

3. NORTH HAGLEY PARK: ARMAGH STREET ENTRANCE IMPROVEMENTS

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The purpose of this report is to:

1. advise the Parks, Gardens and Waterways Committee of proposed changes to the Armagh Street entrance to Hagley Park; and
2. obtain approval to the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board's recommendations, made at its meeting on 3 March 2004.

BACKGROUND

The Armagh Street entrance to North Hagley Park has been identified as an area in need of upgrading to address concerns of public safety, signage and general features of the immediate landscape.

It has been apparent for some time that severe congestion occurs at the conclusion of large events in the "events area" of North Hagley Park adjacent to the Park Terrace section of the Avon River, as pedestrians are confined by the narrow entranceway as they attempt to leave the park.

The Greenspace Unit 2003/04 capital works budget includes funding allocated for Hagley Park lighting and frontage.

DESCRIPTION

Currently, the Armagh Street entrance to North Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens car park is secured by the Mickle Gates, consisting of large vehicular gates across the roadway and smaller pedestrian gates on either side of the vehicular gates. These gates are in line with the western end of the Armagh Street bridge balustrade. They open daily for motor vehicles at 7.00am and close at sunset.

The landscape appraisal of the site has identified that in the present location, the structure of the gates and pillars creates a confined egress for pedestrians leaving the park at peak times. Furthermore, there is no clear definition of paving for pedestrians.

PROPOSAL

The proposed improvements include resiting the "Mickle Gates" a distance of 24 metres further into the park to free the entry area of obstacles when large numbers of pedestrians are leaving the park.

New surfacing for pedestrians is proposed together with new signage, information and interpretation maps, painting of the Armagh bridge, uplighting and amenity planting.

A plan LPO 86701 attached illustrates the proposal.

DISCUSSION

North Hagley Park is the venue for numerous events throughout the year and attracts many thousands of people. Daily visits to Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens through the Armagh Street entrance are of significance and it is important to have an inviting safe entry/exit to the area.

The proposals outlined in this report in accordance with the plan LPO 86701 address these issues.

Hagley/Ferrymead Board recommendation:

The Board decided to recommend to the Parks, Gardens and Waterways Committee that:

1. The proposed plan be approved in principle.
2. Public consultation be undertaken with:
 - Friends of the Christchurch Botanic Gardens
 - Deans Avenue Precinct Society
 - Christs College

- Park Terrace residents
- ICON
- Merivale Precinct Society
- Spoke

3. The bridge at the Armagh Street entrance to North Hagley Park be enhanced as a feature bridge with lighting to serve as a major entrance to the park and gardens.
4. Other options be investigated for the replacement of the existing 'Mickle Gates'

Staff

Recommendation: That the Parks Gardens and Waterways Committee support the recommendations of the Hagley/Ferrymead Community Board recommendations 1, 2 and 3.

Chairperson's

Recommendation: That the above recommendation be adopted.