

TE PAPANUI TRUST

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Submission from Te Papanui Trust on Community Plan 2004-14 & Proposed Papanui Youth Facility

Note: We wish to talk to the main points of this written submission at the hearings.

Parts of the Draft Plan to which this submission relates

Volume 2

1. A Learning City, p 7-8
2. Inclusiveness and Diverse Communities, p 13-14
3. A City of Healthy and Active People p 15-16
4. A Safe City, p 17-18
5. A Cultural and Fun City, p 19-20
6. Working with Other Organisation, p 23
7. Community Services, p 44 and p 53

Background on Te Papanui Trust

Te Papanui Trust is a registered charitable trust established in March 1999 by Papanui Baptist Church with the aim of providing a Community Centre within the Papanui area. We seek to providing leadership, direction, physical facilities and resources to help meet the social, emotional, physical, spiritual, cultural and educational needs of the people in our local community. Although still in our objectives, the Community Centre project has been difficult to bring together. Our emphasis since early 2001 broadened to include a separate Youth Facility. This was initiated due to the approach from the Christchurch City Council Community Development Advisor from the Papanui Service Centre to the Trust. The Community Development Advisor sought that Te Papanui Trust act as an umbrella trust for the Northern Youth Collective to establish a much needed Youth Facility close to the Northlands Mall.

The initial concept was for leasing the 4 Restell Street (ex Video Ezy) building. This was pursued vigorously but due to external commercial reasons the lease was not secured. Since then four other sites have been pursued, but all failed to conclude due either to Resource Management Act or commercial difficulties. However, the numerous difficulties in siting a Youth Facility have now been overcome, and the exciting developments for establishing a Youth Facility at 1 Harewood Road on the St Paul's Anglican Church site now exist.

Submission

General

Te Papanui Trust wishes to congratulate Council on its Community Plan for 2004 to 2014. The parts of the draft plan on which we wish to comment are stated above. All our comments are supportive of Council Objectives, as these tie closely to those objectives we have been pursuing with the Shirley/Papanui Community Board and in our community endeavours.

1. A Learning City, Vol 2, p 7-8

We support the Outcome sought of providing diverse opportunities for learning and innovation and meeting the challenge of increasing educational achievement for all. It is also very appropriate to "facilitate links and partnerships....with community to improve education pathways and transitions".

These objectives fit well with part of the aspirations we have for the Papanui Youth Facility.

2. Inclusiveness and Diverse Communities, Vol 2, p 13-14

Te Papanui Trust is pleased to see the acknowledgement of providing funding and support for some voluntary sector agencies. Well targeted funding to the right groups with a strong commitment to positive outcomes is sound practice. Collaborative funding approaches are also encouraged.

Three points on page 14 under the heading "What we'll keep doing receive our full support. They are:

- Supporting communities to plan, organise and carry out initiatives that reflect their needs and aspirations
- Facilitate collaboration between public, private and community agencies to address key areas of social need
- Managing, supporting and promoting community facilities as a means of providing opportunities for residents to participate in community life and have a sense of belonging and identity.

3. A City of Healthy and Active People, Vol 2, p 15-16

Under the mental and emotional well-being aspects of these objectives, we note and endorse:

- Continuing to provide support for community initiatives aimed at enhancing social connectedness
- Focus partnership work to ensure effective use of limited resources

4. A Safe City, Vol 2, p 17-18

Reducing youth offending is a shared aim. We agree with Council in its desire to support the implementation of family violence prevention strategies and support youth intervention initiatives.

Early intervention is an amazingly cost effective way to work with at risk youth as later remediation is expensive and frequently unsuccessful.

5. A Cultural and Fun City, Vol 2, p 19-20

We specifically support the Outcomes of this section of the draft plan. On page 20 we note and support Council "facilitating and promoting the provision of a range of venues, facilities and events that support a flourishing arts sector". We believe the proposed Papanui Youth Facility can contribute to this aim by harnessing the developing talents of the areas young people giving them confidence to explore and exercise their talents.

6. Working with Other Organisation, Vol 2, p 23

Council is to be commended for the long-standing culture it has fostered of collaborating with other people and organisations to further the interests of the City and its people. Te Papanui Trust, and a closely linked Papanui Youth Development Trust has enjoyed being part of this collaboration since our establishment and to help deliver real benefits to the communities we serve.

7. Community Services, Vol 2, p 44 and p 53

On page 44, under Social community services, we strongly endorse the three service objectives that in selective summary form state:

- Increase participation in recreational activities for children and young people with disabilities
- Assist local community groups to deliver programmes and activities which reflect their local community
- Provide healthy, accessible and enjoyable leisure opportunities

On page 53 we note the list of Council owned facilities/community centres. From this list of 47 facilities, it is of note that at Papanui area is not well serviced. This is a fact well identified in various studies and needs assessments over a number of years in the Papanui and Northland Mall vicinity.

