

6. STRICKLAND STREET COMMUNITY GARDENS – EXTENSION ACTIVITIES DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FUNDING REQUEST

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Community Services, DDI 941-8534
Officer responsible:	Catherine McDonald, Community Support Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to request funding support from the Spreydon/Heathcote Strengthening Communities Action Plan (SCAP) Committee for the Strickland Street Community Gardens (SSCG) Extension Activities Development Project.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. The proposed project extends on current initiatives at SSCG. The current focus of the assistant manager employed is in a supervisory role and to a smaller degree waste minimisation. With the proposed projects emphasis would extend to new initiatives, such as new migrant gardening classes, community education outreach programme and developing business ideas.
3. Key Development Projects are detailed as follows:

(a) **Gardening Classes and Home Advisory Service for New Migrants**

Exploring Community Education for new migrants (initially targeting women), skill based, also functioning as a horticultural and literacy programme. It would support goals in reducing social isolation for new migrants via a social learning environment.

(b) **Outreach Programme**

This extension activity would explore a Home Composting Advisory Service based locally, and visiting participants in their own homes. The outreach programme also involves school visits to reinforce school gardening programmes and to promote both community gardens and Kids Edible Gardens in schools. Part of this programme could be piloted at Council Housing Estates, with a “gardening for small spaces” emphasis. There would also be a networking component to obtain interest among groups working with low-income clients.

(c) **Business Ideas Development**

Enterprise potential include developing the seed saving activities, compost production for fundraising (formal testing of compost quality required), and home composting workshops.

4. Supporting the extension programme would also provide security at a critical time in the gardens development, enabling new initiatives to be explored and implemented. An outcome of the Extension Programme would be a more sustainable operating programme and funding base for the gardens.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

5. There are no legal considerations. The financial considerations are outlined below.
6. The Council has provided financial support to the gardens via its umbrella organisation Manuka Cottage (Addington Community House). More recently this has been from Board Project Funding 2006/07 (\$20,000 Manager salary and operating costs), and Community Development Fund 2005/06 (\$2,500 for assistant salary).
7. The total budget to support the new initiatives is \$30,000, which primarily covers salaries, materials, and promotion. The funding request to the SCAP Committee is \$8,500, which includes \$1,000 project operating costs and is just over 28% of the total budget for this initiative. Funding is also being sought from other funding sources such as Lotteries, The Canterbury Community Trust, Pub Charities, COGS, and Scottwood Trust and Partnership Health Canterbury.
8. There has been no SCAP funding previously allocated towards this project.

BACKGROUND ON THE STRICKLAND STREET COMMUNITY GARDENS

9. SSCG evolved in 1999 from the community development work based at Manuka Cottage. For the last seven years it has been supported by Manuka Cottage and is now well established in the Spreydon community and is often cited as a model for Community Gardens. With the successful development it is now time for SSCG to establish it's own entity and framework.
10. SSCG are in the process of forming a Charitable Trust and planning stages of developing the house as a community gardening and resource centre.
11. The main areas of focus for the SSCG are in horticultural production, waste minimisation, neighbourhood development, community education and support work placement of people with disabilities and other special needs. Many of these initiatives have followed community development processes, which has been key in the successful outcomes for the community.
12. This programme addresses a SCAP aim, 'to support individuals, communities and neighbourhoods to share by direct democracy in achieving the above aims and to have a meaningful participatory role in proactive community building,' addressing social wellbeing, participation, cultural and employment issues.
13. This programme also aligns with Council Policies and Community Board objectives and contributes to the Council Community Outcomes: A City of Inclusive and Diverse Communities, A City of Lifelong Learning, A Safe City, Equity & Access for People with Disabilities. A City of People who Value and Protect the Natural Environment.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Spreydon/Heathcote Strengthening Communities Action Plan (SCAP) Committee allocate \$8,500 from its 2006/07 fund to the Strickland Street Community Gardens towards the Extension Activities Development Project.