

11. FINANCE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE – REPORT OF 10 MAY 2000

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Corporate Plan Output: Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board Vol 1, 3.1 text 7.	

The purpose of this report is to submit the results of the Committee meeting of 10 May for adoption by the Board.

**Report of a meeting of the Finance and Planning Committee
held on Wednesday 10 May 2000 at 12 noon
in the Board Room, Papanui Service Centre**

PRESENT: Sally Buck (Chairperson) Val Carter, Pat Harrow, Yiyi Ku, Mike Wall

ALSO PRESENT: Barbara Stewart

1. APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received and accepted from Keith Nuttall and Ron Wright.

2. SUBMISSION TO DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN 2000 EDITION

At its meeting on 2 May 2000, the Board provided the Committee with power to act to prepare and forward a submission on the Council's draft Plan for 2000/01 by the due date of 29 May.

The Committee noted that following this meeting, officers would develop a draft submission for circulation to Committee members for final comment if any, prior to being submitted to the Council.

Information gathered from a number of sources was utilised by the Committee in formulating the **attached** submission.

The Committee **resolved** that the submission prepared and submitted to the Council, be adopted.

**3. ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY – LOOKING AHEAD 2000-2008
- RESPONSE**

The Board had been invited by Environment Canterbury to comment on the draft Annual Plan and it was noted that with the period for responses closing on 15 May, a reply from this meeting would need to be forwarded now with the details to be confirmed by the Board on 30 May.

The Committee reviewed the outputs section of the draft Plan arising from which the **attached** response was prepared.

Recommendation: That the action taken to prepare and forward to Environment Canterbury, comments on its draft Annual Plan for 2000, be confirmed.

4. REVIEW OF BASIS OF 2001 LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS – COMMUNITY BOUNDARIES AND COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The Committee considered a report from the Council Secretary in which Community Boards had been invited to consider any possible changes in community boundaries and/or Community Board membership for possible implementation at the Council's next elections in October 2001.

The Community Advocate commented that in previous reviews of this kind, the Board had consistently resolved that the number of elected members should remain unchanged (ie six) and that there appeared to be no reason to seek any boundary changes with the adjacent three Board areas, namely Shirley/Papanui, Riccarton/Wigram and Hagley/Ferrymead.

The Committee agreed that there were no known concerns regarding the way in which the present system was operating and as such felt that the status quo remain as far as both issues were concerned.

Recommendation: That the status quo remain with regard to the membership of Boards and the boundaries of community areas.

The meeting concluded at 2.45 pm

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the report be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.

FENDALTON/WAIMAIRI COMMUNITY BOARD

SUBMISSION

ON

DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN 2000 EDITION

INTRODUCTION

The Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board welcomes the opportunity to make the following submission on the Council's Draft Plan for 2000, and beyond, and wishes to be heard in support of its submission.

In general terms, the Board believes the Council is exhibiting sound stewardship in respect of the Council's funds and in providing "value for money" for the City's ratepayers. The Board does however, note that there will be a requirement for continuing restraint in order that there are no annual rate increase beyond 2/2.5% over the next few years

1. COMMUNITY BOARD FUNDING (Pages 5, 6, 19 and 94)

The Board endorses the increase provided for in the draft Plan and, in particular, for the allocation of this to be for the purpose of part funding of community (or similar) workers in community based organisations. As it happens the Board had recently received a request for funding for this purpose and had already agreed to provide a sum through its project funding for the 2000/01.

The Board is, equally, supportive of the criteria associated with the extra funding ie: for allocation in accordance with reasonable objectives and performance indicators associated with the project work established by the community based organisations.

Submission: That the Council confirm the additional allocation of project funding to Community Boards for the 2000/01 financial year.

