

4. QUESTIONS

4.1 AKAROA MUSEUM ACTIVITY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Board Member S Lowndes, as Chairman of the Akaroa Museum Advisory Committee, raised the following question:

“What is the Akaroa Museum’s Activity Management Plan status within Christchurch City Council, with special regard to the care of the heritage buildings under the management of the Museum?”

Mr Lowndes explained that this matter had been raised at a meeting of the Akaroa Museum Advisory Committee. He said staff had prepared an Activity Management Plan containing ten year budgets and activity, prior to the merger with Christchurch City Council. The Museum Committee was uncertain of the current status of that Plan within Council.

The Board **agreed** that staff be asked to provide an update on the status of the Activity Management Plan for the Akaroa Museum, with special regard to the care of the heritage buildings under the management of the Museum.

4.2 GARDEN OF TANE

Board Member W. McKean raised the following question.

“As the Garden of Tane at Akaroa is now under the control of the Christchurch City Council, will there be:

- 1. A management plan for the gardens drawn up, and*
- 2. Will this include a progressive planting and replacement programme?”*

Mr McKean noted that the Garden of Tane is now the responsibility of Council’s Parks and Reserves Unit, but unlike most other public reserves on Banks Peninsula, it has no supervising board or committee.

The Board **agreed** that staff be requested to formulate a management and/or development plan for the Garden of Tane and bring that plan back to the Community Board for consultation.

4.3 CHANGE IN RATING DIFFERENTIAL FROM RURAL TO RESIDENTIAL

Board Member W. McKean raised the following question.

“Could the Akaroa/Wairewa Community Board be advised, at its July meeting, of the number of ratepayers in its area who have been notified by the Christchurch City Council that their rating category has been changed from rural to residential, despite no change in their underlying zoning classification?”

Mr McKean had been informed that there were 427 properties in the Banks Peninsula Ward which had been changed from rural to residential rating under this criteria.

Mr McKean said it appeared that a number of ratepayers living outside of, but adjacent to residential areas, had been so advised, without any prior advice and despite the Memorandum of Understanding between the Christchurch City Council and the Banks Peninsula District Council that levels of service would remain unchanged for a five year period.

The Board did have some concerns regarding this issue. Members felt that the way ratepayers had been notified of this change was unfortunate, although they did acknowledge that a second letter was being sent by staff to the affected property owners.

The Chairman offered to meet with the Funds & Financial Policy Manager to discuss this issue further, particularly the fact that these properties were still being rated by Environment Canterbury on a rural basis.

The Board **agreed** that a staff member from the Corporate Finance Unit should be asked to attend a Board meeting to explain the background of the Council policy which governed this rating differential and the criteria by which properties were identified as being residential in a rural zone.