

3. 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.

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.

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.

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.

Maintenance of Parks and Reserves

The Board suggests there is a need for the Council to focus greater attention on the maintenance of parks and reserves, especially along waterways. Of particular importance is the need to make provision for adequate ongoing maintenance funding whenever a capital work is planned.

Development of Alternative Playground Experiences

The Board perceives a demand for the provision of different playground experiences across areas and the City. Residents comment upon the "sameness" of Council playgrounds and seek a greater variety of equipment and challenges for children to enhance their physical and mental development and well-being.

Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board

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

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:

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.

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.

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

- Maintain open green space ratios in all areas.
- Continue the rate of water enhancement projects and the protection of natural wetlands.
- 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.
- That the Parks and Waterways Unit produce a consultation document that identifies a strategy for the placement of native and/or exotic plantings. We also encourage Council to see that exotics are planted where appropriate in "The Garden City".

Recreation Facility – Pool

The south west Christchurch area needs a covered pool/recreation facility. We would encourage Council to discuss this issue with Selwyn District Council with a view to funding a joint project close to each others borders.

Disability

That Council increase the amount of public access to parks and public buildings for people with disabilities particularly those people in wheelchairs.

Spreydon/Heathcote Community Board

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

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.

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.

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.

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.