

7. **WORKS, TRAFFIC AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
**- REPORT OF 15 APRIL 2003**

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The purpose of this report is to submit the following outcomes from the Committee's 15 April meeting.

**Report of a meeting of the Works, Traffic and Environment Committee  
held on Tuesday 15 April 2003 at 8.00 am  
in Meeting Room 1, CCC Fendalton and at various site visits.**

**PRESENT:** Val Carter (Chairman), Sally Buck, George Hampton, Yiyi Ku, Mark Kunnen, Barbara Stewart, Mike Wall and Ron Wright.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Pat Harrow.

Mike Wall departed at 9.30 am at the conclusion of the various site visits to consider a number of tree issues.

George Hampton left the meeting at 10.52 am and was present for all clauses with the exception of decisions made in respect of clauses 2c, 2d and 2e.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cheryl Colley, and for early departure from Mike Wall and George Hampton.

**2. TREE ISSUES – SITE VISITS**

Several tree issues had arisen in recent months which now required a decision in terms of the Board's delegations for approval of tree removal in parks and city streets. In two cases, residents wished to address the Committee on their concerns.

The purpose of the site visits was to provide the Committee with an opportunity to view the tree(s) in question, to receive information from Council staff and to receive submissions from residents before returning to the Council office to formulate outcomes for recommending to the Board.

**a. Millbrook Reserve – Sycamore Tree**

The Committee met on site with Helen Nicholson of 7A Rossall Street to hear of her nuisance concerns regarding the presence of a sycamore tree located on the Millbrook Reserve.

Circulated with the agenda was a copy of correspondence to Mrs Nicholson from the Parks and Waterways Area Advocate (Shirley/Papanui) acknowledging that the tree, although healthy was causing some damage to the driveway and had the potential to create problems in the future. Given the circumstances existing, the Parks and Waterways Unit was willing to support the removal of the tree.

Also noted during the site visit was a need to attend to a Liquid Amber tree also located on the Reserve but overhanging the property boundary.

The Arborist indicated that remedial action to remove the overhanging sections from that tree was appropriate.

Having carried out a site visit and heard from staff, the majority view of members was to favour the removal of the sycamore tree.

Accordingly Val Carter moved "That the Sycamore tree on the Millbrook Reserve be removed." The motion was seconded by Ron Wright and when put to the meeting was declared **carried** on division number 1 by 5 votes to 2, the voting being as follows:

**For (5):** Sally Buck, Val Carter, George Hampton, Yiyi Ku, Ron Wright.  
**Against (2):** Mark Kunnen, Barbara Stewart

b. **14 Heathfield Avenue – Plane Street Tree**

In addition to visiting the site, the Committee also had before it a report from the Council's Arborist in response to a request from the owner of 14 Heathfield Avenue to remove a Plane street tree which precluded the completion of a revamped driveway and footpath crossing servicing the property.

The circumstances leading to the request and a status report on the condition of the tree were highlighted in the staff report which concluded that in the circumstances, including decay, it would be preferable for the tree to be removed and for a replacement tree to be provided in the berm nearby.

In looking to the future, the Committee noted that the officers report made reference to the fact that there may be ways in which such street tree removal requests could be avoided if the question of the positioning of vehicle crossings was dealt with at the time the building and resource consent applications were processed. Such applications are seemingly processed and approvals given in isolation of other environmental considerations such as street tree plantings and public landscape features. This left the Parks and Waterways Unit and the Community Boards with their delegated powers of decision, seriously diminished by situations that were largely a fait accompli.

The Committee also was advised that a meeting between the Environmental Services, City Streets and Parks and Waterways Units was to be held in which the current processes and practices would be examined in the light of these problems and a new process developed.

Also mentioned was a need to possibly involve both the Regulatory and Consents and the Urban Planning and Growth Special Committees in dealing with these matters.

Ron Wright moved "That consent be given to the removal of the Plane tree located outside 14 Heathfield Avenue subject to the applicant bearing the costs of removal and replacement planting with a large nursery stock tree."

The motion was seconded by Barbara Stewart and when put to the meeting was declared **carried** on division number 2 by 5 vote to 2, the voting being as follows:

**For** (5): Sally Buck, Val Carter, George Hampton, Barbara Stewart, Ron Wright.

**Against** (2): Mark Kunnen, Yiyi Ku

c. **58 Hamilton Avenue – Plane Street Tree**

As with the previous clause, the Committee inspected the Plane street tree and considered the matters set out in the Arborist's report which also concluded with a recommendation proposing conditional approval for the tree to be removed.

Some differing views were expressed with it being suggested that as this was a redevelopment yet to be completed, an opportunity seemed to exist to modify the driveway arrangements in such a way that the tree be retained.

Ron Wright moved "That consent be given to the removal of the Plane tree located outside 58 Hamilton Avenue subject to the applicant bearing the costs of removal and replacement planting with a large nursery stock tree."

The motion was seconded by Sally Buck and when put to the meeting was declared **carried** on division number 3 on the casting vote of the Chairman, by 4 votes to 3, the voting being as follows:

**For** (4): Sally Buck, Val Carter (plus Chairman's casting vote), Ron Wright

**Against** (3): Yiyi Ku, Mark Kunnen, Barbara Stewart

**Recommendation:** That the Environmental Services and the City Streets Units be requested to submit a report on the issues involved in respect of both Heathfield Avenue and Hamilton Avenue with particular regard as to why driveway matters are not able to be determined by the Council prior to consent/permit issues being finalised.

d. **Waimakariri Road – Pine Trees**

The Committee met on site with Mr Ted and Mrs Doreen Aitken of 74 Waimakariri Road to hear of their issues and concerns regarding the presence of Pine trees along their northern boundary with the Council's former metal pit site.

- Recommendations:**
1. That the Council's Arborist report back to the Board via this Committee, on the issues raised regarding the Pine trees in Waimakariri Road.
  2. That a report be submitted to the Board on the long term concept plans for the former metal pit site.

e. **4 Derwent Street**

The Committee was advised that coinciding with redevelopment occurring on the property, a street tree outside 4 Derwent Street had been shifted in advance of any consideration by the Board.

Val Carter moved "That retrospective approval be given for the relocation of the existing street tree outside 4 Derwent Street subject to the property owner being responsible for looking after the tree including its replacement if required, in the future."

The motion was seconded by Sally Buck and when put to the meeting was declared **carried** on division number 4 by 5 votes to 1, the voting being as follows:

**For(5):** Sally Buck, Val Carter, Yiyi Ku, Barbara Stewart, Ron Wright

**Against(1):** Mark Kunnen

3. **STYX RIVER DEVELOPMENT DOWNSTREAM FROM HAREWOOD ROAD**

The Committee undertook a site visit to the area and received a presentation from the Styx Project Area Leader, Christine Heremaia and from Dr Colin Meurk.

An accompanying staff report was also circulated outlining details of the development of the Styx River Esplanade Reserve extending eastwards from Croftwood Lane through to Chilvers Way.

The Committee upon return to the Council office, discussed the component aspects of the reserve development and again highlighted was the Board's expectation that planting plans include common names alongside their botanical counterparts.

Also mentioned was the matter of planting aftercare and a need to again look at the specifications of contracts to ensure that maintenance post planting was undertaken to an acceptable standard.

Staff noted the Committee's sentiments on both these matters.

- Recommendation:** That the proposed planting and path construction for the esplanade reserve adjacent to the Teear and Chilvers developments along with the proposed seating area and art works associated with the Donnithorne development, be approved.

The meeting concluded at 11.10 am.

**Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the report be received and the recommendations therein be adopted.