

6. CORRESPONDENCE

6.1 NEW BRIGHTON ROAD PEDESTRIAN REFUGE ISLAND

The following letter was received from Munjula Andrews, Kate Sheppard Lifecare Centre, regarding the installation of a pedestrian refuge island on New Brighton Road:

“Thank you for your letter dated 25 June 1999. I would urge you to look favourably on placing the installation of the pedestrian refuge island up the top of your ‘high priority list’ of future city-wide projects.

The suggestion of Kate Sheppard Retirement Village it is a possibility if the cost of it could be taken off the large amount of reserve contributions that we pay and have paid during the development of this complex. We are currently subdividing a 3.5 acre north block on Barkers Road. We would be prepared to fund the total cost of the island if we can be totally reimbursed by way of contra against our commitment to the reserve contribution. We are mindful that you have a temporary funding problem to the funding of projects in the community.

The majority of our residents enjoy the spacious grounds, entertainment and activities arranged in our community hall and garden pavilion. Not only would the bus be well supported by the residents of our complex, but also by their visitors and relatives

In our residential care and studio apartment area we have 67 residents who have a large amount of visitors. We have at present 64 independent villa units approximately occupied 50/50 by married and single residents. They also have visitors who often arrive by either taxi or bus. Our Activities Co-ordinator takes groups of new residents on a initiation run to familiarise them with the routes and use of the bus.

People living in retirement villages do not just take up residence in a retirement village and forgotten by others in the community. On the contrary, villa residents are frequently out and there are a lot of visitors to the Kate Sheppard complex. Particularly on this side of town there is a strong neighbourly, communal atmosphere as compared with our other complex Bishop Selwyn although, I have to say, the bus stop there is very well used by residents and their relatives.

The residents of our village have been, in the past, the working people ie to say they have held jobs and contributed to the growth of this city. They are also the age group that are most familiar with usage of buses. The Council, I note, has a lot of money to spend on projects that service the unemployed of this city and the youth who have not at all contributed to it. There is no need for me to list them as you will be well aware of them.

The installation of this refuge island would be of great relief to residents and visitors of Kate Sheppard Lifecare Centre. The road at present is a death trap with traffic coming in all directions.”

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the Board write to advise Ms Andrews:

1. That reserve contributions cannot be used for City Streets projects.
2. Of the Board recommendations from the 28 June 1999 meeting on this subject.

6.2 PROPOSED TOILET BLOCK - NORTH BEACH

The following letter was received from Craig Singleton, regarding the proposed toilet block in North Beach:

"I wish to express my concerns with the following aspects of the proposed toilet block in North Beach. I believe that decisions are being made about North Beach amenities without full consideration given to the consequences of those decisions.

I fully encourage and welcome upgrading facilities at North Beach, but I do believe that there should be a more co-ordinated and integrated plan of action. The future of the Surf Club and the Memorial Hall should be resolved before ad-hoc decisions are taken and the toilet block rebuilt. A long-term plan needs to be devised and committed to by the community and the Council. Council funding policy seems to be 'use it or lose it'; an unfortunate situation that creates an attitude that encourages short-term planning and piecemeal construction. I do not want North Beach to lose its allocated funding, I think residents and visitors would appreciate and utilise improved amenities, but there appears to be a sense of urgency that is possibly blinding the plans to other possibilities and unwarranted consequences.

The location of the proposed site concerns me, specifically that a toilet block would blot the view from the Ozone Hotel. The Ozone is a community amenity in its own right. It offers a focal point for members of the community; it is a meeting place, a recreation centre, and an entertainment hall. It is also somewhere to sit quietly and reflect upon the day. One of the special features of the Ozone is that patrons can enjoy exemplary views from its front windows. Sweeping vistas include the Kaikoura Ranges in the distance and a precious ribbon of blue-green Pacific in the foreground.

This is a feature that would be a shame to lose.

The hotel land may be privately owned, but the hotel allows public access and has public usage. It is in effect public space, an aspect that should be taken into consideration. The Ozone offers something unique to Christchurch, ocean views from a licensed premise. Also important to consider, is that since the sand dunes will not be lowered to allow ocean views for single storied dwellings, the Ozone currently caters to people that want to relax indoors and enjoy the beauty of the ocean. Much is made about a home with an ocean view, the Ozone is a public house with an ocean view that allows hundreds of households access to comfortable, communal surroundings that are imbued with the ambience that only a sea-side community has. Locating a toilet block in front of it would diminish a community asset. It may also discourage people visiting the area if the pub with the ocean view is debased to be one that overlooks a toilet block. By the same token, patrons of the Kasbah also enjoy a peripheral ocean view that could be blocked by building on the proposed site.

The proposed site also has possible negative affects for the people using the toilet block. I have misgivings about having change-room facilities opposite a public hotel. I think the people using these facilities deserve more privacy than having themselves in view of the pub across the road. The issue is that the toilet not hinders the pub's view, and that the pub not impinges upon the privacy of the change rooms.

