

5. CORRESPONDENCE

CARE AND PROTECTION RESIDENTIAL CENTRE - SOUTH

The following letter was received from Debbie Sturmfels, Child, Youth and Family Services, regarding redeveloping the existing Kingslea Residential Centre in Horseshoe Lake Road:

“The Minister of Social Services and Employment (the Minister) plans to redevelop the existing Kingslea Residential Centre in Horseshoe Lake Road, Burwood for the new Care and Protection Residential Centre - South. The existing youth justice, criminal justice, area administrative and training activities at Kingslea will be moved off the site.

Although the Department already has an established residential centre at Kingslea, it has undertaken an extensive assessment of appropriate alternative sites for the proposed Care and Protection Residential Centre - South. This site selection process identified 37 potentially suitable sites including the Kingslea site. Four sites were short-listed for technical evaluation. The evaluation considered any likely effects the proposed Residential Centre may have on the environment surrounding each of the four short-listed sites. However no site was found that better met the requirements for the new Care and Protection Residential Centre than the existing Kingslea site.

The Department's planning consultants (Resource Management Group Limited and Opus International Consultants Limited), and various technical experts in the fields of security, noise, property values, psychological effects, reverse sensitivity and traffic have provided specialist advice to the Department during this project.

Background

The new Residential Centre is part of Government's Residential Services Strategy (RSS) to improve the facilities and rehabilitation programmes provided to children and young people placed in the care and protection of the Department. Three new care and protection residential centres are proposed as part of the Strategy - two in the North Island and one in the South Island. The Care and Protection Residential Centre - Lower North at Epuni, near Lower Hutt is presently under construction and scheduled for opening by August 2001. The Department is presently preparing for community consultation on siting for the Care and Protection Residential Centre - Upper North, to be located in the Auckland Region.

The Kingslea Residential Centre is presently a multi-purpose residential centre. Under the terms of the designation confirmed in the Christchurch City Plan in 1999, the Department is required to move the youth justice, criminal justice, area administration and training activities off the Kingslea site, and to designate a site for care and protection activities. The Department is endeavouring to meet these terms.

The Care and Protection Residential Centre - South will provide accommodation for up to 20 children and young people (generally aged from eight up to 17 years). The youth justice and criminal justice activities currently undertaken at the Kingslea Residential Centre will be relocated to the new youth justice centres when they are completed. The new Youth Justice Residential Centre - South is proposed at a site near Mandeville and the new Youth Justice Residential Centre - Upper North at a site in Manukau near Auckland. The Criminal Justice activities are to be relocated to Auckland. Plans are underway to move the area administration and training activities into central Christchurch.

The design of the new Residential Centre incorporates modern security features and buildings that are residential in appearance. It is likely the Care and Protection Residential Centre - South will be built in stages. Extensive landscaping, including the retention of existing trees, will be provided around the Centre to provide privacy for the children and young people and act as a buffer between the Centre and neighbouring properties.

Community Consultation

The Department is committed to a meaningful programme of community consultation that provides information about what is proposed and, through feedback, identifies any community concerns. The Department recognises the benefit in gaining feedback prior to commencing the formal Resource Management Act process and welcomes any comments. Where possible the Department will address any community concerns.

The Department's consultation programme involves:

- distribution of information to households, businesses and key interest groups; meetings with neighbours, community groups and other interested parties; notices in local and community newspapers;
- an information day;
- an opportunity to provide comments on feedback forms;
- a free phone information service; and
- due consideration of matters raised.

Invitation

The Department invites you to become involved in this process, as you consider appropriate. For your information, an information day will be held on Wednesday 16 May at the Te Oranga Marae, Kingslea Residential Centre, from 12 noon to 8.00 pm.

Please read the enclosed material that provides more information about the proposed new Residential Centre, the site, the site selection process, and the environmental studies undertaken.

*The feedback form can be returned to the Department by handing it in at the information day, any meeting or by posting it to the address provided. We would appreciate receiving your comments by **Saturday 9 June 2001.**"*

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That a Subcommittee be convened of Chrissie Williams, Don Rowlands, Glenda Burt and Anne McCormack to prepare a response regarding the Care and Protection Residential Centre proposal for Kingslea.

5.2 PROPOSED BEATTY STREET/ESTUARY ROAD SCULPTURE

The following letter was received from Carol Rendle regarding the proposal to move the sculpture from Memorial Avenue to Beatty Street/Estuary Road:

"Please accept my sincere apologies for not writing to confirm that further action would not be taking place on the proposal to move the sculpture from Memorial Avenue to Beatty Street/Estuary Road.

Several days after the City Council meeting I spoke to a gentleman from the Council who verified that the proposal had gone through. He was to come and look at the site, but like you he had gathered that the statue had been purchased (affirmation of which had only been given on the day of the Council meeting) and I confirmed with him that this was so.

I would like to thank you very much for supporting the proposal and seeking approval from the Council. I would like to take this opportunity to say how impressed I was with the way that the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board meetings are organised. I felt that the atmosphere was very open and friendly and that the discussion of my proposal, and other items that came up while I was there, was rational, sincere and full of goodwill.

It was unfortunate for our community that the statue was finally purchased by members of the Memorial Avenue Medical rooms, as it would have been great to have it, in our area, but I understand how after such a long time they felt like it was part of their community and 'a bit of a land mark'.

I would ask that this matter be left open for further action, as I have been searching for another sculpture to be placed here, but have not come up with anything to date - large pieces of artwork do not usually come cheap and especially not free. However something may develop in the future.

Thank you very much for taking the time to work through and accept my proposal and I am sorry that it did not eventuate."

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the information be received.

5.3 ARANUI PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL

The following letter was received from Rona Fisher, Principal, Aranui Primary School regarding Board support of their school hall:

“On behalf of the Board of Trustees (and everyone associated with this school), would you please pass on to the members of the Board our gratitude for their support with our hall. We will be delighted to receive the \$10,000. I will invoice you in July.

Would you also thank Michael McNabb for his advice and encouragement.

I am disappointed that the City Council did not provide funding, so have prepared a submission to the City Plan, but I acknowledge the fact that the Community Board made it their top priority and thank them for that.

As we are still some \$80,000 short of our necessary funding, we will be glad to accept further funding from the Board in the following Financial Year. At present we have the funding to complete Stage 1 of the Hall but it will not be available to the community until we can complete the last two stages.

Construction starts on 1 June, and I will hope to acquire extra funding over the next few weeks so that we can complete it this year.

Thank you again to all who have assisted us.”

Chairperson’s

Recommendation: That the information be received.