

## 5. CORRESPONDENCE

### E) APPLICATION TO THE HAGLEY/FERRYMEAD COMMUNITY BOARD FOR FUNDING TO APPOINT PLANNERS

The following letter has been received from Belle Melzer, of the Inner City East Neighbourhood Group on behalf of the following groups who are seeking funding of \$3,000 from the Community Board:

**From:** Avon Loop Planning Association, Chester Street Residents' Association, Englefield Residents' Association, Inner City East Neighbourhood Group, Inner City West Neighbourhood Association, Moa Neighbourhood Committee, Richmond Neighbourhood Cottage, Victoria Neighbourhood Committee, The Civic Trust and Te Whare Roimata Trust.

*"At the July meeting of the Hagley-Ferrymead Board, a deputation was made requesting funding to retain planners for two references (appeals) currently before the Environment Court regarding the Council's City Plan (refer attachment of submission made at July meeting). The Board asked for more specific information about the request so it could determine whether to grant this funding. Here is the formal and more specific request for funding to which we will speak in our deputation at the 6 September Board meeting. Eight residents' groups and two community organisations have the same concerns to those raised in the references regarding amenity and increased residential density.*

*The City Plan establishes its commitment to residential conservation in Living Goal 11 but fails to put in place rules or mechanisms to meet this goal in relation to increasing residential density. This is particularly relevant for the central city, the area represented by our residents' associations (refer, Living Goal 11; Objective 11.1, Policies 11.1.1, 11.1.4, and Objective 11.4).*

*As our concerns are embodied in the two references before the Environment Court, we, as a body, seek \$3,000 in funding from the Hagley-Ferrymead Community Board to resolve these concerns. The funds specifically are to retain the services of a landscape planner and a resource planner to specify how a balance between amenity and increased residential density can be achieved in the City Plan.*

*The Council itself, through its Environmental Policy and Planning Unit, has suggested that the services of planners be retained to propose an appropriate solution.*

*We consider that it is in the interest of both the Council and our associations to avoid the Environment Court if at all possible. We strongly believe that if the planners can put forward appropriate and viable solutions to eliminate inconsistencies in the Plan, then resolution would occur without proceeding to Court - a win-win situation for all parties.*

*The Hagley/Ferrymead Board has established precedents in making financial grants to residents' associations for legally related proceedings, namely to*

*ICON for retention of legal services with regard to Park Terrace against CCC decision; and*

*Richmond Neighbourhood Cottage as a contribution toward legal costs against central government's proposal for a periodic detention centre.*

*Additionally, the grant requested would contribute to fulfilling the Board's vision and objectives as well as the Council's Community Development and Social Well-being policies.*

*It is significant that there are ten groups requesting funding for this joint project – representing an expenditure of \$300 per group. We believe that for the ten groups involved, this is a small disbursement from the Board to resolve a collective concern. This issue has great importance not only for our residential areas but for Christchurch as a whole, particularly as long-term central city revitalisation concepts unfold.”*

**Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** For discussion