

9. PARKLANDS BAPTIST CHURCH PROPOSED COMMUNITY POTTERY ROOM

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Corporate Plan Output: Community Board Funded Activities 6.1.9	

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the proposed community pottery room to be based at the Parklands Baptist Church.

BACKGROUND

The Church has put forward a proposal to construct a community pottery room facility alongside the Church's already existing Community Craft Group programme on their Queenspark Drive site. The proposal includes relocating to the pottery room all the pottery equipment formerly based at the Parklands Community Centre. The Community Craft Group has a membership of over 100 people. During the winter period the Group had a programme of 12 crafts with between 70 and 80 people attending weekly.

In working with the Church's proposal the Burwood/Pegasus Community Recreation and Community Development Advisers explored a number of locations in Parklands for the suitable siting of the pottery equipment that was previously located in the Parklands Community Centre. It was concluded the Church was found to be by far the most preferred location for a number of reasons, including there were already a significant number of craft activities based at the Church and the Church/Trust administration will provide full management responsibilities of this community project. Further, members of the Church, members of the Community Craft Group and the Parklands Residents' Association have given their full support for this proposal.

The Church completed draft drawings with an estimated cost of \$32,000. At the 25 September 2001 Board Subcommittee meeting, members allocated \$5,000 from the Board's Community Development Initiatives Fund and \$5,000 from the Discretionary Fund in 2001/2, as a contribution to the construction of the facility, subject to the balance of the project being funded and specified conditions being agreed to by the Church. These conditions are as follows:

- The pottery equipment is to remain located in Parklands/Queenspark.
- The Council are to remain the "owners" of the equipment (listed in an inventory) on behalf of the community.
- The special purpose built facility is to fully meet pottery requirements and to be a community facility available to other groups and organisations to use, with community use taking priority over private or individual use.
- The Parklands Baptist Craft Group is to provide programme development, tutors, supervision and access to other associated craft activities.
- The Church is to provide the land and meet the administration, management, insurance, security and maintenance responsibilities of the equipment and the building.
- The facility is to have independent access for community use as well as direct access through to the Church's community facilities such as toilets, kitchens, and community rooms.
- In the situation of the craft facility or the Church being wound up, the resources provided by the community are to remain available for community use.
- The Craft Group is to provide an annual report on its activities to the Board and the Parklands Residents' Association.

The Subcommittee also requested that the Legal Services Unit advise on the form of and prepare a draft agreement whereby the pottery kiln and other equipment is located at the Church premises and retained for community use. The Solicitor has provided advice and a draft agreement will be prepared for discussion with the Parklands Baptist Church and the Community Craft Group.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

In February, Parklands Baptist Church lodged a resource consent application for the proposed pottery room. In late March Council staff were notified by the Minister of the Church, Alistair Saunders, that the application for a resource consent was declined. It was advised that the Church now has the option of lodging an application for a further resource consent hearing, which will be notified. Staff have been advised that this process generally takes about three months.

Also in February, the Westpac Community Trust confirmed an allocation of \$10,000 to the Church for this project. This leaves a shortfall of approximately \$12,000. The Church has applied to the Council Community Loans Scheme for \$12,000. This scheme had a closing date of 28 March, and the Church will be notified of the outcome in late May/early June. If the loan is approved, the Church intends to then lodge the resource consent.

**Chairperson's
Recommendation:** That the information be received.