

## 11. COMMUNITY ADVOCATE'S UPDATE

<b>Officer responsible</b> Community Advocate	<b>Author</b> Nick Chapman
Corporate Plan Output: Community Advocacy	

### **Ward Boundaries**

Meeting with members of Community Boards affected by ward boundary change proposals. Agreement was reached with the Hagley-Ferrymead Community Board on the transfer of three blocks, Sydenham Business District and the Waltham block from Hagley to Heathcote ward and Chapmans Road block from Heathcote to Ferrymead. This agreement was subsequently ratified by both Boards.

### **Manuka Cottage - Social Commentary Banner**

Attendance of the unveiling of the banner, which attracted a large turnout. The resources and time donated by individuals who took part in the project was an impressive indication of their dedication.

This was a successful community project which generated a great deal of enthusiasm and provided opportunities for participation by individuals with diverse skills.

### **Heritage Week - 13 - 20 October 2000**

Planning discussions and meetings have been held with Mike Fletcher, editor of the "Star", who has offered publicity support to Spreydon-Heathcote projects, and with Paul Collins of "Marketus" and Jennie Hamilton who are contracted to manage this year's Heritage Events, and with a staff team who have brainstorming ideas. As soon as feasible projects will be identified and the Board's sub committee consulted.

### **City Scene**

Communications Team has been briefed on Spreydon-Heathcote item for insertion in the July 2000 edition. Articles included the Community Directory SCAP research projects, Manuka Cottage Community Development Banner, Strickland Street Community Garden.

### **Winter Solstice Concert, Mini Fair and Hangi**

These combined events on Sunday 2 July 2000 (the Board will receive a separate report) proved to be an excellent community strengthening exercise. The Concert in particular provided participation opportunities for individuals who had not previously engaged in community activities.

## **Objectives Sub Committee**

Meetings of the Sub Committee have been held on 6, 13, and 20 July. The work and results of this Sub Committee may well provide a "best practise" example for other Boards and committees. Its implications for the development of the Boards future plans, the application of community governance principles, and distinguishing between governance and management activities made this one of the most interesting and promising projects we have been involved in this year.

## **SCAP Committee**

The Committee reviewed last year's work and funding allocations, on which it will report separately to the Board, and gave preliminary consideration to the question of social isolation; its extent, cause and means of addressing it. Parallel work includes the Sydenham Needs Analysis and Objectives Sub Committee considerations.

## **South Christchurch Libraries Project Team and Reference Group Meetings**

Attended meetings of the team and the reference group. Options now developed are enhanced library services at Barrington and St Martins, or Library, Service Centre and a Community Technological Access Centre at Beckenham. The latter is a concept developed by the Ministry of Education which is keen to work in partnership with the Council. Further reports on this concept will be available in due course. The implications of the second option is that library services in Barrington and St Martins would remain at their current level.

A full report will be presented to the Council's August 2000 meeting.

## **E-Mail Chat Shop**

Funding for the project has been approved by Work and Income NZ. Members will realise that this project is aimed at meeting the social needs of the less mobile, especially women, the elderly and those on low incomes, at the same time as the needs of the new "dot.com" entrepreneurs.

Working at neighbourhood level using existing networks and facilities this combination of social and enterprise activities will help promote social well-being in deprived areas of our community eg Rowley.

It has been suggested that a partnership be developed with the Hoon Hay Network who will ultimately take ownership of the project and that it could be accommodated in the Rowley shopping area.

Stage one of the project for which the funding has now been granted is to contract the services of a researcher/report writer to investigate the projects feasibility.

### **Beckenham Library**

Meeting with representatives of the Library Committee who expressed concern that uncertainty over library services in South Christchurch is affecting their ability to plan for the future. They are also concerned that a significant focus for community participation could be lost if the library closes. They currently have over thirty volunteers and a waiting list of individuals wishing to assist with library activities.

### **Graffiti**

Inspection of “hot spots” shows that there is some slowing down of activity by taggers in Spreydon-Heathcote. Staff continue to facilitate residents action in removing tags from their own property but few complaints have been received at the Service Centre and most referrals to the removal contractor are staff initiated.

### **Old Stone House – Lease**

Negotiations continue for a new lease of the Cracroft Community Centre to the Management Committee. The Property and Parks Units have both been involved, with the Parks Unit specifically concerned to ensure that the gardens will be maintained to “garden park” standards, and that volunteers will work in partnership with Parks Unit staff. The Parks Unit has agreed to meet all reasonable material costs. This is intended to replace previous arrangements whereby the Council gave a grant of \$1,000 per annum to support volunteers’ work.

### **Addington Retailers**

On-going liaison with the Business Association and individual retailers gives an impression of apprehension about the future of small businesses in this area, heightened since the April closure of the Westpac branch in Addington Mall. Other detrimental factors are speeding traffic on Lincoln Road and the discontinuation of Council supplied barriers. Businesses are still awaiting the installation of angle parking at Spencer Street and direction signs to this parking area.

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.