

4. SCOTT PARK TREE REMOVAL

Officer responsible Park and Waterways Unit Manager	Author Tim Rillstone, DDI 9418030
---	---

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to remove nine trees in Scott Park on the boundary of 35 Checketts Avenue that are causing damage to the property.

CONTEXT OF REPORT

For several years the resident has been concerned about the damage being caused by the large trees planted within one metre of their western boundary, which borders Scott Park. The trees are a mixture of mature Silverbirch, Elms and Robina, nine in total. This report follows-up the site meeting undertaken by the Riccarton/Wigram Environment Committee on the 4 September to view the problem.

RELEVANT CURRENT CONDITION OF TREES

The trees are all in good condition and have good vigour and form. Although this is usually a good thing, in this case it has added to the speed of the damage as the roots are particularly invasive. The roots are lifting sections of the driveway causing cracking and may be contributing to cracks in the house and deck area. The trees were identified as a potential problem some years ago.

A landscape plan was drawn up and implemented with shrub planting going in along the boundary in anticipation of the removal of the trees. There is no room to plant trees further away from the boundary due to the proximity of an adjacent sports field however the shrub planting will be bulked up when the existing trees are removed.

SUMMARY

There is clear evidence that the trees are causing some property damage and have potential to cause extensive damage if left unchecked. This could leave the Christchurch City Council with a large liability claim. The Parks and Waterways Unit proposes to remove these trees as part of our Risk Management programme to reduce our exposure to potential damage claims.

The risk can be mitigated by removing the trees now and adding to the current shrub planting. a start work notice will be distributed to local residents informing them of the proposed work prior to the tree removal and replanting commencing.

Staff

Recommendation: That the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board support the proposed removal of trees in Scott Park as outlined above.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the officer's recommendation be adopted.