

## 5. 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.

#### **Community Governance**

The Board supports the concept of drawing connections between the community, the private sector and local and central government to enhance governance.

Entering partnerships is one way of building such linkages. The Board has established links with several government agencies, including the Police, the Ministry of Education and the Department of Work and Income. The Aranui Community Renewal, initiated by the Council and Housing New Zealand Limited, is outlined separately below. A relationship with District Health Boards will also be developed.

The Board has embarked on a "strengthening community relationships" initiative with schools in the Burwood/Pegasus area. While this is at an early stage, it is intended to assess the scope for sharing expertise and resources, improving non-educational service delivery and building stronger links between the Board and Boards of Trustees and school principals and the Advocacy Team.

There may be outcomes from these initiatives where Council support is needed or where there is potential for the Council to seek partnerships more widely.

#### **Co-ordination/Facilitation among Community Organisations**

The Board sees a key role for the Council in co-ordinating and facilitating sharing and collaboration among community organisations in the planning, management and delivery of community development, community support and social service delivery. Drawing community organisations together in collaborative approaches may be of more benefit to the community than many "competing" organisations.

As possible examples:

- Out of school programmes could have a “combined” management group that delivers the programme from various alternative sites.
- One organisation may provide the young people’s service while another “works” with the family of the young people.

### **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.

### **Youth**

Engaging the youth of the area in the community is a key issue requiring a collaborative approach from the Council, businesses, schools and parents. In particular, the needs of young people over the age of 12 need to be met more effectively.

The provision of youth facilities and recreational opportunities needs greater emphasis. Many barriers exist to youth participation such as fees, equipment and transport and the Council can contribute to facilitating improved participation.

More opportunities for youth to be heard in the community and Council are also to be encouraged.

### **Funding of Out of School Programmes**

The Board places a high priority on supporting out of school programmes in the area to meet the high demand. The Council is encouraged to advocate to central government for additional resources for these programmes.

The Board suggests that both out of school and holiday programmes should be the responsibility of the same Council Unit. The gap in delivery of programmes for 13 and 14 year olds also needs to be addressed.

### **Community Facilities and Community Centres**

The maintenance and upgrading of community facilities and centres continues to be a pressure point. The Board acknowledges the major commitment made to the refurbishing of the North New Brighton Community Centre but other communities in the area are also seeking upgraded or additional facilities of this kind.

Opportunities for greater community involvement in the management of community centres are being considered, for example with the North New Brighton Community Centre. The Council may be able to facilitate such approaches more widely. Resourcing management committees and providing training for management committee members may also need to be given greater emphasis.

The Board recognises that the community continues to form new places of association and therefore the Board and the Council’s policies and projects must recognise this through resourcing and funding support.

Emphasis is needed on monitoring the community’s ongoing needs for facilities and identifying the alternative facilities available in the community.

An asset management plan of every Council facility needs to be prepared, as a matter of urgency.

### **Relationships with Tangata Whenua**

Forming and maintaining effective relationships with Maori at all levels of the Council is a high priority.

## **Relationships with Cultural Organisations**

Culturally acceptable consultation procedures should be undertaken and the aspirations of all peoples and cultures need to be considered and recognised in the activities of the Council.

## **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.

## **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.

## **FENDALTON/WAIMAIRI COMMUNITY BOARD**

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

### **Enhanced Community Governance**

The Board sees as one of its greatest challenges, the ongoing empowering of its community.

In particular, the Board has identified a number of opportunities for working more closely with community based organisations, and is currently providing more and more support towards such activity.

Overall, the Board sees that the Council should continue to facilitate and promote such opportunities for involving the community in the overall assistance of the community by itself.

The continuation of funding support (not total support) for Community Workers based in community organisations is endorsed by the Board.

### **Out of School Funding**

While concerned at the need for the Council to be involved in such funding the Board acknowledges that today's climate demands that many families require that both parents must work.

To date support has been provided for a number of community based out of school care programmes but the Board was concerned to note recently that access to the metropolitan funding for out of school programmes was denied because of the particular school not being of a low decile ranking, and the particular community not being of low socio-economic status.

The Board submits that there should be a more even approach to the allocation of funding such as this.

### **Community Facilities**

The Board is currently working towards the enhancement of a number of the Council's community facilities in its community. The Board does however see that there is more scope for community involvement in the future management of such facilities and for the ongoing promotion of their use.

The Board does though acknowledge that there are a number of other providers of facilities for use by the community and that it is important that the Council does not provide additional facilities in competition with often under utilised facilities of other providers.

### **HAGLEY/FERRYMEAD COMMUNITY BOARD**

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

#### **Social Initiatives Funding**

The Board is very concerned that Social Initiatives Funding for 2002/03 is proposed to be reduced for the Hagley/Ferrymead Board area with no communication or consultation with either staff or the Board. This could have consequences for Board project funding, and consequences of an uninformed board.

Where a standing committee makes a decision that will affect a community board and the local community like this is should at least consult with the Community Board before the decision is made.

