

10. SUBSIDISED STYX RIVER BUS TOURS FOR ELDERLY PERSONS' HOUSING RESIDENTS

Officer responsible Community Advocate	Author Barbara Lindsay, Community Secretary
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The purpose of this report is to inform members, as requested, of the outcome from the bus tour organised for residents from Council housing units in Redwood and Belfast.

BACKGROUND

A report from the Deputy Chairperson, Dennis Hills, to the 6 October 1999 meeting sought support for a Styx River bus trip for tenants in Council Elderly Persons Housing (EPH) units, as a Board Year 2000 initiative. This followed from the very successful public Styx River tours from Nunweek Park to Brooklands Logoon, at a cost of \$15 per passenger.

The Board approved a subsidy of \$240 towards a slightly shortened version of these tours, to take place in January 2000. An evaluation of the tour was requested with the possibility of similar trips being offered to other EPH tenants in both wards.

BUS TOUR

Arrangements were made with Water Services Unit staff and their Events Consultant to run a trip on Monday, 24 January, people to be collected from the gateway to their complex. A leaflet was hand-delivered into 97 letterboxes, being all the EPH units in Redwood and Belfast. The cost to participants was worked out at \$8.00 per head for a two-hour tour, with afternoon tea included. Residents had about ten days to respond and the first thirty replies were to be accepted (to fill a small bus). Only seven replies were received and some of them withdrew before the \$8.00 was collected, so the decision was made to postpone the tour.

In consultation with Dennis Hills and the staff concerned, it was decided to reschedule the tour for Tuesday, 1 March. The leaflet was again hand-delivered to the same housing units and again seven replies were received. After further consultation it was decided to go ahead with the trip but to use the Papanui community van instead of hiring a bus. Problems then arose in relation to the requirement for a driver holding a passenger service licence where passengers were paying. It was eventually decided to go ahead with the tour and to refund the \$8.00 that had previously been collected. The tour proceeded as planned, marred only by an incident at one stop when two handbags were stolen from the van.

A letter of appreciation has been received from one of the residents as follows:

“On Tuesday, 7 March a group was taken around the Styx River, I would like to say how much we all enjoyed this, Stephanie did a wonderful job on making this history and ecology of this area so interesting and Alister was a good driver. We were even given a very nice afternoon tea.

It was a lovely afternoon. Thank you, please do some more!”

COSTS

The following costs were incurred in the mini-tour:

	\$
Afternoon Tea	55.36
Consultant – 5 hours @ \$65.00	335.00
Folder for residents (approximately \$10 - \$12 each)	70.00
Petrol – not recorded	
Staff time – not recorded	
Bus hire saved by use of community van	
<i>Excess expenditure approximately</i>	<u>\$460.36</u>
Less Board subsidy	240.00
<i>Excess expenditure, approximately</i>	<u>\$220.36</u>

FUTURE TOURS

The tour was a success in that those who participated really enjoyed the outing. However, the small number of residents who accepted the invitation made it rather an expensive exercise. On this occasion the Water Services Unit has offered to stand the loss.

The suggestion has been put forward that staff of the Water Services Unit liaise with City Housing and negotiate a tour that could be run by the Housing Recreation Officers as part of their ongoing programme of outings available for all EPH tenants throughout the city. The Water Services Unit has similar tours for both the Avon and the Heathcote Rivers, with the history of the background message of conservation and enhancement.

Recommendation: That staff from the Water Services and Housing Units confer about ongoing river tours for EPH residents.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the officer's recommendation be adopted.