

5. BEEBOS HOUSE TOY LIBRARY

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Corporate Plan Output: Community Facilities	

The purpose of this report is to update Board members on the housing of Beebos House (St Albans Toy Library) and to seek financial assistance for their planned expansion and improvements.

BACKGROUND

Members from the previous term will recall that the St Albans Toy Library made a deputation to the Board in September 1998 regarding the library's need for larger premises. As a result of that deputation a Working Party of the Board was set up to look at options for the library. One possibility was for the Toy Library to be housed in the re-developed English Park. However, a desire to remain associated with the school where a nominal rent is charged, overheads are minimal and support is offered precluded that possibility.

PRESENT SITUATION

Beebos House Toy Library is presently operating out of the same building as in 1998, located on the grounds of St Albans School. The library caters for 120 families and has a 12 month waiting list (approximately another 200-250 families). It is open on Tuesday and Saturday mornings only. At present, in order to display all the toys, the larger toys are moved out into the carpark to allow room to move inside the building. This situation occurs regardless of weather conditions; consequently it is far from ideal.

NEEDS AND REQUIREMENTS

The library is in urgent need of expansion in order just to suit current activity. The possibility exists, with expansion of building size, for the library to open one evening per week (as do other toy libraries in the city) and also to increase membership to 150 – 160 families, which would reduce the waiting list to about six months.

With any development other options also present themselves. At present there are no facilities for washing toys and tea/coffee facilities are limited and bordering on unsafe.

CURRENT PROPOSAL

Discussions with the St Albans School Principal have indicated that the small piece of land immediately adjacent to the library's current building could be utilised for an extension. The Toy Library Committee has obtained two quotes for assembling a modular constructed building adjacent to the present building with an internal link between the two. The preferred quote is from Quickspace (a copy of their quote and plans have been circulated to Board members separately). It should be noted that this quotation includes complete building, foundation works and engineering as well as carpeting and lighting.

Other developments that could usefully be made at the same time include:

- Heating in the extension. The committee recently installed heating in the existing building.
- Shelving – further shelving will be required for the storage of toys and the safe housing for an electric kettle.
- Paving – A small plot of land would be left vacant. A suggestion is that this area be paved and fenced to enable children to play whilst parents enjoy tea/coffee together. Such a development would add to the ability of the Toy Library to provide for social interaction of parents including the sharing of information, skills and support.

COSTINGS AND BUDGET

The preferred option I for a 9.6 m x 4.2 m unit at a price of \$19,080 (exclusive of GST). Costs for the other improvements are as follows:

- Heating
- Shelving
- Bench/sink - \$500
- Paving
- Curtains
- Ranch Slider - \$300
- Resource Consent - \$600

Beebos House Toy Library have a budget of up to \$10,000 that may be used for this project.

This leaves a shortfall of approximately \$11,000.

CONCLUSION

Beebos House run an excellent service in St Albans area. At present they are severely cramped and are unable to meet the present needs of families in the area. This development would enable them to double the space available, ease floor space, provide safer working conditions, provide for indoor display of toys, open up one evening a week and allow more families access to the service. It also has the potential to enhance social interaction and support for parents of young children.

The Board allocated \$15,000 of 1999/2000 Project Funds to School Facilities Partnerships and to date has spent \$8,000, leaving \$7,000. It could be appropriate to consider using this fund as part of the grant to St Albans Toy Library.

Recommendation: That \$11,000 be allocated to Beebos House Toy Library to enable extensions and development of their building, funding to be from School Facilities Partnership Fund and 1999/2000 Community Services Fund.

Chairperson's Recommendation: That an on-site meeting take place with Beebos House Toy Library and report back to the June meeting.