#### **Out of School Programmes**

The Board is concerned about the need and availability for Out of School Programmes and the responsibility the Council has to fund/provide these. The Board considers that Council, along with the Youth and Children's Advocates' must lobby central Government to influence, and seek policy change and additional funding.

#### **Metropolitan versus Local**

While many projects in the Hagley/Ferrymead Wards are local they also have a metropolitan or regional benefit. For example the growth in Sumner is being pushed as an attraction, however there is a tension between keeping it as a local village community and a city-wide attraction. Cemeteries such as Linwood, Bromley, Ruru are further examples as is the development at Heathcote.

The Board would like to discuss the issue of Avebury House as an opportunity for cross-Board boundary working to meet Council's resolution. The Board has funded a study of a facility that is on the border of three community board areas.

#### **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.

#### **E-Government**

The Board would like to discuss the issue of community access to Council information. For example, all projects could be on-line so that anyone could log into the Council projects and see the status of a project.

Board Chairs (at least) should be provided with lap-tops.

## **RICCARTON/WIGRAM COMMUNITY BOARD**

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

### **Community Governance/Social**

- Encourage the growth of social capital to enable positive outcomes for our city, and a healthy democracy.
- Create a vision for the city that encourages partnership and participation by community and social service agencies in achieving that vision.
- Support and encourage minority groups to participate in Council processes.
- Contribute to the building of a civil society by having due regard for the social consequences of all Council policies.
- Encourage the strengthening of community ties across all groups including class, ethnic and religious.
- Council continue to provide affordable Council owned housing for those on limited income.
- Identify what social outcomes are a priority and work with appropriate agencies to ensure those outcomes are met.
- Continue to see Community Boards as the most appropriate body to assist local communities in their decision making process.
- Continue taking part in social research across the city in order to identify needs.

### **Environment**

- 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.

### **Library**

For some years the lack of library services in the west of the city has been notified to Council. At present a library is planned for the 2006/07 budget year. The Board would be grateful if this could be brought forward to meet an urgent need in this community.

## **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.

## **Economic Well-being**

The Board supports the promotion of well-being in the community. It endorses existing initiatives of the Canterbury Development Corporation and urges the Council to continue initiatives to reduce unemployment. The Board also urges a greater level of community involvement in addressing the issues of unemployment.

The Board further believes that recognition of the role of suburban business areas, as providers of employment and community focal points is an important element supporting economic well-being of the community and urges Council support for these areas where practicable.

## **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.

## **Social Well-being**

The Board supports implementation of the Council’s Social Well-Being Policy through a cohesive system of funding, and in particular urges Council support for the following actions and initiatives:

- Continue support for community groups addressing social issues within the community, ie employment, leisure etc.
- Target recreational activities by responding to specific cultural and community needs.
- Better recognise and resource volunteers in Christchurch.
- Continue to support community education, eg community cottages providing parenting skills workshops.
- Provide support for neighbourhood support groups.
- Promote more interaction at a neighbourhood level.
- Keep Council facilities entry fees affordable in response to local communities, eg pricing and accessibility.
- Appoint an advocate representing the aged.
- Contribute to the co-ordination of government, non-government, and local government welfare services for consumers.
- Support programmes/initiatives that enhance social well-being by reducing isolation in identified areas of Spreydon-Heathcote.
- Provide ongoing support for after school, out of school and youth programmes in Spreydon-Heathcote.
- Continue to work with the community to address issues highlighted in research and subsequent community forums.

## **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.

### **Recreation, Leisure and Continuous Learning**

- Opportunities for casual recreation and leisure activities for young people.
- Support and encourage physical activities and initiatives such as Push Play and Walking.
- Continue to support continuing education, particularly computer use through schools after hours.
- Ensure Council run holiday programs are more affordable and accessible.
- Support opportunities for parenting courses and advice.
- Promote existing social agencies.
- Continue to investigate recreation facilities.
- Provide opportunities for people to actively organise sport and recreation activities for themselves.
- Advocate for recreation and leisure facilities to have more flexible hours to meet the work/leisure hours of citizens.
- Facilitate integration of sports clubs to have multi clubs rather than a large number of small clubs who struggle to keep going.
- Advocate for suburban festivals and events.
- Support existing community pools.
- Continue with the joint partnership for a major facility in Papanui.

### **To Support and Encourage Meaningful Work Opportunities and Economic Development in balance with the Natural Environment and Scale of the Community**

- Work with central government to generate employment opportunities.
- Council to continue providing training and apprenticeship opportunities.
- Council advocate to Government on behalf of people who come into communities through refugee and new migrants schemes, that they are adequately provided for and supported when they first arrive.
- Encourage creative (small) businesses into community – seeding grants and appropriate information for these kinds of businesses.
- Advocate funding for employment schemes.
- CCC – lead in setting realistic goals in employment (12 month schemes – 6 months too short).
- Promote and support local businesses.

**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:** That the above recommendation be adopted.