

4. COMMUNITY PRIDE GARDEN AWARDS

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| Officer responsible Parks and Waterways Manager | Author Warwick Scadden, Parks & Waterways Area Advocate, DDI 941-6614 |
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The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval to add a category to the garden awards scheme, in an effort to further enhance the Garden City image.

BACKGROUND

Community Pride Garden Awards were first established in 1989 to encourage civic pride and acknowledge residential and commercial gardeners' efforts in contributing to the overall image of Christchurch as the Garden City.

The Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board, in addition, has a category for City Council Housing areas and Commercial properties.

The selection of those properties deserving an award is made by members of the Christchurch Beautifying Association, in conjunction with a Board member, who make the selection on the basis of the appearance of the garden of the property when viewed from the street. All properties within the Board area are eligible for inclusion and no formal entry process is required.

PROPOSAL

Mr Brian Briggs, a past President of the Christchurch Beautifying Association has suggested a new category for consideration, due to the increasing number of high fences erected on residential front boundaries. Although many of the high fences are attractive, because they are often installed on the front boundary line, this precludes any planting. Encouraging residents to set fences back a minimum of 300mm from the boundary would allow for planting along the strip, and whether this involved annuals, perennials, suitable shrubs or climbing plants, it would have a greater effect of beautification upon the street scene.

It has been noted that in areas where redevelopment has occurred, particularly in the Hagley ward, the presence of high front fences can create a stark appearance. With the inclusion of plants along the frontage there is the potential for a softer, more harmonious appearance.

It is considered that if this initiative is introduced in the Hagley and Ferrymead wards initially, it could then be adopted in other Board areas across the city.

While a budget has not been prepared, costs would be minimal. Some promotion through City Scene would be necessary together with an additional cost for the extra award certificates presented to recipients at the usual Community Pride Garden Award functions.

CONCLUSION

Community Pride Garden Awards have become established as an excellent method of acknowledging the efforts of residential and commercial gardeners in contributing to the garden city image with their properties as viewed from the street. A new category to encourage residents to plant outside their fence frontage and to provide a minimum of 300mm for planting when installing fences on the property frontage will create additional opportunities for beautification of the street scene.

Staff

- Recommendation:**
1. That a new category for the Community Pride Garden Awards be introduced in 2004 to encourage residents to plant outside the fence frontage and where fencing is proposed, that encouragement be given for it to be set back a minimum of 300mm to provide space for planting.
 2. That publicity and promotion be undertaken through the City Scene in readiness for January 2004.
 3. That Mr Brian Briggs of the Christchurch Beautifying Association be thanked for his initiative in this matter.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the recommendations be adopted.