



8. ST ALBANS WEB SITE

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The purpose of this report is to bring to the attention of Board members a new initiative in St Albans and to consider some financial assistance for this project.

THE PROJECT

The aim of this project is to enable St Albans residents to connect with one another and also internationally via the world wide web (see attachment). The use of Information Communication and Technology (ICT) is becoming increasingly the predominant vehicle for information and knowledge transfer and the means by which individuals communicate in businesses as well as socially. This project recognises this trend and is responding in a way that ensures that local residents are true participants in this process.

A Project Development Co-ordinator has been employed by the St Albans Residents Association under the ACE Scheme for an initial six month period. One of the objectives during this time is to “set the project up so that it can be maintained and developed on an on-going basis”.

BUDGET

The full cost of this project for the six month duration is \$4,325.33. This is outlined in the following budget items identified by the project co-ordinator:

1. Software needed for this project, Dreamweaver and Fireworks – total \$325.33.
2. Setting up easy to use on-line structure for discussion forums total \$2,000.
3. \$1,000 to assist people to design their own web pages.
4. \$1,000 for training trainers on the software.

ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

1. NeighbourNet group (formerly St Albans InfoLink) has recently gone into recess and the activities of the group are being taken over by the St Albans Community Resource Centre. Some members will recall that the Community Board helped to set up InfoLink in 1996/97 with the expectation that the project would eventually become self-funding. NeighbourNet is going into recess because it is unable to sustain itself. This raises the question of whether the Resource Centre is any better equipped to sustain the resource.
2. The web site project is presently of short-term duration (6 months). The Board may wish to consider the short-term nature of the project alongside the potential for it to become “maintained and developed on an ongoing basis” and also in conjunction with the role of the Community Facilitators. The may also wish to consider the size of the grant being asked for in relation to the above.

The Board may like to consider setting up a subcommittee (comprising the Shirley Board members) to discuss this project and its relationship with NeighbourNet, the St Albans Resource Centre and the Community Facilitators. The sub-committee could recommend to the Board an appropriate response to this project.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That a committee comprising the Chairperson and Shirley Board members meet with the St Albans Residents Association and the Project Co-ordinator to discuss the project and report back to the May Board meeting.