

18. SOMERFIELD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

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The purpose of this report is to outline how the Board, through supporting the formation of the Somerfield Residents Association, can help to meet its objectives for the 2000/2001 financial year.

Objectives

The Board has set objectives for 2000/2001 financial year committing itself to maintaining a dialogue with the Spreydon-Heathcote community on community issues, promoting a healthy community, being an advocate for the Spreydon-Heathcote community, and promoting social cohesion in the Spreydon-Heathcote community. By supporting the formation of the Somerfield Residents Association, the Board will be assisting a new community group in generating outcomes complimentary to these objectives.

Overview

Impetus for the formation of a Somerfield Residents Association grew out of the meeting of Neighbourhood Support Groups and Residents Associations at the Cashmere Club on 15 June 2000. From this meeting a small group of Somerfield residents expressed an interest in forming their own residents association. The Somerfield area is currently covered by the Spreydon Ratepayers and Residents Association (see attached map). The Spreydon-Ratepayers and Residents Association are aware of this development and support the change in their own boundary to accommodate a new Somerfield group (see attached letter).

A number of community meetings have been held in the last two months and another meeting is scheduled for 15 November 2000 to elect a Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer for the group. An official application has been made for this informal group to become an Incorporated Society. Subject to this application being successful, the group are now requesting that the Board grant the Somerfield Residents Association “Official Residents Group” status.

Benefits

In supporting the formation of the Somerfield Residents Association the following benefits are possible:

- Empowerment of local Somerfield residents to identify their own issues and possible solutions.
- Resourcing for local Somerfield residents to be better able to lobby, and give feedback to the Christchurch City Council and other government and non-government agencies.
- Better communication of issues and concerns amongst Somerfield residents.

- Development of a stronger “Somerfield community” identity amongst residents.
- Empowerment of local Somerfield residents to be responsible for the concerns of their community.

These benefits clearly relate to and compliment the objectives and outcomes the Board has committed itself to for the 2000/2001 financial year.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Board, subject to the successful application for Incorporation, formally recognise the Somerfield Residents Association as an official residents group of the Spreydon-Heathcote area.
 2. That the current boundaries of the Spreydon Ratepayers and Residents Association be amended to accommodate the formation of the Somerfield Residents Association as per the attached map.
 3. That the Board appoint a representative to act as liaison person with the Somerfield Residents Association.