Discussion

Te Papanui Trust has submitted to this plan and presented to the committee four times in the last five years. We missed last year as in some ways we felt we were hitting the end of the road in meeting our Trust Deed objectives. Initially we focused on the Community Centre concept for Papanui. In May 2001 we submitted in support of three years of funding for a Youth Facility that had been set aside for the Trust to take over the lease of the then Video Ezy store in Restall Street. In the time elapsed between submission and hearing we found we had just lost the lease option. It is always difficult to secure a site, either as purchaser or lessee, when we have to secure funding, face resource consent issues and deal with negative perceptions some people attribute to a centre that will attract young people.

Subsequently Papanui Baptist Church took on a full time experienced youth worker, Ross Banbury. His energy has continued to demonstrate the need for a facility through a proliferation of events. He along with the Trust, also worked solidly on seeking sites but four attempts later we could not conclude arrangements.

We were advised by Council that the approved 2001 funds had been accumulated to provide \$135,000 that could still be used, and the Shirley/Papanui Community Board funds of \$35,000 for refurbishing was still available. This provided a capital sum with which to explore property ownership. Overcoming RMA issues by working with St Paul's Anglican Church on their prime location at 1 Harewood Road, agreement has been reached (signed 16 December 2003) to allow a large multi-purpose Youth Facility to be built on their land.

Furthermore the Facility can connect to their existing hall to better utilise current infrastructure. Te Papanui Trust in conjunction with St Paul's Anglican Church and Papanui Baptist Church believe this Facility can serve as a way to effectively meet the Council objectives we have endorsed above.

The securing of this correctly zoned land should not be underestimated in terms of its impact on the project viability. In essence it relates to around \$300,000 of land being made available to Te Papanui Trust and the youth of the area, at no cost to the Council or the Trust.

User and community benefit from the well located Youth Facility will be significant. The proposed Youth Facility will meet objectives of the Northern Youth Collective and an accessible venue will exist for the numerous organisations that are part of this collective. Papanui High School has continued to be supportive of the initiative and is enthused by the possibilities provided by the Facility, including the climbing wall. The Northland's Mall is acutely aware of issues with youth in the area, and has been looking for ways to more constructively channel young people. The presence of such a facility and the services and opportunities it brings, allows for better prospects of early intervention for youth experiencing difficulties.

Considerable design, planning and pricing of the proposed Youth Facility has been completed. Until very recently this was all under the financial resources of the Trust. More recently the Community Board has released some of its allocation to ensure the professional scoping of the facility. The following model shows how the facility can be integrated with the existing buildings.



The facility will include climbing wall, commercial kitchen, meeting rooms, offices for youth workers, interview rooms, St Paul's existing hall, sound/recording facilities, and craft rooms. The facility will not operate as a youth drop in centre. Rather than being sports focused as numerous facilities are, it will provide a resource for quality entertainment and recreation services, cultural events, and education and training events aimed at strengthening families. In addition other professional services could be offered such as youth health clinics, legal and budget advice, counselling, family group conferences, immigrant liaison etc. The facility will become a base for agencies and groups already working with youth, allowing additional information sharing plus combining administrative resources.

Specific benefits from the facility include creating an identifiable venue that staff and volunteers can host appropriate activities and projects. It can be used for family group conferences. The climbing wall also delivers a unique facility in the area. This and other attributes of the facility such as its close proximity to Papanui High School benefit local youth and schools. The neighbouring premise is the Papanui RSA. They are supportive of the project and see potential in being able to use the facilities themselves when they have extraordinary functions.

On 5th April 2004 we officially launched the project to the local business community and other interested parties at a lunch-time Mayoral Function. This is the formal start of a process to close any funding gaps and get further community endorsement for the existing project.

The Trust has worked consistently on getting to this point over the last five years. That work has involved a substantial amount of professional trustee voluntary time, and significant contract with Council, Community Board and the wider community, to ensure a positive outcome to meet community needs. Disappointments have been numerous. In built up areas, establishing a large community complex when no land is available is a daunting challenge. Te Papanui Trust believes it has responded to that challenge, and has the target firmly in its grasp.

Actions Requested in Response to this Submission

1. Note our support of Council's document in Points 1 to 7 above
2. That the Council re-confirm the availability of the \$135,000 approved in June 2001 for the establishment of a Youth Facility, now to be sited on land held by The Anglican Church Property Trust for St Paul's Anglican Church at 1 Harewood Road.
3. That the Shirley/Papanui Community Board be funded such that it can provide the \$35,000 for building fit-out
4. That the Council notes that a request for some additional funding has been lodged with the Metropolitan Funding Committee

On Behalf of Te Papanui Trust

Barry van Beurten
Chairman

Richard Christie
Treasurer/Trustee