

## **EARTHSONG COMMUNITY BUILDING**

### **STATEMENT OF INTENT OF EARTHSONG ECO- NEIGHBOURHOOD AND EARTHSONG CENTRE TRUST (22 June 2004)**

1. Earthsong Eco-neighbourhood, at 457 Swanson Rd Ranui, is an innovative cohousing community whose members are involved in a large and varied range of organisations in the wider community. As such they will generate activities as part of Earthsong's community-building and educational vision.
2. Earthsong members recently formed the Earthsong Centre Trust ("the Trust") as a charitable Trust, to establish the Earthsong Centre. This will operate from the Earthsong Community Building.
3. The community building proposed at Earthsong will facilitate the interaction between Earthsong and the wider community. It will be the focus and base where the wider community and individual visitors can learn about and become involved in exchanges, practical activities, information sharing, education and research related to eco-housing, permaculture practices and social sustainability.
4. The Trust and Earthsong owners propose jointly owning and managing the building.
5. The building will serve two distinct but complementary functions :
  - (a) It will be the common house for Earthsong owners , residents and members ("the Earthsong community");
  - (b) It will be the centre from which the Trust will carry out its charitable and community activities in accordance with its Trust Deed among the wider community (which includes the Earthsong community).
6. The Earthsong community, particularly residents, will be making regular use of the building. The children's room, teen room, laundry/craft room and the office will all be required by the

Earthsong community at all times, and thus not be available for wider community use. Shared meals will normally be held at least three times a week, using the kitchen/gallery and the main common room. There will also be regular Earthsong meetings and events (usually in evenings and weekends), as well as informal and spontaneous social use of the building throughout the week.

7. However all these uses will also allow for significant use of a large flexible facility by the wider community. The activities room (upstairs) and the sitting room (downstairs) will be available for small groups and meetings, and the common room for larger groups, seminars and conferences. There is to be an open space adjacent to the north side of the building which could be available for use in conjunction with larger events in the common room, and by arrangement for specific outdoor events.
8. Given the planned building design, compatible uses by both the Earthsong community and the wider community will, with good management, be able to occur at the same time. Earthsong members are likely to be involved in many of the wider community activities held in the building. The Trust will manage all activities in the building and require compliance with all requirements for its use.
9. In addition to the Earthsong community uses referred to in para 6 above, the following wider uses of the building can be accommodated and will be welcomed by the Trust :
  - a) meetings or small group activities (up to 15 people) in either the sitting room or the activities room on weekday evenings and on some weekdays ;
  - b) use of the common room for larger functions, meetings and activities (15-50 people) on some evenings and weekdays;
  - c) larger events (up to 90 people) using the common room, activities room and sitting room for up to 2 days (week days or weekends) up to a maximum of 3-4 times a year;

- d) tea/coffee facilities will be available for all activities, including use of the main kitchen for all functions in the common room.

This would allow for wider community access to some parts of the building for up to half the total useable time each week.

10. By way of example, the following community uses of the building are contemplated :
  - a) educational site tours and open days.
  - b) meetings of groups such as Ranui Action Project (RAP), Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society, Alternatives to Violence Programme (AVP), Waitakere City Council (WCC) environmental or community committees, and other local organisations such as music groups, fitness and health groups, and business & community groups (and visitors) interested in ecological and environmental issues.
  - c) Cultural events such as concerts, film evenings and art exhibitions.
  - d) One or two day seminars/conferences of such organisations as the Soil & Health Association, or a WCC eco-conference/fair.

Any proposed use will require prior approval by the Trust.

11. All uses of the building will be for groups and activities which are compatible with the Earthsong vision statement, and promote the charitable, environmental and community objects of the Trust in accordance with its trust deed.
12. In due course a more detailed Joint Use Agreement will be drawn up between the Trust and Earthsong owners, reflecting the above and covering such other matters as outgoings, maintenance, repairs, security, parking, access, and booking arrangements.

## **SCHEDULE TO STATEMENT OF INTENT**

### **ACCESS TO THE EARTHSONG CENTRE**

#### **AGREEMENT WITH WAITAKERE CITY COUNCIL**

To be reviewed at the end of the loan period

- 1. The Earthsong Centre will be available for public use for up to 500 hours per annum.**
- 2. A record of the actual hours of use and the names of groups and organisations using it will be made available to the Council for the period of the loan through the Memorandum of Understanding process.**
- 3. Promotion of the Centre for use by the wider community will be through existing Earthsong networks (which includes the Council).**
- 4. A booking process will be prepared by the Earthsong Centre Trust and provided to the Council through the Memorandum of Understanding process.**