

11. FIREFIGHTERS RESERVE DEVELOPMENT

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the development of a new central city reserve of which the majority is on legal road.

BACKGROUND

In October 2001 Christchurch made a bid for and succeeded in being able to host the 7th World Firefighters Games which will take place at the end of October this year. The Games are a biennial event in which around 4,000 participants from 30 countries compete in 48 different sports. The Games are of special significance this time round as they are the first event after the September 11th World Trade Centre collapse and the Sydney fires.

To commemorate the Games, it is proposed that the area located between Madras and Kilmore Streets and bounded by the Central Firestation and the Oxford Terrace Baptist Church, be developed as a reserve.

DISCUSSION

The name proposed for the reserve is Firefighters Reserve and funding is being sought to implement Stage 1 of the project before mid-October. Although the area exists as partly road and partly green space with no physical thoroughfare, part of the site is held as legal road and action will need to be taken to carry out the necessary road stopping procedure.

Local landscape architect, Wayne Rimmer, has been engaged to work with City Solutions staff to prepare the landscape concept plan (plan attached).

The Parks and Waterways Unit is in the process of undergoing consultation on the concept plan with the fire fighters at the central firestation, the Oxford Terrace Baptist Church, Chester Street West Residents Association and other nearby residents. Preliminary discussion with these groups has occurred but formal comment is being sought in writing.

CONCLUSION

At the conclusion of the consultation being carried out by Parks and Waterways Unit, the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee will be asked to approve the commencement of the formal road stopping procedure.

Staff

Recommendation: That the Committee receive the information and endorse the landscape plan.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.