

18. COMMUNITY BOARD PLANNING STATEMENTS – KEY ISSUES

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The purpose of this report is to place before the Committee key issues identified by Community Boards through their Annual Plan consultations with local communities.

At its August meeting, the Council resolved that the Key Issues section of the Community Board Planning Statements be considered by Standing Committees at the time they considered the annual monitoring reports. This brings the Community Boards input to any planning statement that the Committees may prepare, having regard to issues identified in monitoring reports.

Items relevant to this Committee are detailed below:

Burwood/Pegasus Community Board

The Burwood/Pegasus Community Board in its Planning Statement has identified the following issues:

Community Participation

Encouraging and facilitating the participation of people in the community and in decision-making is a major challenge.

The Board makes a considerable effort to ensure that processes to inform and/or consult the community are open, inclusive and democratic. A range of consultation approaches are needed to ensure that methods are appropriate to the issue under consideration. Sharing approaches that are effective is desirable to raise the overall standard of consultation undertaken by the Council.

The Board recognises residents' associations as one group to consult but it understands that there is a wider community to consult with. The Board is endeavouring to reach that wider community and thereby reinforce the Board's role as a key part of consultation processes.

In undertaking projects within the community, the Board also recognises that there is the potential to improve and build on the skill and resources of the individuals and/or the community involved. This enhances the ability of all to participate and contribute to social well-being.

Aranui Community Renewal

The Aranui Community Renewal is a major initiative between the Council, Housing New Zealand and the community to enhance Aranui as a place to live. It has a long term focus and it is acknowledged that some of the community and social issues being identified are outside of the Council's own resourcing boundaries.

The Council needs to maintain a long term commitment through supporting community groups and organisations to increase their capacity in identifying, developing and managing their local social and economic development.

Support for Eco-village Concept and Sustainable Building

The Board has initiated Council consideration of an Eco-village project, which would apply social, economic and environmental principles within a community. As well as meeting the lifestyle aspirations of residents, an Eco-village would serve as a model of sustainability to the wider community. Considerable work has been done on preparing a proposal for an Eco-village in Owles Terrace in New Brighton. Alternative sites outside the Burwood/Pegasus area may also be identified.

Many of the principles and technologies that are applied to Eco-villages could also be applied to new developments across the City. The Council has a role to play in advocating for sustainable developments and providing appropriate planning advice to developers. Land ownership and leasing options should also be considered by the Council to facilitate sustainable housing developments.

The Board is encouraged by the leadership role the Environment Committee is taking in the wider incorporation of environmental sustainability principles.

Support for Environmental Projects

Continued support is sought from the Council for major environmental projects in the Burwood/Pegasus area, in particular Coast Care, Bexley Wetland, Travis Wetland and Horseshoe Lake Reserve. These areas are of major importance to the region and the efforts of community volunteers needs to be matched by resources and planning expertise from the Council.

Continued commitment is needed to employing qualified staff and consultants to supply the science and research required for the sound planning that underpins the protection and enhancement of these environments.

Green Edge Project and Estuary Management Plan

The Board supports the major commitment the Council is making to develop the Green Edge Concept for the western side of the Avon/Heathcote Estuary. In addition to protecting and enhancing existing habitats and creating new open spaces, the project will result in an improvement in the quality of the water discharged into the Estuary.

Development of an Estuary Management Plan or Strategy in partnership with Environment Canterbury and the community is supported. The Estuary is a major recreational and ecological asset for the City.

Wastewater

The Board supports the proposed Wastewater Management Plan. A high priority should be given to any actions arising from the plan. Upgrading the wastewater system to meet the growing demands while maintaining the protection of the environment is of critical importance.

Street Sweeping

Litter is a significant problem in parts of Burwood/Pegasus, particularly in and around the New Brighton Mall and the shopping area in Wainoni/Aranui. There has been a spate of rubbish being dumped in public areas and of rubbish bins in parks being used for household rubbish. The Board suggests that a focus is needed on the Council's basic services.

Continued priority is needed for the regular removal of litter and initiatives within the residential and business community to prevent litter and mitigate its effects. The volunteer efforts of many members of the community are acknowledged and supported.

Burwood Landfill

The Board is concerned at the intended use of the Burwood Landfill beyond 2002, with an extension proposed until 2006. The Council is urged to give a high priority to establishing a new landfill site and expediting the transition to the new site.

