

CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

NOTES OF A SEMINAR OF THE COUNCIL

Held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices
on Tuesday 2 October 2007 at 9.30am

PRESENT: Councillor Carole Evans (Chair until 10.27am),
Councillors Sally Buck, Barry Corbett, David Cox,
Pat Harrow, Bob Shearing, Gail Sheriff, Sue Wells and
Norm Withers.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received and accepted from
Mayor Garry Moore and Councillors Helen Broughton,
Anna Crighton, and Bob Parker.

An apology for early retirement from the seminar was
received and accepted from Councillor Carole Evans.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Youth Organisations Presenting:

Kim Boyce, (Youth and Cultural Development)
Charlotte Boyes, (Youthline)
Kevin Grimwood, (Youth Workers' Collective)
Chris Shields on behalf of Ross Banbury
(Papanui Youth facility).

Community Board members: Anne Jolliffe, Chris Mene
and Tony Sutcliffe.

Council Officers: Stephen McArthur,
Catherine McDonald, Matthew Pratt and Shailer Hart.

1. **YOUTH SERVICES IN CHRISTCHURCH**

Matthew Pratt (Metropolitan Funding Adviser – Youth) supported by
Shailer Hart (Metropolitan Community Adviser – Youth) spoke to a power
point presentation. (Copy on file.)

Chris Shields (Papanui Youth Facility Te Koru Pou Iho) provided an
overview of the award-winning facility, its operation and how the
cooperation between various church groups and organisations (including the
Shirley-Papanui Board) had brought this community project to fruition
earlier this year. Chris also shared some positive feedback relating to the
rock climbing facility from a Casebrook family.

ACTION

Kim Boyce (Youth and Cultural Development - YCD) spoke to a visual presentation produced by YCD youth. Their aim is to assist youths to find positive alternatives through development programmes, and by exposing them to different experiences. “Street youth” outreach takes place two nights a week, and a healthy meal is provided one night a week. Links are provided to other support services to encourage positive lifestyle changes.

Charlotte Boyes (Youthline) - Eleven centres nationwide, but funded regionally. Provide 24/7 counselling, text and email support services. Personal development courses available and also face-to-face counselling/training.

Emphasised not just a crisis service targeting 10-25 year olds, also contacted by parents, youth workers etc., and support is provided for guidance counsellors. The URGE website for youth, and how to access resources was noted.

Sixty five persons make up the organisation, with two paid roles for 60 hours per week. Governed by a Trust Board, and works in partnership with the Council.

Kevin Grimwood (YWC) – aim is to support and encourage youth work organisations, individual and agency members, provides training for youth workers, and promote CYWC to youth workers, organisations, local and central government.

Kevin then spoke to their mission statement which was included in the tabled documentation. (Copy on file.)

The questions and comments from elected members which arose during the presentation included the following:

- It was noted there are over 200 youth groups: need to avoid duplication. Is there any way funding could be concentrated into a number of areas (a mission for the Canterbury Youth Collective, perhaps?) – to bring about the “best bang for the buck”?
- There was a perception by many that there is “...nothing for young people to do...” – why are the positive aspects of the youth services, facilities and activities available not being promoted more effectively?
- Concern was expressed at the number of youth organisations, with some thinly based: how could these best be rationalised? From within the various organisations?
- The point was made that groups need to feel connected to feel they belong – a number of churches have appointed youth pastors – is it best that these work with smaller groups, rather than a larger collective group?

Councillor Evans then retired from chairing the seminar and delegated the role to Councillor David Cox for the balance of the seminar.

ACTION

- Youth work has an image problem, and frequently seen as “social work” – the work as described during the seminar could be described as “fun” – need to promote this aspect more.
- Clarification was sought on the Council’s funding commitment to Otatauhi Youth Council. It was explained that the Council had signed off on this in 2004 when the Youth Council was reviewed.
- Concern was expressed at the potential for duplication of funding: Charlotte had stated there were over 116 different telephone services which receive funding. The differences between the various organisations which are likely to overlap – e.g. Youthline/Lifeline etc - needs to be looked at closely.
- It was proposed that the various organisations work through the schools in their areas to alert students and staff to the services and facilities available.
- Dissolution of funding and the proliferation of “Trusts” being established was a cause for concern. Need to look at raising the effectiveness of the existing services, and continue to build on these.
- The ongoing negative media coverage concerning youth needs to be refuted by those presenting at this seminar.
- Do most of the youth at risk stem from the lower economic bracket?
- Accountability of funding – how are outcomes measured?
- The amount of funding from central government was questioned – the feeling was that central government should assist more.
- What are the requirements for a sustainable youth organisation? How much self generation of income could be attainable through the agencies?

OUTCOME

The information was received. Council officers were asked to take into account the matters raised during the seminar and provide any additional information as sought by elected members.

Stephen/Catherine
and teams

The seminar concluded at 10.45am.

CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

NOTES OF A SEMINAR OF THE COUNCIL

Held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices
on Tuesday 2 October 2007 at 11am

- PRESENT:** Councillor David Cox, (Chair),
Councillors Barry Corbett, Carole Evans, Pat Harrow,
Bob Shearing, Gail Sheriff, Sue Wells (until 11.34am),
and Norm Withers.
- APOLOGIES:** Apologies for absence were received and accepted from
Mayor Garry Moore and Councillors Helen Broughton,
Anna Crighton, Carole Evans and Bob Parker.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** **Community Board** member Chris Mene.
- Council Officers:** Stephen McArthur, and
Catherine McDonald
- Presenting:**
Robyn Steel (Metropolitan Community
Adviser/Liaison/Housing/Safety, CCC)
- Susan Cambridge, (Road Safety Coordinating Committee)
Martin Ferguson, (Sale of Liquor Inspector, CCC)
Sergeant Al Lawn, (NZ Police)
Barry MacDonald, (Safer Christchurch)
Clare Milne, (Community Development Adviser, CCC)

1. SAFER CHRISTCHURCH UPDATE

Robyn Steel spoke to a power point presentation entitled, "The Safest City in New Zealand" - (copy on file). This provided an update on the Safer Christchurch Strategy, and covered the three goals: Crime Prevention, Injury Prevention, and Road Safety.

Those in attendance then spoke to their particular areas of expertise and answered questions from elected members.

Questions and comments from elected members which arose at the conclusion of the presentation included:

ACTION

Injury Prevention

- Appointment of an Injury Prevention Coordinator: it was suggested an ideal candidate is likely to be amongst the different organisations involved, and that these organisations could all contribute to funding the role.
- ACC data for Christchurch: is this higher rate for Christchurch enhanced by having the Burwood spinal unit based here?

Road Safety

- Are road safety figures available for another city of comparative size? Overseas cities are just as relevant – we should all be sharing information.
- Scandinavian countries, (Copenhagen, Helsinki), plus Amsterdam – have safe cycleways – sought further information on what they are doing. Why is LTNZ not “tapping in” to this information?
- Crash data per thousand of population –information sought on how Christchurch compares with overseas (Australia, America)?
- Christchurch cyclists: the 1930s had more cyclists and fewer cars and now we have fewer cyclists and more cars, but more recorded accidents involving cyclists by comparison with the 1930s – what is the problem?
- Statistics for accidents involving cyclists and cars – is data available to show who is at fault? There appears to be an automatic assumption is the car is at fault, but not necessarily the case.
- Noted that the Draft Regional Land Strategy will be out for public consultation next month – this aims to address some of the issues raised today.

Crime Prevention

- Public information released the day prior to the seminar had cited a 5.2% rise in crime in Canterbury. Elected members again sought a bench mark with overseas cities, e.g. Melbourne. Noted that more pro-active police on the job will affect the number of recorded incidents.
- Some cities have a better quality of life regarding crime aspects – how come? Is there an international benchmark?
- What is the call-out response time in Christchurch?
- Councillor Withers cited the results from his own restorative justice survey conducted 9 years ago: only one victim had indicated they would consider meeting with the perpetrator. Family Group Conferences: Overall considered to be a waste of time - room for improvement.

ACTION

- The single biggest challenge is the increase in drug and alcohol abuse. The Council needs to support the 2 am closing aspiration – citing District Commander’s comments heard through the media recently. The central city is still perceived as unsafe.
- Those present were reminded that the council had set the policy which allowed 24 hour licensing. It was noted that the framework for dialogue between Christchurch licensees and the regulatory authorities has been working well, and considered to be the best New Zealand model. The ease of access to RTDs (with a 12% alcohol content) present a particular problem for youth. The Sale of Liquor Act review is likely to assist the agencies with enforcement. A Variation to the City Plan would need to take place to bring about more effective management.

Coordination and Collaboration

Clare Milne provided an oral overview of graffiti and tagging removal issues, and described moves to bring about social change to alleviate the problem. A project brief had been formulated for a volunteer programme. A pilot series based in Phillipstown covering restoration, education, and removal had resulted in some aspects/guidelines being picked up city wide. Currently looking at the best practice way to move on from the pilot project.

Comments and questions from elected members which followed included:

- The “public annoyance” factor is huge, and the problem is not being managed effectively by current programmes. The public wants results. Elected members get lots of negative feedback. The Police appear to be ineffective.
- The cost for removal for the last financial year was \$966K.
- “Untouchables”? - time for a change – the young folk involved are not being brought to account. Parents need to be accountable – not the council.
- Way forward - the new council needs to work quickly on all the issues raised today, and make some recommendations to bring about some action, not just talk.
- Should be more than one elected member involved in the organisation.
- Lack of support at a higher level experienced - does not want more reporting back, wants more action.
- Graffiti problem at New Brighton had been managed successfully, although it was acknowledged the problem may have simply moved elsewhere. The answer was removal: brushes and paint were supplied to people who lived next to green boxes etc. Commended efforts to date.
- Self determination will need to come through the City Plan review.

Safer Communities Conference

An update was provided on the 17th International World Health Organisation Safer Communities Conference which will be hosted in Christchurch 20-23 October 2008. Visit www.safecom2008.org.nz.

Congratulations and thanks were extended from the Deputy Mayor to those elected members who attended the seminar.

OUTCOME

The information was received. Council officers were asked to take into account the matters raised during the seminar and provide any additional information as sought by elected members.

ACTION

Stephen/Catherine
and teams

The seminar concluded at 12.20pm.