

9. SPORT AND RECREATION NEW ZEALAND

The following letter has been received from Sport and Recreation New Zealand (SPARC). The meeting will be held on 23 August. All Community and Leisure Committee members will be invited.

“SPARC is about to undertake a series of meetings with local authorities. The purpose of these meetings is to work towards a new partnering relationship between local authorities and SPARC.

The meetings will commence in the week of 26 August and will be completed by the week ending 4 October. We propose to meet with Councils in groupings which reflect their local community of interest. In cases where we are meeting a group of Councils we will be seeking the assistance of one council to co-ordinate the venue.

The matters we wish to cover in the meetings include:

- *Issues arising from the decision to cease contributions to the Community Sport Fund*
- *Examples of initiatives which Councils are currently supporting, or would like to support, to foster active communities*
- *Any significant gaps which exist or will exist which SPARC should be aware of.*

The intended outcome of this process is the identification of options which could form the basis for local strategies which will be jointly supported by SPARC and the local authorities. This joint support will need to include information, expertise, resources, funding, publicity and facilities.

We would anticipate that Council representatives at these meetings would include Councillors and appropriate senior staff, as well as CSF scheme administrators or possibly community representatives. We will be inviting an appropriate representative of the Regional Sports Trust.

Bruce Stokell is assisting us to co-ordinate and facilitate these meetings. Bruce has a long association with the sector and the issues to be addressed. He will be in contact with Councils in the next week to arrange for venues and finalise dates and times.

We recognise that the announcement of SPARC’s decision in relation to the Community Sport Fund has caused considerable concern and uncertainty. So we see this as an opportunity to communicate directly with Council representatives and to begin building constructive relationships with a view to working together to build active healthy communities.

The Principal Adviser comments:

Please note the Council resolution of 25 July that a seminar meeting be held for all Councillors and Community Board members along with representatives from Sport Canterbury and SPARC.

It is suggested that all Councillors be invited to the meeting, referred to in the above letter, on 23 August.