11. CONSULTATION WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Officer responsible	Author	
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The purpose of this report is to submit for the Board's information a summary of matters raised at meetings held on 26 May 2004 with the New Zealand Police and with local School Principals and Board of Trustee representatives.

Report of Consultation Meetings held on Wednesday 26 May 2004 at 3.00 pm (Police) and 4.10 pm (Schools) in the Board Room, CCC Fendalton

PRESENT: Mike Wall (Chairman), Sally Buck, Val Carter, George Hampton, Yiyi Ku, Mark Kunnen and Barbara Stewart.

Mark Kunnen arrived at 3.23 pm. George Hampton arrived at 4.15 pm and was absent for clause 2.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cheryl Colley and Pat Harrow and for lateness from George Hampton and Mark Kunnen.

2. NEW ZEALAND POLICE

Inspector Andy McGregor and Senior Sergent Paul Fremoux of the New Zealand Police updated members on the recent changes to police areas and specifically the merging of the former Papanui, New Brighton and North Canterbury districts into a new northern area with a population of 220,000 and a combined total of 190 sworn and unsworn staff.

The Police representatives highlighted present initiatives concentrating on burglaries, car crime and violence offences and a particular focus being given to youth at risk and the work being undertaken with schools around truancy, burglaries and drug related issues.

A question was asked about security issues in relation to perimeter roads at Christchurch Airport and reference was made to parking controls imposed by the Council in the Orchard Road area. A review of these restrictions was still contemplated and staff undertook to check on when this would occur.

Initiatives targeting organised crime were elaborated on and the Police representatives responded to members questions on this matter.

Although burglary offences tended to by cyclical, it was clear from current statistics that the Board's community was better off than other areas.

The comment was made that the Council had a key part to play as the organisation responsible for building and planning controls especially in relation to the form of developments and building styles occurring in local residential communities and the linkage/correlation around community safety issues for residents.

The Chairman thanked the Police representatives for attending and for sharing and exchanging information with the members.

3. SCHOOL PRINCIPALS/BOARD OF TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVES

The Board met with the Principals and some Board of Trustee representatives from ten local schools to discuss matters of mutual interest.

Specific discussion occurred regarding the GAIN programme and the funding support provided by the Board. Mention was also made of the "Wise Up" programme operated by Presbyterian Support Services and also the operation of the field worker in schools initiative. The Positive Parenting programme was also commented on.

The Council's role in the provision of Out of School Care including the recently completed evaluation of the Council's programmes was discussed. Mention was made of the variations in programme delivery ranging from community based to commercial providers such as CASPA operating at Isleworth School.

Issues around traffic congestion and safety at the beginning and end of each school day were discussed. Measures taken to best manage the effects were highlighted and included the creation of drive in and drop off facilities at some schools and school rules requiring the collection of children from within school grounds. The provision of school bus services as undertaken by Middleton Grange School were suggested as worthy of further consideration. Staggered school hours as a means of easing road congestion at key times was another idea worth considering. The provision of more 40 km/h speed zones at schools within the Board's area was also likely in the near future.

The Board's ongoing yearly support of school based Arbor Day programmes was referred to as was the recent commencement of the North West Mentoring Trust.

The Chairman thanked the school representatives for the good work they were undertaking and in turn, the Board was thanked for its continued interest and support of school based activities.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the report be received.