

## 10. JELLIE PARK POND ENHANCEMENT PLAN – UPDATE

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Corporate Plan Output: Parks and Waterways	

The purpose of this report is to update the Board on the Jellie Park Pond Enhancement Plan following consultation with local residents.

### BACKGROUND

Board members will recall the Jellie Park Pond Enhancement plan was tabled at the 20 February 2003 meeting of the Works, Traffic and Environment Committee with the recommendation that the plan be circulated to local residents for their comments and feedback.

The opportunity was taken to involve Pat Harrow in discussion with the Council's Landscape Architect to elaborate on the minor amendments to the plan that were agreed to by the Board.

Some of the notable features of the proposed development are the reshaping of the pond to form islands in the centre of the water, re-contouring the banks and edges of the pond, better utilisation of the heat pump water from the pool, and the construction of courtyard seating areas at various locations around the pond.

### COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The proposed plan was circulated in early April to approximately 650 local residents in the area bounded by Greers Road, Ilam Road, Truman Road and Chateau Drive. Sixty-five residents returned comment forms giving their feedback, which is a very pleasing result. Overall the proposed plan drew a very positive response from the local community with many residents thanking the Council for the opportunity to participate in the consultation process.

The majority of the comments and requests focused on the following:

- The need to ensure high visibility to keep this area safe for park users.
- Strong support from residents in Cottesmore Close for an avenue of deciduous trees and the removal of the existing conifers in the area due to shading.
- Also mentioned were suggestions to change the pebble beaches to sand beaches so stones cannot be used against the wildfowl.
- There were several requests for inclusion of native planting both on pond edges as well as single specimen trees.
- Pedestrian and vehicle traffic conflict on the Greers Road access to Aqualand was an issue raised by many of the park users.
- Several park users asked for the retention of the existing pond perimeter path and the top chip path.

An interim reply has been sent to all respondents thanking them for their input and letting them know we will be in touch with details of the development programme.

### PLAN AMENDMENTS

- Many residents commented on the need to ensure high visibility was kept in this area making the pond area safe for park users and it is envisaged that the planting will reflect that wish by keeping sight lines open and vegetation very low.
- There was strong support from residents in the Cottesmore Close area for the creation of an avenue of deciduous trees and the removal of the existing conifers in the area due to the perceived shading from these trees.

While the Parks and Waterways Unit acknowledges the concerns of the residents in this area, it is also important these trees are recognised as visually important. They serve as a screening and boundary defining planting useful as a buffer against wind and vehicle noise from Greers Road and the accessway to Aqualand. These conifers extend from Greers Road along the rear of the Cottesmore Close residents' properties and at points are planted very close together.

It is recommended removing up to a third of the conifers in this area to allow for the planting of the new deciduous avenue and also to allow for the remainder of the conifers to develop without hindrance. It is envisaged that as the new deciduous avenue grows and develops the conifers on this boundary will continue to be thinned out and gradually be superseded by the new planting.

- It is recommended the pebble beaches are changed to sand beaches given the predilection by youngsters to use the pebbles as projectiles to attack the ducks. Crushed metal will still be used throughout the regraded margins, outside of the beach areas, that are under water.
- There were several requests for inclusion of native planting both on pond edges as well as single specimen trees. These requests would be met by including single specimen trees such as Rimu, Miro, and Matai as well as planting a mix of exotic and native water margin plants.
- Pedestrian and vehicle traffic conflict on the Greers Road access to Aqualand was an issue raised by many of the park users. This road is used by pedestrians to access Jellie Park as well as access to Chateau Drive Reserve and the swimming pool complex. This issue is worthy of further investigation and planning.
- It is proposed to change the alignment of some of the perimeter paths to meet the interests of several residents who wished to retain the ability to walk close to the waters edge. The retention of the top chip path is also proposed until such time as its usage and values has been determined. It is proposed that this top path should be kept at least until all the new paths and courtyards have been constructed.

#### **DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AND FUTURE FUNDING**

At this stage it is anticipated that the first priority will focus on laying the new water pipe at the top of the pond near Hewlings Stream and beginning the earthworks to remove the wooden edges around the pond that are collapsing. This will lead to re-contouring the banks and altering the peninsula to form the islands.

The Parks and Waterways 5 year Capital Works Programme has the following for Jellie Park Pond Enhancement.

**(Please note that future funding is still subject to Council confirming budget expenditure for that particular year)**

<b>2001/02</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>carried forward</b>
<b>2002/03</b>	<b>\$32,000</b>	<b>from Parks and Waterways Capital Works Programme</b>
<b>2003/04</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>	<b>from Parks and Waterways Capital Works Programme</b>
<b>2004/05</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>	<b>from Parks and Waterways Capital Works Programme</b>
<b>2005/06</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>	<b>from Parks and Waterways Capital Works Programme</b>

#### **CONCLUSION**

The development of the pond area at Jellie Park will be a wonderful opportunity to enhance that area of the park and provide a better integration between the pond area and the surrounding park.

The local residents seem very enthusiastic to see work commence on their park and we are confident that the redevelopment will provide improved recreational opportunities for the local community.

#### **Staff**

- Recommendations:**
1. That the proposed amendments to the redevelopment plan for Jellie Park be adopted.
  2. That, at the appropriate time, any future suggestions for tree removal be referred to the Board for decision.

#### **Chairman's**

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