

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 with more widely.

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.

Location of Service Centre/Advocacy Team with Community

As a temporary measure, the Community Board has vacated the boardroom at the Shirley Service Centre to enable the Advocacy Team and associated area staff to be located together. The Board will meet at the Ascot Community Centre until a long term accommodation solution is found.

Extending the Service Centre at Shirley may be an option but there may also be opportunities for locating the Board and the Advocacy Team and area staff at other sites more central to the Burwood/Pegasus area and more accessible to the community. For example, QEII or a site close to the library at New Brighton are options considered by the Board. However, the Board is concerned that a policy of co-locating service centres and libraries is an obstacle to alternatives that may meet the needs of the community more effectively.

Increased Delegation to Community Boards

As identified in the review of Council structures and processes and in the Council's consideration of the review of the Local Government Act, there is considerable scope to build on the success of community boards and delegate additional matters to boards. Areas for consideration include bus stops and shelters, street trees and trees on local and major parks (the definition of local and major parks should also be reviewed). There is also the potential for community boards and the standing committees of the Council to work together more effectively on local issues.

Relationships with Tangata Whenua

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

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.

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.

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.

Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board

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

Decentralisation of Council Services

In recent years the Board has consistently suggested that the Council should continue to make available easily accessible services to its community. Moves over recent years to centralise some previously existing services have been registered with concern in the local community and the alternative for Council customers to have to venture into the city where easy parking is not available, has not been well received.

Notwithstanding this view the Board notes that there are continuing moves to enhance the accommodation for central city staff, and ongoing moves to remove key services from the suburban customer interface. The recent commitment of \$10m to upgrade accommodation in the Civic Offices sends the entirely wrong signal to the community at large, and the Council is seen as becoming an increasingly faceless institution.

The Board believes that the major advances in communication techniques will enable a better service to be available to the community through the consolidation of staff and services in the community, and that this should avoid costly central city accommodation upgrading.

Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board

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

Community Governance and Resourcing

The Board must be resourced in a manner that it is able to meet its objectives and obligations in a new climate of governance where community input and expectation is high. Sufficient and appropriately skilled resources must be available for staff both of the advocacy team and the area advocates from the various council units to enable them to advise and support the board to fulfil their objectives in a manner that meets community expectations and Council policy.

The Board would like input to the Review of the Seeking Community Views Policy and what this means for the Board and the Advocacy Team. Resources must follow the requirement/expectation.

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

- Continue its community governance building using Community Boards as one of its vehicles. Included in this would be greater delegation to Community Boards on issues that affect their communities.
- 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

- 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.

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:

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.

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 Support and Encourage Meaningful Work Opportunities and Economic Development in balance with the Natural Environmental 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.

The Chairman comments:

The Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board comments on facilitating input from Community Boards to Standing Committees. It should be noted that all draft reports have a checklist at the start of the report (not printed in the final version) to ensure that consultation with Community Boards has been carried out if required.

Chairman's

- Recommendation:**
1. 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.
 2. That the attention of relevant staff be drawn to the Burwood/Pegasus Community Board comment on sustainable development with a view to a submission on the current review of the Building Act on the orientation of new houses to the sun.