

19. YOUTH FACILITY - PAPANUI

Officer responsible Community Advocate	Author Barbara Ford, 354 1707
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The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with information on the current youth house in Sawyers Arms Road and future needs for a youth facility.

BACKGROUND

In early 1999 the property at 19 Sawyers Arms Road which is owned by Northlands Mall became available on a short term lease basis. The property will eventually be required by Northlands for its future development. While the house provides a base for the youth workers in Papanui, it is not suitable as a youth centre facility.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES EVALUATION

The need for community facilities in Papanui has long been established and the current research is now at a stage where a project team is working on the detail of what such a facility may include as well as siting.

The above facility will provide for some youth activities, along with other groups needs, and it is possible that this facility could be a partnership between schools, Northlands Mall and Te Papanui Trust, but it may be three to five years or longer, before this facility becomes a reality.

PRESENT ACTION

At the present time the Community Development Advisor is working with the new Manager of Te Ora Hou in putting together a Youth Facility brief, outlining the need as well as ideal requirements, location, size, etc.

Liaison has been established, through Papanui Rotary with real estate agents in the area so they are aware of possible interest in suitable buildings.

Informal surveys of youth movements during week days after school show there are in excess of 60 or 70 young people in the Mall at any one time. On Friday evenings over 100 young people enter the mall each hour. A more detailed youth survey of the Mall usage would provide more detailed information that could be useful.

CURRENT ISSUES REQUIRING CONSIDERATION

In the meantime there is a more immediate need to address the question of a youth venue in Papanui where youth workers can be located as well as providing activities and a place for the youth of the area. The Board will recall that in the Community Development Adviser's report on the Wellington visit, it was suggested that the Board seriously consider the possibility of establishing a dedicated youth facility in Papanui, within the vicinity of Northlands Mall.

A venue not in a residential area would be preferable and have greater acceptance generally than one within the residential area.

As there is no budgeted funds to purchase a building, the ideal site would be a building which could be leased for up to two to three years, at a nominal rent.

Recommendation: That a small working party of two Board members, staff and the Papanui Youth Worker be established to actively pursue a property which could be suitable for renting as a youth venue.

Chairperson's Recommendation: That the officer's recommendation be adopted and that the working party include Yvonne Palmer and Dennis Hills.