2. RATE INCREASE(S) (Page 9 and 12)

As mentioned in the introduction, the Board is complimentary to the Council for a moderate level of increase projected for the forthcoming year. The Board is, however, concerned to note that there are a number of future years where the level of rate increase is rather more than what may be acceptable. In particular, the levels of increase of 3.31% (2001/02), 4.78% (2003/04) and 3.58% (2004/05) are somewhat more than what should realistically be expected by the community. The Board would be supportive of the Council's further consideration of the forward expenditure forecast being reviewed with a view to reducing these projected increases to a more realistic and therefore acceptable, level.

The Board considers that the opportunity for use of some of the Orion repatriation funding could assist in this exercise.

Submission: *That the Council initiate an early smoothing, or similar, exercise with a view to reducing ongoing levels of rate increases to ones which are acceptable to the community.*

**3. UNIFORM ANNUAL GENERAL CHARGE
(Page 16)**

In earlier years the Board has submitted that the Uniform Annual General Charge should be more than the present level, on the basis that all residents/ratepayers make use of an equally wide range of services provided by the Council. Because of this it would be more appropriate that the Uniform Annual General Charge should be more in the order of \$150-\$200 per annum.

Notwithstanding that the Board has noted that it is proposed that the Uniform Annual General Charge is to be increased to a level of \$124 per annum over a number of years. The Board would however suggest that it may be opportune to progressively move to a level of \$124 per annum, as suggested by the funding policy, over say the next three years.

Submission: *That in line with the earlier funding policy calculations that a Uniform Annual General Charge of \$124 be progressively attained over the next three financial years.*

**4. SALE OF ORION GAS NETWORK ASSETS
(Page 8)**

The Board is supportive of the prudent handling of the benefits arising from the sale of Orion's gas network assets. In particular the Board is supportive of all opportunities for the use of these funds being thoroughly researched and for a full consultative programme with the public being committed before decisions are finally made.

It is agreed that these capital funds should be protected for the long term benefit of the Christchurch residents.

Submission: *That the Council thoroughly research the most efficient use of these funds and that a full consultative programme be initiated before any expenditure commitments are made.*

**5. MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING COUNCIL SERVICES
(Page 19)**

The Board endorses the Council's decision to apply additional funds for the ongoing maintenance of existing Council services and to city streets in particular.

The Board has noted there is an additional \$35,000 for leaf collection in suburban streets, and that an additional sum of \$100,000 has been applied for landscape/streetscape maintenance.

The Board has noted recently with some concern that the standard of maintenance on city streets, including grass mowing, street tree maintenance and the emptying of rubbish bins, has been of a somewhat lower standard than in previous years and that this additional funding allocation recognises a need to improve the ongoing maintenance of basic services.

Submission: *That the Council confirm the additional allocation of funds towards maintenance work in the city's streets.*

6. RECYCLING (Page 19)

The Board congratulates the Council for the ongoing growth in recycling services in the city.

The Board has noted the additional funding allocated for the kerbside collection of paper, kitchen waste and mixed plastics and endorses the proposal to extend the current level of recycling services in the community.

Submission: *That the additional funding allocated for kerbside collection of recyclable products be confirmed by the Council.*

7. PUBLIC NOTICE ADVERTISING (Page 7)

In earlier discussions with its Residents Groups, the Board received a number of expressions of concern at the recent decision to transfer public notice advertising to the Christchurch Star. Of particular concern was the fact that the rural community were disadvantaged in this matter by virtue of there being no delivery of the Star in their areas.

While acknowledging that there has been a net saving in costs for Council advertising, the Board would ask that the Council review the recent changes with a view to ensuring that the best method of communicating with all of its community is being met.

Submission: *That the Council review the current policy with a view to ensuring that all residents in the city have ready access to public notice advertising.*

**8. UNDERGROUNDING OF OVERHEAD SERVICES
(Pages 33 and 78)**

The Board has, over a number of years, consistently requested that the Council seek the means whereby the undergrounding of overhead services can proceed at a pace which is more acceptable to the community.

