

8. ST ALBANS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – PROGRESS OF THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION PROCESS

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Corporate Plan Output: Environmental Improvement Plans	

The purpose of this report is to update the Board on the progress of the public consultation process in regard to the St Albans Neighbourhood Plan.

Just prior to Christmas last year, the publication *Our Environment - St Albans Update* was sent to 3800 residents and property owners in the St Albans Neighbourhood Plan area. The *Update* took a look at projects that have been suggested or submissions made to Council over the past few years, and where they've got to. It included past projects, current initiatives, and opportunities that could be included in the Neighbourhood Plan. A freepost feedback form for public comment was included with the publication, which elicited 36 written responses and approximately ten phone calls and counter inquiries.

Following the *St Albans Update*, two public seminars were held in St Albans. The seminars were regarded as a means for St Albans residents and property owners to look at a wide range of display material and to speak to Council staff on a one-to-one basis about their visions or concerns for St Albans.

The seminars were advertised in STANN, on notice boards and in shops throughout the St Albans area. They were held at different venues with times chosen carefully in an attempt to suit everyone. Sadly the turnout was very poor. Eight people came to the first seminar held on Saturday 18 March, while the second seminar attracted 19 people. Quite a number of those people who attended the seminars had also responded to the *St Albans Update* feedback form.

Due to the low response rate, it is felt that further consultation at this stage would not be particularly productive. However, the visual material that was used for the seminars will be displayed in the St Albans Resource Centre as an information service for the community.

The next step will be to respond to the matters raised by the community, after which a draft Neighbourhood Plan will be prepared. The Plan is envisaged as being in two parts. The first part is a fold out plan that illustrates the location and type of project or initiative. This will be cost effective to produce and easy to use. A separate booklet will contain background information and more specific project examples, and the strategic vision for St Albans.

As the 2000/01 Draft Annual Plan will be open for submissions from 27 May to 29 June, a draft of the fold out plan will be tabled at the Community Board meeting, and could form the basis for Annual Plan submissions, if required.

The help of the St Albans Residents Association in the preparation of the seminars is acknowledged.

Recommendation: That the information be received.

**Chairperson's
Recommendation:** That the officer's recommendation be adopted.