

5. CORRESPONDENCE

D) EDMONDS SMITH STREET KINDERGARTEN

The following letter has been received from David Baxendell, Head Teacher, Edmonds Smith Street Kindergarten, seeking funding from the Board's Discretionary fund.

"Hillary Waller, our head teacher, who is currently away on leave, spoke to you recently. You suggested that we put in writing to you our difficulties in raising sufficient funds to complete the play ground development at our kindergarten.

Over the last few years we have expended a great deal of money and time in redeveloping our outside area to create a stimulating and natural environment. We have done extensive planting of native grasses, shrubs and trees and provided natural and artificial shade areas.

The final steps are to replace the sandpit and swing area, which were constructed in the 1960s and are reaching the end of their working life as well as being starkly out of harmony with the surrounding environment. We are hoping to replace the present rectangular concrete-block structure which is cracking badly and presents a trip-hazard to children with a more flowing design incorporating natural materials. See attached sketch plan.

To achieve this, we will need to raise \$7-9,000 (see attached quote, which does not cover landscaping costs) and we had hoped to get substantial funding through the Hillary Commission grant from the Christchurch City Council. Unfortunately the funding allocated to us through this scheme only provided \$330 which barely covers the cost of drawing up plans. We are at a loss to understand why so little was forthcoming.

I understand that you may be able to promote some funding of this scheme through the Linwood Community Board. If so, we would be wholeheartedly grateful.

You will be aware that this is not a wealthy area. The majority of our families survive on very limited budgets and often also have little energy for fundraising. What we do raise by a very small, hard working Committee goes almost entirely on the every day running costs of the kindergarten. We are unable to use volunteer labour for construction because of public liability insurance difficulties.

Thank you so much for taking an interest in this matter. Please feel free to come down to see us if you want to see at first hand what we are planning."

The Community Development Adviser comments:

"This is a worthwhile project which I believe the Board should support, but the Board will need to consider the level of support which it wishes to give."

Chairman's

Recommendations: For discussion