New Brighton

The revitalisation of New Brighton remains a high priority. Major amenity improvements in the New Brighton Mall area are planned for 2001/02 and 2002/03. Redevelopment of the western end of the Mall and upgrading of the Beresford car park need to be progressed as soon as practicable.

Facilitation of the development of other initiatives to stimulate the revitalisation should also be given priority by the Council. An example is the promotion of the concept of an artificial reef at New Brighton; this would provide water recreation and ecological benefits and could attract large numbers of surfers and observers to the central New Brighton area.

Traffic Calming

A recurring concern raised with the Board is the speed of traffic within residential areas and particularly near to areas where children are active such as schools, pre-schools, crèches and playgrounds. Advocating for greater enforcement of speed limits in residential areas is supported. Similarly the Council should continue to advocate to the Land Transport Safety Authority for the widespread application of 40 km/h speed limits in school areas.

The Board favours the continued use of cost effective traffic calming measures as a priority over the major Living Streets projects.

The Board supports the continued efforts of the Council through the use of the speed trailer and the installation of traffic calming measures to reduce speeds.

Living Streets

The Board supports the concept of Living Streets as one means of local residents taking ownership of their environment and also introducing traffic calming measures. At the same time it may not be realistic to apply the concept whenever significant street works are undertaken.

There are currently no Living Street projects planned for Burwood/Pegasus until 2004/05 when Saltaire Street in New Brighton is programmed. Bringing forward this work to 2003/04 is supported. Consideration of Hampshire Street in Wainoni as a Living Street project is also suggested.

Undergrounding

The Board supports continued undergrounding of power cabling to enhance the attractiveness and safety of the streets and the living environment. Burwood/Pegasus should receive an equitable share of the work done under the programme for undergrounding and the Board has identified several streets in the area as priorities. In general, the river and coastal areas should be given priority for undergrounding.

Support Effective Public Transport Facilities

The Board acknowledges the major bus service improvements introduced by Environment Canterbury. The extended Orbiter service and across town routes to meet the travel patterns of residents (for example from New Brighton to Hornby) are encouraging many more people to use public transport.

The Council is encouraged to advocate for further enhancements to the bus network. An "outer ring" route incorporating New Brighton or overlapping loop routes would be a useful next step. A service running between recreation centres could also be considered as a means to improve access to sport and recreation for participants and observers.

In association with improvements to bus services, infrastructural improvements are needed. Additional suburban bus termini and shelters would ease access to the services. The prioritisation system for installing such facilities needs to recognise both the volume of usage and location factors that merit shelter, in particular exposure to the weather. Continued advocating to Environment Canterbury on the behalf of residents is supported.

Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board

The Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board in its Planning Statement has identified the following issues:

Undergrounding

There has been increasing interest in the community in having more environmentally friendly streetscapes with a particular emphasis on the wish for the removal of existing overhead reticulation. The Board has consistently submitted to the Council that this opportunity should be pursued to a much greater extent than now occurs.

While acknowledging the cost factor related to this programme, and the impact on rates in the event of an enhanced programme, the Board submits that the opportunity for reducing the actual number of kerb and channel renewal projects in each year will provide the avenue to fund a small number of additional undergrounding ventures. This will materially assist the overall programme for undergrounding without seriously upsetting the programme of roading infrastructure upgrade.

Cycle Safety

The Board has, on a number of occasions, supported the Council in its promotion of cycling in the city. The Board is however of the view that the matter of safe cycling is not being addressed appropriately.

The Board has viewed with concern the continued installation of cycle lanes on the city's busy main roads and strongly contends that the opportunity to put cycle lanes on other routes or to provide for a physical separation from other vehicular traffic should be the subject of early implementation.

The Board also considers that there should be a heightened programme of consultation with Schools, including parents of children, to identify the means whereby families will agree to children again taking part in cycling to and from School.

Speed Reduction

The Board has supported the recent provision of a speed trailer(s), which is available for use in the community, and applauds this initiative.

The Board does however consider that other means for achieving speed reduction should continue to be pursued by the Council without the unpopular means of speed humps and other physical obstructions.

Initiatives to achieve this could include the consideration of lower speed limits (than 50 kmh) in residential (local) streets and the continued implementation of the 40 kmh limits adjacent to the city's schools.

Anti-litter Programmes

The Board is becoming increasingly aware of the extent of litter occurring in the community.

While residents in general terms consider that this is a Council responsibility the Board acknowledges that there are wider opportunities to work with the community to overcome the continuation of this visual pollution.