The Board was pleased in the mid 1990's when a policy for the conversion of overhead services to underground was to be implemented over a period of 40 years. Unfortunately this timeframe appears to have been set aside in recent years. The Board is pleased though to now note that there is a current thinking that a 40 year period could be more appropriate and asks that the Council review the current policy, possibly with utilisation of some of the Orion Gas Network funding to endeavour to achieve a rate of undergrounding which will be more acceptable to the community at large.

Submission: *That the Council review the current commitment to the undergrounding of overhead services with an aim to achieve a period of 40 years for the conversion of all overhead services to underground.*

9. TELSTRA-SATURN CABLING PROJECT

The Board has noted the intention of Telstra-Saturn to commit a programme for extensive cabling in the city and notes that there will be many benefits to the city's ratepayers as a result of this programme.

The Board is concerned however that the project has the capacity to result in an untidy addition to the existing overhead networks of the city. While noting that Telstra/Saturn is intending to place services underground where undergrounding already exists, the Board asks the Council to ensure that where overheading is proposed the project provide a minimum impact on the community.

The Board also asks the Council to see that appropriate controls are put in place to ensure that trench restoration for undergrounded services is carried out to a very high standard.

Submission: *That the Council ensure that appropriate standards are in place to limit the level of visual pollution from the overheading programme and that trench restoration standards throughout the city's streets are of a very high standard.*

**10. HERITAGE BUILDINGS PRESERVATION
(Page 19)**

The Board endorses the additional grant provided to assist the retention of heritage buildings in the city.

The Board is however concerned that there needs to be some prioritising of buildings identified and efforts concentrated in respect of these particular buildings rather than the Council endeavouring to achieve the retention of every building presently (and in the future) identified in this way.

Submission: *That the additional emergency retention grant for heritage buildings of \$200,000 be confirmed by the Council.*

11. DECENTRALISATION OF COUNCIL SERVICES

In recent years the Board has expressed its concern over the degree of centralisation of Council services and of the resulting disadvantage to those in the community who require Council services in local suburban communities. In particular the Board in 1999 expressed its disquiet that ready public access to planning and building services were removed entirely from the Fendalton Service Centre.

The Board has noted that there is an upcoming review of the Council's needs for accommodation in the centre of the city. The Board would request the Council that the brief for this particular exercise, also evaluate any opportunities in providing for some decentralisation of Council services.

Submission: *That the present review of the accommodation needs in the central city also acknowledge the opportunity for providing for a decentralisation of appropriate services to enhance easier access for customers in the suburban areas.*

12. SCHOOL SPEED ZONES

The Board congratulates the Council on its efforts in receiving approval to conduct trials of school speed zoning in a number of suburban locations. The Board has noted a pleasing change in the attitude of motorists when using these zones.

The Board would be most supportive if further schools were identified for ongoing trial and submits that there would be a number of schools that would qualify in the Fendalton/Waimairi community based on the fact that almost half of the Christchurch schools are located in the north western area of the city.

Submission: *That the Council review any further opportunities for trialing school speed zones in the city, and that additional schools in the Fendalton/Waimairi community be identified if any further trialing is approved.*

**13. CYCLE LANES
(Pages 76 and 77)**

While the Board acknowledges and endorses the Council's policy in endeavouring to increase the number of cyclists in the city, it is of concern to note that the impact of providing cycle lanes, with the associated loss of on-street parking, is becoming an irritation in the community.

The Board fully endorses the provision of the Railway Cycleway project, and in recent years has gone to some lengths to identify an alternative cyclelane through the quieter streets of Merivale. Consistent in the Board's approach with these particular projects has been an acknowledgement that cycling on quieter streets etc is much safer than cyclists having to negotiate busy arterial roads.

The Board is presently dealing with a number of concerns in respect of the Fendalton Road and Rossall/Strowan cyclelane projects and is currently reviewing the best options which will enable safe cycling for all, particularly young children, in its community.

The Board therefore contends that there should be a review of the policy providing for cyclelane projects on main roads throughout the city.

