

**13. CHRISTCHURCH BEAUTIFYING ASSOCIATION
COMMUNITY PRIDE GARDEN AWARDS**

RR 3794

Officer responsible Sue Wells	Author Community Board Member
Corporate Plan Output: Elected Member Advice	

On 23 April I was the Board's appointed representative to the Street and Garden Awards subcommittee of Beautifying Association. As asked by the Board last month, I raised the issue of judging criteria for the Community Pride Garden Awards.

There was some concern expressed at our Board meeting that Community Pride Garden Award winners tended to be "bridesmaids" for the professional gardening competitions run by the Beautifying Association. This was because assessing gardens for Community Pride Awards occurred as part of the Beautifying Association's competitive process.

Much discussion arose at the Beautifying Association when I raised this. The feeling was that there was some truth to this notion. It was also pointed out that Beautifying Association winners were eligible to further receive Community Pride Garden Awards; the rationale being that those beautiful gardens enhance their community.

I advised the Beautifying Committee of our Board's concerns regarding areas of extreme poverty and/or disrepair in our wards, and put it to them that it can be difficult to find a garden in those streets which comes up to the same standard as gardens in more affluent parts of the ward. The committee responded that part of the nomination process for Community Pride Garden Awards was to ask the local Area Parks Officer to identify exactly those "low-grade" streets, and to actively seek to recognise at least one garden in those streets. Representatives from other areas gave indications that this had been done.

There was much discussion regarding presentation of awards. Councillor Anderton noted that the Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board had spent

13. Cont'd

\$2,000 on two functions for their 170 (approximately) winners, and an afternoon tea at the Cashmere Club for the Heathcote recipients. Spreydon/Heathcote felt it was money well spent, as it gathered together strangers from the community who discovered they shared a common interest.

Fendalton/Waimairi on the other hand, chose to post out its awards. The practice in our ward of hand-delivering certificates was, it is fair to say, roundly criticised by some of those present, who felt we did not show enough regard for the winners.

A variety of projects for the Year 2000 were discussed, including a street frontage or berm competition; this idea is something the Board may like to consider further down the track. It could be a good opportunity to pick up on the “focus” project that we began considering about 18 months ago.

One of the difficulties with this subcommittee is that it is a joint council/private association committee and therefore Board members do not normally receive minutes. This can make it difficult for us to stay in the information loop and why I have written this report. The Beautifying Association was asked to write a report to all Community Boards detailing discussion at the meeting.

It should be noted that the work done by the Beautifying Association towards the Community Pride Garden Awards is immensely time-consuming and done by a team of volunteers known as “Disciples”. They clock up huge mileages and spend masses of their own time, with a total funding from Council last year of \$18,000 which has not been sufficient to cover the Beautifying Association’s quite modest expenses.

The next meeting of this subcommittee will be held on 18 September 1998.

Chairperson’s

Recommendation: That the information be received.