

16. COMMUNITY BOARD SEMINAR MEETING

The Seminar meeting of the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board was held on Thursday 21 September 2000 at 3.30pm. The following matters were considered:

16.1 CENTRAL CITY REVITALISATION PROJECT

Representatives of the Central City Revitalisation Project Team were in attendance at the meeting to provide a presentation on the Central City Revitalisation Projects for Community Board members and to provide an opportunity for discussion with Board members on issues arising from this project. The presentation was provided by the Principal Policy Analyst, David Hinman, who outlined the rationale for this project and for the objectives of it.

Mr Hinman noted the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board's special interest in the Central City area, as it lay within the Board's area of responsibility, but also noted the need for city wide support for this project since the central city area is used by all citizens.

The special features of a successful city centre were outlined to the meeting and the features being sought as a result of the proposed central city revitalisation. Ideas for communities within the central city area, a river promenade, people linkages and some comparisons with the City of Portland, Oregon, the benefits of central city living and the significance of heritage buildings were also traversed in this presentation. Questions were asked by Board members as the presentation proceeded and the various points raised, were answered and discussed as part of the presentation.

Other areas traversed in the discussions included the decision making process to date for this project, the proposed public consultation document and the proposed release next year of a Draft Strategy for this project.

In the ensuing discussion, some concerns were raised by Board members and comments made as follows:

- It may be desirable to follow what is there already rather than imposing solutions.
- Must seek to establish what the "feel" of the city is, rather than acting in a "value laden" way.
- The Council should not dominate with its own concepts.
- Concern has been expressed by existing long-term residents who have only recently been consulted.
- Housing needs for all need to be available, not just high value apartments for the employed and well paid.
- Replacing accommodation can leave people unhoused.
- Should outside Social Service or Government agencies be included in the planning process?
- Affordable housing needs to be tied to this development.
- Is this project being overseen by a Central City Board or by a LATE? What is the role of the Community Board in this process?
- Can the Community Board make a submission on the role of Community Boards in the process? (The suggestion was that the Board could approach the Mayor direct on this matter).
- Good public transport is needed to bring people into the city centre.
- What will be the inter-relationship between the Central City Board and the Community Board – will there be an overlap? There is a need to keep these roles clear.

16.2 CYCLE PLANNING DISCUSSION

Alix Newman, Transport Planner: Cycling and Brent Ferigo, Cycle Planner, were in attendance at the meeting to outline the process of cycle planning. They had been invited to this meeting to allow time for a more in-depth discussion on the direction of the Council's planning for cycle routes and of the philosophy behind cycle route planning.

The speakers advised that surveys have highlighted areas of concern to cyclists and that a priority map has been developed for capital expenditure. The speakers noted that separate pathways for cyclists and pedestrians have been provided in some areas, such as adjoining Shirley School, but that this approach is not practical city wide because it reduces the carparking available. Accordingly, there is a need to look for other solutions.

In the discussion on these matters, concern about the hazards of cycle lanes on the sides of the vehicle carriageway were expressed, as children are vulnerable in these lanes. An alternative suggestion of slow streets or "cycle streets" was traversed in the discussion.

Various possibilities and areas of concern were traversed in the ensuing discussion, including the suggestion from the Transport Planner: Cycling that the Board might consider putting together a statement of its specific views on cycling issues so that these could be discussed.

Erin Baker advised the meeting of her intention to propose to the Council that Armagh Street be designated a cycle-only route in order to make the street safer for cyclists. The implication of this proposal is that slow vehicle use only would be permitted in Armagh Street and no car parking.

Erin Baker sought the support of Board members for this proposal. It was agreed that a deputation of Bob Todd and Aaron O'Brien would seek speaking rights at the next Council meeting in support of this proposal and the Board's stance. The Armagh Street Proposed Cycle Route report will reach the Council through the City Services Committee.

16.3 RICHMOND HILL ROAD DISCUSSION

Residents of the affected part of Richmond Hill Road in Sumner had been invited to attend this meeting for a discussion on proposed enhancements to the Richmond Hill drain to be carried out at the same time as proposed kerb and channel renewal work.

Staff of the Water Services and City Streets Units were in attendance at the meeting.

The Area Engineer advised that planning had been undertaken for kerb and channel renewal on the lower section of Richmond Hill Road and that replacement of the trees was also proposed as the trees are at present breaking up the kerb and footpath surface.

A design had been developed which incorporated the desire of the Water Services Unit to develop the existing drain into a landscaped waterway.

The Water Services Planning and Investigations Team Leader, Bob Watts, assisted by Peter Wehrmann of City Design, outlined in detail the proposed waterway upgrading and the basic philosophies behind the proposed upgrading works. Essentially the proposal sought to restore a natural water flow system which had been put into imbalance by human habitation.

Considerable concerns over this proposal were voiced by the affected parties from Richmond Hill Road, including issues relating to safety and the cleaning of the drain. Particular concerns were expressed that residents had not been notified of the development of the waterway proposal. Although some residents had been consulted about the kerb and channel renewal and the proposed replacement of the trees, there was concern expressed that the wider community had not been consulted or even advised of the proposed waterway enhancement.

There was a consensus that more consultation was needed over this proposal. Issues included the risk of blockage to the existing drain in times of flood and concerns over the ability of the proposed new waterway to handle major flood events. Public consultation on the Waterway Proposal could take up to six months. The dilemma is that the footpath improvements need to be carried out immediately.

This matter concluded with an agreement that the Water Services and City Streets Units would confer over strategies for moving forward from this point, with a view to further community consultation, and would bring a report back to the Community Board for consideration.

16.4 GENERAL BUSINESS

Coming Community Events

Derek McCullough outlined coming community events to the meeting, as follows:

Neighbourhood Week – The Council is preparing posters.

Kids Safe Week – This is 10 days after Children's Day.

LYFE Festival – Is progressing and taking up time and energy.

Children's Day – Two projects are underway.

Two letters seeking the Board's financial support for National Children's Day on 29 October 2000 were tabled at the meeting.

These letters were from the Woolston Development Project and from the Mt Pleasant Community Centre and Ratepayers' Assn Inc.

It was recommended that the Board consider setting aside the sum of \$2,000 from its Discretionary Fund to support Children's Day Projects.

Adventure Day and Jigger Rides – Derek McCullough made a presentation outlining proposals for an Adventure Day and for Jigger racing competitions on the city tramway.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the information be received.
 2. That the Board provide the sum of \$2,000 from the 2000/01 Discretionary Fund for National Children's Day Projects.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the above recommendations be adopted.