

5. SECURITY AND VANDALISM COLOMBO STREET SOUTH

Officer responsible
Director of Policy

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the progress made to address the issues of security and vandalism caused by young people along Colombo Street in the late hours of Friday and Saturday nights and early mornings.

BACKGROUND

On 27 September 2001 the Council considered a report on a proposal to use suitably trained personnel to patrol the Colombo Street area for two or three nights a week. The Council resolved the following:

1. That a trial of the above concept using suitably trained personnel be approved in principle.
2. That a detailed proposal be developed and costed.
3. That discussions be held with businesses to determine their involvement and financial contribution.
4. That if a trial programme is ready to begin during the interregnum the City Manager be authorised to approve it.
5. The funding be from the corporate contingency fund.
6. The City Manager be instructed to implement the proposal as a matter of urgency.

The Council further resolved to put a cap of \$60,000 on the trial and that the Minister of Police be invited to visit Christchurch and tour the city at first hand in order to see the problem.

ACTIONS TAKEN SINCE 27 SEPTEMBER 2001

Because of the urgency of the situation the Christchurch City Council Parking Unit was secured to provide a presence over the weekend of 12 and 13 October (to observe only). A proposal outlining how the Parking Unit would continue to provide the service is attached. The service being provided to date has been in accordance with the proposal and in summary seeks to:

- Provide an uniformed presence/deterrent,
- Where necessary contact the police,
- Collect any evidence and contact any Council Units for follow up action as appropriate e.g. cleaners, and
- Remove any dangerous litter generated by the anti-social behaviour.

Patrols of the area commenced on 12 October 2001 and have continued each week since.

A meeting of key stakeholders was held on 17 October, representatives of the following attended the meeting:

- Police.
- Youth Worker organisations.
- Land Transport Safety Authority.
- Sydenham Business and Community Associations.
- Waimakariri District Council (experiencing similar problems).
- Christchurch City Council staff (cleaning contract management, Community Advocate, Youth Advocate, Communications Team, Parking Unit, Project management).
- Councillors Dennis O'Rourke and Ingrid Stonhill and MP for Waimakariri Clayton Cosgrove.

The purpose of the meeting was to reach a consensus on a strategy to address the security and vandalism problems, predominantly in Colombo Street south of Moorhouse Avenue.

The meeting reached consensus on trialing the use of Parking Wardens for three months as documented in the Parking Unit proposal, and to review the effectiveness of that strategy six weeks after commencement. Means by which to measure the ongoing effectiveness of the current strategy and any subsequent strategy have been implemented and include:

- A form to be completed each night by the Parking Wardens, documenting the extent of pedestrian and traffic activity each hour, (see attached).

- Contact has been made with a representative of the shop owners and residents; representatives are contacted each Monday and asked for an account of how they felt the weekend went.

The Parking Wardens have been patrolling Colombo Street each Friday and Saturday evening since 12 October, both shopkeeper and resident representatives have indicated being happy with the level of activity and lack of vandalism over the period that the strategy has been in place. Details of the findings for the period of the six weeks trial will be prepared after 28 November.

Contact has been established with parties working on alternative sites for youths such as the burn out pad. This contact is necessary as the two projects are linked and have the potential to impact on one another.

CONCLUSIONS

The trial appears to have been successful in reducing the problems previously experienced in this area. A review of the strategy is to be conducted by the key stakeholders on or around 28 November, six weeks after commencement. It is intended to continue to monitor and document activity in the target area.

Other matters are being considered and these include.

- Further discussions with the Council's youth workers to establish an appropriate level that they may become involved in the project.
- Additional training is being contemplated for the Parking Wardens, with a focus on dealing with youth.
- Information (provided by Police) is to be given to the shop owners documenting what they can do to deter vandalism, with the provision of automatic lights for example.

Recommendation: That the information be received and a further report be presented in February 2002.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.