

17. CULTURAL FESTIVAL IN AVONHEAD

Officer responsible Leisure Manager	Author Community Recreation Adviser
Corporate Plan Output: Recreation Programmes and Promotions	

The purpose of this report is to inform the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board of plans to hold a Cultural Festival in Avonhead in partnership with the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board.

Introduction

Community events bring residents together and create a sense of belonging to, and enjoyment in, living in a local community. Events such as local cultural festivals enable local community groups to get involved in a joint community celebration, and to promote themselves. Local residents who attend these events then learn more about their local community and the various groups living in it. Such events build pride in an area and cement the relationship between the Community Board and the community through the active involvement of Community Board members and residents in planning an event.

The recently completed Avonhead Sport, Recreation and Arts Study highlights the need for a community event to be staged in the Avonhead community that reflects the special character of Avonhead. The community of Avonhead spans both the Waimairi Ward and the Riccarton Ward. This event will add a sense of belonging to the local community as well as encouraging involvement from local organisations and residents.

Avonhead has the highest proportion of Asian people than any other suburb in Christchurch. Holding a Cultural Festival in Avonhead will assist in supporting and encouraging the development of the multi-cultural identity in this community. It is envisaged that the Cultural Festival will have a focus on the culture of this group as well as that of other groups residing in the Avonhead community.

Funding

Both the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board and the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board have dedicated project funds for the staging of a Cultural Festival during the present financial year. Given the results of the Avonhead Sport Recreation and Arts Study, and the benefits of pooling resources, it makes good sense to work in partnership to deliver this event.

Planning

Planning for this event will be driven by a planning committee with staff actioning the committee's recommendations. The planning committee will be responsible for developing a concept for the event along with details such as venue, date etc. It is envisaged the event will take place around February or early March 2001 with the possibility that it be linked in to the Summertimes Festival.

The first planning meeting for this festival will be held at the Sockburn Service Centre on Wednesday 30 August. It is envisaged that two Board members from each community board will join this committee.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Riccarton/Wigram and Fendalton/Waimairi Community Boards work in partnership to deliver a Cultural Festival in the Avonhead area.
 2. That the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board nominate two representatives to join the planning committee.

Chairperson's Recommendation: For discussion.