

### 13. COMMUNITY HOUSE PROJECT BASED AT COLLINGWOOD HOUSE

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Corporate Plan Output: Community Board Project/Discretionary 6.1.9	

The purpose of this report is to update the Board on the first six months development of this community house project initiated by the New Brighton Residents' Association.

#### SOCIAL WELLBEING OUTCOMES AND PRIORITIES

This project meets Outcomes 1, 4 and 7 and Priorities 1, 2, 5, 6, and 9.

#### BACKGROUND

At its 22 May 2000 meeting, the Community Board funded the New Brighton Residents' Association \$1,500 towards the setting up of a Community Room at Collingwood House and rental costs for a six month establishment period.

Papers circulated separately provide background on the Association's Community House proposal and three progress reports on the various activities and meetings hosted by this community house project.

Following the Community Board's 22 May decision work has been done with the Council's Property Unit and the property agent of the property's owner Age Concern in obtaining details on possible leasing arrangements. This leasing information is still to be supplied though Age Concern has informed me that at its July 2000 Board meeting an agreement had been reached on a non-sale period of two years.

At present the Residents' Association books a room in the House for their weekly "community room" activities in the same way as other community groups use the House. The Residents' Association has sufficient funds on hand from the Board's original grant to cover their Friday morning community meeting costs through to 30 June 2001.

#### CONCLUSION

It is considered that the Residents' Association has very successfully established this community project and it is providing creative opportunities for local people to become involved in the wellbeing of the community. The Friday coffee mornings are providing local people with opportunities to share their stories and issues, which is a base from which ideas and actions are formed. The Residents' Association, with the people who gather at the House, then act on these ideas and suggestions. The supporting papers document some of those community ideas and actions.

A major issue facing the ongoing development of this project is the lack of some permanency around the right to occupy. This lack of certainty about leasing arrangements and any future sale of the property is severely limiting a sense of security on occupancy rights. If such occupancy rights were known this would encourage more community groups to consider being based at Collingwood House, the undertaking of building improvements and the purchasing of further furnishings.

- Recommendations:**
1. That the information be received.
  2. That Council Officers continue to identify the benefits gained by the New Brighton community through such a community house project and report back to the Board in six months time.
  3. That Council Officers continue to explore leasing and/or purchasing options with the owners of Collingwood House.

**Chairperson's Recommendation:** That the abovementioned recommendations be adopted.