paper and wrappers, not to mention used diapers and other debris scattered throughout the entire stretch from Woolworth's car park to the New Brighton School. To make matters worse there is not a rubbish collection bin to be seen in any of the car parks nor along the Street proper. I am sure that if bins were placed in strategic positions in the car parks they could help eradicate a very serious rubbish problem.

The verges surrounding the car park of "Moshims" supermarket are in a shocking state and to add to the problem the placing of their advertising hoardings in the actual garden plots is not helping the situation at all.

Surely if it is a responsibility of the Council to maintain these areas I personally feel they are failing miserably.

Due to the closure of the walk-through retail outlets on the south side of the Mall and Seaview Road, Hawke Street has now become the main thoroughfare for all traffic entering New Brighton. As a consequence the build-up of traffic in the Hawke Street car parks has increased tremendously, while those in Beresford Street are hardly being used at all.

I would appreciate your help in an effort to have these areas maintained on a more regular basis. If tourists and visitors are to be encouraged to visit our seaside town, nothing will turn them off more than the sight of rubbish strewn throughout the place."

Chairperson's**Recommendations:**

1. That the letter be forwarded to the Transport and City Streets Manager with a view to a possible review of the street cleaning contract for Hawke Street.
2. That the letter also be referred to the New Brighton Commercial Ratepayers and Retailers Association and the owners of the Hawke Street car parks.