

5. AVICE HILL RESERVE – FRONTAGE ENHANCEMENT

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The purpose of this report is to present to the Committee a proposed planting plan for the frontage of Avice Hill Reserve and to approve the plan for circulation to local residents.

BACKGROUND

Avice Hill Reserve is a 5,800 square metre reserve located on a very high profile site on Memorial Avenue. Inside the property is a weatherboard building originally built as a residence but now utilised as a community facility mainly for arts and crafts tuition.

Currently, the frontage of Avice Hill has a remnant hedge of Pittosporums and a chain mesh fence with a backdrop of large established trees. The existing planting is dense and there are few views into and out of the reserve.

Members will recall that at the 19 August 2003 meeting of the Finance and Planning Committee, funding was put aside for enhancement of the reserve frontage, dependent on the acceptance of a planting plan for the area.

FEATURES OF THE PLANTING

The main features of the proposed planting plan are the removal of the existing chain mesh fence, and the partial removal of the old Pittosporum planting which forms a dense screen between the reserve and Memorial Avenue.

It is proposed to replace the existing fence with stone plinths using similar materials to those utilised on the driveway entrance. These plinths would be linked with chain and timber posts. It is also proposed to restore the old existing gateposts on the frontage of the property, and add a new wooden gate to allow pedestrian access into the garden.

The proposed renovation of the area would enhance the special character of the site by the selective removal of some existing shrubs in order to allow some views into and out of the area. Further enhancement of the area is proposed with the addition of flowering shrubs and perennials to accentuate the heritage garden aspect.

FUNDING

The Fendalton/Waimairi Community Board allocated the following funding for the Avice Hill Reserve frontage area

August 2003	\$3,500	Avice Hill Reserve removal of fence and planting of frontage
January 2004 semi-	\$8,000	Avice Hill Reserve development of stone plinths and mature tree replacements

PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME

It is anticipated work will begin on the frontage in mid June with the initial clearing and removal of the old fence.

The new stone plinths and timber posts would then be installed together with the restored gate-posts and new gate. Once the construction projects are completed, the area would be planted and mulched to finish the garden areas.

CONCLUSION

The Avice Hill Reserve will benefit enormously from greater integration into the wider Memorial Avenue area. It is anticipated the patronage of the reserve area would also increase as the public become more aware of the garden surrounding the community facility.

The proposed planting of flowering shrubs and perennials, and the integration of the original gateposts and entrance to the garden area will also enhance the old-fashioned garden concept this reserve is noted for.

Staff

Recommendation: That the proposal for the enhancement of the frontage of the Avice Hill Reserve be approved for consultation with the local residents and users of the Avice Hill Art and Craft facility.