

4. MULTICULTURAL CENTRE, UPDATE

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Board on development progress of the centre formerly known as Friendship House.

A working party comprising the Deputy Mayor, three Advocacy team members, and four members of the local Iwi has been meeting to progress the establishment of the multicultural centre.

To date, the grounds have been upgraded. The old play equipment was removed, the sandpit filled in, shrubs cut back and the grassed area cut out and prepared for some resowing. The adjacent car park area has had all the rubbish removed and a longer entrance way made in the picket fence to allow easy access for mowers. Several damaged and diseased trees have also been removed. A contract has been let with Citycare for ongoing maintenance of the grounds.

The interior of the building has had some minor modifications made and totally repainted. The exterior has also been repaired where necessary and totally repainted.

It is hoped to obtain sufficient second hand carpet to re-carpet the areas currently carpeted. The Council's Property staff area endeavouring to source sufficient carpet for this.

It is intended that from May the 1st we will be moving furniture and equipment into the buildings in preparation for groups to use the facility.

An official opening will taken place on Sunday 20 May 2001 at 2.00 pm when the Mayor, Garry Moore, along with Ngai Tahu dignitaries, will open the complex under its new name Te Whare O Nga Whetu.

A Management Committee is being established with the assistance of the Advocacy Team. This Committee will be responsible for day to day management of all aspects of the centre and will have Council representation as part of its membership.

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairperson's Recommendation: That the information be received.