

schools off 17th Avenue was hit by a car.

Some of Live Oak's problems in the past, vis a vis county government, can be laid to the community's inability or unwillingness to present a strong political front when dealing with county officials.

LOCA president Carl Johns made a strong plea for new members and several audience members signed up at the intermission, paying a \$5 membership fee.

Pat McCormack, executive officer for the county Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), outlined a half dozen ways that Live Oak can gain more political clout in dealing with county government.

Those alternatives range all the way from strengthening the present association, using as a model the influential homeowners' associations in Aptos and their Council of Improvement Assns., to the very remote possibility of incorporation.

McCormack has watched neighborhood and regional improvement associations operate in Santa Cruz, Capitola and Aptos, and regards the five Aptos groups as the best model available.

On a level above the community association, McCormack said, are the Municipal and Planning Advisory Councils.

McCormack said 28 Municipal Advisory Councils (MAC) already exist in California. They represent a total of 330,000 people. "They are totally advisory to the Board of Supervisors," McCormack said, "but they can advise on anything."

A Planning Advisory Council (PAC) is similar to the MAC, he said, but its influence is limited to planning matters.

A step above the MACs and PACs, he said, is an Area Planning Commission. There are only four existing now in California and they are set up by the Board of Supervisors. They replace the County Planning Commission's functions in an area, but there is additional cost involved in their operation, so he doubts if the county would consider it.

The other possibilities discussed by McCormack are annexation to either Capitola or Santa Cruz, or incorporation as a separate city.

"I realize that you feel you are a separate

city," McCormack told the group, "but the cities are better off financially and they have much smaller population bases so Live Oak would have a greater say in their affairs.

"But it is probably not in the best interest of either city to annex you because you would cost them more than the revenue you would generate."

Capitola has a sphere of influence (a preliminary step to annexation that delineates the city's ultimate boundaries) extending to Rodeo Gulch, but the present City Council and administration have been cautious about proposing residential annexations in the Live Oak area.

The last one in the area of 38th Avenue and Brommer Street was dropped in the face of stiff property owner opposition.

Santa Cruz has shunned any suggestions that it annex east of Arana Gulch, and its sphere of influence, now being considered by LAFCO, extends only to 7th Avenue.

McCormack holds out little hope that efforts to incorporate Live Oak would be successful.

A 1970 study cited by McCormack concluded that incorporation of a city of Live Oak would be only marginally viable financially, and that was assuming that the west side of 41st Avenue would be included in the proposed city.

That area has since been annexed by Capitola — so there is even less sales tax revenue available to any new city.