Submission: *That the Council acknowledge that safe cycling is better achieved with cyclists using the quieter streets in the city and that the on-going provision of cyclelanes on main roads throughout the city be reconsidered.*

14. WILFRID STREET – PROJECT SUBSTITUTION

The residents of Wilfrid Street recently petitioned the Board seeking to have their street upgraded to a standard similar to that of the adjacent Barlow Street which was reconstructed in 1997/98.

As Wilfrid Street is currently not within the five year capital works programme the only means available for the Board to meet the wishes of the residents was to identify a substitution.

After due consideration, Webb Street, which is currently scheduled in 2003/2004, was selected by the Board.

Submission: *That Wilfrid Street kerb and channel renewal be substituted for Webb Street in 2003/04 which in turn sees Webb Street rescheduled in the five year programme to 2005/06, or earlier if possible.*

FENDALTON/WAIMAIRI COMMUNITY BOARD

SUBMISSION

TO ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY

ON

“LOOKING AHEAD 2000-2008”

In preparation for this submission the Board has examined the respective statements made under each of the 12 portfolios included in the document and has agreed on a number of comments relating to these.

AIR QUALITY

While the Board applauds Environment Canterbury in endeavouring to address issues of air quality in the city it does not consider that enough is presently being done to address one of the major factors. For a number of years the Board has contended that vehicle emission is a major contributor to air pollution, principally on account of many vehicles being very poorly tuned.

The Board would submit that Environment Canterbury should immediately implement dialogue with appropriate authorities with a view to achieving full vehicle emission testing at the time of warrant of fitness check-ups. The Board believes that this work should be implemented within the next three years.

CIVIL DEFENCE

While noting that various structures are being established in order that appropriate reaction can be initiated in a case of civil defence, the Board is concerned that access to a number of previously well established contributors to the cause of civil defence are continually being eroded as a result of government policies.

Of particular concern is the possibility that further restructuring and loss of personnel from South Island army establishments will mean that many important response resources could be lost in future years.

HARBOURS

The Board acknowledges the moves on the part of Environment Canterbury to ensure that adequate safety is available for all users.

The Board is, however, concerned that there are continuing breaches of safety and, in many cases, no appropriate means of identifying offending small craft. With a view to providing for a better identification of offenders the Board believes that the much talked about option for registration of small craft should be initiated as soon as possible and implemented as part of ongoing safe monitoring of users of our harbour areas.

LAND

The ongoing loss of arable land resulting from erosion is seen as a major issue.

In order that there be more sustainability in the city and its surrounds the Board believes that every effort should also be made to promote appropriate irrigation programmes which will in turn provide employment opportunities and overall economic benefits for the Canterbury region.

PEST MANAGEMENT

The Board is concerned to note that there are a number of recent incidents of an apparent upsurge in infestation from water rats in the city. The Board would ask Environment Canterbury that this matter be given early attention and that the premise that ongoing planting of native foliage adjacent to rivers and streams in the city being responsible for growth in the pest incidence, should be examined.

PUBLIC PASSENGER TRANSPORT

The Board applauds the recent efforts of Environment Canterbury to provide improved public passenger transport in the city and notes that there is some evidence of increased patronage resulting.

The Board does however, consider that the targets providing for 15% growth in patronage within the next three years and a further 90% growth in patronage over the next eight years appear rather unrealistic.

The Board would submit that Environment Canterbury continue with exploring the best means for enhanced public passenger transport in the city and also examine the options for providing for the use of Smart Cards to assist loading and unloading of passengers in future years.

The Board applauds Environment Canterbury for its move in extending the Orbiter service to complete the ring route around the city during the current financial year.

GENERAL

While noting the format adopted by Environment Canterbury for the formulation of its "Looking Ahead 2000-2008" document and in particular the use of outputs and outcomes to define the way ahead, the Board believes that there should be more attention provided toward the use of smarter performance indicators in order to aid a better measure of performance on an ongoing basis.

As a final comment the Board has noted that the document has been prepared in a predominantly mono-cultural format, not necessarily representative of our modern multi-cultural and diverse local society.

15 May 2000