The Board does, however, suggest that the Council should put greater effort into co-ordination preventative programmes and community "buy in" to maintaining a tidy environment.

Street Enhancement Programmes (Liveable Streets)

The Board supports fully the Council's recent moves to develop other means for reclaiming streets, in particular local streets. The opportunity for enhancement of streetscapes is also seen as a means of overcoming the otherwise loss of significant vegetation which has occurred as a result of the infilling activity over the last decade in particular.

The continuation of existing programmes to enhance the visual quality and amenity of road reserve areas through the use of coloured plantings is actively supported and endorsed by the Board.

The Board does, however, acknowledge that many residents may still have a wish for the more utilitarian approach in redeveloping streets but it believes that the ongoing opportunity for promotion and identification of other techniques should be actively pursued.

Street Tree (and Environs) Maintenance

The Board has recently given consideration to requests from the community for the removal of street trees. The reasons, in both cases, included the impact of leaf fall, some tree parts creating an untidy environment, and cracking and damage to the surrounding infrastructure (footpaths, etc and private property).

The Board seeks a review of the trees (and environs) maintenance programme to ensure that these problems are minimised in future years.

On the matter of tree maintenance on private land, the Board submits that a better means needs to be identified for tree protection when adjacent (Council) road works are undertaken such as trenching and the undergrounding of services.

Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board

The Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board in its Planning Statement has identified the following issues:

Consultation with Community Boards

Reports to Standing Committees and Council must take into account Community Boards and their timeframe. The Board considers that a greater amount of time is needed for decisions. Where a Community Board makes recommendations to a Standing Committee there should be sufficient time for comments and recommendations to be included at the end of a report. As a matter of course all reports could include a paragraph prompting input from the Board and reasons if it is not going to the Board.

Traffic Management

The Board would like to discuss with City Services the issue of Traffic Management. The example noted above about Sumner being a city wide attraction means that traffic management is an issue particularly in summer.

The Board would also like to discuss the use of road reserves, and the differing demands of treatment across the various areas of the city.

Riccarton/Wigram Community Board

The Riccarton/Wigram Community Board in its Planning Statement has identified the following issues:

Community Governance/Social

- Contribute to the building of a civil society by having due regard for the social consequences of all Council policies.
- Continue to see Community Boards as the most appropriate body to assist local communities in their decision making process.

Environment

- Continue building and monitoring the effective roading network in the city.
- Participate in creating a healthy city by:
 - (i) Encouraging the Leisure Unit to provide more active leisure pursuits through Council community centres.
 - (ii) Keep entry fees to Council facilities, eg pools stadia, at an affordable level.
 - (iii) Working with Crown Health agencies to deliver appropriate neighbourhood based health promotion programmes in lower socio-economic areas of the city.
 - (iv) More resources be made available for sustainable city projects including recycling, energy efficiency and pollution control programmes.

Anti Litter Programmes

- The Board is aware of the increased problem of litter in our community. A city wide anti litter campaign is urgently needed, not only in terms of education, but also enacting Councils bylaws effectively.
- That Council increase the number of rubbish receptacles around fast food outlets, bank ATM's and other high use areas such as shopping centres, bus stops etc and that a programme of community education and awareness is initiated on litter.

Street Enhancements – Living Streets

The Board is fully supportive of this concept and wish to see the programme expanded.

Street Trees

In association with Living Streets, there needs to be a greater emphasis on planting trees on city streets, particularly in older areas of the city.

Contracted Services

The Board wishes to raise concerns about the contracting out of maintenance services particularly in regard to street cleaning. The Board notes that in Councils Residents Survey results, many of the complaints raised were about rubbish removal and street cleaning, across all Board areas. The monitoring of such contracts needs to be more effective.

Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board

The Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board in its Planning Statement has identified the following issues:

Community Safety

The Board supports actions to enhance safety and the perception of safety in the community, and in particular urges Council support for the following initiatives:

In relation to safety from crime:

- Provide more support for safety from crime issues.
- Support programmes designed to enhance residents perception of safety in the community eg "Confident Living" programmes.

In relation to traffic and pedestrian safety:

- Advocate for more police resources to deal with dangerous driving and associated anti-social behaviour.
- Support pedestrian safety through the Road Safety Strategy and the Pedestrian Strategy to ensure implementation of pedestrian safety measures at the earliest possible opportunity. Provision should be made for people with impaired mobility.

