

16. SHOWGATE RESERVE TREES

The Committee gave consideration to a report from the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board recommending that five Chinese poplar trees be removed from Showgate Reserve and be replaced with a more suitable species.

The report advised that following the receipt of a petition from a number of adjoining residents, the Parks Unit undertook a letterbox drop seeking feedback on a proposal to remove approximately one third of the poplar trees from Showgate Reserve. Seventy-six residents supported the removal of the trees while 40 wanted them retained.

During the spring and summer, the trees produce a yellow sticky gum which is blown into adjacent residences staining property and fixtures. The gum is very difficult to remove.

The trees concerned are in a healthy condition and would normally be retained. However, to provide the residents with some relief from this problem the Parks Unit recommended that five of the poplar trees be removed and be replaced with semi-mature deciduous trees.

This course of action was supported by the Riccarton/Wigram Community Board on the recommendation of its Environmental Committee which had previously heard submissions from local residents on this issue.

After considering the representations from local residents, the views of the Community Board and the recommendations of the Community Board and the Parks Manager, the Committee concluded that the staff proposal represented a reasonable compromise in that it will help alleviate the problems being experienced by the residents without seriously diminishing the landscape values of the reserve.

The Committee **resolved**:

1. That the trees shown on the plan attached to the agenda be removed and be replaced with a more suitable species.
2. That the future of the remaining trees adjacent to property boundaries be reviewed in a further three years time.