

14. RICCARTON/WIGRAM ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE REPORT OF 14 MAY 2002

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The purpose of this report is to advise the outcomes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 14 May 2002.

The meeting was attended by Neville Bennett (Chairperson), Paddy Austin, Lesley Keast, Ken Cummings and Mike Mora. Peter Laloli and Bob Shearing were also present.

1. RICCARTON/WIGRAM HERITAGE SITE REGISTER

At its meeting held in July 2000, this Committee received a proposal, that

- the Community Board establish a directory of historic and heritage buildings, features, and sites within the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board area
- the Community Board establish an "award" scheme to recognise those residents/groups who have made a positive contribution to the historic/heritage parts of the community
- develop brochures/booklets
- develop historic walks, etc

The Job Value Statement noted that the Researcher/Writer was required "to identify and establish a directory of heritage buildings, places and objects..."

Included in the 2000/01 Board Objectives was one "to improve the natural and built neighbourhood environment..." the performance indicator stated "...establish a database of heritage and historic places in order to promote and enhance awareness of those in the Riccarton/Wigram community".

The Community Board, at its 2 August 2000 meeting, adopted the proposal.

An ACE worker-scheme person was employed, with some financial assistance from the Board.

Dr Suzanne Doig was appointed, and took up the position in January 2001.

In June 2001 Suzanne gave a full presentation on her project. Since then, the Committee has not picked up on the project work to discuss "where to from here".

At today's meeting Jenny May and Neil Carrie (Heritage Planners) were in attendance, to assist the Committee.

Using the extensive information now available, many possibilities (for ongoing work) were identified

- bound booklet of sites
- heritage walks
- community displays/awareness/ownership
- Riccarton/Wigram website (to tie in with CCC)
- participation in Heritage Week

Agreed, to have an informal "brainstorming" meeting to further advance the heritage theme/project(s).

2. OLD SADDLERY BUILDING, UPPER RICCARTON

Discussion on the restoration plans for this building, situated in Riccarton Road, Upper Riccarton.

The exact date of construction is unclear but the building was standing by 1889, first appearing in the Wisers Directory in 1890.

This two-storeyed, brick building is located at 359 Riccarton Road near the corner of Hanson's Lane, at Upper Riccarton.

The first listed occupier operated his saddlery business there from 1890 until 1901. Between 1901 and 1920 it was a drapery and dressmaking/tailoring establishment. From 1921 to 1924 it was a saddlery business again, until 1941 when it became a produce market.

The old saddlery is a two-storeyed building of cavity brick construction with a corrugated iron, hipped roof. There is a single-storey corrugated iron lean-to at the rear.

A funding proposal was being put together to aid in the restoration of the building.

Some funds from the Environment Committee was sought.

The Committee **agreed** to support the retention and restoration of the old Saddlery Building, and would give further consideration to a financial contribution.

3. **TEA HOUSE, RICCARTON RACECOURSE**

The Committee was in receipt of a letter from the Christchurch Racecourse Reserve Trustees, advising that they had decided not to proceed with the Tea House restoration project. This decision was based on the outcomes of a commissioned report on fundraising for the project, although the Trustees were still interested in the project.

The Tea House was built in 1903, and used as a community facility for social occasions, and race patrons.

In recent years the building has been unoccupied and has deteriorated; it has a Category II listing with NZHPT.

The Committee **agreed** to meet with the Trustees to see if (jointly) the project could be proceeded with.

(The Community Board had previously given a grant to the Trustees to enable a conservation plan to be undertaken.)

4. **WIGRAM AIR BASE, MEMORIAL TO SERVICE PERSONNEL**

A concept plan, was tabled; it depicted the involvement of air training at Wigram, from its origins in 1917.

The Committee **agreed** to accept, in principle, the concept of a memorial at Wigram; further consultation will follow.

5. **PROJECT FUNDS (2001/02) ALLOCATED TO THIS COMMITTEE**

Noted, a current balance of \$3,160.

6. **COMMITTEE ROLES AND FUNCTIONS**

Received.

7. **YOUTH ENVIRONMENT AWARD SCHEME**

The Committee Chairperson **tabled** the following proposal.

The Environment Committee wishes to foster in the community a greater appreciation of our environment and our heritage. It believes that increasing awareness of these issues in youth is both cost effective and effective. It hopes to create a lasting interest in environmental concerns by providing an incentive to study. It is suggested that a prize be made available to certain schools on an annual basis. The schools will determine which age group is eligible to compete for the prize.

It is proposed to trial the concept in Riccarton. Obviously only time will tell if the scheme is capable of making a valuable contribution. It seems reasonable to try the scheme on a limited scale. Riccarton has a history as an independent borough and is exceptionally well endowed with schools and a stimulating environment.

The driving concept is simple. Students are encouraged to provide, either in class or in their leisure, an essay or project in "Riccarton Studies". This could involve heritage such as interesting houses (eg the first state houses, or art deco) or interesting people. It would involve science, such as a study of water life or indigenous flora. It could involve social science – the population, the economy or ethnicity. Perhaps it could study problems such as polluted air or traffic. Let the imagination go!

There are about 10 schools in Riccarton. If the Committee and Board see some merit in the proposal, a suitable next step might be to consult officers with expertise (eg Jenny May) and the principals of two schools. If the prize was set at \$100 the scheme would cost only \$1,000 per annum. I discussed it two years ago with an architect who warmly endorsed it.

The Committee **agreed** to endorse the draft, for further consideration.

8. ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY "LOOKING AHEAD 2002-2011" DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN

The **attached** submission was **endorsed** by the Committee.

9. ONGOING ISSUES

Riperian Rights
Kyoto Protocol
Global Warming
Sea Level Rises

Recommendation: That the report be received.

**Chairman's
Recommendation:** That the report be received.