

8. **RICCARTON/WIGRAM ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
REPORT OF 7 OCTOBER 2003 MEETING**

<b>Officer responsible</b> Community Advocate	<b>Author</b> Roger Cave, Community Secretary, DDI 941 6502
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The purpose of this report is to submit the outcomes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 7 October 2003.

The meeting was attended by Neville Bennett, Lesley Keast and Mike Mora.

Ishwar Ganda was also in attendance.

Apologies were received from Paddy Austin and Ken Cummings.

**1 "NATIVE TREES PLEASE" INTERPRETATION**

On behalf of the Parks and Waterways Manager, Alison Taylor-Hayhurst was in attendance to discuss with the Board the interpretation options for the "Native Trees Please" site of Westmorland East Valley Reserve.

The original request, for the Board to support this project, was made in February 2002. At that time it was envisaged that the onsite signage would be placed onto 'information panels'.

'Interpretation Posts' were now being favoured.

The Board **agreed** to art posts at the East Valley Reserve, and that the Parks Unit also provide a "Learning Outside the Classroom" programme planner and map brochures to the local schools.

**2 KYLE PARK BMX TRACK, REMEDIAL WORK**

The Parks and Waterways Area Advocate, Rod Whearty, sought the Committee's support to funding assistance to enable his Unit to carry out remedial work on the Kyle Park BMX track.

The Christchurch BMX Club have been operating from Kyle Park for 23 years. Approximately 3 years ago the previous Water Services Unit relocated the Club and track approximately 100 metres to the north of their original site to make way for the formation of a storm water detention basin.

The club's track area was previously fenced, but with the relocation the track area was left unfenced and facility now provides a well used and valued recreational opportunity for local children.

Since the relocation, the club has spent a considerable amount of time and money on maintaining and repairing the surface of the track. One of the issues facing the club is the on-going problem of the track's sub grade continually being exposed, largely due to the increased amount of community use that the track now receives.

The club has successfully bid to hold the South Island Championships in February 2004 and the National Championships in 2005.

Club representatives recently presented a proposal to Parks and Waterways staff during an on-site meeting to rectify the problem. The Club's proposal is to chip seal the track to stabilise the surface, reduce wear and prevent the sub surface stones being continually exposed.

A non-abrasive material like clay will then be placed as a riding surface.

Due to the urgency of the work the Parks and Waterways Unit has agreed to meet the \$23,000 cost for chip sealing the track out of this year's Capital Works Programme and the work is already underway.

Because of the recreational value of the track to local children the Parks and Waterways Unit seeks a \$5000 contribution from the Board towards this project.

The Club has acknowledged that it will be responsible for the track from this point on and will not make any further claims on the Council in relation to the track.

The Parks and Waterways Unit seeks a \$5000 contribution from the Board towards the resealing.

The balance of the Project Funds available to the Committee was \$25,000.

The Committee was supportive of the request; their recommendation is recorded under clause 6 of this report.

### **3. UPPER RICCARTON DOMAIN REDEVELOPMENT PLAN**

The Community Secretary provided a report which (as well as providing a brief history on the Domain issues) provided the results of the August 2003 community consultation and of the recent public meeting.

#### **CURRENT POSITION, COMMUNITY FEEDBACK**

In late August 2003 the Parks and Waterways Unit put out an extensive redevelopment plan to the wider (domain) community; feedback was sought by Friday 19 September 2003.

The plan identified:

- Two possible locations for the new playground, at Sayers Crescent and on the old bowling club site
- A toilet block location for both playground options
- The staged tree replacement programme (to be over 5 years, as opposed to 10 years as suggested by the arboricultural report)
- Other features, including
  - Additional carparking on the driveway
  - Utilising the hard surface of the bowling club
  - Additional internal pathways
  - Landscaping enhancement opportunities

Of the 120 replies, 73% favoured a playground at the Yaldhurst Road end of the domain. Two thirds of the respondents offered comment on the playground location, toilet block, trees, parking and sport club buildings. Twelve persons wished to be involved in the playground design work.

A public meeting, held on Wednesday 24 September 2003, was attended by 20 residents, Board members and Council officers.

Issues discussed included:

- the tree replacement programme
- the location and design for the new/upgrade playground at Yaldhurst Road on the existing site
- the state of the soccer club building and general safety and security issues.

#### **CONCLUSIONS**

The community feedback has endorsed the broad concept of the Domain Redevelopment Plan:

- The playground to remain at the Yaldhurst Road end; the preference to the existing site was supported by a majority of those who attended the public meeting, but opportunities still exist for siting on the former bowling club site.
- An advancement to the new toilet block (it is currently programmed for 2007/08).
- The tree replacement programme to be staged over a 5 year period, with a rebalancing of work between years one and two.
- The residents be invited to assist the landscape architect in the Yaldhurst Road frontage.

- The final design work to come back to the Environment Committee for acceptance.

#### **COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION**

The Committee **agreed** to suspend standing orders so as to allow the residents present in the public gallery to offer comments on the community feedback.

Comments made included:

- the need to remove some (specifically identified) trees, as they are causing property damage
- more public seating
- current site is not ideal, from a health and safety aspect
- relocation onto existing (winter bowling club) hard surface preferred
- could retain existing site and establish complimentary site onto hard surface area

The Committee was supportive of the staff recommendations; these have been carried forward to clause 6 of this report.

#### **4 BRIGADOON PLACE, STREET TREE REMOVAL**

The Community Advocate reported on a recent meeting with residents of Brigadoon Place regarding eight silver birch trees which (the Parks Unit agreed) posed a safety risk to residents.

The Parks Unit were keen to initiate a replanting programme when agreement was given to remove the trees.

The Committee was supportive of the report; their recommendation is recorded in clause 6 of this report.

#### **5 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE PROJECT FUND APPROVALS 2003/04**

From the \$40,000 approved by the Community Board, the following allocations have been made:

CCC/ECan/Lincoln study award scheme	\$5,000
Crosbie Park, half basketball court	\$2,500
landscaping	\$7,500
Washbourne House, relocation	\$7,500
Kyle Park BMX Track	\$5,000
Balance	\$20,000

## 8. Cont'd

### 6 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 That the Board affirm its previous allocation of funds to the 'Native Trees Please' project to be used for art post signage and that educational material be made available to local schools.
- 2 That the Board allocate \$5,000 towards the work undertaken at the Kyle Park BMX track, to be funded from the Environment Committee Project Fund.
- 3 That the Board approve the removal/replacement of the eight silver birch trees in Brigadoon Reserve, with the complete work to be undertaken as soon as practicable.
- 4 In respect of the Upper Riccarton Domain Redevelopment Plan, that:
  - the Board receive the community feedback
  - that the matters identified in the "conclusions" portion of this report be now worked through by the Parks and Waterways Advocate and Community Advocate
  - the completed plan be brought back to the Environment Committee and Community Board for acceptance

#### **Chairman's**

**Recommendation:** That the report be received and the recommendations contained within Clause 6 be adopted.