

14. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ADVISOR ROLE

General Manager responsible:	General Manager Community Services, DDI 941--
Officer responsible:	Community Development Manager
Author:	Sue Grimwood

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To outline my role as Community Development Advisor for the Akaroa/Wairewa Ward and Community Board.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. In my role as Community Development Advisor to and for the Akaroa/Wairewa Ward, key objectives for the 2006/07 year include
 - develop mapping and relationship data base of key community groups and organisations in the Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board area;
 - develop and maintain relationships with key community groups and organisations and advise Council on significant issues/trends in the Ward;
 - provide specialist advice to the Community Development Manager on the above;
 - provide specialist input into work undertaken towards the Community Development Strategy, Grants Review and Facilities Plan;
 - integrate current Safer Banks Peninsula Work and new Community Development Advisor role;
 - work within the framework of the Community Development Strategy to meet LTCCP outcomes.

Within these objectives work on the draft Community Development Strategy has reached the community consultation/submission stage with a networking forum scheduled in Akaroa on Friday 1st December at which the draft strategy will be presented. Submissions on the strategy close on December 22nd.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

No Financial or Legal Considerations involved

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

N/A

Report - Community Development Advisor:

Under the Local Government Act 2002 Councils have been explicitly expected to promote the social and cultural as well as environmental and economic well being of their communities. Council is required to facilitate a process of identifying community outcomes and to coordinate collaborative action by NGOs, Government agencies and key stakeholders to achieve these outcomes and to address community issues. Supporting community development is one of the range of ways that Council contributes to building strong, connected, resilient communities.

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.

International evidence shows strong communities have:

- higher democratic participation
- better educational achievements
- higher economic growth
- lower mortality rates
- a healthier environment

and are:

- cleaner and safer
- more attractive places for people to live, visit and invest in.

Community development builds resilient, resourceful and ultimately self-sustainable communities to which all residents feel they belong.

Council employs both Metro (Christchurch City) and local (community based) Community Development Advisors. I am currently employed 16 hours a week in this role.

Prior to amalgamation with Christchurch I was employed by BPDC to implement crime prevention and reduction programmes working with the Akaroa/Wairewa Community Trust (Safer Banks Peninsula)

As a point of clarification for Board members I also work 16 hours/week for the Akaroa Resource Collective Trust who hold the contract with the Ministry of Social Development to operate the Akaroa Heartland Centre.

The draft 'Community Development Strategy' has identified 8 goals (for the life of the strategy)

1. Understand and document community trends and imperatives;
2. Promote collaboration among key stakeholders including Government agencies and community and voluntary organisations, to identify and address key community issues;
3. Increase community engagement and participation in local decision making;
4. Help build and sustain a sense of local community identity;
5. Ensures that communities have access to community facilities that meet their needs;
6. Increase participation in community and recreation programmes and events;
7. Enhance community and neighbourhood safety;
8. Improve basic life skills so that all residents can participate fully in their community.

Council's involvement in community development will become more:

- goal focused and outcome orientated,
- place greater emphasis on promoting collaboration and working in partnership to address issues of importance to the community, and
- will put more effort into research, monitoring, evaluating and reporting back to Council, Community Boards and the Community.

An issue identified by several sectors of the community is the lack of affordable housing for:

- local residents across the age and family spectrum.
- seasonal/student workers
- difficulty accessing long-term accommodation

A survey/questionnaire will be developed to obtain some quantitative data rather than using anecdotal (or qualitative) information.

Youth Adolescent Health

Currently work to gather data on 13-25 year olds access to primary health services (whether there are gaps to be filled) is being undertaken in conjunction with the Rural Canterbury PHO, Health 198, Schools and local health practitioners. The Board will be updated on this as data becomes available.

Board members wishing to contribute to the questionnaires with specific questions or ideas

Can contact me in person; at my office – Heartland Centre, 9 Rue Balguerie, ph. 304.8659; email akaroaheartland@paradise.net.nz ; or home 304.5099 email esgrimwood@xtra.co.nz

I shall be at the Board meeting to answer any questions Board members may have about this report.