

### 13. MAIN ROADS AMENITY PLANTING

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of work on the Main Roads Amenity Planting project, and seek direction for future works.

#### DISCUSSION

Last year's annual plan process resulted in a City Streets budget line item – 'Main Roads Amenity Planting' being created. The budget was set at \$75,000 per year. The purpose of the budget is to provide for more planting of street trees along arterial roads.

Planting along the causeway was identified as the first main road that should be considered for amenity planting. From in-house discussions, it was decided to develop an initial concept for the full route City to Sumner. The following paragraphs discuss the initial work that has been undertaken on this matter. At this stage the work has been conducted purely in-house. No public consultation has yet been done.

#### CITY TO SUMNER ROUTE AMENITY PLANTING

##### CONCEPT

The route from central city to Sumner, has over the years, had some initiatives to establish more trees. A 1990's celebration planting resulted in a number of Pohutukawas being planted in Peacock's Gallop and the upgrading of Woolston Town and parts of Ferry Road have resulted in more trees. The 'Crimson Trail' initiative looked at getting more Pohutukawas planted especially at McCormacks Bay.

The trip to Sumner is important with significant vistas along the Heathcote River, to the estuary and beyond into Pegasus Bay. It has some notable historical sites as well as unique landscapes providing a special character to the route.

The concept looks at the route in roughly two equal sections: Ferrymead to Sumner and Ferrymead to the city and then building on some already established planting themes.

From Ferrymead to Sumner the use of Norfolk Pines and Pohutukawa is suggested. The Norfolk Pine has strong connections to the beach for many New Zealanders and equally so the Pohutukawa. The Norfolk Pine will grow to a good size in Sumner and is reasonably hardy to our conditions. Christchurch is stretching the Pohutukawa's southern limit but it will grow in more sheltered protected sites.

Where space allows, the Norfolk Pine will be planted which will provide a strong continual connection along the road while Pohutukawas in more protected sites will give added interest and colour.

The section from Ferrymead to the City Central has been more problematic in getting extra trees established but by using a combination of private land ownership (landscape setbacks etc) and public land more trees can be planted. Because there are already a number of oak plantings along the route it is proposed to use the Scarlet Oak. The tree is deciduous, which during the winter months in built up areas, is important, it is also hardy and has a spectacular autumn display.

##### RECOMMENDED ACTION

The route is significant for Christchurch commuters. There will be some difficult issues in getting extra planting along parts of it, but there are also some real possibilities to strengthen its visual appeal, if these issues can be resolved.

If the Committee is comfortable with the concepts outlined for the City to Sumner Amenity Planting, then the City Streets Unit will develop the concepts further, suggesting priorities along the route, and developing estimated timelines and budget. The proposals will come back to the Committee for consideration prior to any wider consultation.

## **FUTURE DIRECTION OF MAIN ROADS AMENITY PLANTING PROJECT**

At this stage, the City Streets Unit is uncertain whether there are any other particular projects in mind for this funding, or whether there is a set of conditions or criteria that should be met before this funding is allocated. The City Streets Unit would like to avoid the situation where projects are selected randomly and subsequently fail to stand-up against other suggestions in the design or consultation process.

The Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee is asked to give guidance to the City Streets Unit on allocation of this project funding. Possible options for consideration are:

- The Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee directs a series of main roads, in priority order, that it would like to see this funding allocated beginning with Ferry Road from Ferrymead to Sumner with special reference to the causeway.
- The Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee seeks the establishment of a set of criteria that will determine the expenditure priorities. Such criteria may include:
  - Existing level of planting,
  - Vehicle numbers,
  - Dual or single carriageway,
  - The nature of the road.
- The Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee decide that this funding be used to increase the landscaping component of programmed kerb and channel work only on arterials (major/minor or both).

The City Streets Unit will be able to respond to each of these options, and therefore has no particular recommendation on any of the above to offer the Committee.

### **Staff**

- Recommendation:**
1. That the City Streets Unit develop the City to Sumner amenity planting plan further and report back to the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee, prior to consultation.
  2. That the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee directs a series of main roads in priority order, that it would like to see this funding allocated to beginning with Ferry Road from Ferrymead to Sumner with special reference to the causeway.

### **Chairman's**

- Recommendation:** That the above recommendations be adopted.