

10. CHARLESTON NEIGHBOURHOOD IMPROVEMENT PLAN

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Board of the outcomes of the consultation on Charles Street and Barbour Street south and seek approval to proceed with final design and construction.

BACKGROUND

The Charleston Neighbourhood Improvement plan was published in September 2001 and in 2002 Earl Bennett, Landscape Architect was employed to produce some concepts for the streets.

At a meeting on Thursday 5 September 2002 the concept designs were presented to the residents and agreement reached on a co-ordinated solution for the streets. It included no road humps, narrowing and textured surfaces, platforms at entrances, textured intersections, offsetting of the carriageway where space permits, planting, and signage at the entranceways.

DISCUSSION

Publicity plans for Charles Street and Barbour Street south was distributed to residents, businesses, and the Charleston Neighbourhood Association in mid January. Enlarged copies of the plans were also displayed at Edmonds Gardens, the Tackle Shop and Post Shop.

Eight replies were received for Barbour Street south and generally they were in favour of the proposed work. Concerns raised or requested:

- Samoan Church would like an extra restraint because of hoons in the area – *This would not stop the “hoons” and would interfere with the heavy traffic of the businesses.*
- Two businesses have expressed concern about access for heavy trucks or over length vehicles to the businesses – *The proposed work will not impede access to the businesses. They may however have to wait for other traffic to exit the intersections or street before proceeding.*
- One business has also questioned the proposed turning area at the railway end of Barbour Street. They are concerned that by narrowing the street and providing enhancement and a turning area will have a detrimental effect on their business – *The narrowing of the street will not impede access to the business properties and the turning area has been designed to cater for a 8.5 metre truck using the driveways to make a three point turn. There is not enough space for the construction of a full cul-de-sac head.*
- Would prefer cobbled area raised – *Community requested that cobbled area not be raised due to possible vibrations and raising the cobbled areas could impede heavy vehicle access.*
- Concern expressed as to access when Jade Stadium is in use – *Access will not be denied but it will require care when streets are parked out but this only occurs for a limited number of days a year.*
- Two property owners have requested new vehicle accesses as part of the work – *These will be negotiated with the property owners when the design is being finalised.*

Three replies were received to the Charles Street pamphlet and they were generally in favour of the proposed work. The only concern was would trucks be able to negotiate the intersections and roundabouts – *The turning circles have been used by the designers to make sure that heavy vehicles such as trucks can negotiate the narrowed corners and the roundabouts are flat cobbled areas which heavy vehicles will be able to drive over.*

The Charleston Neighbourhood Association has asked why chicanes were not used in Barbour Street south as voted on at the September meeting. They also have some concerns about the type of trees that are to be planted.

A chicane has not been used in the south section of Barbour Street for two reasons – One is that the kerb and channel is only being renewed on one side (eastern) of the street and to place a chicane here would have required the repositioning of the kerb on the western side. The second is access for the heavy vehicles through this section of the street. A chicane would be very difficult to negotiate when backing a large vehicle down this street to a business.

The trees shown on the publicity plan are two deciduous and two evergreen types of trees that are on the list shown on the Neighbourhood Plan. The list was displayed at the meeting in September 2002 and the only comment recorded at the meeting was a request to avoid wind-pollinated deciduous trees. The City Solutions Landscape Architect has advised that the trees proposed reflect what is already in Charles Street and the Charles Street Reserve. The four trees picked are from the list. The birch is a wind pollinated tree but already exists in the area.

CONCLUSION

As the concerns and requests from the residents, property owners, businesses and Charleston Neighbourhood Association can be met Council Officers request that approval be given for the proposed work for Barbour Street south and Charles Street proceed to design and construction.

Staff

Recommendation: That the Barbour Street south and the Charles Street projects proceed to design and construction.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the recommendation be adopted.