Environmental Well-being

The Board supports the development and protection of the natural and physical environment of the city and steps that increase environmental well-being in the community. It sees these outcomes as being achieved through:

- Encouragement of community ownership of local "Sustainable Christchurch" projects, and the development of partnerships enabling their effective implementation eg community gardens, waste minimisation schemes, healthy living programmes.
- Continued education of the public in regard to recycling and pollution.

The Board urges funding to complete at the earliest opportunity works designated for "Living Streets" projects and Neighbourhood Improvement Plans. It also supports initiatives and projects aimed at reducing graffiti.

Participation and Consultation

- Advocate for minority representation at both Community Board and Council levels, recognising the viewpoint of non-represented sectors of the community being sought.
- Ensure adequate information exchange and greater promotion of activities to/within the community, as identified by the community (annual plan simplified).
- Further develop participatory processes in Council and Community Board decision-making.

Shirley/Papanui Community Board

The Shirley/Papanui Community Board in its Planning Statement has identified the following issues:

To Foster a Strong Sense of Community

- Continue to improve shared communication and responsibility within the community.
- Encourage people of all ages to become involved in their community.
- Work in partnerships with all sectors and individuals in the community.
- Foster a sense of wellbeing and safety in the community.
- Use all forms of communication to reach different sections of the community, for example youth, elderly.
- Maintain and enhance social initiatives.
- Continue to support out of school programmes for families who can least afford it.
- Support the concept of Living Streets.
- Continue to support Neighbourhood Improvement Plans as living documents.
- Encourage the formation of, and participation in residents groups.

To Maintain and Enhance our Clean Green Natural Environment

- Increase planting of trees, particularly in streetscape, shopping malls. Colourful planting in public space gardens.
- More beautification in the city, trees, gardens, green space, in commercial/retail areas.
- Natural lines rather than linear approach in design.
- Safer parks policy in all parks.
- Develop partnerships with schools, Council, sports, residents and community groups to enhance play space and use of green space.
- Continue partnerships with the Council to enhance existing homes, streams and boundaries with the environment, community gardens, art work.
- Establish more habitat for bird life in our community.
- Keep working on recycling and waterways enhancement, encouraging ownership of street features.
- Encourage planting of edible gardens and community gardens.
- Work in partnership with Environment Canterbury on issues that affect the community.
- Support the Council on the 'warmer homes' initiative.

To Ensure a Built Environment that is In Keeping with the Nature, Scale and Aspirations of the Community.

- Safer cycleways - two lane where possible.
- High standard of services particularly streets and footpaths that meet the expectations of the residents.
- Continue to monitor overhanging trees.
- Support Police and LTSA with traffic and safety initiatives, particularly at intersections.
- Support low speed school zones.
- Work with Environment Canterbury on improved bus services.
- Encourage schools to use "Walking School Buses".
- Support high quality infrastructure for bus services.
- Support Neighbourhood Support.
- Continue to encourage more art in public places in the community.
- Advocate a safe and secure neighbourhood through environmental planning.

- Investigate the efficiency of traffic lights at Northcote/Main North Road/QEII Drive intersection, especially the right turning arrow.
- Advocate for increased safety in parking buildings for example lighting and security cameras. Pre-booked spaces should be at the top floors rather than lower floors.

Recommendation: That (subject to any recommendation of the Committee) the issues identified by the Community Boards be referred to the relevant Units for consideration when preparing their section of the Draft Annual Plan for 2002/03, and that Unit comment be reported to the Annual Plan Working Party when it meets to consider the draft budgets, and to the respective Community Boards.

Chairman's

Recommendation:

1. That as soon as practicable (February or March) in the new Council term the Committee hold a seminar ('the seminar) to discuss proposals for more effective interface with Community Boards at the political level, to then be discussed with the Boards for formal agreement and implementation.
2. That the following be included in these proposals:
 - (a) A meeting with each of the full Boards within the first two months following the seminar to identify:
 - (i) Matters of common concern to all Boards (city-wide issues).
 - (ii) Matters of special concern to Boards in their particular communities.
 - (b) The holding of forums for Boards on matters where both the City Services Committee and the Boards can enhance each other's contributions to major initiatives, eg:
 - Street beautification
 - Anti-litter campaign (being planned)
 - (c) Establishing joint subcommittees for special projects, eg Hornby heavy vehicle management plan.
 - (d) The development of ongoing partnerships between the Committee and Boards generally.