

9. BELFAST RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION NAME CHANGE

General Manager responsible:	General Manager, Stephen McArthur
Officer responsible:	Community & Recreation Manager, Lesley Symington
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is for the Shirley/Papanui Community Board to consider a request for a name change for the Belfast Residents' Association.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The Belfast Residents' Association requests approval for a change to the name of the organisation. This association has represented the Belfast area since coming out of recess in 1991. With an increasing number of subdivisions, the association believes it has a key advocacy role for the Belfast area as a whole, while also acknowledging the needs of smaller communities of interest.
3. After considering this item at its meeting on 5 October 2005, the Board requested that the issue "lie on the table" to allow an informal meeting to take place with representatives from Northwood community and the Belfast Residents' Association. Accordingly, a meeting was convened on 26 October 2005. At the meeting, representatives from Northwood community explained that they would be prepared to accept a name change to the Belfast Residents Association that would recognise the different communities of interest within Belfast. While they sought the right to advocate on behalf of Northwood on some local issues, they would be prepared to work with the Residents' Association on issues of interest to the local area. This proposal was endorsed by representatives of the Belfast Residents' Association.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

4. The current Council policy for the formation and recognition of Residents' Associations was adopted by the Council on 22 July 1991.
5. Relevant policy clauses are:
 - (1) That the Christchurch City Council encourages the formation of local residents' groups.
 - (2) That local residents' groups be able to apply to their Community Board for recognition as the "official" residents' group for the area.
 - (3) That residents' groups' boundaries within each community be determined by the relevant Community Board.
6. There are no financial considerations.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Belfast Residents Association request for a name change to the Belfast Area Residents Association be approved.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATIONS

- (a) That the staff recommendation be adopted.
- (b) That the Board undertake further consultation on local issues with the property owners and residents of Clearwater Resort.

BACKGROUND ON NAME CHANGE REQUEST

7. The Belfast Residents' Association was reconvened in 1991 after a period in recess. The Belfast Residents' Association acknowledges that with further subdivisions there will be an increasing number of communities of interest within the Belfast area. The Association believes the Belfast area would be best served by one association, which would advocate on behalf of Belfast. Smaller residents groups could then be recognised and act under the auspices of the Belfast Area Residents Association.