As for the actual design, I have a concern that the change facilities only open onto the car park frontage and that there is no access on the beach side. Beach frontage for changing facilities does seem sensible, and there could be concern about there being only one entrance and exit point.

I met with Chris Freeman on site on Thursday 15 July to discuss these concerns. This was two days after receiving the copy of the notice that I had to request from the Parks Department. My house unfortunately missed out on the letterbox drop, as did a number of homes. More significantly, the publican of the Ozone knew nothing of the plan until that Thursday when a patron brought him a copy of the notice. Of the dozen people I spoke to that night at the Ozone, only one had received the notice and knew of the plan. No one was in support of the facilities being built in front of the hotel. I appreciate that Chris invited me on-site to discuss my concerns, but I feel the process was more about educating me to understand the grand coastal plan, rather than me representing community concern.

Considering the outrage that the Thomson Park consultation effort caused, I thought that maybe Council process would be more sensitive to the desires of North Beach residents contributing to the planning of their environment. My informal discussions to date indicate that there is not widespread knowledge of this plan in the community. Meanwhile, Chris was happy to tell me that this example represents the bottom end of the consultation process and that he has five or six of these projects happening at any one time. My view is that although projects may be being repeated across the city, each one is unique to its own locality. There needs to be involvement from the community, a focussed view that considers the details of local community life that can be overlooked by the grand concepts of the Parks Department. Perhaps this is a case of the left hand not knowing what the right hand is doing, but poor communication within Council structures does nothing to improve relationships with local communities. It is unfortunate that the first consultative process to confront the North Beach

community following Thomson Park slipped by largely unnoticed and again, caught people unawares.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate that the community amenity of the public space provided by the hotels should be recognised and appreciated as part of the community identity. Further, that plans for the foreshore should consider the foreshore park as a holistic concept and the futures of the Memorial Hall and Surf Club are resolved. I think the concept of landscaping the foreshore and establishing new facilities is wonderful, but I believe the plan as it is presented is short-sighted and inconsiderate to the value of public space as provided by the Ozone Hotel.

I think it is fair to add that I am not a regular at the Ozone or the Kasbah, family life has curtailed my drinking habits, but this situation will change and I may wish to enjoy the view currently available from the comfort of the pub. I urge everyone to visit and enjoy the view from the Ozone. It is necessary to do so to fully appreciate this asset to our community.”

Chairperson’s

Recommendation: For discussion.

6.3 FUNDING REQUEST FOR COMPUTERS

The following letter was received from Suzanne Roberts, Co-ordinator of The New Brighton Project Inc, regarding possible assistance with funding for two computers:

“As you may have realised from yesterday’s New Brighton Project Board meeting, at the moment the New Brighton Project is somewhat low-tech in office equipment, not to say downright non-tech. The office has had the use of an Apple Mac but recently the printer, which was a very old model, died and is too expensive to repair. In fact, in order to keep the office functioning the Co-ordinator is having to either borrow the use of other offices computers or is having to take work home to do in the evening. As you can appreciate, the situation is both frustrating and inefficient.

The computer is not only necessary for the efficient running of a modern office, dealing with such things as correspondence, but with the right programmes installed it becomes a small publishing unit and accountancy package.

With a programme such as Publisher we would be able to do things such as reformat the monthly newsletter from an broadsheet to a smaller, more professionally produced A5 news sheet. The newsletter as it stands is delivered not only to the local business community but to the local service community, the schools, Fire, police, and the local community groups, and feedback is very appreciative from all about being told at least a month in advance of upcoming events and meetings, and having small pieces of timely information passed on, such as where Christchurch City Council jurisdiction in the mall ends and private jurisdiction starts. The production of posters and banners for upcoming events would be made both easier and more professional looking also.

The local Craft Co-op, which we oversee, is in desperate need of a computer with an accountancy package to deal with its growing number of members. At the moment the Co-op accounts are kept in a progressively top-heavy system of books which is unwieldy and time consuming. The system worked well enough when there were only 12 or so members, but at the moment there are 42 members and trialists in the Co-op.

Because of access to people with comprehensive computer knowledge we source both the computers and the necessary software for approximately \$1,500. Any assistance with funding for these that the Community Board could give would be very much appreciated.”

The Community Advocate Reports:

“I would like to strongly support the application of the New Brighton Project for financial assistance to purchase computers that will provide a significant enhancement to the current manual recording and tracking procedures. Given the number of activities undertaken by this group and the considerable involvement of other sectors of the community, accurate and accessible records are essential and it is my firm belief that in today’s environment a computer is fully justified. In supporting the New Brighton Project this year the Board reduced its overall financial support by 50%, therefore with this allocation being required for projects and events there is a shortfall in the funding required to keep the organisation viable. Other sources of funding are being actively sought by the executive, the success of which has yet to be confirmed.

It is through the generosity of a number of business houses and individuals that the computers, printers and software can be obtained for \$1,500.”

Chairperson’s

- Recommendations:**
1. That the Community Board supply \$1,500 to the New Brighton Project for a computer.
 2. That in the event of the dissolution of the New Brighton Project the computers be returned to the Community Board for future reallocation.