

## **Annual Report 2020**

The North East Secondary Education Committee Inc. (NESE) advocates for secondary education in North East Christchurch. NESE has been actively informing, persuading and lobbying politicians and the Ministry of Education since 2009. Secondary education remains a high priority for families in our community. Committee members would like to thank all our supporters who share information with us and support us in other ways. We are grateful for your ideas and encouragement.

### **Secondary Schools Enrolment Schemes**

In 2019 all existing secondary school enrolment schemes (zones) were adjusted. New enrolment schemes were proposed and implemented for secondary schools which had not previously had a zone. The co-ed secondary school network now covers the entire city.

The zones for the four single sex schools Avonside Girls', Shirley Boys', Christchurch Girls' and Christchurch Boys' were updated in 2018. These zones now form a second, additional layer above the co-ed secondary school zones. Homes in these zones are now in zone for three secondary schools.

NESE also supported Mairehau High School and Haeata Community Campus sharing a portion of in zone area, giving families the choice of co-ed secondary schools.

Students living in North East Christchurch now have an obvious learning pathway. The schools in our area will grow as students become confident to attend their local secondary school.

### **Key Achievements**

NESE has now achieved two of our major long term goals for Christchurch city.

- 1) All residential addresses fall inside a defined catchment for a secondary school. (Achieved)
- 2) Every home is in zone for both a co-ed and single sex secondary school. (Partially achieved).

All of the 8083 post code area we originally advocated for is now zoned for at least one secondary school. Many homes in the area are now "in zone" for three or four secondary schools.

### **NESE Guide – Investigating Secondary Schools Booklet**

We identified the need to write a parent guide to secondary schools. We are proud of the resulting booklet. We would like to thank our advertising sponsors Subway Parklands, Burwood Pharmacy & Motovated Design & Analysis who enabled us to print 2000 booklets to distribute. They have been very well received. We delivered booklets to local schools, community groups and community spaces. We emailed it to our subscribers. The booklet is available from NESE's website [www.nese.org.nz](http://www.nese.org.nz)

### **Communication with Families**

We email our subscribers when we believe there is something of interest. A newsletter was sent to email subscribers in January.

We wrote an article for Neighbourhood Support's Eye on Communities Magazine, aimed at groups who would like to action change in their community. It describes how to form a committee and when to consider becoming an incorporated society. Contact us if you'd like a copy.

Facebook allows us to share information quickly. In 2019 we published 28 posts. Many posts were shared extensively, well beyond our followers. The posts with the strongest community wide engagement were those about:

- NESE's Investigating Secondary Schools Booklet.
- Two of NESE's goals for Christchurch have now been achieved.
- Photos and videos of the new campus for Avonside Girls' and Shirley Boys' High Schools.
- QEII Park Proposed Traffic Changes.
- Christchurch Secondary School Zone changes.
- Secondary School Open Days.

There was significant interest in our student focused articles. Our popular posts were:-

- Life can be better understood by looking backwards.
- How to save a school.
- Teens need to know the voices in their heads and which ones to follow.
- How to be the best driving instructor for your teen.

### **QEII Park Campus - Traffic Changes**

NESE supported the proposed installation of 40 km/h school speed zones on Travis Road and Bower Avenue. NESE supported reducing the speed limit on Frosts Road from 70km/h to 50 km/h. The local community has wanted Frosts Road to return to 50Kmph for some time.

We also asked that the roundabout shrubs at the intersection of Anzac Avenue, Frosts Road & Travis Road be reduced to one meter in height in conjunction with this work and maintained at this lower height into the future. There had been an increasing number of near misses at this roundabout involving slower vehicles & cyclists, due to poor visibility at the intersection combined with the 70kmph speed. Increasing visibility at this roundabout should help prevent further serious injuries to cyclists and pedestrians. The traffic changes were installed prior to Avonside Girls' and Shirley Boys' opening at their new campus in April. It was pleasing to note the roundabout shrubs were removed and replaced with low plants, improving intersection visibility significantly. Following a subsequent request from both schools, a signalised pedestrian crossing was constructed on Frosts Road.

### **QEII Park Master Plan**

Committee members had previously attended open days at QEII Park to share our community's vision for the future development of QEII Park. These days were great opportunities to be shown around the park, to fully understand the Council's concepts and to hear other people's ideas. The Council has \$3.4 million set aside from selling land to the Ministry of Education. However, this will only pay to tidy up QEII Park. The proposed future developments are currently unfunded, needing funds to be allocated in the Council's Long Term Plan. NESE made a submission to the Master Plan, based on our own consultation and discussions. Council staff had noted that "Early project engagement identified significant community support to maintain free access to the park and not create new commercial areas. There is no plan to provide space for any club or business to have exclusive use." NESE's submission supported this position.

However, in May 2019 the Council decided to set aside the southwest corner of the park for future commercial development paving the way for development. Chris Bond, director of Five Under Par Ltd, wants to lease the land to build an \$11 million complex at QEII Park to include a 280m, 40 bay golf driving range, mini golf course, and eight lane sack slide along with batting cages for softball,

baseball and cricket, sport simulators, pro shop, function rooms and a cafe. The Council has reserved the area for two years so commercial opportunities can be investigated. Any lease will have to go out to public consultation before being approved. If no development is approved within that time, plans for that area will revert back to the wetland, stormwater basin and park as detailed in the draft plan.

The NESE Committee is concerned about this potential development and the consequent loss of the planned extra footpaths for safe student travel to school, green space and stormwater catchment. We feel there is plenty of suitable land nearby, so do not support this area being developed commercially. We will watch this project over the next two years and write a submission when the consultation opens. We encourage others to take an interest in this issue.

### **Consultation and Building Networks in the Community**

NESE committee members continually network and meet people in the community to share ideas and gather public opinion and feedback on education related issues. Last year NESE Committee members consulted widely to maintain good working relationships with elected officials and community leaders. We continue to benefit greatly from their advice and encouragement.

### **NESE's Management Committee 2019**

It has been a busy year with achievements we can be proud of. NESE's Management Committee members are all volunteers from our local community. I would like to thank NESE's Management Committee members for their ongoing commitment towards achieving our community's goals. They are a dedicated group of volunteers. NESE's Management Committee 2019 was Amanda Williams (Chairperson), Greg Morehouse (Vice Chair), Elissa Smith (Secretary) Kerri Rowlands (Treasurer) and Committee Members Rae Mills and Damaris Gutierrez.

Amanda Williams

Chairperson