

16. COMMUNITY ADVOCATE'S REPORT

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Citizenship/Civic Pack for Schools

In response to members enquiries at the 20 March 2001 Community Affairs Committee meeting Lynne Campbell, Children's Advocate, and Kerry Everingham, Education Promotion Officer, suggest the "Learning Experience Outside the Class Room" programme would be an effective medium for encouraging children's participation in Council processes.

The programme involves role-play and will be trialed at the Provincial Buildings during Term 3 (16 July onwards). This is a metropolitan initiative but programmes could be held locally in historic buildings. Lynne, Kerry and Janis Beaumont, a teacher employed to develop the programme, would appreciate an opportunity to explain the programme to the Board.

Display of Members Photographs

Fiona Aydon, Advocacy Team Assistant, is organising a display of members photographs in the Service Centre. She will require individual photographs which can either be existing negatives or positive prints.

Area Engineer

Jeff Owen, Area Engineer, begins his new job on 2 April 2001. Acting in his place, pending the review of City Streets Unit, is Basil Pettigrew. Basil is based in Civic Offices and can be contacted on 371-1542 regarding all "local road" issues or local issues relating to "major roads". Weng Kei Chen is the Unit's senior liaison person and should be contacted regarding all policy matters.

Tennyson Street – Kerb and Channel

Complaints by retailers have been discussed with the Project Manager. These relate mostly to parking difficulties in Colombo Street and their effect on business, and dust and dirt created by the work. Parking problems have now been resolved. Other problems are being dealt with by the Service Centre and the Project Manager.

The contract was scheduled to run for twenty weeks and is now in its tenth week.

Colombo Street and Other Developments

Boons Bakery Site – The Environment Court decision has been delayed. As at 26 March 2001 no information has been received.

Former Sydenham Rugby Club Site (303 Colombo Street) – A resource consent application has been received for retail development.

BP Garage Site, corner Sparks/Hoon Hay Roads – A resource consent application has been received to double the size of the existing garage. This will reduce the number of retail outlets at the site.

Youth Disturbances

Investigation of a number of complaints regarding activities of groups of teenagers, a hundred or more, congregating in South Christchurch reveals this has been a city-wide trend during recent weekends.

Vandalism in Sydenham Cemetery and damage to a contractors plant is thought to be related to these activities.

Crown Public Health arranged a meeting with relevant agencies and is looking at a number of initiatives/programmes to deal with the problem, particularly consumption of alcohol by this age group.

Beckenham Neighbourhood Association – Neighbourhood Support Groups

The Beckenham Neighbourhood Association will hold a public meeting on Thursday 26 April 2001, from 7pm to 9pm at the Beckenham Service Centre to promote the formation of more Neighbourhood Support Groups in Beckenham. Board members are invited to attend.

Art in the Local Area

Rhonda Thompson, the Council's Arts Adviser, and Deborah McCormack, Art and Industry Consultant, gave a presentation at the Addington Neighbourhood Association's February meeting to seek feedback on concepts presented.

A further sub committee meeting will be arranged for a mid April date.

Sydenham Methodist Church

At its 14 March 2001 meeting the Council resolved:

"That the Council inform the prospective trustees that it would be prepared to make a loan to enable the trust to purchase the building and site, the loan to be interest free, and without a fixed repayment date, subject to:

1. *The formation of the trust.*
2. *The trust undertaking to restore, maintain and operate the building.*
3. *The involvement of the Council's Property Manager in negotiations.*
4. *The target purchase price being within the limits set by the Council.*
5. *Agreement on a heritage covenant."*

The Sydenham Heritage Trust is in the process of formation and development of its objectives, while the Council is negotiating with the owner. Neil Roberts, Senior Curator of the Art Gallery is the Trust's spokesman.

Sustainable Households Programme

The Board has allocated \$1,500 of its 2000/2001 Discretionary Fund to the development of this programme. A group of residents who will assist in its development has now been recruited. The group will assist with the development of the scope, content and format of learning workshops and activity/information packs. The groups first meeting will be on 9 April 2001.

Ward Boundaries

The Local Government Commission has published its determination on ward boundaries. The Sydenham business district and an area of Waltham which were the subject of an appeal to the Commission will be transferred from Hagley to the Heathcote ward, effective after the coming elections.

"Jump Rope for Heart"

This is a National Heart Foundation public health education programme aimed at primary school children with the additional objective of reaching parents and caregivers. The programme has been successfully run at a number of schools in this community but lower decile schools appear to have experienced funding difficulties. Allan Lloyd, the Foundation's National Physical Activities Co-ordinator is keen to address the Board at a future date.

Telstra/Saturn Tour

Depending on members' interest a bus tour of Telstra/Saturn installations can be arranged. Resident group representatives have indicated an interest in joining the tour.

Recommendation: That the information be received.