

36. ACHESON AVENUE URBAN RENEWAL PROJECT

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The purpose of this report is to update the Community Board on the progress surrounding the Acheson Avenue Urban Renewal Project.

BACKGROUND

In 2001 a needs analysis by Missy Morton and Lesley MacGibbon was completed on the Shirley area. The Shirley/Papanui Community Board endorsed the recommendations made in the report in February 2001. Since the research has been completed a number of initiatives have developed as a result. In late 2003 a co-ordinated Council response to the research began with the development of the "Acheson Avenue Urban Renewal Project". Until recently, this project team was led by Lyn Campbell (Projects Manager – Policy), and is now being led by David Coom (Community Services Team Leader).

A report in March 2004 to the Shirley/Papanui Community Board and the Community and Leisure Committee outlined an action plan and rationale with regard to the development of the urban renewal project. The main details of the plan where work needed to proceed were:

- Macfarlane Park Renewal
- The development of a one-stop shop for various government agencies to provide services locally
- The continued provision and development of community development and recreation and leisure opportunities.

PROGRESS TO DATE

One-Stop Shop

A lease has been finalised for Number 25 Acheson Avenue. The cost is \$10,400 per annum for a period of two years. The lease term begins in October 2004; however, Council has access to the property currently to enable work to take place prior to the lease commencement.

Confirmed full-time tenants include the Police, (ie the local Community Constable) and the District Truancy Service (North East Service). Housing New Zealand and Action Works will also utilise space for set periods during the week.

Budget Requirements

The lease for 25 Acheson Avenue is held by the Council. Currently the Shirley/Papanui Community Board has allocated \$6,000 (2003/04), which has been carried forward; and \$6,000 from its 2004/05 budget towards the rental. The Police, as the only financially contributing partner, are currently negotiating a sum to contribute towards rental costs. The Police contribution is expected to meet approximately one third of the rental cost.

\$20,000 has also been allocated from the Community Facilities Discretionary Fund for refurbishment of 25 Acheson Avenue. Meetings have been set to incorporate the tenant requirements into the design plans, which are being completed by City Solutions. It is expected that the upgrade of 25 Acheson Avenue will be done in stages as and when funds are secured.

Council staff will report to the 2005/2006 annual budgeting process in September if further financial support for the development of 25 Acheson Avenue is necessary.

ONE STOP SHOP LAUNCH

A public meeting has been set for Monday 13 September at 4 pm to launch the concept of the One-Stop Shop, which is to be named "Acheson Avenue Community Services". The launch has two purposes, namely:

- To inform the community about "Acheson Avenue Community Services" and the services offered by the agencies utilising the centre; and
- To be a springboard for beginning a community process around the wider concept of Acheson Avenue Urban Renewal.

COMMUNITY PROCESS

Through the launch, the Shirley Community Network and local staff knowledge, the next step is to set up a "Reference/Consultation Group" which may:

- (a) Develop, with input from local residents, a charter in relation to community aims and aspirations
- (b) Assist Council staff in developing processes/methods appropriate for that local community with regard to consultation. Housing New Zealand have also expressed an interest in making use of any consultation reference groups that are set up.

This group may also play a role in collaboratively developing further community development or recreation and leisure projects in the community.

CONCLUSION

The One Stop Shop is now well under way, allowing the next stage of this project to develop which involves the wider community in future initiatives and in the business of Council.

Staff

Recommendation: That the report be received

Chairperson's

Recommendation: Not seen by the Chairperson.