

5. COMMUNITY BOARD PLANNING STATEMENTS – KEY ISSUES

Officer responsible Community Relations Manager	Author Stephen Phillips, DDI 372-2436 Alan Dunlop, DDI 372-2323
---	--

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.

Air Quality

The Board is disappointed at the lack of progress on long term measures to address problems of air quality in Christchurch. The Council is urged to continue advocating to Environment Canterbury for effective action to reduce smog in both the short and the long term. Any decisions taken need to take account of the triple bottom line analysis, in particular the capacity of the community and infrastructure to cope with change.

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.

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.

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.

HAGLEY/FERRYMEAD COMMUNITY BOARD

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

Green Open Space

The Board has commented on a number of occasions about the lack of green open space east of the inner city in the Hagley Ward. The Board would like to see the acquisition of more green open space in this area.

The Board notes the very high amenity values of the Port Hills and the coast line and wants to ensure that Council has a high sense of stewardship of these 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.

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

- Build closer ties with Environment Canterbury, particularly in the areas of monitoring and evaluating environmental impacts which may effect the city and its environs. As part of that process Community Boards and resident groups be invited to participate.

- 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.
- Encourage Council to continue its acquisition of land on the Port Hills for green open space and community access.

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.
- Education programme for dog owners on their responsibilities and increased penalties for failure to abide by Council bylaws.
- 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.

Urban Sprawl

The impact of urban sprawl on the south west of the city. Rezoning of rural land for housing. Rural rates are now at a level that rural property owners close to the city, find it more attractive to subdivide useful agricultural and horticultural land for housing. This has created a large reduction in food producing land close to the city, and created a haphazard approach to growth, which may meet the requirements of planning legislation, but, lacks common sense.

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.

Heritage Protection

The Board supports the provision for more adequate funding for the purchase, renovation and resale of heritage buildings.

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 the information be received and depending on the issue, either fed into the Annual Plan process, or where they currently are under action, due support given by the Committee.
 2. That a letter be sent to the respective Community Boards noting the progress or otherwise with the issues forwarded together with the relative staff member contact details.
 3. That the Central City Mayoral Forum be asked to host a special meeting following the local authority triennial elections, to which all Community Board members be invited to update them with the vision, philosophies and progress being made with Central City issues.