

Officer responsible Community Advocate	Author Ingrid de Meyer, Community Development Adviser
Corporate Plan Output: Community Facilities	

The purpose of this report is to advise Board members of some issues and constraints facing the future development of activities at the Avice Hill Arts and Crafts Centre.

BACKGROUND

Board members will be aware of the current management and arrangements at Avice Hill Arts and Craft Centre.

Mrs. Hill deeded the house to the Council in 1988 to be used for art and craft activities. In 1989 a residential co-ordinator’s position was developed, sectioning off one room at the rear of the house. Over the years the demand for use of the room grew, so much so that the size of the room was too small. A small extension to the existing craft room was completed three years ago.

Since the employment of the new Co-ordinator Diana Adams 18 months ago, the following issues have been identified.

ISSUES

- Demand now exceeds the one room arts and craft space.
- Location – the facility is not obvious from the roadside.
- The facility has the appearance of a residence/home versus a community arts and craft centre.

WHERE TO FROM HERE? / FUTURE PLANNING

In discussion with Diana, the obvious solution is to free up the whole house for arts and crafts activity.

The Co-ordinators position is still a vital one, however the need to reside on-site is not. A small office area could be provided for this purpose.

The potential for the Centre is huge. However, it is also vital that an internal review be undertaken by staff in liaison with Diana to do the following.

- Develop a philosophy “purpose of the venue”.
- Review the current fee structure and space requirements of user groups.
- Identify the local community and the local needs.
- Establish stronger links with local schools and groups.
- Improve the signage and the location/siting requires promotion such as open days, articles in local newspapers etc.
- Set up a management committee to oversee the running of the centre.

Progress reports in relation to the above matters will be made to the Board as appropriate.

- Recommendations:**
1. That the information be received.
 2. That the Board support the future direction outlined above including utilising the house for craft activities.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the foregoing recommendations be adopted.