22. BURWOOD/PEGASUS COMMUNITY BOARD PROFILE

Officer responsible	Author
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Corporate Plan Output: Burwood/Pegasus Community Board

The purpose of this report is to advise members of the current procedures in place for maintaining and increasing the profile of the Community Board within the Burwood/Pegasus community.

In addressing Board profiles in general it needs to be noted that the results of the Council's Annual Citizen Survey indicate that city wide only 26% of those interviewed could correctly or partly identify the Community Board serving their area. Of the six boards Burwood/Pegasus was known to more people than any of the others however the percentages were still low.

There are a number of areas in Burwood/Pegasus where the work of the Board is widely known and where good communication lines have been established. These include Residents' Associations, sporting groups, service organisations, community hall committees and school committees where the Board has been involved in school hall support, Arbor Day activities and community consultation.

A number of programmes are in place to advise the community of the role and work of the Board and staff are mindful of the importance of the community being aware of the Board's role and how to access the Board of community issues. Current operating programmes designed to boost the Board's profile include:

- The monthly Community Advocate's Update in the Pegasus Post informing of Board decisions and matters that are to be considered.
- Full page advertisements in the Pegasus Post identifying Board members and the Council Services available from the Shirley Service Centre.
- The appointment of Board representatives to all residents and key community groups.
- The listing of Board Project and Discretionary allocations in the Annual City Plan.
- Community meetings sponsored by the Board seeking community views on all Council proposals affecting the local community.
- High profile award ceremonies recognising individuals and groups who take an active and significant part in the maintenance or development of the community.
- Meeting the community at Christmas time and becoming involved in the Arbor Day and similar community projects.
- Community consultation on the Annual Capital Works Plan for which 430 personal invitations are sent out explaining the process and inviting people to meet the Board and discuss their needs and concerns.

Recently implemented programmes and those in the pipeline include:

- A 'Community Plan' which will list work scheduled for the Burwood/Pegasus community as well as detailing the make-up and role of the Community Board will be available free of charge with the 1999/2000 Annual Plan document.
- The "City Scene" will carry a full page of information on the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board and the role of the Board twice yearly.
- Items to be considered by the Board are to be published in the Pegasus Post prior to monthly meetings. Already residents' associations receive advice of agenda items to be considered.
- A banner has been produced to display at Board sponsored events drawing attention to the Board's involvement.
- Meetings of the Board are always advertised and increasingly requests are being received from the public to address the Board on a wide range of issues.

Without a doubt the Community Boards of Christchurch play a key role in Local Government and it is a role that is likely to become increasingly important as we head towards the new millennium. The profile of the Board and its role in the community is an issue that constantly needs to be addressed and it is a project on which the Burwood/Pegasus Advocacy Team will work closely with the Board to ensure that this is achieved.

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairperson's Recommendation:

For discussion.