

9. BURWOOD WAR MEMORIAL ENHANCEMENT

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The purpose of this report is to provide information to the Board concerning progress with the Burwood War Memorial project and to present the final landscape plan outlining the work to be carried out.

BACKGROUND

The Burwood War Memorial enhancement project was first initiated in discussions between local residents, members of the Community Board, and Council staff during 2000. Whilst the memorial itself had been recognised as being in reasonable condition, the area of surrounding land was not, and it was agreed unanimously that work was needed to lift its appearance.

In 2001, the former Burwood/Pegasus Parks and Waterways Area Advocate met with the Principal of Burwood Primary School to explore ideas for its enhancement. The Principal indicated that although the land on which the memorial is situated was gifted to the school by the Waimairi Council in 1989 (as part of "Tomorrows Schools"), it was of small interest to the school and they were happy for it to be gifted to the Christchurch City Council. Accordingly, the Council agreed to take on the land and to apply to the Ministry of Education for an appropriate portion of the land parcel containing the memorial to be transferred back into Council ownership. The land parcel's transfer of ownership is currently in progress with the Ministry and expectations are for this to be finalised before long.

CONSULTATION PROCESS

A project team consisting of Council staff and two remaining members of the Burwood War Memorial Association worked to draw up a preliminary concept plan that reflected the memorial as a focal point for remembrance. The intention was for the concept to be used as a starter to engage community interest in progressing the design, and to present it to key stakeholder groups for discussion and feedback.

In September 2002 the Parks and Waterways Area Advocate met with the Burwood Primary School Principal, Horseshoe Lake Residents' Association and the Windsor/Westhaven Residents' Group to outline the proposal and seek feedback/comment on its design. As a result, several recommendations were made which saw the draft plan refined to meet a common vision.

The adjusted proposal was then circulated in September 2003 to nearby residents, the New Brighton Returned Services Association, New Zealand Historic Places Trust, Burwood Primary School Board of Trustees and the New Brighton Road Anglican All Saints Church. It was also sent to those stakeholders previously involved, and was made available for general viewing at the Shirley Service Centre Library.

RESULTS

A total of 16 residents along Lake Terrace Road and New Brighton Road and eight stakeholder groups were sent a copy of the adjusted proposal inviting feedback. Six written responses and two phone calls have been received, the response rate is at 33%. Respondents were asked to indicate their acceptance/non acceptance of the plan and were given the opportunity to comment.

The results are:

- I accept the proposed plan 100%
- I do not accept the proposed plan Nil.

Feedback on the design indicates a significant majority of respondents were happy with what has been proposed. However, three choose to suggest some changes. Their comments have been abridged and are listed below:

- Minimise damage to grass by planting low level box hedging around the perimeter of the footpath.
- Extend the crushed lime pathway across the lawn to, and around, the memorial.
- Do not plant tulips, they will not last on the grassy area exposed to wind.
- Retain the paved surfacing as grass around the memorial will look unattractive to me.

Overall, the consultation process has drawn an extremely positive response from the local community, with many of the key stakeholder groups appreciating this opportunity to get involved in the design stage. A number of residents also remarked on how lovely it was to learn the memorial is to receive an upgrade.

With some slight amendments, based on the comments listed above, there is a good basis to proceed with the plan.

FEATURES OF PLAN

Key features of the proposed plan include:

- Relocation of the front boundary stone wall to the area north of the memorial.
- Installation of two Oamaru stone blocks, located at either end of the stone wall, with letters carved into them referring to World War I and II.
- Removal of the existing paved surface area around the memorial to be replaced with lawn and red flowering tulip bulbs.
- Installation of a crushed lime pathway, with stone edge paving, to separate the lawn area from the boundary wall and red flowering shrub hedging.
- Two heritage style seats to be located in front of the proposed stone wall with sweeping views along the Avon River.

FUNDING

The Board has allocated over the past two successive years a total of \$10,000 towards the project. The two members of the Burwood Memorial Committee, now in their eighties, would like to contribute the Committee's remaining funds of \$500 towards the heritage style seats. An additional top up amount of \$8,000 has been sourced from the 2003/04 Parks and Waterways Capital Works budget to help bring the project to completion.

The total estimated cost for construction of the landscape proposal is estimated to be \$17,000. This figure assumes that the individual components value that makes up the overall item price can be provided, and has been based on commercial landscape contracting rates.

CONCLUSION

The Burwood War Memorial project has helped foster a sense of community ownership and guardianship which has been an invaluable experience for the people involved. The Parks and Waterways Unit, along with the stakeholder groups, is keen to see the landscape work complete in time for the upcoming Anzac Day Commemorations on 25 April 2004.

Staff

- Recommendations:**
1. That the information be received.
 2. That the Board approve the Burwood War Memorial landscape proposal, and support its implementation.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the abovementioned recommendations be adopted.