

6. RICCARTON/WIGRAM WORKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE - REPORT OF 22 NOVEMBER 1999 MEETING

The Board received a report on the Committee meeting held on Monday 22 November 1999.

6.1 Streetscape Sites

Over recent meetings the Committee has been discussing various street sites which could be suitable for street enhancement, ie planting of (appropriate species) trees onto the carriageway or road reserve.

The Board has set aside \$10,000 project funds (1999/00) for street enhancement; this fund also covers the installation of welcome signs (see clause 4).

The Board **agreed** to support Peverel Street (Wainui to Euston) and Springs Road (Gibson to Halswell Junction) as suitable for street enhancement, subject to concept plans and Board funds being available.

Also supported was a proposal for replanting the median through Hornby, again being subject to plans and costing information.

Arising from a resident of Picton Avenue's letter, the current street landscaping there will be reviewed; a proposal to put trees back into Picton Avenue will also be pursued.

6.2 POPLAR TREES, FOREMANS ROAD / LESLIE PARK

The Area Parks Officer (Anne Cosson) sought a recommendation on the possible removal of some of the Poplar trees from the Foremans Road frontage of Leslie Park.

Over the past few years the Parks Unit has received ongoing complaints about the Poplar trees. The complaints have been about the volume of leaves, problems with shading and generally the health of the trees.

The Parks Unit has assessed the trees and reports that approximately half of the trees are in poor health and of poor form. As a number of the trees need to be removed for health and safety reasons, it is considered timely to consider the long term plan of the Foremans Road frontage to the park.

It is considered that the best option, long term, would be to remove the Poplar trees and replace them with a more suitable species, planted in positions which will allow the trees to grow to maturity without adversely affecting each other's form and health. One option would be to remove the trees in two stages, giving the new trees time to become established. A second option would be to remove all of the poplar trees and landscape the Foremans Road frontage in one operation.

A letterbox drop was sent in early October asking residents to consider the two options and seeking their comment.

Of the 44 submissions received, thirty-eight households supported option 1, which was for all the Poplar trees to be removed and replaced with smaller deciduous trees and shrub borders.

Seven households supported option 2, that the trees with poor form and health are removed at this time and replaced with smaller deciduous trees.

There are four residential properties facing the poplar trees, three households support the trees remaining and one household supports their removal. The adjacent neighbours support the removal of the trees.

The trees do offer a visual softening to the area. The Poplars also offer some protection for residents, as a windbreak and also preventing residents from looking straight through the park to Main South Road. The trees may also reduce the sound of traffic.

The Board **decided** that option two, being the removal of four Lombardi Poplar trees, along with those identified trees which are in poor health, be approved at this time and replacement with smaller deciduous trees is carried out in the autumn. Staged removal of the remaining trees would be carried out at a later date once the replacements become established.

6.3 LESLIE PARK CAR PARKING UPGRADE

The Area Parks Officer (Anne Cosson) reported on the proposal to construct a new parking area at Leslie Park, on the corner of Foremans Road.

The Parks Unit has funds set aside in the current financial year's budget for the work to be undertaken.

The Parks Unit and City Streets Unit have a concept plan which will formalise the existing current informal parking currently being experienced; the realignment with Foremans Road will assist in addressing some traffic-related issues also.

The Board **decided**:

1. That the new car park area at Leslie Park be developed as per the plan.
2. That new kerbing for the area between the new car park and where the kerbing stops on Foremans Road be considered as a submission to the annual plan.
3. That the sealing of the metal road shoulder area that runs down the Halswell Junction Road side of the Leslie Park be considered as a submission to the Annual Plan.