

6. RIVERSIDE PLANTING ASSESSMENT

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The purpose of this report is to put forward two sites for the Committee to consider for review and assessment by an independent landscape consultant.

BACKGROUND

Members will recall the Parks, Gardens and Waterways Committee decided on 11 February 2004 to invite Community Boards to select two areas in their local community for a review of riverside planting. An independent landscape consultant, using the criteria set out below, would then assess the areas selected.

At the 16 March Works Traffic and Environment Committee meeting, eight waterway planting sites were put forward as possible locations for further investigation. These sites needed to be considered against the set criteria and the Committee requested staff to visit each site and submit a further report to the April meeting.

DISCUSSION

A visit was made to all eight sites and the following criteria was considered at each location as requested:

- Access to the water's edge
- Safety for pedestrians using the area
- Preservation of attractive views
- Appropriate siting of seats
- Appropriate maintenance practices
- Density, shading or intrusion upon other significant vegetation

When the above points were applied to the eight sites, only two of the areas fitted the above criteria.

These sites are:

1. **Wairarapa Stream** – upstream of the pedestrian footbridge between Sevenoaks Drive and Wayside Avenue.

This is an area of waterway planted with a range of shrubs, grasses and ferns. There have been several complaints from residents in this area regarding weed infestation in the waterway at the rear of their properties.

2. **Avon River** – an area of planting from the pedestrian lights on Carlton Mill Road through to Millbrook Reserve.

This area is quite narrow near the pedestrian lights and is planted closely with Cabbage trees and grasses. The area widens out into a large grassed area sloping down into plantings along the river bank of Kowhai, Cabbage trees, Silver Birch and native grasses. This area in combination with the planting across the river has been the subject of complaints from local residents who wish to have views into Little Hagley Park.

CONCLUSION

All of the waterway plantings, which have been put forward, have some areas of concern when applying the above criteria. However it is believed that the two sites selected above are most representative of many of the waterway plantings in the Fendalton/Waimairi community.

Staff

Recommendation: That the Wairarapa Stream site and the Avon River site be submitted for assessment.