

8. ROLE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISER FOR THE LYTTTELTON/MT HERBERT WARD

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Community Services, DDI 941-8534
Officer responsible:	Community Development Manager
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PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. This is an information report to outline my role as Community Development Adviser for the Lyttelton/Mt Herbert area.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. As Community Development Adviser to and for the Lyttelton/Mt Herbert area, key objectives for the 2006/07 year include:
 - (a) Developing and maintaining relationships with key community groups and organisations and advising the Council on significant issues/trends in the Ward.
 - (b) Providing specialist advice to the Community Development Manager on the above.
 - (c) Providing specialist input into work undertaken towards the Community Development Strategy, Grants Review and Facilities Plan.
 - (d) Integrating current Safer Banks Peninsula work and the new Community Development Adviser role.
 - (e) Working within the framework of the Community Development Strategy to meet LTCCP outcomes.
3. Within these objectives work on the draft Community Development Strategy has reached the community consultation/submission stage with a networking forum held in Lyttelton on 23 November 2006 at which the draft strategy was presented. Submissions on the strategy close at the end of January 2007.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

4. There are no financial or legal considerations involved.

BACKGROUND ON THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISER

5. Under the Local Government Act 2002, Councils' are empowered to promote the social, cultural, environmental and economic well-being of their communities. The Council is required to facilitate a process of identifying community outcomes and to co-ordinate collaborative action by NGOs, Government agencies and key stakeholders to achieve these outcomes and to address community issues.
6. Supporting community development is one of the range of ways that the Council contributes to building strong, connected, resilient communities.
7. Community development is about communities working to achieve the things that are important to them reflected in the vibrancy of the community, residents, informal networks and effective community involvement in local decision making.
8. International evidence shows strong communities have:
 - (a) Higher democratic participation.
 - (b) Better educational achievements.
 - (c) Higher economic growth.
 - (d) Lower mortality rates.
 - (e) A healthier environment.And are:
 - (f) Cleaner and safer.
 - (g) More attractive places for people to live, visit and invest in.
9. Community development builds resilient, resourceful and ultimately self-sustainable communities to which all residents feel they belong.
10. The Council employs both metropolitan and local (community based) Community Development Advisers. I am currently employed 24 hours a week in this role.
11. Prior to the merger, I was employed by the Banks Peninsula District Council to implement crime prevention and safety programmes working with the Safer Banks Peninsula Committee.
12. The draft "Community Development Strategy" has identified eight goals (for the life of the strategy):
 - (a) Understand and document community trends and imperatives.
 - (b) Promote collaboration among key stakeholders including Government agencies and community and voluntary organisations, to identify and address key community issues.
 - (c) Increase community engagement and participation in local decision making.
 - (d) Help build and sustain a sense of local community identity.
 - (e) Ensure that communities have access to community facilities that meet their needs.
 - (f) Increase participation in community and recreation programmes and events.
 - (g) Enhance community and neighbourhood safety.
 - (h) Improve basic life skills so that all residents can participate fully in their community.

13. The Council's involvement in community development will become more:
- (a) Goal focused and outcome orientated.
 - (b) Place greater emphasis on promoting collaboration and working in partnership to address issues of importance to the community, and
 - (c) Will put more effort into research, monitoring, evaluating and reporting back to the Council, Community Boards and the community.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Board receive this information.