

## 8. FUNDING FOR SPREYDON/HEATHCOTE COMMUNITY EVENTS

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### PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The purpose of this report is to update the Board on the current situation regarding community events in the Spreydon/Heathcote area and to present options on a way forward for a Barrington event.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. Typically three events are run annually in the Spreydon/Heathcote Ward – November Fiesta, Heathcote River Day and Barrington Big Fun. The sum of \$17,000 was requested by the Community Recreation Adviser in the 2006/07 project funding round to cover the cost of running these three community events.
3. At the project funding allocation meeting held in May this year, the Community Board agreed to allocate \$10,000 to community events for the 2006/07 financial year. This funding is for events administered and overseen by the Community Recreation Adviser. The Community Recreation Adviser proposed that as local community support to plan the Barrington Big Fun event had been significantly lower for the 2006 event, the Barrington event becomes instead bi-annual. The Board requested that external agencies be approached for funding support for the 2007 Barrington event.
4. A sponsorship proposal was prepared and approaches to the Rotary Club of Christchurch South and Barrington Mall were made. Both sponsorship proposals were unsuccessful and neither of these agencies were able to provide financial support for the Barrington Community Event.
5. The Barrington Big Fun community event is coordinated by a planning committee which is made up of representatives of the local community. The Barrington event has always attracted a good crowd and is well supported on the day, but one of the issues affecting this event in recent years is diminished support from community representatives to plan the event. One of the aims of this event is to involve key members of the community to plan the event; to utilise their networks within the community; foster relationships and partnerships between community organisations and upskill representatives in new areas i.e. in this case the facets involved are in planning and implementing a community event.
6. The Community Recreation Adviser has contacted community members who assisted in planning and co-ordinating last years Barrington event and sought their feedback on possible options for the future. The feedback was that the lack of support for the planning had an effect on the delivery of the event and was something that needed to be addressed prior to organising/running the event again. There was support for the idea of Barrington Big Fun becoming a bi-annual event. This would allow members of the planning committee to re-charge and would keep the event fresh.
7. With the recent lack of interest in assistance with planning this event it may be timely to evaluate the current members on the planning committee and consider who could be approached/invited to join this committee so that there is the capacity, the willingness and the enthusiasm to take responsibility for the planning component, thus ensuring a successful event.
8. In summary, there is insufficient funding to run the three annual community events from the funds allocated by the Community Board during the 2006/2007 project funding process. Sponsorship proposals have not been successful in securing external funding for the Barrington event.

## **FINANCIAL AND LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

9. In May 2006 the Board confirmed that \$13,000 be allocated for community events in the 2006/07 financial year of which \$10,000 be tagged specifically for community events overseen by the Community Recreation Adviser.
10. The Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board currently has \$46,214 available for allocation in its 2006/07 Discretionary Fund.

## **BACKGROUND ON FUNDING FOR SPREYDON/HEATHCOTE COMMUNITY EVENTS**

11. The outcomes of community events are many and varied. Community events allow us to engage with the community. Events are often held in specific areas of the community that face issues such as high levels of deprivation and social need, or in areas that highlight specific geographical features of the community. Events also allow us to highlight recreational opportunities within the community and provide opportunities to create links between communities and local providers i.e. churches, youth groups, holiday programmes.
12. One of the roles of a Community Recreation Adviser is to assess the viability of community events. In relation to community events, one of the factors that is considered is community support. This support comes firstly from the community to commit time and energy towards planning the event and secondly, by the wider community to participate on the day of the event. Barrington Big Fun has the latter support but does not presently have the support for the planning aspect of the event.
13. The Community Recreation Adviser indicated to Board members at the project funding meeting earlier this year that the priority events for the Spreydon/Heathcote ward are Heathcote River Day and November Community Fiesta. These events target low socio economic communities, their key focus is to strengthening community relationships and bring people together to celebrate culture, community and local resources.
14. The planning for these two events has commenced, as past experience indicates the timing of community events can affect their success and the support they receive from the community. After consulting with the community and stakeholders it was decided that the best time to hold Heathcote River Day and November Community Fiesta is prior to the Christmas holidays. With that in mind planning for these events is already underway.

## **OPTIONS**

15. The Board may wish to consider and discuss the following options that have been identified by the Community Recreation Advisers.

- (a) Do not run the Barrington Big Fun event in 2007.

There is insufficient funding available for this event and valuable planning time has already been lost. The need to engage with key community representatives to plan the event is crucial if we wish to achieve the goals of this event. Staff need time to consult and evaluate the current Barrington Big Fun event. Evaluation will allow appropriate changes to be made i.e. invitations to new members of the community to be involved in this project, with a view to next run the Barrington event in 2008. A bid for this event could be included in the 2007/08 project funding round.

- (b) Run the Barrington Big Fun event in 2007.

If the Board wishes to see this event happen in the current financial year then funding would need to be sourced from the Board's discretionary fund. Funding applications to external agencies have been unsuccessful. The cost to run the Barrington Big Fun event is \$6,500. It needs to be acknowledged that the Barrington event runs on the current budget due to input from community members. If option (b) is the preferred option, the Board's consideration needs to be given to the fact that the event would be planned with minimal input from the community due to tight timeframes, which may in turn affect the budget.

- (c) Consider the option of funding a 'Movie in the Park' style event in the Barrington area.

The content of this report outlines a number of issues if the Barrington event were to go ahead this year i.e. limited planning time, lack of support from the community for the planning component, lack of funds on hand etc. The Board may wish to consider the option of funding a Movie in the Park style event that would ensure an event is still held in the Barrington area engaging the local community and bringing people together in a local greenspace. If the Board supported this idea, funding would need to be allocated to run this event. The cost of running a Movie in the Park style event is approximately \$4,000. Attendances at these events run last year in other ward areas ranged from 500 people through to over 1,000. Further information around this option can be supplied if required.

#### **PREFERRED OPTION**

16. The preferred option is (a) Do not run Barrington Big Fun in 2006/07.
17. This option would mean the Barrington Big Fun event would become bi-annual, with the next event scheduled for February 2008 (dependent upon Board funding support). This would allow the Community Recreation Adviser time to capacity build in the Barrington community to increase the likelihood of securing committed members of the community for the Barrington Big Fun Planning Committee.
18. The Board may also wish to consider option (c).
19. This would allow members of the Barrington community to be brought together via a community event which would not require the same level of involvement from community representatives and significantly less planning time for the Community Recreation Adviser.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Community Board:

- (a) Support the option of not running the Barrington event in 2006/07.
- (b) Consider the option of funding an outdoor movie event in Barrington Park from the 2006/07 Board Discretionary Fund.

#### **CHAIRPERSON'S RECOMMENDATION**

For discussion.