

## 7. NEW BRIGHTON ROUNDABOUT PLANTING

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The purpose of this report is to update the Board on the proposed planting options for the New Brighton/Pages Road roundabout.

### BACKGROUND

The existing planting on the New Brighton roundabout has been removed as it was in need of replacing.

There is also kerb and channel work underway along New Brighton Road (Bower Avenue to Hawke Street) which will be changing the alignment of the kerb at the corner of New Brighton Road and Hawke Street.

Therefore it was identified that the intersection as a whole could be looked at for planting so that an entrance or gateway feel to New Brighton could be created.

### OPTIONS

After discussions with both Council officers and New Brighton Taskforce members it was decided to produce two planting options, one using exotic plant species and the second native plant species.

Firstly, the exotic option has a large transplanted Phoenix palm in the middle of the roundabout and flowering groundcover plants below. This theme also links with the existing palms in the mall area.

The native plant option has three Cabbage trees in the centre with low growing native plants around the perimeter and also extending to the surrounding planting beds.

### COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The plans have been taken by the Community Technical Adviser to two residents' groups (New Brighton Residents' Association and Bexley Residents' Association) and also distributed to some members of the New Brighton Taskforce.

The plans have also been displayed in the New Brighton Library for six days.

The results of consultation are relatively evenly split in favour of the two plans.

Firstly, the New Brighton Residents' Association liked both plans, with an even split in preference. The Association also suggested going out to the wider community and that is why the plans were displayed in the Library.

The Bexley Residents' Association preferred the exotic plan mainly because of the dislike of Cabbage trees.

The New Brighton Library feedback was:

- 15 preferred the exotic plan
- 21 preferred the native plan
- 1 wanted the native with the palms instead of cabbage trees
- 3 did not want anything there at all for visibility for traffic.

The New Brighton Taskforce has not formally met to discuss these plans. However, after discussions a member was not keen on the Phoenix palm option. The member does suggest using exotic groundcover plants so that there is more colour and flowers included.

### DISCUSSION

After considering the feedback from the residents' groups and the library the option to have a mix of both plans seems to be the logical conclusion.

Therefore, Council officers recommend that the Phoenix palm is placed in the roundabout island with flowering seaside plants around the base.

The surrounding planting areas against the residents' fences could have an increase in number of Cabbage trees to create a backdrop of native plantings with a mix of both native and exotic groundcovers underneath. The islands near the road could continue with the seaside colourful planting using the same species as the middle island.

#### **SAFETY ISSUES**

The planting of tall species such as Phoenix palm or Cabbage trees in the middle of the roundabout was discussed with the City Streets Unit. The Unit has undertaken a safety check using the angles for the drivers lines of view and has given a verbal agreement that planting of these species will not become a safety problem for traffic.

#### **TIMING OF PLANTING**

It is hoped that the roundabout could be planted before Christmas with November being the best time to transplant Phoenix palms. An irrigation system will be linked up to the existing system so that plants will get the moisture over the summer months.

The surrounding plantings will need to be left until next autumn because of the timing of the adjacent Hawke Street road works.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The re-planting of the New Brighton roundabout and the surrounding intersection planting will enhance the area and will give a positive statement about New Brighton being a seaside community and the gateway to the New Brighton Mall Precinct.

#### **Staff**

**Recommendation:** That the Board approve a blend of the two planting options for the New Brighton/Pages Road roundabout with the Phoenix palm in the centre island and the cabbage trees around the perimeter of the intersection.

#### **The Community Advocate reports:**

The Board's Artworks in Burwood/Pegasus Working Party has previously identified the roundabout site as suitable for a feature artwork as a gateway to New Brighton. Board members may wish to progress this proposal in association with the New Brighton Taskforce. However, the roundabout will require some planting in the meantime should the Board want to pursue this.

#### **Chairperson's**

**Recommendation:**

1. That the Board approve low level planting for the New Brighton/Pages Road roundabout as an interim step.
2. That the Board consider options of a feature artwork on the roundabout.