

23. COMMUNITY FOCUS COMMITTEE

The Community Focus Committee met on Thursday 20 April 2000 and considered the following matters:

23.1 Community Board Funding of Community Groups

Stephen Phillips, Community Relations Manager, briefed the meeting, outlining a funding increase proposed in the Council's Draft Annual Plan, which would result in an increase in funding available for allocation by Community Boards. This increase would provide for an increase for SCAP development (Strengthening Community Action Plans) from the present \$20,000 to \$30,000 and would provide for an additional sum of \$50,000 to be available in the Board's Discretionary Funds. These increases would provide the Board with total discretionary funding of \$380,000.

The Community Relations Manager noted that Community Boards were tending to move the allocation of their funding away from Capital Works into areas of social need.

Mr Phillips was thanked for his assistance in outlining these proposals to the meeting.

23.2 Down with Speed: ACC Injury Prevention Programme

Keith Permain, Injury Prevention Consultant with the Injury Prevention Division of the Accident Compensation Corporation presented to the meeting the key findings of a study on the affects of speed on road safety, as follows:

1. The prime finding was that higher speeds result in more crashes.
2. Higher speed results in more severe injuries.
3. Speeding is just as dangerous as drink-driving and yet speeding is not treated as seriously as drink driving.
4. Speed causes enormous pain and suffering in New Zealand – and yet may be under reported.
5. New Zealand roads are not generally built for speeds over 100 km/h.
6. Vehicle design can affect our speed – greater comfort reduces the perception of danger.
7. The roading environment can be altered to slow drivers down.
8. People can't beat the laws of physics.
9. There is little to lose and lots to gain by slowing down. Slowing down only imperceptibly increases the travelling time ie 8 minutes more travelling time between Auckland and Whangarei if a vehicle slows down from 100 km/h to 80 km/h.
10. Enforcement protects New Zealanders from speeding drivers.

Mr Permain asked what could be done about the dangers of speeding and urged everyone to challenge the social acceptability of speeding in order to try to reduce the tolerance of speeding. He suggested that we should start at home and at work.

Mr Permain expressed the hope that the Board would be able to influence people to reduce their speed, to the benefit of all in the community, and confirmed that the ACC would be interested in supporting a Road Safety Project jointly with the Council or Community Board.

Mr Permain was thanked for his challenging presentation.

23.3 Review of Implementation and Priorities of the Community Development and Social Wellbeing Policy

Mary Richardson, Policy Analyst, briefed the Board on this report.

The policy under consideration was adopted by the Council in 1996, but there have been concerns expressed that this policy is too vague and lacks specific direction. As a result, this policy is now under review, so that the Council can determine exactly where its priorities lie. Strategies and processes are needed.

These issues were discussed with Ms Richardson in order to provide some feedback on her presentation. Ms Richardson pointed out that, before the Board adopted any policy, it needed to know how it was going to implement this policy.

23.4 Community Pride Garden Awards

Community Pride Garden Award Certificates were available at the meeting for those who wished to deliver these personally. Certificates not taken for personal delivery will be mailed to the recipients.

23.5 Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board's Goals and Objectives and Statement of Intent

The meeting agreed to consider these at a separate meeting to be arranged.

The Board may wish to consider this matter at its next Seminar Meeting, which is to be held on Thursday 18 May 2000.

23.6 Brookhaven Bus Service Meeting

The notes taken at a public meeting called on Tuesday 11 April 2000 by Mr David Carter MP to discuss the provision of bus services to the Brookhaven area with the Canterbury Regional Council were circulated to Board members with the agenda for the Community Focus Committee.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the information be received.