

CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL

NOTES OF A SEMINAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

**Held in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices
on Wednesday 8 February 2006 at 9.30am**

- PRESENT:** Councillor Carole Evans (Chairman to 11.25am),
Councillors Sally Buck, Barry Corbett, Graham Condon
(from 10am), David Cox, Anna Crighton (from 9.34am),
Bob Shearing, Sue Wells and Norm Withers (from 10am).
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Yani Johanson, Dr Neville Bennett and Chris Mene
(Community Board).
- APOLOGIES:** Apologies for absence were received and accepted from
Mayor Garry Moore and Councillor Helen Broughton and
for lateness from Councillors Graham Condon and
Norm Withers.

1. AVON RIVER (CENTRAL CITY) STRATEGY

David Sissons, Parks and Waterways Planner, tabled a draft document titled "Avon River/Otakaro (Central City) Strategy Document" in conjunction with the PowerPoint presentation on the same matter.

The presentation covered:

- How it started
- How it was done
- What's in it and how to achieve it
- Suggestions include:
 - Strategic directions
 - Submission period 20 February to 3 April 2006

Discussion then centred around the status of the document and what was proposed by the consultation process.

Questions and comments were asked in respect of:

- Its link with the City Plan.
- The role of the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board in the process.
- The fact that the Council had not signed off on the Strategy.
- Whether it should in fact be a statement of the City Council's intention rather than a draft Strategy.
- Whether people would think that such matters as closing roads would be implemented without further consultation.
- Whether it included the relocation of old plaques.

Discussion then focused around whether further consultation was in fact needed, there was a need to get on and implement various projects, and whether it should be referred to the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board for urgent consideration.

Information was sought on whether the Council was legally bound to the Strategy. Costs of the further consultation was sought.

It was noted that the original Council resolution of February 2004 approved:

- The draft Avon River (Central City) Strategy being released for public comment.
- That a consultation plan be developed by staff and actioned.

Members were informed that the document tabled was the result of that Council resolution, the original draft document not having gone out for public consultation.

2. **MANUKAU CITY LOCAL BILLS**

At this point in the meeting Councillors Anna Crighton and David Cox retired and Yvonne Palmer, Ngaire Button and Bill Bush, Community Board members, joined the meeting.

This section of the seminar was chaired by Councillor Sue Wells.

It was reported that two local Bills for Manukau City, that of:

- Control of Street Prostitutes Bill
- Control of Graffiti Bill

had been introduced to Parliament and were currently before the Local Government and Environs Select Committee.

Prostitution Bill

A PowerPoint presentation was provided by Judith Cheyne covering:

- Purpose of the Bill
- No provision in the Prostitution Reform Act to cover street walkers
- The key points of the Bill
- Powers of the Police proposed by the Bill

The meeting was informed by David Rolls, Solicitor, that the Council's own Public Places and Signs Bylaw was never designed to cover street walkers but in fact this provision could be drawn. He described the process that would have to be followed if it was to be utilised and the difficulties with this. There was no power of arrest in the Bylaw if people approached were uncooperative.

Questions and comments followed covering:

- The legality of street walkers operating in public places.
- Whether Christchurch City Council's name could be added to the Manukau Bill.
- Because it affected other cities and places throughout the country, it should be a national bill rather than a local one.

- Whether the current Bylaw which was amended to cover buskers could be amended to cover prostitutes.
- Information could be obtained from countries like Holland which had dealt with prostitution for years.
- What happened to the proposed Variation to the City Plan on this issue.
- The use of local MPs such as Lianne Dalziel to support the City Council's case.
- The use of Zone 5 to promote the matter.

It was concluded that:

- There is a need to make a decision by 24 February 2006 on submissions to the Manukau Bill.
- That there was support for further regulation on street walkers.
- That the Manukau City Bill needed to be broadened to include other areas of New Zealand.
- The need to examine the Bill to see if there were any areas of concern with it.

A report is to be brought back to the Council on the Bill including regulating prostitution and what the Council can do in relation to its own Bylaw.

Control of Graffiti Bill

A PowerPoint presentation by Judith Cheyne, Solicitor, covered:

- The purpose of the Graffiti Bill
- The proposal to control the sale of spray paint
- The proposal to create certain graffiti offences
- The powers that the Bill would contain

Questions and comments were made as follows:

- The need to have parents or guardians contribute to the cost.
- Whether the matter should be seen as more serious than warranting just infringement notices.
- Why should local authorities have to have special legislation passed to control public issues.
- The deficiencies in the Local Government Act regarding powers of arrest and backup from the Police.
- Whether parents rather than minors should be prosecuted.
- The fact that the Council is spending millions on the problem and it is time to take a stand.

It was generally concluded that the Manukau approach was to be applauded and a report should be prepared for the 16 February Council meeting and circulated to Community Boards. The Bill should also have a national emphasis.

The seminar concluded at 11.50am.