

10. PARKLANDS/QUEENSPARK YOUTH WORKING PARTY

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Community Services
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Board on the activities and achievements of the Parklands/Queenspark Youth (PQY) working party and to discuss the future of the project and working party.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The PQY working party has been operational for three years and it is timely to update the Board on progress since May 2004 when the last report was received by the Community Board. The PQY project will be reviewed, achievements of the project discussed and recommendations on the future of this project will be made.

BACKGROUND

3. In May 2002 the Board endorsed recommendations arising from the Youth Recreation Needs Survey (April 2000) and the report on the Parklands Youth consultation project (April 2002). In February 2003 the Board allocated \$10,000 from its 2003/04 Project Fund towards a possible youth café or another youth facility in the Parklands area.
4. In June 2003 a youth consultation disco was held, the results of which reiterated the original findings of the youth recreation needs survey and a subsequent report was presented to the Board on 27 August 2003. From this the Board resolved:

“That the 2003/04 Board Project funding allocation of \$10,000 to Parklands/Queenspark community projects be made available to achieve community youth aspirations through:

- Providing ongoing special events to youth in the Parklands/Queenspark area.
- Developing regular programmes for youth utilising the Parklands Community Centre and other facilities in Parklands/Queenspark.
- Establishing a youth committee in Parklands/Queenspark.

That the Parklands/Queenspark youth working party continue to liaise with the library team in the development of youth programmes and youth friendly facilities for the new Parklands Library.”

5. The Parklands/Queenspark Youth working party (PQY) was officially formed in September 2003 to further consider youth issues and consult with local youth.
6. The Board received a report on 3 May 2004 highlighting the working party's achievements to that date. For more information on the Parklands/Queenspark Youth working party achievements from September 2003 – May 2004, please refer to *Attachment 1 – “Parklands/Queenspark Youth Working Party report to the Board 3 May 2004”*.
7. Following on from the August 2003 report PQY developed five objectives in line with the Board recommendations and the youth mandate from consultation. These are listed below:
 - (a) To provide ongoing events to youth in the Parklands/Queenspark area.
 - (b) To support programmes and the development of programmes and projects for youth utilising the Parklands Community Centre and other facilities in Parklands/Queenspark.
 - (c) To continue negotiations with established and recognised community and youth organisations in Parklands/Queenspark with a view to local group(s) assuming the management of the projects.
 - (d) To investigate the establishment of a youth committee or similar in consultation with identified locally interested community youth organisations.
 - (e) To keep the Libraries Unit apprised of youth developments in the area to provide youth information and consultation possibilities and to meet youth needs in terms of the development and use of Parklands Library.

PQY PROGRESS ON OBJECTIVES

Providing ongoing special events to youth in the Parklands/Queenspark area.

8. PQY have been committed to providing ongoing special events for the youth in the Parklands/Queenspark area. Since May 2004 PQY have provided four youth events with another two scheduled to take place before the end of the 2005/06 financial year. It is estimated that over 1000 youth have participated in these events.
9. These events have provided safe and entertaining options for local youth to participate in, provided opportunities to showcase local talent and promote local clubs and activities. For three events, young event planners have been given the opportunity to plan and coordinate the event under the supervision of the Community Recreation Adviser (CRA).

Support programmes and the development of programmes and projects for youth utilising the Parklands Community Centre and other facilities in Parklands/Queenspark.

10. The Store, a Friday night youth 'drop in' programme at Parklands Baptist Community Church was established in 2003. With funding support from PQY, the church was able to purchase sports and music equipment for use by local youth. Council staff provided assistance with programme planning and health and safety in the initial stages of the programme. Youth Leaders from The Store worked as volunteers at local events including the Razzle Dazzle Funk Party and Skate Jam 04. Parklands Baptist Church now employs a youth worker to oversee The Store youth programme and manage volunteers.
11. The Store programme has a core group of attendees that consistently turn up to take part in planned activities or make use of the 'drop in' space. This programme is running at near maximum capacity but cannot increase its current capacity due to restrictions with available space.
12. Parklands Youth Trust Sports Equipment Hire pool - administered by the Parklands Youth Trust, the sports equipment hire pool is available for use by local groups at no charge. PQY provided funding assistance to replace old and damaged equipment and purchase new equipment. This equipment is available for use by all programme providers in Parklands/Queenspark and is accessed on a regular basis.
13. Parklands United Sports Club have been involved in the PQY project with a club committee member on the working party team. This group have allowed use of their venue as a café during youth events at the Parklands Community Centre. PQY events have been promoted through the club to junior members.
14. The Parklands Youth Trust Energisers programme is a programme for 10-13 year olds on a Friday evening based at the Parklands Community Centre. Established for youth (the target age of the PQY project), Energisers has provided opportunities for consultation with local youth on a wide range of topics such as event names, event music and library activities, recreation wants and needs. Energisers leaders have also provided volunteer assistance at various events.
15. Due to demand exceeding supply, Energisers with funding assistance from PQY have established a second programme. The Energisers programme now runs two groups on a Friday night catering for a maximum of 50 youth. This programme continues to receive very positive feedback from both programme participants and the parents of the youth that attend this programme. The Youth Trust has recently been granted employer status and have taken on employment of staff, which was previously the responsibility of Council. PQY is confident that the Energisers programme will continue to provide affordable recreational activities and experiences for local youth.

To continue negotiations with established and recognised community and youth organisations in Parklands/Queenspark with a view to local group(s) assuming the management of the projects.

16. As mentioned above, Parklands Baptist Church, Parklands United Sports Club and Parklands Youth Trust are all in a position to continue with the management and delivery of their projects. These groups have the ability and capacity to coordinate local youth events if required.

