

1. NEW BRIGHTON MALL PROGRESS REPORT

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Corporate Plan Output: Environmental Improvement Plans	

The purpose of this report is to advise members of progress made since August 1999 by the New Brighton Working Party in its aim to secure the revitalisation of the New Brighton Mall area. The report was submitted also to the Environment Committee.

The Working Party met on 8 September, 14 October, 13 December 1999 and 12 January 2000. At the first two meetings there was wide ranging discussion of issues relating to car parking, pedestrian and vehicular movement through and around the mall, signage, hot pools etc. It was clear that there was considerable agreement on the way forward, with the exception of whether a roadway should be reinstated through the Mall.

At the meeting of 13 December an A3 brochure was tabled. The purpose of this was to assist the Working Party in reaching decisions about action to be taken and avoid going back over old ground. The brochure contains the Action Points, details in graphic form of existing land use and traffic circulation, the potential for housing in and around the Mall and the Mall in its context as the hub of a large recreational as well as residential area. The brochure also refloats the idea of a narrow roadway part way into the western end of the Mall with an exit northwards into the Hawke Street car park. It was felt that this suggestion might be acceptable to both residents and the business community since it retains Oram Avenue as a wide traffic free space for use by the community and leads potential customers into a car park rather than away from the Mall. This option was rejected when it was raised last year due to the cost of acquiring property to enable the roadway to pass through from the Mall to the car park. However, the business community have indicated that they are prepared to look at creative ways of achieving the throughway without incurring high acquisition costs, such as incorporating the roadway as part of a redevelopment proposal. An artist's impression of how the short length of roadway might look is included in the brochure.

The principle of a northern exit was accepted by the Business Association representatives while the Residents Association representatives agreed to take the proposal to their members.

The group then worked through the action points and confirmed their support for each one. The group felt that improving the infrastructure had higher priority than the marketing options, that the use of the \$100,000 budget currently available needed to be urgently addressed and there were a number of traffic issues requiring attention.

The group then discussed and agreed that:

1. The \$100,000 be spent on amenity improvements to the eastern end of the Mall
2. The bus routes should remain as they are
3. The proposed hot salt water pools be supported

At the meeting held on 12 January, the residents' representatives advised that their members were not prepared to accept a roadway being reinstated into any part of the Mall, while the business group advised that they still wanted to promote the idea of a roadway. This matter therefore remains unresolved, but does not prejudice the revitalisation of the eastern end of the Mall and the pedestrianised section of Oram Avenue.

The City Streets Unit tabled a proposal for extending the Beresford Street car park northwards across the street to directly link it to shops on the south side of the Mall. Beresford Street would be re-routed across the existing car park. Some land could become available on the south of the new road for housing. The Working Party supported this idea as a two stage project.

EPPU then presented a concept plan for the eastern end of the Mall and Oram Avenue, copy attached to the Environment Committee report. This plan was supported by the Working Party, and it was agreed that the available funding should be used on the redevelopment of the eastern end, with further funding being sought for the remainder.

The Working Party preferred options were reported to the 31 January 2000 meeting of the Burwood Pegasus Community Board with the recommendation that funding be sought through the Annual Plan process through relevant Committees for completing amenity improvements to the eastern end of the Mall/Oram Avenue, repositioning the Beresford Street car park and realigning Beresford Street.

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Council re-establish a one-way road east through the mall to Oram Avenue and that connections to either or both Hawke Street (north) and Beresford Street (south) be investigated.
 2. That a special rating area be investigated also.

Note: The Environment Committee has included this clause in its report to the Council together with recommendations on environmental issues relating to the eastern end of the mall and Oram Avenue.

(Councillor Manning did not take part in the discussion or voting on this clause.)