

## 12. MEMORIAL AVENUE – LANDSCAPE ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

<b>Officer responsible</b> Community Advocate	<b>Author</b> Tony Gemmill, DDI 941-6701
--------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------

The purpose of this report is to provide an update of progress with the above Board initiative.

The matter was the subject of a combined Parks, Gardens and Waterways Committee/Garden City Advisory Committee/Fendalton-Waimairi Community Board Seminar on Wednesday 16 April. The **attached** report was circulated prior to the hosting of the seminar. A number of Board Members were in attendance and contributed to the discussion.

The Board Chairman introduced the background to the Board's initiative, after which Andrew Craig (Landscape Architect) elaborated on the proposed staged enhancement programme. The Board Chairman advised the meeting of the Board's agreement to "kick start" the project with a financial commitment to provide for the tree planting in the median west of Greers Road, and for planting along the Burnside High School boundary.

Andrew referred to a series of marked up aerial photographs depicting the extent of coverage of the first stage of tree planting, and also tabled a plan detailing the proposed planting in the School which would be funded jointly by the Board and the School.

A number of Members spoke positively of the Board's initiative and spoke also of the desire to retain, or improve, the commemorative aspects of the Avenue.

Reference was also made to a recent additional report which had been prepared by Colin Meurk on behalf of the Council's Biodiversity Strategy Team. A copy of that report, prepared as a supplement to Andrew Craig's report is **attached**. There was no discussion on this tabled report due to the time constraints of the Seminar.

At the conclusion of the Seminar it was agreed that a further report be prepared for the Committee on the concept built on the points raised during the Seminar discussion. It was agreed that this report should be presented to the Board in advance of the presentation to the Committee.

Andrew Craig (Landscape Architect) reports, as follows, subsequent to the Seminar:-

"I would like to advise the Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board that it is necessary to get the implementation process underway as soon as possible if it desires to have the median strip of Memorial Avenue planted this season. The process will involve the ordering of trees (Scarlet Oaks – *Quercus coccinea*), tendering and planting. This planting will represent the implementation of Stage 1 of the Memorial Avenue landscape enhancement project. Planting will have to be undertaken sometime during June or July. It will also include the installation of irrigation.

The Board has allocated funding to undertake this work, which is available this year. Funding amounts to \$12,000 plus \$3,000 for the planting of the Burnside High School Memorial Road frontage.

In the Seminar discussion on 16 April there appeared to be a general view among those attending of the need to get tree planting in the median underway this year.

I would therefore like to ask the Board to confirm whether or not planting of the median with trees can be implemented this year."

### **The Chairman comments:**

"While the initiative of the Board received general support by the Members of the Committee, I am somewhat concerned that the late introduction of the supplementary report has deflected the Board's vision for the overall proposal.

Members will recall that, in addition to the intention for enhancement to the "avenue" aspect of this gateway, the Board was conscious that there also be an attempt through supplementary planting to complement the planting of adjacent landowners in the area. With properties along the length of Memorial Avenue long being recognised for the aspect of coloured planting, and a long recognition for receiving garden awards, the Board's proposal was, more appropriately, aimed at planting of exotic species.

For the above reason I can see no reason for the blending of any of the native species referred to in the supplementary report. If the Board is minded to support this view then I would propose that a strong message be sent to the Committee that the Board's vision remains along the lines of that originally proposed, and which is entirely in keeping with planting in this particular part of the city."

**Chairman's**

**Recommendations:**

That it be recommended to the Parks, Gardens and Waterways Committee:

1. That there should be no introduction of native planting as part of the concept proposed.
2. That subject to the completion of satisfactory public consultation, the proposal for early ordering and acquisition of the trees specified in Stage 1 of the concept be approved, and that planting be arranged in the 2003 planting season.