

4. OWLES TERRACE: PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH ECO VILLAGE

Officer responsible Community Advocate, Dennis Morgan	Author Community Secretary
Corporate Plan Output: Property: Asset Management	

The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement of the Burwood/Pegasus Community Gardens Subcommittee's recommendation to investigate the feasibility of establishing an Eco Village at Owles Terrace.

INTRODUCTION

The Community Gardens Subcommittee evolved from a report "Growing Communities – Organic Resources for Social Needs" presented to the Board's 22 November 1999 meeting. The purpose of the Subcommittee was to investigate the establishment of community gardens and composting schemes within the Burwood/Pegasus area. The aim of these gardens is to provide a sustainable means of disposal for kitchen waste, encourage the sharing of knowledge in composting and gardening and to create places of engagement for local communities. The Subcommittee is comprised of Chrissie Williams, Glenda Burt, Caroline Kellaway, Carole Evans, Don Rowlands, Andrew Livingstone (PEEEPS), George Watson (Mature Employment Services), Eric Park (Waste Management Unit), Michael McNabb (Community Development Adviser) and Kaye Edens (Community Technical Adviser).

ECO VILLAGE

The Subcommittee has already established a number of composting and community garden pilots, however discussions have broadened to develop the concept to an Eco Village. Initial discussions have been undertaken between the Subcommittee and Property Unit over the feasibility of establishing the Owles Terrace site as an Eco Village.

The site, owned by the Council, had its zoning changed under the City Plan Hearings process to allow for residential uses in the northern section of the park. The Council currently owns the site and its Property Unit is investigating means of developing the designated area for residential uses. The Subcommittee saw this as a prime opportunity to establish the City's first Eco Village as a pilot for other schemes in future years to enhance objectives such as zero waste and energy efficiency. It was felt that it would be important to investigate ways and means that business interests may be able to meet the Property Unit's financial objectives and timeframes for sale of the site. Further investigations would also have to be undertaken to establish a model for an Eco Village which would include a wide contingency of factors such as energy efficiency standards, waste minimisation standards, site feasibility and design plans. The Subcommittee felt that to move on from this initial concept idea it would be important to establish a separate Working Party. It is proposed that the Working Party include Chrissie Williams, Carole Evans, Don Rowlands, Caroline Kellaway, Glenda Burt, Sally Buck, Anna Crighton, Eric Park (Waste Management Unit) and Pam Ellis (Property Unit).

At its 1 May 2000 meeting the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board supported the Subcommittee's recommendation to explore the concept of an Eco Village on this Council owned land. It saw the project as a great chance for the Council to take the lead in ecologically sensitive housing that could act as a model for private developers in the future.

Recommendation: That the Projects and Property Committee support:

1. Investigations into the establishment of an Eco Village at Owles Terrace.
2. The establishment of an Eco Village Working Party, consisting of Chrissie Williams, Carole Evans, Caroline Kellaway, Don Rowlands, Glenda Burt, Sally Buck, Anna Crighton, Eric Park and Pam Ellis, to investigate the feasibility of creating an Eco Village at Owles Terrace.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted, subject to Councillor Robin Booth being appointed as an additional member of the working party.