

4. RICCARTON COMMUNITY NEEDS AND FACILITIES PROFILE

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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to provide information relating to the presentation by Dr Lesley MacGibbon on her research report entitled "Riccarton Community Needs and Facilities Profile" and its recommendations.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. In 1998 the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board commissioned a needs analysis of the Upper Riccarton area. One of the recommendations focused on the need for a multicultural facility, which could possibly be managed by the Canterbury Fiji Social Services Trust. The venue used by this group at 40 Hillary Crescent was inadequate for the services and programmes which they ran for the local community. Given the lapse in time due to delays in purchasing the properties and other significant changes, staff decided that it was appropriate to undertake an updated research on the current needs of the wider Riccarton area. In 2004, Dr Lesley MacGibbon was contracted for this task.
3. This research report highlights the ongoing need to address social isolation in the Riccarton area, particularly in relation to new immigrants and the many other ethnic groups. In terms of deprivation levels the Upper Riccarton (between Matipo Street and Curlettes Roads, Riccarton and Blenheim Road) is very high, in fact 55% of the area has a deprivation rating of 8,9,10.
4. Recommendations have been made by the researcher around community development initiatives, and the possible scoping of a multicultural centre at Auburn Park. Council staff responsible for these areas are aware of this report. In summary, the 2005 research provides more recent and relevant information about the Riccarton area and its needs.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

5. There are no legal or financial considerations that need to be addressed at this point in time. The Riccarton Wigram Community Board has allocated \$47,000 to its Community Initiatives Fund for 05/06. Staff will be able to seek funding from this source, through the reporting process, should a need arise, as the result of the community development recommendations in the 2005 Needs Profile.

BACKGROUND ON RICCARTON COMMUNITY NEEDS AND FACILITIES PROFILE

6. The following background information has been taken from Dr MacGibbon's Summary Report of the Riccarton Community Needs and Facilities Profile 2005.
7. In 1998 the Christchurch City Council commissioned a needs analysis of the Upper Riccarton area, which was directed to pay particular attention to the current and future role of the 'community house' at 40 Hillary Crescent. That study consulted with the Canterbury Fiji Social Services Trust, the agency operating out of 40 Hillary Crescent, young people attending a holiday programme at Hillary Crescent, other service providers in the area, and two classes at the local school. Questionnaires were completed by 120 households from the area.
8. The 1998 report¹ found that the area reflected a greater cultural mix than other parts of Christchurch, and greater levels of social and economic deprivation than in other parts of Christchurch. Specifically the report identified the following issues:
 - Social isolation - for caregivers of small children (particularly for those with cultural and language barriers to community participation); older migrants with limited English.
 - Transience - many people moved frequently contributing to lack of community spirit and cohesion.
 - Traffic - main arterial routes of Hansons Road and Curletts Road, created problems for families with children.
 - Lack of information/services - people didn't know what services/activities were available to them. Families wanted access to facilities socialising/craft activities in a place that provided safe childcare.
 - Parks – children, families, and young people wanted more parks in the area.
9. The report recommended that the Community Board address the need for a larger multi-purpose, multi-cultural facility as a way of meeting the needs of the residents in this community. The report concluded that the existing premises of the Canterbury Fijian Social Services at 40 Hillary Crescent were inadequate for meeting the needs of the people for a community facility to serve the area.

Facility planned for Roche Avenue

10. In consultation with the Canterbury Fijian Social Services Trust, the Christchurch City Council entered into a planning process for a community facility to be based in Roche Avenue. It was proposed that Canterbury Fijian Social Services be contracted to manage the facility and they would run their programmes from the new centre. The centre would also be available for other groups to use.
11. The Christchurch City Council planned to purchase two residential properties in Roche Avenue backing onto a small reserve in Hillary Crescent and the community facility would be built there. The Christchurch City Council has upgraded the park in Hillary Crescent, but has met with difficulties in purchasing the properties in Roche Avenue.

The 2005 Riccarton Community Needs and Facilities Profile

12. This community needs analysis covered a much wider geographical area than the 1998 report, but was asked specifically to assess the suitability and need for the community facility at Roche Avenue.
13. The 2005 report stated a number of developments have impacted on the proposed community house - specifically, the opening of Te Whare O Nga Whetu Multicultural Centre at 153 Gilberthorpe's Road, and the moving of the Canterbury Fiji Social Services Trust administrative base and some programmes to Te Whare.
14. The 2005 report found that the move of Canterbury Fiji Social Services to Gilberthorpe's Road was detrimental to the level of services offered to the people in the Upper Riccarton area. The Canterbury Fijian Social Services was unable to provide services to both Upper Riccarton and Hei Hei communities. In 2004 the Canterbury Fijian Social Services decided to refocus their work back into the Upper Riccarton area if they could find suitable premises from which to operate. The 'community house' at 40 Hillary Crescent according to the 2005 report is even less suitable in 2005 than in 1998, because it has not received on going maintenance.

