

5. STREET TREES – ELM GROVE

Officer responsible Parks and Waterways Manager	Author Warwick Scadden, Area Parks & Waterways Advocate, DDI 941-6614
---	---

The purpose of this report is to inform Board members of the issues relating to the four street trees in Elm Grove, the consultation that has occurred, and the outcome.

BACKGROUND

Elm Grove is a short street adjoining Fitzgerald Avenue, near the intersection with Avonside Drive.

Four Elm trees (*Ulmus procera*) exist in the street: two at the entry from Fitzgerald Ave (approximately 20 years old); and two mid way along the street at a bend (approximately 30 years old). During 2002 residents complained about problems caused by suckers (shoots growing from the root system of the trees) at the street entry, around foundations, private garden areas and lawns.

Previous attempts by City Care to control the suckering by herbicide spraying had not been effective. It was noted also that the two Elm trees mid way along the street were causing problems with suckering in adjacent properties.

Discussions were held with the Parks and Waterways arboricultural team which advised that several complaints about the suckering had been received and with the existing species of Elm, suckering would continue to be a problem.

CONSULTATION

On 28 February 2003, a letter of consultation was sent to forty two properties in the immediate area and nine submissions have been received.

The majority of respondents have stated that the Elm trees have created problems due to the suckering and that they should be replaced with a non suckering species.

Following discussions with the arboricultural team it has been concluded that due to the ongoing suckering problems of the existing four Elm trees, they should be removed, the stumps poisoned and the site replanted with four Chinese Elm trees (*Ulmus parvifolia*) a non suckering species, which has been successfully planted elsewhere in Christchurch.

SUMMARY

Four Elm trees (*Ulmus procera*) growing in Elm Grove have been the subjects of complaints from residents concerning damage to residential property from root suckers.

Past efforts at control have been ineffective and following consultation residents have requested that they be replaced with a non suckering species.

Staff

Recommendation: That the information be received.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the information be received.