

## 2. DEPUTATIONS BY APPOINTMENT

### (ii) **GE-Free Zone for Christchurch**

Paul de Spa from Groundswell/GE Free Canterbury and Matt Morris of the Organic Garden City Trust wish to address the Committee seeking support for a proposal to declare a GE-Free Zone for Christchurch (separately circulated). The proposal is similar, but not identical, to the one brought by Groundswell in November 1999, which was examined in more detail at a seminar in April 2000. The Committee's response to the earlier proposal was that no further action be taken, until the Council has had the opportunity to examine the report of the Royal Commission on Genetic Modification. Now that the Royal Commission's report has been released (July 2001) and the Government is preparing a national level response to it, Groundswell and the OGCT consider it timely to explore the options open to Christchurch City regarding its policy on use of genetically modified organisms, particularly their use in food and the environment.