To investigate the establishment of a youth committee or similar in consultation with identified locally interested community youth organisations.

17. PQY invited Christchurch City Council Metropolitan Community Adviser – Youth, Shailer Hart to talk to the working party in 2004. Shailer identified the pros and cons of running and maintaining a youth committee. Mindful of the large voluntary commitment already given by the PQY working party, it was decided by PQY to consult with local youth on specific topics, as and when required, rather than establish a youth committee that would need a large amount of time and resources to maintain. The establishment of channels for consultation such as the 'Drive Thru' website, the Library 'Pulse' website, current library consultation at the time all pointed favourably at this decision.
18. With the establishment and ongoing provision of local programmes such as The Store and Energisers, PQY also had ample opportunities to hold focus groups and consult with local youth as required.

To keep the Libraries Unit apprised of youth developments in the area to provide youth information and consultation possibilities and to meet youth needs in terms of the development and use of Parklands Library.

19. A strong link has been developed between the Libraries and Information Unit and the Children's and Youth Advocacy team who undertook the initial consultation on Parklands Library. The Libraries and Information Unit meet with PQY to identify groups in the community who could be approached to be part of the library consultation.
20. This fantastic community facility opened on 6 August 2005 and since the opening day has proven to be very popular with residents of the Parklands/Queenspark community. A youth party (Frenzy) was held in the library one week after the official opening and approximately 160 youth enjoyed a night of food, fun and entertainment.
21. The library staff are passionate about catering for the needs of their community and continue to acknowledge youth as one of their key customer groups. The library is well utilised by local youth, especially in the after-school time period.
22. Planning is currently underway for Frenzy II – a follow-on event from last year's successful Frenzy Youth Party. This is a collaborative approach between library staff, the CRA and identified members of the local community.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Financial year	Amount allocated	Outcomes
2003/04	\$10,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Funding grant to the Store ▪ Sports equipment for the Parklands Sports Equipment Hire Pool ▪ Razzle Dazzle Youth Disco ▪ Skate Jam ▪ Energisers extension
2004/05	\$5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parklands Library opening/Frenzy Youth Party ▪ Wet N Wild Pool Party ▪ Shimmy Shiz Disco ▪ ACTIV Sports Day
2005/06	\$5,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SK8 Jam 06 ▪ Pool Party

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

23. Since May 2004 the community representatives on the working party have invested approximately 60 hours into working party meetings not including additional hours of assistance for subsequent events.

Regular participants are:

Debbie Gillam	Parklands United Sports Club
Kay Addei	Parklands Youth Trust
Kim Button	Parklands Baptist Church
Carmen Hammond	Burwood/Pegasus Community Board
Catherine & Raven	Youth Representatives

FUTURE DIRECTION OF PQY

24. At the PQY meeting in July 2005 it was decided that the future direction of the PQY working party needed to be determined. Research was carried out by the CRA to establish if the Parklands/Queenspark youth felt they were being provided for in terms of activities, programmes and events and to determine what their needs were.
25. A survey questionnaire was developed and surveys were completed by youth that attended the Wet N Wild Pool Party, the 'Frenzy' youth party, youth from the Energisers programme and youth from 'The Store'. A total of 144 youth completed the survey. Over 85% of the respondents are involved in sport or organised activity. In their spare time youth seek passive, non-organised activities i.e. hanging out. The research indicated there is adequate provision of activities in the area for youth (65% of respondents agreed there was enough to do in the Parklands/Queenspark area).
26. A number of positive outcomes have come about as a result of the work carried out by the PQY Committee:
 - (a) Celebration of youth culture, enabling young people to feel they 'belong' in the community.
 - (b) Increased provision of events for youth held locally to encourage participation and support.
 - (c) Linking of local providers – improved relationships between community groups and local providers improving their ability to work collaboratively.
 - (d) Exposure to and support of local leisure providers/sporting organisations – utilisation of resources that exist locally.
 - (e) Acting as a coordinator with the community of activities which provide for young people in the area.
27. The views of young people have been sought and taken into account in the development of programmes and events. The PQY committee have advocated on behalf of and with the youth of this area and shown a commitment to the young people and provided for their recreation needs.

CONCLUSIONS

28. PQY has achieved a number of positive outcomes in the three years that it has been operational. Local youth are well provided for in terms of events and recreation programmes as indicated by the research results. The PQY working party has achieved the objectives that were initially laid down and modified its direction to meet the needs of the area. The programmes that operate in the area are well supported and coordinated by capable and credible providers. The working party feels that it has achieved what it originally set out to do and that the community is in a strong position to continue providing programmes and coordinating events with the support of the CRA.
29. The PQY working party has discussed the progress achieved by this group and support the notion of disbanding at the end of the current financial year.
30. The PQY working party has discussed the future provision of events in this area and is in agreement that a bid be put forward for the 2006/07 Project Funding round requesting funding for a youth events fund of which one event will be tagged specifically for the Parklands/Queenspark area.
31. The work carried out by PQY aligns with the Community Outcome 'A city of healthy and active people'.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

32. \$5,000 has been allocated to PQY for this financial year. Two events are scheduled to take place before 30 June 2006. It is anticipated that all allocated funding will be spent.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Receive the information.
2. Formally acknowledge the PQY working party members for their ongoing support and commitment to the project since September 2003.
3. Consider funding a Youth Events Fund from the 2006/07 Project fund, of which one event would be held annually in the Parklands/Queenspark area.

CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION

That the abovementioned recommendations be adopted.