

11. COMMUNITY BOARD SEMINAR MEETING

The seminar meeting of the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board was held on Monday 23 April 2001 at 3.30pm. The following matters were considered.

11.1 Environmental Services

Willis Heney, Team Leader, Environmental Monitoring attended the meeting and briefed members about the enforcement role of the Environmental Services Unit enforcement team and the health team. There are five environmental health offices, their current service level dealt with 2249 cases.

On the monitoring/enforcement team there are nine environmental officers working in an integrated team, they deal with issues such as complaints, inspections of swimming pools, fire hazards, overhanging trees and general rubbish on property.

When a complaint is noted, the officer would generally talk to the householder in the first instance, if no progress is made an abatement notice is given. If this does not resolve the problem then the matter can be taken to the environment court.

Members discussed the policy relating to Signboards in Public Places. The Board has concerns about some parts of the policy and consider that the policy needs to be readdressed.

Board members also expressed concern about the proliferation of mobile billboards. The board discussed whether a community noticeboard should be provided at the Causeway, this may alleviate some of the problems and it could be better maintained and controlled.

One suggestion that arose during discussion was that may be a section of the city plan needs to be reviewed dealing with areas of sensitive locations eg estuary foreshore.

Members also raised the difficulty of being able to get hold of enforcement officers after work and in the weekend.

Mr Heney noted that enforcement officers are out every weekend but more funding is needed.

Tony Murray, Area Development Officer, Environmental Services, was in attendance and briefed the board members on planning issues and the process for determining notification. Council staff process approximately 3000 resource consents per year. Roughly 95 are non notified, 150 a year are notified.

Section 94 of the Resource Management Act 1991 provides for non notification of resource consents of a discretionary activity or non-complying activity can occur when written approval has been obtained from every person who may be adversely affected and the adverse effects on the environment will be minor. However if one person objects the resource consent has to be notified from those who may be adversely affected

If special circumstances are considered to exist in regard to any proposal the Council may elect to notify an application.

The Chairperson suggested that the board meeting on 2 May could establish a working party to discuss these issues and others such as the proliferation of posters, enforcement of existing bylaws and draft recommended changes to the Environment Committee and advocate a change of policy relating to Signboards in Public Places.

Chairman's

Recommendation: For discussion