15. RICHMOND PARK PROPERTY PURCHASE

The Senior Parks and Waterways Planner provided a report on the proposed purchase of the property at 39 Medway Street and replied to the questions raised by Mr Reddell in his deputation. He advised that the Council received short notice from the owner of the property, therefore there was no time for community consultation. Officers need to be able to make discretionary decisions when this sort of thing occurs, however, he apologised to residents for the short timeframe. He advised that it would be for pedestrian access only, and its main purpose was to provide greater use of the park. In relation to buying a property in Woodchester Street, he advised that this scenario would only provide up to 16 car parks, and would not improve the parking problem greatly. He stated it was possible that people would park on Medway Street on the weekends. The timeframe for the development was for demolition to begin in September. The property would then be grassed and secured, and community consultation would then take place for the planning process.

The Board **decided** to recommend to the Parks and Recreation Committee that the officer's recommendations be adopted, and that consultation take place with Richmond Community Cottage, immediate residents and Board members to participate with the planning process.

