

16. GRAFFITI – ACHESON AVENUE

Officer responsible Community Advocate	Author Alistair Whitteker
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The purpose of this report is to advise the Board of concerns about the incidence of graffiti “tagging” on the Acheson Avenue shops and to seek ways to overcome or reduce the problem.

Recently the Community Advocate and Councillor Stonhill met with several of the shop owners of the Acheson Avenue shops. One of the matters raised at this meeting was the continuing “tagging” of the shops and the ongoing costs involved in its removal. The question was asked what the Council could and would do about it.

The Board is aware that the Council has in place a programme to try and eliminate graffiti in the city and funds have been set aside for this. The aim of the project is to try and remove graffiti within 24 hours of it appearing. There was some expectation that where the “targets” were non residential, the property owners would provide some assistance especially if the areas concerned were say large, non-painted or painted in “corporate” colours, or frequently tagged. This is the case with Orion, Telecom and Housing New Zealand who are partners in the programme.

A concern expressed by the shop proprietors was their ongoing costs in the removal of the graffiti.

As part of the anti-graffiti programme this Board has allocated \$5,000 from its 2000/01 Discretionary Funds for works in its area. It was envisioned that this fund would be used for proactive projects ie setting up of local residents “response” groups, the provision of murals etc at sites which are regularly targeted and the channelling of the energies of the perpetrators towards more community acceptable expressions.

It is hoped that a suitable project would give “ownership” to the locals and this would lead to active participation in the area to ensure “their” area was tag free. If the Board wishes, funds could be allocated to set up a suitable project for these shops.

The Board is also reminded that the Shirley (Emmett Block) Research Project is currently underway and that this issue may be raised and discussed in this project.

Recommendation: That staff and two representatives from the Board meet with the shop owners, shop proprietors and local community groups to discuss both immediate and long term solutions to the graffiti problem at the Acheson Avenue shops.

Chairperson’s

Recommendation: That the officer’s recommendation be adopted and that Anne Carroll and Ingrid Stonhill be asked to be the Board’s representatives.