

8. **RICCARTON/WIGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE REPORT OF 18 MAY 1999 MEETING**

The Board **received** the report of an Environmental Committee meeting held on 18 May 1999.

1. **BERM PLANTING BY INDIVIDUAL LANDOWNERS**

Further to his presentation to the 5 May meeting of the Community Board, Alec Ford (on behalf of the Deans Avenue Precinct Society) was in attendance at the meeting to discuss the Society's concerns in respect of *"the increased number of frontages being planted in our area with trees and shrubs by developers and landowners."*

"...we wish to have the current policy clarified in such a way as to prohibit the excesses that are appearing in our area."

Whilst some examples identified were in fact a matter of enforcement (cutting back on the boundary to allow free passage along the footpath) one site had had two trees planted on the sealed footpath.

Other examples saw landscaping undertaken on the outside of a property fence on that area which would be usually planted as a grassed berm.

There was concern that very little or no streetscape enhancement was occurring and that in some instances resource consent conditions were not being reinforced. There appeared to be an increase in concrete walls on the boundary rather than landscaping strips.

The General Inspector from the Sockburn Service Centre (Steve Dejong) was in attendance to assist in the discussion.

Current Council policy on grass berms and in the new City Plan (for L3 landscaping) appeared to be adequate, but the examples discussed showed up some inconsistencies. Whilst the L3 rules required a two metre landscape strip, these examples showed that the L3 objective of *"... the enhancement of an open street scape..."* was perceived to be compromised.

As the Board endorsed the concerns of the Committee, it was **agreed** that there appeared to be no policy within the L3 zone in respect of streetscape enhancement (including landscaping, tree replacements, footpaths and berms) to ensure that Christchurch remains a garden city, the Council's Environmental Committee is asked to investigate this and report back to the Board in due course.

2. **WELCOME AND ENTRY SIGNS**

The Committee is investigating the possibility of placing (appropriate) signs on major roads into Christchurch.

It was **agreed** to identify appropriate sites (eg SH74 from Akaroa, Springs Road, Shands Road, SH73 at Yaldhurst) and to discuss this further with appropriate business units of the Council.

3. STREETScape SITES

Whilst the Parks Unit currently undertook the planting of up to 25 streets city-wide, the Committee had identified some local streets that could be considered also.

It was **agreed** to follow a co-ordinated approach to this with the support of the appropriate business units of the Council.

4. OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED

- Overhead reticulation/cable television
- Local reserve reforestation
- Open pit monitoring
- Familiarisation tour