

Officer responsible Community Advocate	Author John Dunphy Community Technical Adviser
Corporate Plan Output: Community Board	

The purpose of this report is to update the Board regarding steps taken by the local Community Constables and volunteers to battle graffiti in our community and to seek funding for their activities.

BACKGROUND

Owing to the large numbers of graffiti complaints to the Police, Community Constables Harris, Hastie and Olliver from Linwood, Woolston and Phillipstown communities developed the concept of forming a “Graffiti Busters” group using a specially equipped trailer and local volunteer labour to remove graffiti from properties in their area. The basis of the concept was the well accepted theory that removing graffiti as soon as possible after it is applied helps prevent further instances of graffiti in that place. It also positively raises the outlook of people residing in the area.

The Kiwanis Club provided \$1,000 sponsorship to purchase the trailer and the City Council through the Linwood Advocacy Team has helped by providing paint, painting equipment and graffiti remover.

The “Graffiti Busters” trailer has been out on two occasions manned by youth and neighbourhood watch volunteers and cleaned graffiti from 52 properties. Feedback from the local community has been very positive and local newspapers and television have provided media coverage. Graffiti is only removed from properties where consent has been obtained from the owner.

FUTURE

It is hoped to have five permanent volunteers who can either go out by themselves or supervise other community groups or youth. The project will continue to be overseen by the Community Constables.

It is envisaged that the group will work in conjunction with the Council’s proposed graffiti strategies but will only service the Linwood, Woolston, Phillipstown and Sumner areas because of the volunteer base. The Linwood, Woolston and Phillipstown areas have been described as some of the worst areas for graffiti in the city.

Because of the problems with removing graffiti from unpainted concrete, the group recently trialed water blasting. Unfortunately, the smaller home type units do not provide enough pressure and more powerful commercial units are needed. This means that it is necessary for the group to hire the unit at a cost of \$72 per day.

Although the Kiwanis have provided the trailer and the Council paint and painting material, the group has no other funds to provide for maintenance of the trailer, materials or hire of plant. The group therefore seeks financial support for this worthwhile community based project.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the information be received.
 2. That the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board give consideration to allocating \$1,000 of its 1999/2000 discretionary funds for the continued implementation of the Police/Community "Graffiti Busters" programme.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the officer's recommendations be adopted.