¹ Upper Riccarton community Needs Analysis: Final Document, Oct 1998. S Phibbs & S Kelly

Ministry of Health Statistical Analysis of the Census and Deprivation Index

15. The NZ. Dep 2001 Index of Deprivation provides a deprivation score for each mesh block in New Zealand. Mesh blocks are geographical units defined by Statistics NZ, containing a median of approximately 90 people. The scale of deprivation from 1 – 10 divides New Zealand into tenths. A value of 10 indicates that the mesh block is in the most deprived 10% of areas in New Zealand. In the Upper Riccarton area (between Matipo Street and Curletts Roads, Riccarton and Blenheim Road) 55% of the areas has a deprivation rating of 8,9,10.
16. The criteria for the deprivation index include:
 - People aged 18-59 receiving a means tested benefit (student allowance is not included in this index)
 - People aged 18-59 unemployed
 - People living in households with income below an income threshold (60% of median disposable income before adjusting for housing costs)
 - People with no access to a telephone
 - People with no access to a car
 - People aged <60 living in a single parent family
 - People aged 18-59 without any qualifications
 - People not living in own home
 - People living in households below a bedroom occupancy threshold (not more than 2 per bedroom)
17. According to the researcher, Lesley MacGibbon, there is a direct correlation between levels of deprivation, as measured by the Deprivation Index, and 3(iv)-7vi, altd cd 3(iv)-7 matyioiv miv. Fo

21. Recommendations of the 2005 Report

Community Development Initiatives

Recommendation 1:

Christchurch City Council to encourage transparency of planning processes.

Recommendation 2:

Encourage residents with issues relating to planning to have input in the City Plan.

Recommendation 3:

Christchurch City Council to publicise actions residents can take to combat noise and other nuisance problems.

Recommendation 4:

Christchurch City Council to work with the University of Canterbury to make the University facilities more available to the community.

Recommendation 5:

That the Christchurch City Council continues to support the work of the Canterbury Fiji Social Services Trust.

Recommendation 6:

That the Christchurch City Council Community Development team work with the Rewi Alley Cultural Centre and Chinese School to access resources for a Mandarin speaking social worker.

Recommendation 7:

That the Christchurch City Council investigates initiatives that would increase feelings of safety of residents.

Upper Riccarton Facilities

Recommendation 8:

That Christchurch City Council supports the Addington Toy Library to move into the Sir John McKenzie Memorial Children's Library building.

Recommendation 9:

That the Christchurch City Council scopes the possibility of siting a community/multicultural centre at Auburn Park.

Recommendation 10:

That the Christchurch City Council begins discussions, and expressions of interest, with Canterbury Fiji Social Services Trust/Living Well in Christchurch about their needs for a new centre.

Recommendation 11:

That the Christchurch City Council begins discussions, and expressions of interest, with Canterbury Fiji Social Services Trust/Living Well in Christchurch about the possibility of managing the new centre.

Lower Riccarton Facilities

Recommendation 12:

That the Christchurch City Council continues communication with the Riccarton Community Church, when planning the redevelopment or replacement of the Riccarton Community Centre.

Recommendation 13:

That the Christchurch City Council begin discussions with the Board of Trustees from Wharenui School about the possibilities of opening the school grounds to Division Street.

Recommendation 14:

That the Christchurch City Council works with the Wharenui School Board of Trustees to develop playground equipment that will meet the needs of older children in the community.

22. The research report by Dr Lesley MacGibbon provides important information about the Riccarton area. This information is relevant to several Council Units and it is appropriate that staff follow up the recommendations contained in this report. All the recommendations are aligned with the LTCCP outcomes as identified below;

- A Healthy and Active People
- A Cultural and Fun City
- Inclusive Communities

23. The recommendations are also aligned with Riccarton Wigram Community Board's outcome number two, that is "The capacities and resources of communities are increased through support of the Board". The recommendations fit with the Christchurch City Council Social Wellbeing Policy and the Community Policy

OPTIONS

24. Option (a)

The Riccarton/Wigram Community Board receives the information but chooses not to follow up the recommendations from the report

25. Option (b)

The Riccarton/Wigram Community Board receives the information from the Riccarton Community Needs and Facilities Profile and endorses appropriate staff to follow up the recommendations related to their particular unit.

26. It is envisaged that the Community Development Adviser would be responsible for following up recommendations identified under the heading "Community Development Initiatives", while the Community Engagement Team would be responsible for following up the recommendations under the heading "Upper Riccarton Facilities".

27. The Community Engagement Team Leader, James Ryan has advised that recommendations 9,10,11 would be considered alongside the development of a Metropolitan Community Facilities Strategy. It is anticipated that the results of the Strategy will be available within 12 months. Discussions with the Canterbury Fiji Social Services Trust and the Refugee Resettlement and ESOL Group and other relevant groups will be an integral part of the Strategy development process.

28. Relevant staff to follow up recommendations under "Lower Riccarton Facilities" would include the Parks Officer, Community Development Adviser and Community Engagement Adviser.

PREFERRED OPTION

29. The preferred option is option (b).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board receives the information from the Riccarton Community Needs and Facilities Profile, and endorses follow-up by staff on the recommendations.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

That the staff recommendation be adopted.