

10. HOLLISS AVENUE – NEIGHBOURHOOD IMPROVEMENT WORKS

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the outcome of the consultation and proposed amendments to the new concept plan for Holliss Avenue.

BACKGROUND

In 1999 a petition was received from residents requesting that the Council consider the installation of judder bars at Holliss Park to address the problem of speeding in the street.

Holliss Avenue is a local road with a 12 metre carriageway that runs off Centaurus Road up onto the hill area. Towards the Centaurus Road end of the street, the road is flatter and on the eastern side of this section is a park that is popular with children and families.

DISCUSSION

The project team looked at several options for the section of road adjacent to the park. The proposal that went out to the public for consultation was a short chicane that reduced the carriageway to one-way, created a safe crossing area for pedestrians and removed some on-street parking. The project team felt that this option best met the community concerns and the aims and objectives of the project.

In January 2003, 135 leaflets (attached plan – issue A 23/10/03) were distributed to residents and property owners of Holliss Avenue, Gunns Crescent and Glamis Place. Thirty-eight replies were received. The community was divided in their support for the proposal, with 18 being in favour and 17 against. Several submissions indicated they would have preferred two speed humps in the flatter section of the street and six replies had concerns about the amount of parking that would be lost with the proposal. The residents of Gunns Crescent indicated that they had concerns about the speed of traffic as it comes down from further up Holliss Avenue and felt that Council should be addressing safety issues at the Holliss Avenue/Gunns Crescent intersection.

From the information received from the replies, the Project Team have looked again at the concerns raised and the aims and objectives of the project.

- *Holliss Avenue/Gunns Crescent intersection*

This intersection was looked at when the project was initiated and it was found that the main volume of traffic from the hill area is from Gunns Crescent, but Holliss Avenue has the right-of-way. This slows the Gunns Crescent traffic because vehicles have to “give way”. If the priority was altered so that Holliss Avenue had to “give way” then this would require considerable physical work to alter the straight through nature of Holliss Avenue. It would also result in an increase in traffic volumes exiting Gunns Crescent at higher speeds and this would lead to higher speeds past the park. For the above reasons this option was not pursued.

- *Speed Humps*

Speed humps were not considered an appropriate treatment in the street as they create issues for the immediate neighbours and so alternative treatments were looked at.

- *Amended Proposal (see attached plan – issue 1 31/3/03)*

The amended proposal is to narrow the street with a kerb build-out on either side and allow two-way traffic. It will reduce the amount of carriageway for pedestrians to cross, and will slow traffic. Parking at the park will be reduced by six spaces, but this is six fewer than the original proposal. A speed check in 1999 recorded an average speed of 50 k/hr and an 85th percentile of 60k/hr on the flat area by the park. However, the downhill traffic average was higher than the uphill, with an average of 54 k/hr and an 85th percentile of 65k/hr for the downhill traffic. A speed survey is recommended following construction to determine the effectiveness of the amended proposal and if necessary a raised platform could be added at a later stage.

This project has a budget provision of \$67,000.

CONCLUSION

The amended proposal addresses the concerns raised initially by the community in their petition, the issues raised through the consultation process and meets the aims and objectives of the project. It is proposed to redistribute the amended proposal with an explanation to the wider community, Residents' Association, and those who responded to the leaflet.

Staff

Recommendation: That the information be received.