

CAIRNSMORE NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION PLAN UPDATE

The Cairnsmore area has been experiencing challenges that have been associated with crime, substance use, and disarray. At the same time, many people in this neighbourhood are struggling; a number of underlying issues have been identified, including:

- Poverty, lack of opportunities and access to food
- Substance abuse/addiction
- Victimization
- Lack of connections and supports (e.g., youth programming, child care)
- Urban planning practice that has created concentrations of vulnerabilities, and barriers to access

While deterrence and enforcement are important responses in the short term, long term solutions will require a focus on the root issues, and work to increase or support the factors that offset the causes of crime and victimization. Community meetings during 2004/5 identified a range of goals, including:

NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Short term, concrete actions to deter crime and improve the presence and safety of the local area:

- Enforcement and deterrence measures, increase authority
- Clean-up and revitalization
- Business / apartment management practices
- Improving lighting, sidewalks, transportation and other infrastructure
- Improving connections between neighbours and businesses

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Short and medium term actions to strengthen neighbourhood, address barriers, and address pressing issues such as substance use, violence prevention, childcare, youth activities, and basic needs food, clothing, etc.

- Enhance neighbourhood supports / Outreach and support to residents via a community initiative - neighbourhood resource centre; community gardens; neighbourhood kitchens; more childcare and early childhood development programs
- Partnership building to strengthen support, respect and communications - bringing together residents, businesses, local government, and community agencies in a way that supports community, and addresses social needs through a variety of coordinated actions

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

Community and neighbourhood level planning for better involvement in decisions about the future, and more integrated development processes.

- Look at options for more affordable, safe development and housing; addressing homelessness, and other measures that support neighbourhood needs, such as local recreation

Activities

- During 2004/5, a group of individuals comprised of residents, CVOLC staff, administration and students, community organizations, and representation from the City of Duncan, met informally to generate ideas for supporting and enhancing the neighbourhood.
 - A volunteer-based Neighbourhood Action Group was formed to develop stronger community connections, share information and skills, organize community building events, and become a voice in community planning and management matters.
 - The City of Duncan has committed to a process of Neighbourhood Planning in its upcoming OCP review that will look at ways in which planning can address neighbourhood quality of life.
 - A **Cairnsmore Neighbourhood Initiative** was proposed to bring together the whole community – including schools, businesses, community organizations, police, managers and residents – to work together to build a stronger, safer neighbourhood.
 - The Cairnsmore Neighbourhood Action Project is one component of this initiative.
 - The overall aims are to develop neighbourhood capacity, link people with resources, and mobilize actions in partnership with a range of agencies and organizations.
- Examples of actions to include:

- Reaching out and working with young people to support positive youth development and provide positive alternatives
- Building stronger neighbourhood connections
- Attracting resources and connecting the neighbourhood with other community initiatives to strengthen social, economic and cultural assets, for example:
- Supporting efforts such as development of play areas and natural learning spaces
- Enhancing provision of child care
- Intergenerational and intercultural cultural events, other neighbourhood activities
- Localized recreational programming and after school activities

During October – November, 2005, Action Team Staff and Participants have met with approximately 50 community residents and youth to provide input for priorities for action.

DRAFT COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS IDENTIFIED
NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many residents are not happy with apartment maintenance, management, 7-11 24 hour operation, garbage. We need to work cooperatively with the owners of such businesses as 7-11, Bruce's, the large apartment building managers-to try to work together with a supportive approach that would address such ongoing issues as the level of fear in the neighborhood as well as noise, break ins etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First step to organize a meeting between the Cairnsmore Neighborhood Action Project and businesses.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How to address issues such as needles, condoms, excrement? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involve RCMP, Community Policing, Block Watch. Recognize underlying issues such as addiction, poverty, food security; link with broader community to bring in services and resources; lobby for broader social supports, etc. Need to identify source of issues.
COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING / SERVICES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional childcare spaces are needed to accommodate children and families in the area. Funding for more child care spaces is available if up to 90% are considered to be high risk. SF has statistics to help demonstrate this. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth mentors for toddlers such as – reading to them, play dough, teaching young kids old games. Pair up the 2 daycares here with youth for mentoring, reading, Success By Six program to promote healthy family life. Cindy Lise will assist with grants information and communications. Terri Dame will work with Growing Together to explore current funding programs and develop a proposal.
YOUTH PROGRAMMING/SERVICES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase availability of counselling, especially relationship counselling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AT to contact CWAV, CFLA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase hours for Youth Clinic – possibly one that provides a nurse practitioner (if doctor availability is an issue). Also increased hours are needed and transportation problems need to be discussed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project staff will contact Margaret Moss Health Centre Generate ideas re: transportation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A space to hang out that doesn't cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Team to begin by meeting with youth

	OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS IDENTIFIED
	<p>anything</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A recreation centre with a pool table • Fundraising for youth by youth • A theatre group art groups • A place to practice music • More activities • More jobs • Better transit system • A bigger skate park • Volunteer opportunities • More Counselling (especially relationship) • Let people know people who use drugs are NOT bad people • Get a news group • Youth only speakers corner • Tea and crumpets with elderly • Businesses offering a discount or free night one night a week. • Purchase bulk tickets (with fundraised monies) and purchase tickets to pools, theaters, etc and distribute to families/youth in Cairnsmore area. • Neighborhood Bowling night. 	<p>to cement priorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link with CCC Youth Outreach worker, community organizations, and businesses.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need new ways to connect with youth that actually live in this area, not just go to school here • E.g: A meet and greet program involving seniors and youth – seniors give out muffins etc to the youth in a school setting. Successfully done in Lake Cowichan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AT will consult with youth to ask for advice on how to link with local youth
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite business owners in the neighborhood to a dinner (CVOLC possibly) to connect to youth. • Garden mentoring group between youth and seniors. 	

	COMMUNITY PLANNING	
	Revitalization	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Centennial park revitalization project will soon be underway. The City is engaging an architect to produce a new design scheme for the park.Youth presented a range of ideas to incorporate:Better access to bathrooms, payphones, sheltered areas, seating and improved lighting for safety; vandalism a problem, places to sit and more lighting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">City of Duncan to link CVOLC youth with Contracting Architect	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community clean up of area near Cairnsmore Place; idea for picnic area		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Plant more trees (esp. on Blvd on Cairnsmore),Hanging baskets for downtown areaMore garbage cans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Meet with City of Duncan/NC representativesCowichan Community Land Trust is looking for a project to undertake.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Improve area behind Bruce’s Grocery.Shows decay of community right along the street. Maybe some picnic tables and benches and trees and a dog run?		
	Infrastructure	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Traffic: calming, re-routing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">City of Duncan, North Cowichan	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Trucks and school buses using residential streets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Jo Keeping will contact SD 79	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Crossings; signage:Crosswalk by 7-11 and then not again until Berkey’s Corners- safety concern- traffic concernThe hedge at Jubilee and Cavell is too high- can’t see traffic when trying to cross.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A safety audit which includes both senior citizens and youth participants.Safer Futures to forward past safety audit recommendations to City of Duncan for review and update.Submit list to City budget meetings.	
	Planning, Land Use	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Need for more green spaceCommunal grass space needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Link with Jubilee Garden Project; Cowichan Green Community; Cowichan Community Land Trust; St. Andrew’sBring City and DNC together with neighbourhood to discuss.City of Duncan OCP review.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Preserve the old railway line.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Contact Tom Rutherford (creek protection, Dept of Fisheries/Oceans)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Address land use and housing mixAddress affordable housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Link with City of Duncan OCP review.Contact North Cowichan	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighborhood to help create vision, planning for future • Create a neighborhood heritage area 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address transit gaps 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link with City of Duncan OCP review process; contact regional transit authority.
	COMMUNITY BUILDING	
	Communications, Events and Gatherings	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I. Barker offered to donate Christmas open house/fundraiser to youth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Action Team (AT) will work with Irene and youth to support this effort. • Youth could participate by making posters, snack foods or possibly a video of the process in setting this tour up.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family fun night such as a movie night held at one of the following- Duncan Elementary, Khowhemun, Guide Hall. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AT will look into this.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking lot BBQ; community garage sale. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested that Block Watch group may be a network to get people together. • Contact Block Watch leader to communicate this and explore opportunities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold a dog fair - older people who have small dogs are afraid to take them out. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church is interested in being involved.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Notice Board as a way to share local information. Possible location Bruce's grocery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk with Gary Bruce
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community website; teen friendly; ability to interact? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Duncan offered to create web page attached to their site. • Volunteer to design
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community information sessions • Cowichan Intercultural Society • Neighborhood Meetings for planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AT to follow up > contact CVIIAS to discuss ideas. • City of Duncan will be holding neighbourhood meetings as part of their OCP review.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite North Cowichan representation to meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send invitation to North Cowichan.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan December community meeting/event to communicate action plan 	