

11. **RICCARTON/WIGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
REPORT OF 15 MAY 2001**

Officer responsible Community Advocate	Author Roger Cave, Community Secretary DDI 372 2502
Corporate Plan Output: Riccarton/Wigram Community Board Vol 1 3.2 Text 6	

The purpose of this report is to submit the outcomes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 15 May 2001.

The meeting was attended by Alison Wilkie (Chairperson), Mary Corbett, David Buist and Mike Mora; Ishwar Ganda was present, also.

Leave of absence was noted for Neville Bennett.

1. **HIGH VOLTAGE POWER LINES
ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELDS AND HEALTH ISSUES**

An article in a newspaper, on this issue, had prompted an invitation to Mr Martin Gledhill (of the National Radiation Laboratory, Christchurch) to attend this meeting.

From research done to date it would be generally accepted that:

- There is no good evidence that extremely low frequency electromagnetic fields are capable of producing cancer.
- In the absence of clear evidence of a carcinogenic effect in adults, or of a plausible explanation from experiments on animals or isolated cells, the epidemiological evidence is currently not strong enough to justify a firm conclusion that such fields cause leukemia in children.
- It has not been possible to detect the supposed increase in childhood leukaemia.
- There is no evidence that residential exposure to EMF's is involved in the development of cancer in adults.

Martin also commented on studies and investigations carried out at various Christchurch sites.

Information was tabled, and has been circulated to Board members.

It was agreed that this had been a very worthwhile discussion on what is a continuing community issue.

2. **TURNING POINT 2000
STATE HIGHWAY LANDSCAPING PROPOSALS**

Mr Grant Edge, a landscape consultant to Environmental Planning Unit, presented plans for two sections of SH1, soon to be landscaped under the Turning Point 2000 project:

Carmen Road/Masham Road
Templeton/Hornby

The plans showed extensive areas/sites for landscape enhancement. With work starting in the Spring, it is hoped to have these two major projects completed within the 12 months following.

3. **ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY "LOOKING AHEAD 2001-2011" PLAN**

From Environment Canterbury the following were present:

Cr Diana Shand
Cr Peter Yeoman
Mr Ken Taylor (Environmental Quality Manager)
Mr Richard Ball (Strategic Planner)
and Mr Neil Pilbrow (Strategic Planner)

There was an informative discussion on this publication, being a draft annual plan (2001/02), and a draft long term financial strategy (2001-2011).

Discussion covered most of the 12 portfolios; major interest centred on the 'water quality and quantity' portfolio.

With the increasing conversion of arable farmland to dairy farming, coupled with the prolonged regional drought and with the irrigation of the plains' proposal that was being aired, there were concerns raised about the impact that these activities would have on the natural water resources and the possibility of aquifer contamination.

It was **agreed** that a working party (Alison Wilkie, David Buist and Mike Mora) be asked to look further into this proposal.

4. HERITAGE WRITER/RESEARCHER PRESENTATION

Dr Suzanne Doig will give a presentation on Thursday 7 June 2001, at 4.00 pm.

5. OTHER ISSUES DISCUSSED/HELD OVER

- Street tree planting sites
- Honorary Park Wardens
- 2001/02 Project Fund Allocation
- 2001/02 Project Progress Report

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the report be received.