

5. FORBES AND ANGUS STREETS

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The purpose of this report is to seek the Board's approval to proceed with public consultation on a proposal to enhance the Jackson Creek waterway and open up the entrance to Bradford Park; having gained general community agreement to the layout for the kerb and channel renewal in Forbes and Angus Streets.

BACKGROUND

Forbes and Angus Streets run from Colombo Street to Devon Street and are due for kerb and channel renewal in 2003/04 and 2005/06. The work will involve new kerb and channel, footpaths, and grass berms where possible.

Initial discussions were held with internal stakeholders and questionnaires were distributed to all residents and property owners requesting information about their concerns and aspirations for the street. The residents requested that consideration be given to traffic calming and the main concern raised was through-traffic and the "race track" like behaviour that occurs when young people socialise at KFC in Colombo Street. The requests suggested staff investigate making the streets into cul-de-sacs and there be no through-traffic.

At the intersection of the two streets is an entrance into Bradford Park. Council officers looked at several options for the intersection and two options – one closing the road to through-traffic and the other a narrow carriageway to slow traffic. These were presented to residents of both streets at a meeting held on 20 May 2003. The outcome from the meeting of three Community Board members, nine residents (including two of the businesses in the area) and two Council officers, was that the intersection be designed in such a way as to eliminate through-traffic, open up the entrance to the park and enhance the waterway (Jackson Creek) in the area. The decisions from the meeting were unanimous.

DISCUSSION

A publicity leaflet, showing both Forbes and Angus Streets as cul-de-sacs was distributed to the residents in Forbes, Angus, Beaumont, Devon and Shelley Streets and that section of Colombo Street from Devon Street to Angus Street. The response to this proposal was overwhelmingly in favour of the two streets being cul-de-sacs.

Thirteen replies were received. Twelve were in favour of the proposal to close off the two streets and one reply did not state whether they supported it or not. Comments received included:

- What a good idea
- Will reduce hoons
- Reasonably happy
- Sooner the better
- Great idea; and
- Totally support

The Urban Design Team comments as follows:

Forbes and Angus Streets are located in the *Sydenham Neighbourhood Improvement Plan* area and are 'asset poor' in terms of kerb and channel, street trees, etc. These streets also have more 'unique' features which could be upgraded, eg Bradford Park entrance and Jacksons Creek. Furthermore, the area's residential character has been eroded by the proximity of a new supermarket and subsequent traffic signals. For these reasons, in terms of urban renewal, the Forbes-Angus project meets multiple aims and Urban Renewal are contributing time and funds to help further enhance this 'nook' of Sydenham.

Following receipt of the replies and the community consent to the proposal to limit vehicle access through the intersection of Forbes and Angus Streets, the Project Team has worked with members of Parks and Waterways Unit and the Urban Design team to produce a landscape concept for the intersection and the entrance to Bradford Park.

The concept proposes the naturalisation of Jacksons Creek and the enhancement of the intersection of Forbes and Angus Streets.

The aims and objectives of the proposal are:

- To retain access to property, and cycle and pedestrian access between the streets
- To improve the street appearance, park frontage and waterway
- Provide passive recreation opportunities
- Enhance the ecological values of the waterway
- Improve the land drainage values
- Provide cultural/historical interpretation and artwork

The existing culvert for Jacksons Creek is to be reduced in length and new headwalls constructed to feature the historic brick barrel that passes under the driveway. The new driveway and cycle and pedestrian crossing points will require balustrades. It is proposed that these could include some artwork that relates to the history of this neighbourhood. A site for an interpretation panel has been identified adjacent to Jacksons Creek.

The proposed character of planting throughout the corner will reflect Christchurch's colonial history with a predominance of northern hemisphere deciduous trees. The evergreen magnolia proposed outside 30 Forbes Street has been selected to provide a year-round focal point that emphasises the lack of vehicle access between the streets. Small mounds will help to highlight the separation of the roads. Access to the park is provided via a new sealed path and timber footbridge. An informal chip path passes a seating area on the south bank, then crosses the creek on boulder stepping stones. The re-contoured waterway is to have uniform margin planting of sedges along each bank within the flood plain. The sloped bank on the northern side provides an option for ferns or a flowering groundcover such as bluebells. Some of the landscaped area in the streets also provide the opportunity for colourful groundcovers such as white flowering carpet roses or ivy. The plant bed on the southern bank could include a mix of native shrubs and flowering plants such as azaleas and hydrangeas.

The cost estimate for this project combining the City Streets kerb and channel renewal works, Parks and Waterways and Urban Design and Heritage is \$480,000.

CONCLUSION

The proposal for Forbes and Angus Streets that was distributed to residents in August 2003 met the aspirations of the residents to reduce through-traffic and also the objectives of the kerb and channel renewal project. This proposal indicated that the intersection and entrance to Bradford Park would be enhanced. The community has indicated to Council that it agrees to the proposed concept for the roading pattern. Council officers would now like to expand the consultation and receive community comment on the proposed landscape concept for the intersection and the entrance to Bradford Park.

Staff

Recommendation: That the landscape concept plan for the intersection of Forbes and Angus Streets and the entrance to Bradford Park be approved for public consultation.

Chairman's

Recommendation: The City Streets Unit, Parks and Waterways Unit and Urban Design team have collaborated on this proposal. I support the staff recommendation.