



**BECKENHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD
ASSOCIATION'S
MILLENNIUM and 21st BIRTHDAY
CELEBRATIONS**

The Beckenham Neighbourhood Association cordially invites all Beckenham residents, especially past committee members, to the planting of the Kowhai Arboretum in Beckenham Park (off the Norwood Street entrance), on

Saturday 30 September 2000, at 11.00am

In conjunction with this Millennium Project, the Association will be celebrating its 21st birthday, and we would welcome you to join us in a bring-your-own picnic lunch. (The school hall will be available in case of inclement weather.)

If you would like to help in the general planting, please bring your own trowels, spades, etc.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

WHEN? Monday 25 September, starting at 7.30 p.m.

WHERE? In the Lounge, Beckenham Methodist Church,
Malcolm Avenue

WHAT? First the usual AGM Business (see below):

And Then...

...our Guest Speaker...

...Councillor Sue Wells...

will lead us into a hopefully lively, vocal and participative evening on the general themes of "Reviving the Neighbourhood Spirit" and "Neighbourhood Support".

Sue is Chairperson of the Joint Community Boards Committee preparing for the city-wide "Good Neighbourhood Week" , which will be happening in late October. She has a lot to tell about positive changes in neighbourhoods both in NZ and overseas, particularly about the benefits gained from Neighbourhood Support Groups.

"The usual AGM Business": Apologies for Absence; Minutes of last AGM; Reports (Chairperson; Finance); Election of Officers and Committee; General Business

Tea and coffee will be served at the close of the meeting .

“City Streets” — A Tale of Two Faces

Depending on whoever is dealing with the matter the Council’s City Streets department seems to wear two faces: one that is open-eyed and community-friendly, the other arrogant, blinkered and insensitive to local concerns. Here’s a real-life example of each.

The Community-Friendly Face

A man from City Design phones. He’s working on proposals for improving the Norwood/Birdwood Sandwich intersection, and he’s received strict instructions that the BNA Committee be invited to comment on draft plans before anything goes out to public consultation. Even though he’s sick he goes into the office to make sure we get enough copies in time for our committee meeting. When I phone him afterwards and relay to him a very strong suggestion from the committee that Beckenham School should also be consulted, he really sounds as if he welcomes the idea.

The Arrogant, Blinkered Face

Probably everyone knows by now that Thorrington Dairy and the neighbouring businesses have been hit hard by the crossing alteration on Colombo Street and the drastic parking restrictions that are part of it.

Those businesses have served this community well for a long time, and all of a sudden they are in danger of being “yellow-lined” out of business. Livelihoods are suddenly threatened with destruction. And who’s done that? Streetworks engineers whose awareness of the impact their schemes can have on local communities seems to extend no further than the roadside gutters. That’s who. And those who have dealt with them know who they are, and how arrogantly they browbeat or simply ignore local concerns that are at odds with their own narrow, blinkered view of things

There’s a certain kind of expert who seems to pride himself (the breed is usually male) on his ability to ignore anything beyond his specialism. Of course they are not all streetworks engineers, but an awful lot of streetworks and traffic engineers seem to be like that.

The sorry situation down on Colombo Street highlights the damage these people can do. A community’s local shops are vital parts of its social fabric, and road schemes that endanger those businesses have a destructive impact that extends far beyond the confines of the kerbs and channels. Of course we want safety on our roads. But communities also need to be treated as more than appendages to the roading system -- otherwise they wither and start to die. We don’t want streetworks engineers who are community-killers. Unfortunately, that’s what some of the ones we have seem to be.

One thing you can do, though, is pop down to the shops and sign their petition. Our local businesses deserve our support.

Community Board Liaison

The Community Board liaison member for the Beckenham neighbourhood area, Cr Sue Wells, can be contacted at 332-1611 (or by e-mail at sue.wells@ccc.govt.nz)

THE HISTORY OF BECKENHAM

Have you read the book that tells the story of your community? *Beckenham—A Suburb of Christchurch* is available from Editions in Thorrrington, from the Beckenham Lotto shop, or from the Beckenham Service Centre, price \$12.

Beckenham Neighbourhood Association Membership 2000/2001 Annual Subscription are now due

I/We wish to join the Beckenham Neighbourhood Association, and enclose the sum of \$_____. Date _____

Name _____



Address _____

Subscription Rates: Family \$5 Business \$5

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