

## 19. COMMUNITY ADVOCATE'S REPORT

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Corporate Plan Output: Community Advocacy – Community Areas 6.1 text 14	

### **Lincoln Road Banners**

Council funding for all-year-round banners at 15 sites in the Lincoln Road business area is under discussion. The cost is estimated at \$4,000. Currently the Board has provided \$500 from its Project Fund to install and remove nine Christmas banners. A further allocation of around \$1,500 for replacement banners (nine at approximately \$150 each) will need to be made possibly next financial year, depending on wear and tear.

This piecemeal funding is far from satisfactory and a co-ordinated scheme for all suburban sites would be the logical solution.

### **City Care Awards**

Garden City Festival of Flowers organisers advise that they do not wish to proceed with the scheme as Christchurch Beautifying Society has "Environmental" awards which are similar, and would therefore be duplicated.

### **Art in the Local Area**

Staff met with Deborah McCormick of "Art in Industry" to further investigate suitable works for the Addington retail area.

Deborah will prepare a discussion document to be circulated to businesses and the sub committee by 17 November 2000. Comments on the document are to be returned to Deborah by 30 November 2000, and then reported back to the sub committee in mid December 2000.

### **Project Funds – Heritage Projects**

The involvement and voluntary contribution of community groups in a very successful programme of local events for Heritage Week has resulted in negligible expenditure of the Board's \$3,000 Project Fund allocated for this purpose. The Board has the option of spending the balance on other, yet to be identified, Heritage projects or reallocating it to another project, eg art in the local area.

### **Opawa Public Library AGM**

Jane Parrett and Nick Chapman attended the Library's Annual General Meeting. The Chairman expressed the Committee's appreciation for the support it receives from the suburban library and the Council's Property Unit.

It is evident that this is a thriving voluntary organisation initiating valuable direct and indirect contributions to social well-being in the community.

### **Street Disturbances**

Members will be aware of the proposal to revive the Ruapuna "burn out pad", about which further information will be available in the next few weeks.

In the meantime, the Community Advocate has attended a City Streets Unit meeting, along with Police and Land Transport Safety Authority representatives. Central Government is aware of the problem but have advised that, before legislation could be extended to deal more effectively with the problem, the Ministry of Transport would need to be persuaded that existing laws are inadequate. Unfortunately, there is likely to be insufficient time to bring such legislation before Parliament prior to the next election.

A copy of the video film of disturbances at Hornby is available at the Service Centre. Sydenham Business representatives report that, while the Police are undoubtedly doing a good job, problems persist and are of particular concern to those who have staff on their premises during the night. They have requested a meeting with Council/Board representatives and property owners.

### **Graffiti Control**

Staff continue to monitor the situation. While the problem appears to be under control in South Christchurch there are a few "hot spots" causing concern, and delays between reporting and removal continue.

Much credit for controlling the problem must go to the network of twenty or more “graffiti guardians” who are organised and resourced through the Service Centre.

Recognition in the form of an award similar to the Environmental Awards Scheme run by the Christchurch Beautifying Association may be appropriate.

#### **Library/Service Centre Consultation**

We have begun the first stages of this major consultation/communication exercise and are receiving good coverage in suburban newspapers. So far the reaction of residents has been enthusiastic and positive.

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.