

## 5. WORCESTER STREET (THROUGH LATIMER SQUARE): PROPOSED ROAD STOPPING

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Board that the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee will be asked at its meeting on 12 August 2003 to recommend to the Council that the section of Worcester Street from Latimer Square West to Madras Street (that is, the section of Worcester Street through Latimer Square) be formally stopped under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1974.

### SCOPE/PROCESS

To legally stop road in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1974, the 10<sup>th</sup> Schedule to the Act first requires a resolution of the full Council after a survey of the road to be stopped has been made. The survey has been carried out and the plan of survey (SO 323707) was approved as to survey on 24 June 2003. The Board is being presented with this report for information.

### BACKGROUND

The submissions from the consultations, neighbourhood meetings and the Neighbourhood Plan have indicated that Worcester Street be closed to through traffic. This would enable Latimer Square to become one large green space with no through traffic or parking, enabling it to be used for recreation and entertainment activities.

Following a report from the 9 December 2002 joint meeting of the Arts, Cultural and Heritage Committee, Parks Gardens and Waterways Committee, Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee and the Board, the Council resolved on 12 December 2002 that:

*“road stopping procedure for that part of Worcester Street going through the park in Latimer Square be commenced.”*

As part of the preparation for the road stopping there was a need to establish the effects the stopping would have on the surrounding streets and the roading network within the Central Business District. In February 2003 traffic counts, intersection counts, pedestrian numbers and through traffic number plate checks were carried out. This information was forwarded to a consultant for analysis. John Falconer (Transport Planner - Network, City Streets Unit) comments as follows on the consultant's report:

*“An independent consultant was commissioned to study the traffic impact of the closure. The resulting report ('Analysis of Traffic Count Data undertaken for the Christchurch City Council' - Gabites Porter March 2003) concluded that whilst the closure will result in a reduction of the total road capacity in the area, the roads and intersections in the vicinity will still operate below capacity, with only minor (insignificant) changes in vehicle travel time.”*

### CITY PLAN

As Worcester Street from Latimer Square West to Madras Street was not shown as a road to be stopped in the City Plan there was a need for a variation to the City Plan. David Campbell (Planner) prepared a report to the Regulatory and Consents Committee and the Council recommending that a Variation to the City Plan be notified to show the section of Worcester Street through Latimer Square as a road to be stopped.

On 26 June 2003 the Council resolved:

*“That the Council publicly notify Variation 82 pursuant to Clause 16A of the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991”*

It is proposed to notify this variation and the road stopping at the same time to avoid any confusion for the public.

## STOPPED ROAD TO BE HELD AS RECREATION RESERVE

Subject to the road being successfully stopped, it is intended that all the land comprised in the stopped road be declared and formally held by Council as a recreation reserve under Section 17 of the Reserves Act 1977. Latimer Square (on both sides of Worcester Street) is vested in the Council for an estate in fee simple as reserve for the purposes of Lawns, Ornamental Gardens and Ornamental Buildings under the Christchurch City (Reserves) Empowering Act 1971. Subject to the provisions of this Act the reserve is held and administered subject to the provisions of the Reserves Act 1977 (formerly the Reserves and Domains Act 1953). By holding the stopped road as recreation reserve this land will effectively become part of Latimer Square and able to be administered under the Reserves Act 1977.

## RESOLUTION REQUIRED OF COUNCIL

The following Council resolution is required:

*That Pursuant to Section 342(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 1974, and in the manner provided in Schedule 10 to this Act, the Christchurch City Council hereby resolves to stop the road as shown on the plan and described in the schedule below.*

## SCHEDULE

All that parcel of land situated in the City of Christchurch and shown as "Road to be Stopped" and described as follows:

Plan	Shown	Adjoining	Title	Area
SO 323707	Section 1	Reserve (SO 11834)	Lawns, Ornamental Gardens and Ornamental Buildings Section 7 (1) Christchurch City (Reserves) Empowering Act 1971	1643m2

## RECOMMENDATION: FOR THE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT AND UTILITIES COMMITTEE TO COUNCIL

The following recommendation is being included in the report to the Sustainable Transport and Utilities Committee:

1. *That the above resolution be adopted.*
2. *That pursuant to Section 345(1)(b) of the Local Government Act 1974 the Council affirm the intent to commence the process under the provisions of Section 14 of the Reserves Act 1977 (subject to the road being successfully stopped), to declare the land (Section 1 SO 323707) to be recreation reserve.*

## Staff

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.

## Chairperson's

**Recommendation:** That the information be received.