

12. ST ALBANS PARK – TOILET BLOCK REFURBISHMENT

Officer responsible Parks and Waterways Manager	Author Kirsty Patten, Parks and Waterways Area Advocate - DDI 941-6702
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The purpose of this report is to update the Board on the St Albans Park Toilet Block refurbishment, following consultation with local residents.

BACKGROUND

Board members will recall that there is funding available in the current financial year for refurbishment of the toilet facilities in St Albans Park. This proposal has come about because of community concerns about the safety of the amenities, unsavoury behaviour occurring around and within the toilets and the general age limitations of the toilets.

A local Landscape Architect, Grant Edge, was commissioned to develop a concept of the toilets as a park art feature, using colour and 1970s detailing to highlight and draw attention to the toilet block. It also offered an opportunity to have a unique look to a toilet and integrate it with the wider St Albans area development plans. The toilet re-fit moves the male cubicles closer to the road and has all toilet doorways opening to the east side of the building, increasing the opportunities for informal surveillance of this area.

The proposed plan was tabled at the 17 March 2003 seminar meeting of the Shirley/Papanui Community Board with the recommendation that the plan be circulated to local residents for their comments and feedback.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

A public information leaflet (PIL) showing a concept plan of the proposed refurbishment was distributed for comment to those residents adjacent to and that have an outlook to the park. Information was also circulated with the St Albans Community Newsletter (STAN) and on a noticeboard located on St Albans Park outside the toilet block. In addition to this, there has been an article highlighting these changes in the Pegasus Post community newspaper.

To date there has been no response generated from community consultation, however this would appear to indicate there is no significant opposition to the proposal. Informal response to the concept has suggested a high level of support for the refurbishment, with much approval for the relocation of the unsafe men's cubicles.

WORK PROGRAM AND FUNDING

The Parks and Waterways Unit anticipate construction will begin approximately mid-August and construction time for the new facility is expected to be 12 weeks. The additional landscaping will be carried out at the conclusion of the alterations.

The Parks and Waterways Unit 5 year Capital Works Programme has the following allocated for St Albans Park toilet block upgrade:

2003/04	\$20,000	Shirley/Papanui Community Board Project Funds
2003/04	\$Balance	Parks & Waterways Capital Works Programme – Building Equipment Upgrades

CONCLUSION

The toilet refurbishment will bring the St Albans facility up to a safer parks standard and will tie the whole complex in with the recently refurbished play facilities. Re-siting the cubicles and adding low-level lighting will increase the perception of an attractive and safe area.

Staff

Recommendation: That the Board approve the proposed refurbishment for the St Albans Park toilet block.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the staff recommendation be adopted.